# CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN FASHION INDUSTRY: BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS OF 2017-2022

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#### **Abstract:**

Circular economy in recent time has gained a lot of significance. The concept has multidimensional benefits to stakeholders and positive impact on the environment.

Fashion industry on the other is one of the fastest growing industries. The industry largely contributes to various pollutions though. The industry is consuming resources at a faster pace and need to be controlled at a point to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Implementation of circular economy in fashion industry will help to contribute for the attainment of multiple SDGs. The objective of this paper was to conduct bibliometric analysis using R studio application in the field of circular economy and fashion industry. Scopus data base was considered for the span of 2017-2022 to extract the literature on the aimed concepts. Total of 80 documents were analysed. Sustainability was the most productive source with total of 47 journals. The highly contributing country was UK, followed by Italy, Spain, Australia, and India. The study helps to initiate new approaches to strengthen adaption and application of circular economy.

Keywords: Circular Economy, Fashion Industry, Sustainability.

### **Introduction:**

The fashion industry is essential for economic growth, as its global value is approximately USD 2.4 billion, and its value chain directly employs 75 million people. It is the third largest manufacturing sector in the world, following the automobile and technology industries. (Worldbank, 2019). In 2021, it was estimated that the global apparel market would generate approximately 1.5 trillion U.S. dollars in revenue; by 2026, this figure was projected to reach approximately 2 trillion U.S. dollars (Tighe, 2022). If the fashion industry keeps going the way it is, it could use up more than 26% of the carbon budget for a 2dc limit on global warming by 2050 (ellenmacarthur, 2021). Due to its enormous environmental impact, the fashion industry is currently at the centre of the sustainability debate (Julia Adamkiewicz, 2022).

However, because of environmental damage in general, the fashion industry was compelled to implement several changes toward more sustainable business models. The green economy is an inclusive concept, encompassing both the bioeconomy and the circular economy (Annarita Colasante, 2021). To address the overproduction crisis in the fashion industry, governments across the globe, led by EU nations, are drafting new laws, rules, regulations, and enforcement systems (Legl, 2022). The term "circular fashion" was first coined at a seminar held in Sweden in 2014, where a more circular approach to the fashion industry was the central topic of discussion. (Hill, 2022).

Transitioning to a circular economy, which is necessary to address environmental and social issues while maintaining the fashion industry's overall performance and profitability, presents the fashion industry with complex challenges (Aya Abdelmeguid, 2022). There is very little

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available research on circular fashion, which hinders the implementation of circular economy practices in the fashion industry. (C.W. Ki, 2021).

Understanding the research gap, it is necessary to conduct an analysis that identifies the investigated topics, the most common contents, and the most relevant institutions and authors to generate searches that are suitable for future studies in the circular economy.

## **Bibliometric Analysis:**

Bibliometric analysis is a common and rigorous technique for examining and analysing vast quantities of scientific data. It enables us to dissect the evolutionary nuances of a particular field and shed light on its emerging areas (Naveen Donthu, 2021). The bibliometric methodology encompasses the use of quantitative techniques on bibliometric data.

Bibliometric analysis can be applied at various levels, including nations, institutions, authors, and journals. It can also be used to identify patterns of collaboration among various actors, such as countries, institutions, and authors (Singh, 2022). A bibliometric analysis provides information on bibliographic links, co-authorship and co-citation networks, gaps, hot topics, saturated studies, research trends, journals, topics, and the rise of emerging trend fields over time, as well as information on the development of emerging fields. Nowadays, bibliometric analysis is used in different research areas. In this context, it is essential to review the available literature with a focus on identifying the process of research field advancement. Therefore, this study employs bibliometric analysis tools to comprehend the fragmented work by assessing its major conceptual, intellectual, and social trends. This bibliometric analysis aims to respond to the following research questions:

RQ1: Which are the most influential journals and authors in the field of circular economy and fashion industry?

RQ2: What are the collaborative networks in the field of circular economy and fashion industry?

