Sustainable Industrialisation for Luxury Products: Manufacturers and Retailers Must Commit to Tackling Modern Slavery in Africa



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Abstract Globally, there is high pressure concerning sustainability. This requires designers, manufacturers, distributors, and consumers to have obligations of looking at sustainability tenets: social (people), economic (profit) and environment (planet). Researchers have been exploring economic and environmental issues in several sectors. It is the sustainability age where people must now look at contemporary issues in the manufacturing (production) processes of luxury goods. One of the critical problems in today's supply chain of industrial luxury products is modern slavery issues (MSIs) (or neo-slavery or contemporary slavery). MSIs mostly refer to slavery that continues to occur in private individuals, groups, institutions, organisations, companies, on engaging child labour, human trafficking, forced labour, long working hours, among other forms, in manufacturing products. This study focuses on Africa regarding manufacturing and retailing of luxury products. Africa is focused because the 2018 Global Slavery Index ranked Africa number one concerning MSIs; several African countries produce precious (valuable) metals; and, many African societies cannot notice much about how critical the MSIs are. The production processes and other sustainability issues were thus explored. The findings suggest the need for Africa to strengthen consolidative interventions to fight the diverse environment that results in MSIs.

Keywords Sustainable industrialisation · Supply chain · Luxury products · Global Slavery Index · Modern slavery · Corporate social responsibility · Manufacturer · Retailer · Africa

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