

Circular Economy Practices: An Approach to Green Leather Industry

Md. Abdul Moktadir

Institute of Leather Engineering & Technology, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh

ABSTRACT

The leather industry of Bangladesh plays a pivotal role in the country's economic growth, but the wastes produced from the leather industry are very invasive for the environment. In the existing linear leather manufacturing practices, considerable wastes like tannery effluents, solid wastes and also scrap leathers are generated that are not being considered for reuse or recycle. These practices are responsible for polluting the environment along with the image of the Bangladeshi leather industry. Hence, converting linear to circular economy (CE) practices may help to achieve resource efficiency by minimizing waste throughout the leather supply chains. The CE is a business concept that involves the further use of materials in a restorative and regenerative manner, thereby extending the utility and value of the materials. Therefore, CE practice may help to ensure that all wastes will be collected via proper channels and returned to the remanufacturing unit to be reused. The CE practices may be implemented by considering 6R (Reduction, Reuse, Recycling, Recover, Redesign, and Remanufacture) policies throughout the leather supply chains. Hence, implementing CE in the context of the Bangladeshi leather industry will be challenging due to the numerous barriers that currently exist. The potential challenges like 'lack of financial supports', 'little understanding of the CE', 'absent of strong legislation', 'lack of technological advancement', 'lack of waste management facility', 'lack of eco-efficiency strategies' to CE practices in the leather industry must be assessed. Such an assessment will help industrial managers to formulate strategic policies for the sustainable development of leather industry.