RQ3: How has the concept of circular economy and fashion industry are evolved and what are the most addressed issues in the recent work?

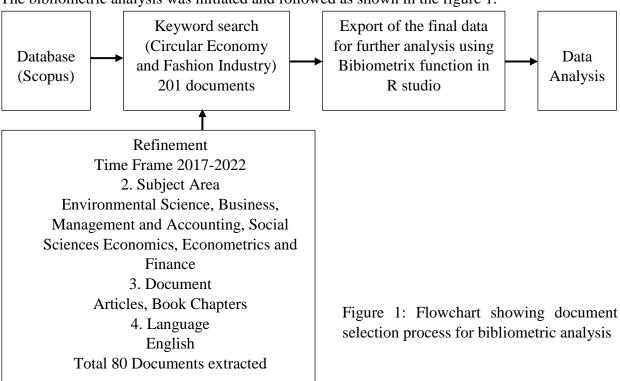
Following research objective was set to address the above-mentioned research questions.

1. To identify the trends or patterns in the development of knowledge in the filed of circular economy and fashion industry.

The structure of the paper is as follows: The second section describes the methodology of bibliometric analysis. In Section 3, the results are provided. Discussion is presented in Section 4. Section 5 presents the conclusion.

## **Research Methodology:**

The bibliometric analysis was initiated and followed as shown in the figure 1.



Bibliometric analysis was conducted using Scopus database. Key words of circular economy and fashion industry were used to create the search of documents. Total 201 documents were extracted with this search. The extracted documents were refined using timeframe, subject area, documents type and language. The documents for last 6 years were identified stating the time frame of 2017-2022. Subject areas selected during refinement were environmental science, business, management and accounting, social sciences, Economics, Econometrics, and finance. Articles and book chapters were selected in types of documents. And finally, the English language was selected to complete the refinement. After assigning refinement criteria finally 80 documents were extracted with further were loaded in R Studio Application using Biblimetrix function. The outcomes generated in R studio were used further for data analysis to achieve the set objectives.

## **Data Analysis:**

This section describes various aspects of data processed in the R Studio Application using Bibliometrix function.

## **Summary of Data Set:**

Figure 2: Data Set Summary



Figure 2 presents viewers the narrative view of literature of 80 documents published across 47 sources over the span of 2017 to 2022. The average citation per document were 15.86 and the annual growth rate for documents was 75.18%.

### Annual Production Growth:

Table 1 and Figure 3 indicates the annual production growth of documents across 6 years' time span indicating increasing trends. The year 2017 registered only 2 documents which were increased to 33 documents in the year 2022 presenting almost 17times growth.

Year	Articles
2017	2
2018	3
2019	5
2020	15
2021	22
2022	33

Table 1: No. of annual publication on circular economy and fashion industry

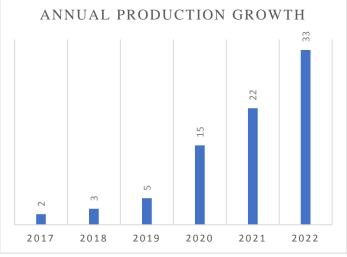


Figure 3: No. of annual publication on circular economy and fashion industry

## Annual Citations Per Year:

Table 2 shows details of citations for the selected time frame from 2017 to 2022. The articles of 2017 have highest mean total citations per article as mean total citations per year. Mean

total citations per article shows declining trend whereas mean total citations per year shows fluctuating trend over the timespan 2017-2022.

