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STUDY ON SETUP TIME EFFECT ON SMALL ORDER QUANTITIES IN APPAREL MANUFACTURING

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Sri Lanka

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Thesis submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirement for the degree

Master of Science

Department of Textile and Clothing Technology

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DECLARATION

"I declare that this is my own work and this thesis does not incorporate without acknowledge any material previously submitted for a Degree or Diploma in any other university or institute of higher learning and to the best of my knowledge and belief it does not contain any material previously published or written by another person except where the acknowledgement is made in the text.

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Abstract

As apparel manufacturers in today's context, it is vital to concentrate on improving productivity by applying tools that can increase the efficiency of sub processes. It is a true fact that Sri Lankan apparel industry has a long history, but it is surprising that when comparing Sri Lanka's ability with the regional countries/competitors in producing value added products, within a short lead time. Smaller order quantities are becoming increasingly demanding by the western world to sustain in the global apparel business.

Due to product variation and small order quantities, it can be seen that there is a strong need to introduce a tool that can monitor the setup time taken to feed new styles without reducing the labour efficiency. This research tries to analyse, setup time in small quantity orders in apparel manufacturing industry through implementing single minute exchange of dies (SMED) with the selected factory. Some of the main importance topics of literature related to setup reduction, labour efficiency and employee related discussions are carried out in this survey. It further emphasized the paramount importance of the subject topic by collecting data from the selected manufacturing unit to study the setup time losses.

Data collection of this study was through questionnaire and interviews with executives and middle management staff in the selected organization covering various departments. Setup related documentations such as style feeding charts, and other tools such as labour capacity study were used to analyse data. Collected data to cover Setup issues and related factors to understand the delays were collected from different sewing lines which produces variety of styles. Objective of the study will be concentrated to find out reasons to understand high setup time during style changes in sewing floor as well as to reduce setup time by implementing SMED techniques. Data interpretation confirmed the Setup time and its correlation between financial performances of the organization. Implementation of SMED tool is after analysing the collected data proves the hypothesis of the survey confirming that the setup time impacts on financial performance of the organization.



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LIST OF ABBRIVIATIONS

CPM	Cost per minute
DHU	Defects per hundred units
EDB SL	Export development board of Sri Lanka
EU	European Union
FRS	Fixed repairing Schedule
GSP	Generalized system of preference
GDP	Gross domestic production
LTO	Labour turnover
LI	Line in charge
LS	Line Supervisor
MFA	Multi fibre agreement
PBS	progressive bundle system
PM	Production manager
QA	Quality assurance
SMED	Single minute exchange of dies
SMV	Standard minute value
USA	United States of America
USD	United states dollar
WIP	Work in progress

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