

Something You Would Banish Forever If You Were Given the Chance

Good morning, Year 7! Today I would like to share something I would banish forever if given the chance. In 1940's India, my great grandmother owned two silk sarees, both made by weavers we know from the village Kanchipuram, where some of the finest silk sarees are made. She wore them all her life, yet they are still in good shape 80 years later! This is how things were, for her and for many others, and it was not uncommon to only have 3 or 4 outfits – so how come, in only two generations, we are in the habit of buying too many clothes from a high street shop without a second thought as to where they're from. Today, I would like to explain why this needs to change – not just for us, but for future generations.

Did you know that the fashion industry is the second largest polluter after the oil industry? The clothing we wear today is just as damaging as plastic straws are – especially since most clothing travels across the world to be delivered. Most of our clothes are made in China, where the average pay of a factory line worker is just 52p per hour. Not only that, most modern clothing contains harmful chemicals, such as lead! These chemicals poison streams and lakes around the world due to lax regulations. Even 'environmentally friendly' cotton requires lots of water to grow! Linen is proven to be less harmful, but few clothes are made from linen. Most people only wear two-thirds of their wardrobe, resulting in 350,000 tonnes of clothing in UK landfill.

We, as a society, need to change. If we want a healthy planet, we need to work against fast fashion and the way we view clothing. Even Vogue, in their December issue, feature Prince Charles with a focus on sustainable fashion. There are many ways to do this, such as: buying less with focus on quality, mending instead of throwing ripped clothes away; reusing old clothing; buying handmade clothes, or making our own. Every one of us can contribute to making this happen! I vow that in ten years' time, I will do all of this, and maybe more – and I think that you, no matter who you are, should too.

