

INNOVATION.. NEED OF THE HOUR!!!

BY AVINASH MAYEKAR

MD & CEO

SUVIN ADVISORS PVT. LTD.

Innovations are not that frequent as far as the textile industry is concerned. The industry is a very old one & has over 100 years of rich experience and standing in which it has mainly catered to conventional needs of textiles and apparels.

It has always been difficult for the textile industry to be innovative, however in recent past, new developments have happened which have forced even the textile industry to go through innovative processes and therefore manufacture products which exhibit the same.



There are many R&D centers and innovative laboratories situated in USA as well as in Europe which have come up with various products by using different types of raw materials. Research has already happened largely in manmade fibre and processes have become very short in order to save power and go for automation. Many other examples like medical textiles, automotive textiles, geotextiles, and sports textiles have created benchmark in technical textiles. The major focus of innovation in textiles was on shortening the process by which the product will be produced using different types of raw materials and limited resources.

In conventional textiles the processing flow is from fibre - yarn - fabric - fabric processing - garmenting and then branding. In technical textiles, the new technologies which are coming especially from Europe, are using the fibre and converting that into the end product. Technologies like the spun less technology, needle punching technology and spun bond technology are giving finished products directly from the fibre. The process has become very short and at the same time there is no compromise on the quality of the product mainly because technical textiles are functional textiles. They need to have certain properties. If we are talking of products like parachute fabric or air bag, there should be zero tolerance, Whenever we use a parachute, it has to function properly as it is directly related to the life of the person. At the same time, airbag fabric has to be fault free, if at all it doesn't work or even has 1 fault, it will result into the life of driver or the co-pilot. Hence, any type of technical textiles means that it should have 100% precision and the same is very achievable through innovation.

As far as the Indian textile industry is concerned we have to be innovative even in our day to day manufacturing process. Every time we have milestones about the cost reduction, the improvement of quality, improvement in productivity of plant which has to happen across the value chain right from yarn manufacturing, fabric manufacturing, fabric processing and finishing and then garmenting. In fact, when we have studied the entire textile industry we have found that we have certain issues related to innovation or related to the performance of the Indian textile industry mainly from the point of view of consistency in quality, and committed delivery. So, we need to be more focused on these aspects or these issues and come up with our own solution to improve efficiency and quality of fabrics. The workmen need to be trained in order to understand how to give best performance by using various techniques,

data management, time, and motion studies. These simple techniques will help us in increasing our efficiency and productivity and the same will be very much reflected through the products we create.

In the Indian textile industry we also need to be more focused on the housekeeping especially when it is cotton textile industry in which we find that a lot of fly and fluff get accumulated in various parts of the machine and then it gets carried away with yarn or fabric which creates further issues pertaining to the final product. Hence, regular cleanliness needs to be exercised in the production plant. In



the Indian textile industry, during the processes, dyes, and chemicals, we find that many times there is a trial and error method. There is no systematic approach towards creating a certain shade keeping proper database so that whenever similar types of the order come we can find the same solution for it by using similar types of recipes of dyes and chemicals. The water quality is the major criteria as far as dyeing process is concerned. So monitoring, creating, and keeping same quality water characteristics throughout the year for different types of processes is more important and effective measures need to be undertaken in order to create a sort of database for each and every factory which will eventually help them lead to better solutions. The thing nowadays is sustainability and when it comes to our textile

industry we are far behind in being sustainable. The Main thing in our textile industry is that it is a highly polluting industry and consumers are demanding various dyes to be used for bright colors for apparels. That is a big challenge to come out with the product which would be sustainable. New developments that are happening in the chemical industry is to come out with sustainable chemicals or dyes which would help us to understand the importance of nature. I am sure even by using mainly cotton as fibre which is our focus area and strength as far as India is concerned, we need to come out and use cotton as much as possible as it is bio-degradable product and at the same time it has its own values that will help the entire industry to score against all the competitors across the globe.

Innovation is a great key to success. Indian textile industry has to accept this fact that we need to be innovative in our day to day operations using different type of manufacturing processes, using different types of fibres, coming out with innovative products and making the innovation in methods and processes that will help the industry grow further. We need to shortlist what are our weak areas, how to focus on them, how to reduce waste, how to be more profitable in day to day operations, logistics cost which is usually ignored which is also a big area for improvement. Lastly, our commitment to come out with a product within the time frames and give timely deliveries while fulfilling quality parameters.. If we do so, then there is no end for us as far as growth is concerned. There is a large share of global textile industry waiting for us as we are at second position next to China but there is a large gap which we need to address & fill up with our innovative thinking and efforts.

Let us carve out... a better tomorrow!!!

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