Table 2: No. of citations per year

Year	N	Mean TCperArt	Mean TCperYear	Citable Years
2017	2	116.50	23.30	5
2018	3	29.67	7.42	4
2019	5	36.40	12.13	3
2020	15	28.93	14.47	2
2021	22	11.05	11.05	1
2022	33	2.67	0	0

### **Three Field Plot: Affiliations – Countries – Title**

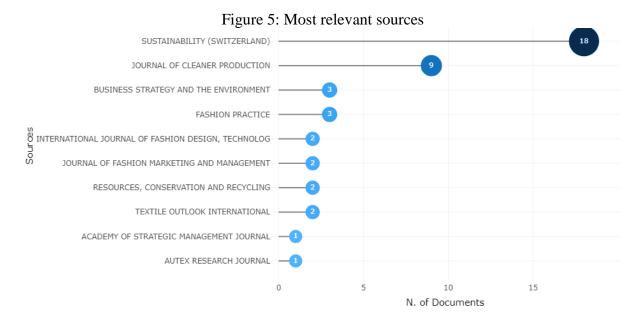
Figure 4 shows three field plot. Three filed plot showing the relation between countries keywords and affiliated universities. The size of portion indicates the contribution of the component. The plot shows that, circular economy followed by sustainability are the highly used keywords in the analysed literature. Queensland University of Technology is most affiliated university for the contribution of literature.

AU CO DE AU CN pakistan united kingdom queensland university of technology circular economy university of lodz federal university of no grande do sul university of insubria all institute of education university of florence linkoping university tampere university australia usa sustainability univers italy fashion brazil fashion industry universidad sustainable fashuniversity of applied sciences india textile germany sustainable development circular fashion bangladesh portugal fast fashion finland consumers recycling circular business model spain. textile waste
textile industry
upcycling
clothing
textile, and fashion industry
social innovation
textiles
business model poland netherlands korea romania belgium

Figure 4: Three field plot (AU\_CO- Countries, DE- Keywords, AU\_UN- Affiliation)

#### Most Relevant Sources:

Figure 5 shows 10 most relevant sources contributing for the theme of circular economy and fashion industry. Sustainability (Switzerland) has the 18 articles which is the most relevant source. The Journal of cleaner production is next relevant source with 9 articles. The analysed 80 articles are spread across the 47 sources.



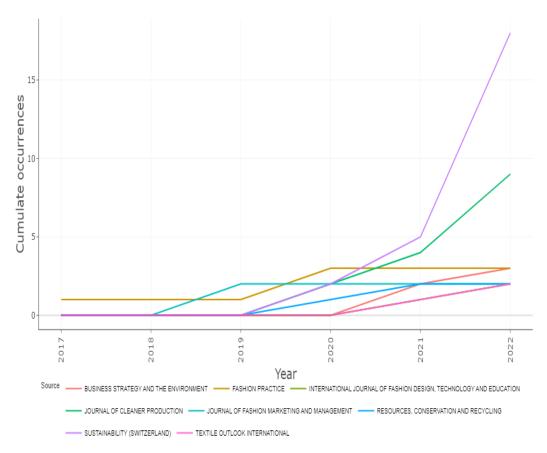
## **Source Impact and Source Dynamics:**

Table 3 shows impact of top 10 sources for circular economy in fashion industry. The impact is shown with the h index, g index and m index. Total citations, number of publications along with publication year are also mentioned. Sustainability (Switzerland) *and* Journal of Cleaner Production has publication year start in year 2020. These two journals have highest impact for elements like h index, g index and m index. These two journals also top in total citations. Journal of Fashion Marketing and Management is next in the race with total citations of 122. Figure 6 shows source dynamics for top 8 sources. Again Sustainability (Switzerland) *and* Journal of Cleaner Production shows drastic increase in publication number after 2021 and 2022.

Table 3: Source Impact (TC – Total citations, NP- No. of Publications, PY – Publication Year)

Element	h_index	g_index	m_index	TC	NP	PY_start
Sustainability (Switzerland)	5	12	1.667	168	18	2020
Journal of Cleaner Production	4	9	1.333	129	9	2020
Business Strategy and The Environment	2	3	1	39	3	2021
Fashion Practice	2	3	0.333	49	3	2017
Journal of Fashion Marketing and Management	2	2	0.5	122	2	2019
Resources, Conservation and Recycling	2	2	0.667	50	2	2020
Academy of Strategic Management Journal	1	1	0.333	4	1	2020
Autex Research Journal	1	1	0.333	4	1	2020
Business and Human Rights Journal	1	1	1	1	1	2022
Business History	1	1	0.25	19	1	2019

