

Sustainable development of the textile industries in Egypt

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Abstract

Industrial development in Egypt depends to a large extent on the competitiveness and growth of the industrial sector, and there is consensus that industry will be the engine of growth for a prosperous future.

Since the spinning and weaving industry is one of the important industries on which the Egyptian economy depends mainly, and it takes a large part of the state's attention. Therefore, this study focused on highlighting the role of the textile and clothing industry in the advancement of the national economy.

Research importance:

The foreign trade of textile products plays a major role in the growth of this industry in terms of spinning, weaving, furnishings and ready-made clothes. Therefore, the prosperity of the textile industry leads to the prosperity of the cultivation of Egyptian cotton, linen and other fibers. The importance of the research lies in studying the structure of the textile and clothing industry in the republic and studying the development of Egyptian foreign trade of textile products, and the interest in developing these industries locally, regionally and globally.

Research aims to:

- 1- An analytical study of the textile and garment industry.
- 2- Study the obstacles and problems facing this industry and try to find workable solutions.
- 3- Study the importance of spinning and weaving industry in Egypt.
- 4- Study the structure of the textile and garment industry in the Republic.
- 5- Study models of government support systems and methods to support the textile sector.

1- The textile industry in Egypt from a technological perspective

- The technological framework for the main activities :

The textile industry occupies a leading place among the consumer industries, as it relies on basic materials that are a source of wealth. The most important of these sources are cotton, wool and synthetic fibers. Cotton from all of them stands in the first place, equivalent to approximately 45% of the world's consumption of textile fibers. The textile industry includes three basic stages through which textile fibers pass until they reach the consumer in the form of fabrics or clothes. Each of these stages represents an industry in itself, and these stages are: The spinning, weaving and knitting industry.

The processing industry (including bleaching, dyeing, printing and final finishing.)

The garment industry.

The most important technological processes used in spinning and weaving factories are:

First: Spinning: This is the conversion of natural and synthetic fibers into threads. It includes different stages

Including: opening and cleaning - carding - combing - roving - final spinning – twisting.

Second: Weaving operations: It is the conversion of threads into textiles, and it includes various stages, including: drawing in - bush - warping - weft insertion – weaving.

Third: Dyeing and finishing operations: It consists of washing, bleaching, dyeing, and printing fabrics and threads.

Fourth: clothing detailing operations: It is about converting fabrics into ready-made garments and includes: design, pattern, cutting - sewing - finishing - packaging.

Fifth: The continuous production of fibers, industry and yarns: They are chemical processes in which basic petrochemicals are involved. (3)

Promoting the textile industry in Egypt :

The Egyptian textile industry is currently at a crossroads, and in order for this industry to continue on strong foundations, and in order not to lose its throne, which it has been sitting on for many years, and in order to be able to face the fierce global competition, a number of steps must be taken, the foremost of which are the following: -

- 1- Correcting the path of spinning and weaving companies through administrative, financial and technical restructuring.
- 2- To expand investments in production units that include integrated operating phases, and in which production lines achieve a rewarding return, and to stop production lines in production units that do not achieve the desired benefit.
- 3- Attracting more investments in production units of higher quality.
- 4- Correcting the imbalance in the distribution of labor between production activities and service and administrative works, and raising its level through continuous and serious training in various fields of production, marketing, administrative and financial work, and developing and highlighting leaderships with the help of foreign expertise and Egyptian experts abroad.
- 5- Taking into account achieving a balance between the output prices of the textile industries in the local market and the export markets and the prices of inputs, especially the prices of commodity requirements, by increasing the productivity of both labor and machinery, linking the increase in wages and increasing productivity, and establishing appropriate systems to boost production.
- 6- Encouraging and stimulating exports by purifying the value of exports from all burdens, fees and taxes that they bear in the various stages of production.

Recommendations:

- 1- Egypt should make maximum use of its rights in all fields, especially the textile sector, under the mechanisms of the World Trade Organization, with the seriousness of imposing protection and dumping fees.
- 2- The state must settle the dispute between importers and local manufacturers in favor of operating local energies.

- 3- Not to spend any material or moral support for textile importers for the purpose of exporting ready-made clothes.
- 4- The necessity of developing a consistent policy for cotton cultivation to ensure the provision of the required quantities of long-staple cotton, with the Ministry of Agriculture, and its technical and research apparatus, to develop new varieties and strains of Egyptian cotton.
- 5- State assistance in modernizing companies, with the aim of increasing production, improving quality and competitiveness.
- 6-The project granted the land on which the factory is located, at a minimal price.
The government provides additional incentives for industrial projects with a 4% discount on income taxes.
- 7- Reliance on local manufacturing to meet the country's needs for textiles and clothing.
- 8- Setting flexible financial policies to provide the necessary financing for factories, on competitive terms to encourage industry and make it an attractive industry for investment.
- 9- The human element is the main pillar in the production process, so it must be taken care of and its efficiency raised through training programs under government supervision.
- 10-Reconsidering the laws and ministerial decisions in force that have negatively affected the textile industries, one of which was the weakness of Egyptian products in front of other products that enter the country illegally and do not conform to the specifications.
- 11- Establishing a government fund to modernize equipment, machinery and production technology, and support the government in energy prices, in line with the Indian government's program.

12- Capital Goods Support:

When companies import equipment and capital machinery necessary for the project, companies are exempted from customs duties of 5% in exchange for an export obligation equivalent to 8 times according to a timetable extending from 8 to 12 years for projects whose exemption value exceeds \$ 15 million, similar to the Brazilian government program.

13-Paying attention to government systems, methods and experiences in their support for the textile sector, such as (China - Brazil - India).

The state's interest in the governorates that serve this vital industry, especially the governorates that contain the most number of industrial and production facilities - costs – wages.

14- Establishing a law criminalizing the razing of factories and not wasting the infrastructure of factories and not converting them into residential buildings and public garages.

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