

# Sustainable Practices in Fashion-Khadi

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**Abstract:** *British colonization, the Indian economy flourished because traditional methods of textile production like this were the norm, and almost every village across India had its spinners, dyers, and weavers—the foot soldiers of a thriving village economy. But with colonization, the British acquired Indian cotton at cheap prices, and exported them to Britain where cotton was woven into clothes in English factories. What can be comparable to the fast fashion industry of today, machine-made, mass-produced clothes from England were shipped back to India and sold at hefty prices to locals, only to profit the British. With this, the rich and diverse local textile industry was rapidly put out of business, and the true strength of India—the village economy—devolved from wealth to penury. The iconic image of a frail Mahatma Gandhi wrapped in a frugal loincloth as he marched the streets of India, inspiring millions of Indians to stand-up against British colonization, continues to be one of the most powerful images of non-violent protest that changed the course of history. That loincloth was khadi, a disarmingly humble hand spun fabric made on a handloom. But to understand the trailblazing significance of what was later called the “revolutionary cloth” we must first revisit a powerful socio-political movement in India. The Khadi Movement played a pivotal role in India eventually gaining independence from the British. Never in history has a piece of cloth played such a paramount role in shaping the destiny of a country. Khadi is a sustainable fashion practice that uses hand-spun and hand-woven fabric that has a low carbon footprint. It's made from cotton fibre, and doesn't require any energy for manufacturing, chemicals, or fossil fuels. The process also reduces resource consumption, and doesn't produce toxic waste*

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