Figure 6: Source Dynamics



## **Global Citation:**

Figure 7 and table 4 describes the status of highly cited documents globally. Highly cited document has a total of 197 citations which was published in year 2017. This document was titled as "Innovative and sustainable business models in the fashion industry: Entrepreneurial drivers, opportunities, and challenges". Table 5 describes top 25 authors whose citations are more than 50. The highly cited author is Callegaro-De-Menezes D with total of 199 citations. Table 6 shows top 10 countries based on total citations. Australia is the highly cited country with total of 180 citations followed by Italy with 166. Further countries are cited in two-digit number.

Figure 7: Most Global Cited Documents

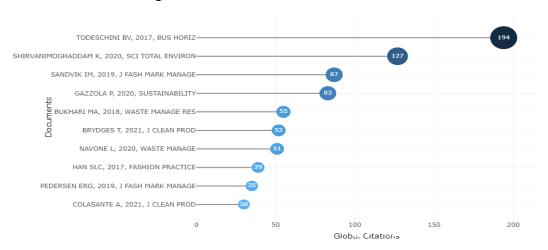


Table 4: Most Global Cited Document

			TC	
Paper	DOI	Total Citations	per Year	Normalized TC
Todeschini Bv, 2017, Bus Horiz	10.1016/j.bushor.2017.07.003	194	32.33	1.67
Shirvanimoghaddam K, 2020, Sci Total Environ	10.1016/j.scitotenv.2020.137317	127	42.33	4.39
Sandvik Im, 2019, J Fash Mark Manage	10.1108/JFMM-04-2018-0058	87	21.75	2.39
Gazzola P, 2020, Sustainability	10.3390/su12072809	83	27.67	2.87
Bukhari Ma, 2018, Waste Manage Res	10.1177/0734242X18759190	55	11.00	1.85
Brydges T, 2021, J Clean Prod	10.1016/j.jclepro.2021.126245	52	26.00	4.71
Navone L, 2020, Waste Manage	10.1016/j.wasman.2019.10.026	51	17.00	1.76
Han Slc, 2017, Fashion Practice	10.1080/17569370.2016.1227146	39	6.50	0.33
Pedersen Erg, 2019, J Fash Mark Manage	10.1108/JFMM-04-2018-0062	35	8.75	0.96
Colasante A, 2021, J Clean Prod	10.1016/j.jclepro.2021.129774	30	15.00	2.72

Table 5: Authors Impact (TC – Total Citations, NP- Number of Publications, PY- Publication Year)

	h_inde	g_inde	m_inde	TC	NP	PY_star
Element	X	X	X	10	111	t
Callegaro-De-Menezes D	2	2	0.333	199	2	2017

Cortimiglia Mn	1	1	0.167	194	1	2017
Ghezzi A	1	1	0.167	194	1	2017
Todeschini Bv	1	1	0.167	194	1	2017
Motamed B	1	1	0.333	127	1	2020
Naebe M	1	1	0.333	127	1	2020
Ramakrishna S	1	1	0.333	127	1	2020
Shirvanimoghaddam K	1	1	0.333	127	1	2020
Sandvik Im	1	1	0.25	87	1	2019
Stubbs W	1	1	0.25	87	1	2019
Gazzola P	1	2	0.333	84	2	2020
Grechi D	1	2	0.333	84	2	2020
Pavione E	1	1	0.333	83	1	2020
Pezzetti R	1	1	0.333	83	1	2020
Bukhari Ma	1	1	0.2	55	1	2018
Carrasco-Gallego R	1	1	0.2	55	1	2018
Ponce-Cueto E	1	1	0.2	55	1	2018
Brydges T	1	1	0.5	52	1	2021
Blinco J	1	1	0.333	51	1	2020
Hansen K-A	1	1	0.333	51	1	2020
Moffitt K	1	1	0.333	51	1	2020
Navone L	1	1	0.333	51	1	2020
Payne A	1	2	0.333	51	2	2020
Speight R	1	1	0.333	51	1	2020

