

Technical change, competitiveness and poverty reduction : a study of the Ghanaian apparel industry

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**Technical Change, Competitiveness and Poverty Reduction:
A Study of the Ghanaian Apparel Industry**

Donatus Kosi Ayitey

1. Technology is dominated by two types of people: those who understand what they do not manage and those who manage what they do not understand (*unknown Source*). SMEs in apparel manufacturing in Ghana are characterized by technical change and technical inefficiencies.
2. Being an SME is no longer a disadvantage especially in apparel manufacturing with increasing demand for tailor-made products. SMEs are being scale efficient.
3. Meeting quality and non-quality standards is crucial in maintaining competitive edge in business but performance appraisals devoid of standards assessments are only half of the story.
4. Men are only as good as their technical development allows them to be (*George Orwell*). Traditional sectors such as textile and apparel manufacturing are also being affected by technological change.
5. Reducing by half those with extreme poverty by 2015 will depend on the competitiveness of pro-poor businesses which provide refuge for the bulk of the people. Output must grow at a faster rate to support all.
6. A rich man is nothing but a poor man with money (*W.C. Fields*). Income inadequacies are among the major sources of deprivation for those into apparel related businesses in Ghana.
7. Empty pockets never held anyone back. Only empty heads can do that (*Norman Vincent Peale*). For those into apparel related businesses, continual development of capabilities in clothing technology could be a solution in itself.
8. It is better to be vaguely right than to be precisely wrong (*L.A. Zadeh*). Fuzzy logic and multi-dimensional measure of poverty provide better insight than bi-valued logic and one-dimensional approach.
9. Where there is the necessary technical skill to move mountains, there is no need for the faith that moves mountains (*Eric Hoffer*).
10. It would be nice if the poor were to get even half of the money that is spent in studying them (*Bill Vaughan*).