

# **INTERVIEW WITH MR. ASHOK. R, GLOBAL IE HEAD AT AQUARELLE INDIA PVT LTD (AIPL), JIGANI, BANGALORE**

## **❖ PERSPECTIVE ABOUT GREEN FACTORY:-**

As per 'Mr. Ashok', green factory is essential to save our mother earth. Sustainability is no add-on consideration for us. Our commitment to the environment is clear in every detail and influences the people we choose and the resources we use. Green factory may incur cost 10-12% more than traditional one but it can save money and resources in long term plan.

Upcoming Green factory by aquarelle group is result of long discussion, research and fieldwork to find best practices. For managing the processes of green garment factory, layout is the most important part. That's why they decided to hire an architect from non-garment sector background to design attractive building & landscape and design the layout of factory themselves. It took many hit and trials to get the perfect layout. Instead of hiring sustainability champion they trained the in-charge of each department towards sustainable practices. Their upcoming project will be a good example for other garment factories to move their focus towards green factory concept.

## **❖ CHALLENGES FACED:-**

- **Gathering information** related to green factory setup, suitable best practices, Local suppliers for sourcing of materials with recycled content
- **To get new supplier for machineries** that consumes less resource because required criteria were not matching with previous suppliers.
- **Selection of trees, plants and shrubs**
- **Development of best layout** for the factory because it was developed by the factory personnel not by an architect
- **No sustainability champion involved** in this green factory construction, Incharge of each department were trained and made responsible towards sustainability.
- No benchmark or standard available for cut down on operational resource consumption.

## **❖ BEST PRACTICES INCORPORATED IN THE FACTORY:-**

### **1. SITE SELECTION AND PLANNING**

- Site is selected considering the **road connectivity to minimize the transportation**
- **Site has slope** which has been used to collect run-off rain water.
- Site has pre-occupied trees, and factory is designed in such a way that trees are preserved as much as it is possible. New trees are also planted.
- For landscaping purpose **architect is hired from non-garment sector background**
- Factory is designed to minimize the road length and circulation of vehicles. Separate gates for vehicles and employees.
- **Electricity lines, steam pipelines water supply pipes, sewer pipes are kept modular** for easy maintenance and quicker changeover of layout.
- Barricades have been used to prevent the air pollution during construction.
- Site has good connectivity to public transport. Shuttle service is provided for workers.
- To promote the use of non-fossil fuel vehicles, company has planned **incentives for employees who use bicycle** as mode of transportation.

- Differently abled persons are employed and facilities like ramps, special machines are available for them.
- During construction **safety and sanitation facility** is being provided **to construction workers**. These facilities include Shelters, washrooms, personal protective equipments etc.
- Instead of windbreaker rows of trees **dense forest** has been developed to control air pollution post construction.

## 2. WATER CONSERVATION

- **Rain water harvesting system** has been installed. Rain water is collected and treated to use it in flush, irrigation etc purpose.
- **100% of Waste water is treated and reused.**

## 3. ENERGY CONSERVATION

- **Sewing floor is lit 100% by natural sunlight.**
- Solar energy is used as renewable source of energy. Solar panels are installed on roof in large number.
- **Low energy consumption machines** will be used wherever possible that is being **fabricated locally**.

## 4. MATERIAL CONSERVATION

- **Zero waste discharge outside** the factory premises.
- Waste treatment plant inside the campus.
- **Daily monitoring** of solid waste, electricity waste and water waste.
- Materials for construction of building have been sourced locally with high recycled content.

## 5. INDOOR ENVIRONMENT QUALITY AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

- **Butterfly Park on the sewing floor** has been planned to provide beautiful view to the operators.
- Smoking is not allowed in the factory
- No gymnasium facility is planned so far because workers are not interested in it. There is possibility for it in future

## 6. CSR INITIATIVES

- CSR initiatives: welfare activities funded by management
  - Wellbeing initiatives
  - Health and wellness initiatives
  - Education and skill development initiatives
  - **“Divyang” Empowerment**
  - Rural development projects
- **ACT for community:** welfare activities done by employees by, fund raised doing various activities (e.g. selling biryani, car wash, fruit chat stalls etc.) , motivated through sponsors, social wellbeing through social service.

## 7. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC INITIATIVES

- Employees are trained to manage their personal finance more effectively.
- Facilities provide to safeguard hygiene and health of workers.

❖ **FEEDBACK:-**

**“It’s an impressive initiative to develop an elaborated guideline that will provide all information required to develop a green garment factory at a place.”**

❖ **SUGGESTIONS:-**

- First complete the **strategic layout** of the factory which is 100% efficient then go for operational building structure.
- There should be a **benchmark to cutoff the consumption of resources.**