Table 6: Most cited countries

		Average	Article
Country	TC	Citations	
Australia	180	36.00	
Italy	166	20.75	
Spain	90	18.00	
Korea	52	26.00	
Germany	45	22.50	
Brazil	35	7.00	
Denmark	35	35.00	
India	31	10.33	
United Kingdom	30	5.00	
Sweden	29	29.00	

## Most frequent words and trending topics:

Figure 8 and 9 clearly indicates the most frequent word in the literature is recycling which is one of the core strategies used in the circular economy. Table 7 shows topics that are in trend. According to table most trending topics in the literature are recycling, circular economy, and textile industry.

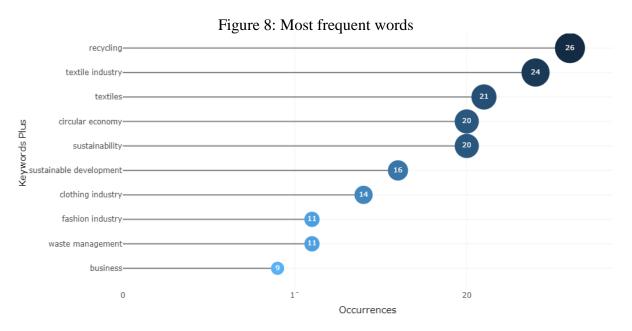


Figure 9: Wordcloude economic and social effects circular business model environmental policy commerce life cycle analysis landfill employment libers 🖥 wool carbon footprint clothing polyester manufacture degradation food waste africa india planning production polyesters life cycle priority journal strategic approach eco

Table 7: Trend Topic

item	freq	year_q1	year_med	year_q3
recycling	26	2020	2020	2021
article	6	2018	2020	2020
waste disposal	6	2018	2020	2020
textile industry	24	2020	2021	2022
textiles	21	2020	2021	2022
circular economy	20	2021	2021	2022
economic conditions	6	2021	2022	2022
environmental impact	6	2021	2022	2022
decision making	5	2022	2022	2022

#### **Discussion:**

Current studies have shown novel approaches towards circular economy and fashion industry. For instance, (Maria Elena Aramendia-Muneta \*, 2022) studied identifying consumer segments in circular fashion, paying attention to principles of circular fashion, and connecting benefits and enablers. (Fiona Charnley 1, April 2022) made contribution to understanding consumer barriers and how to address them and concludes with a set of recommendations for practitioners. (Kerrice Bailey, March 2022) identified the state of fast fashion and the effects of this industry on environmental and water degradation. The bibliometric analysis has identified the various aspects of circular economy and fashion industry. The study has revealed most cited country, author and document focusing on circular economy and fashion industry. The study has stated ongoing growth in research work of circular economy and fashion industry where majorly used topic is recycling which is an important aspect of circularity. The number of publications is higher in Sustainability (Switzerland) and Journal of Cleaner Production. The study shows that topic of circular economy is trending and has a wide scope for future studies to discovered untapped approaches.

However, study also has a limitation of single database of Scopus. The study has not considered any document outside the Scopus database. Hence it is possible that study might have missed significant aspect of the topic. Study has future scope to use wide time frame with multiple databases.

#### **Conclusion:**

Circular economy in fashion industry contributes to attainment of multiple sustainable goals like SDG 6 clean water and sanitation, SDG 9 industry innovation and infrastructure, SDG 12 responsible consumption and production. The information extracted from bibliometric analysis indicates that studies across the globe show increasing trend on the topic circular economy and fashion industry. To have sustainable future the significance of topic is gaining more attention. The study has revealed the exponential growth of the topic across the different countries and sources. Prospective authors may extend the research work with multiple databases and comparative analysis with multiple disciplines.

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