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Why is Second Hand Shopping important?

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Why should we reconsider our system?

The way we adapted to produce, use, discard is a linear approach. All the goods we purchase comes from and goes through a linear system. We accumulate the raw materials, use energy to manufacture the goods, then consume and dispose. In other words, the process of the linear economy is in order of extraction, production, distribution, consumption to disposal. Unfortunately, our sources are not inexhaustible; we live on a planet with exhaustible resources. We have to reconsider the way we live. The linear economy is not sustainable; hence, our system poses problems to society and the environment excessively. For instance, the exploitation of natural resources results in vanishing forests, biodiversity in significant numbers; another good example is the manufacturing process, which requires the use of extremely harmful toxic chemicals. This is also on a level with the fact that everything we use, we touch, we throw into the garbage is a toxic material. What creates more danger is the fact that The linear system concludes with the waste of the products. Accordingly, World Bank statics, currently, about 2.01 billion metric tons of municipal solid waste (MSW) are produced annually worldwide. The majority of our consumption goes to landfills when we dispose. All the products manufactured by using toxic chemicals, in the landfill, result in air and water pollution, climate change eventually destroying the natural life.

There are further examples and proofs on why the linear system is not sustainable. Therefore, we must take immediate action. In our project, our focus is on the circular economy, which is a regenerative/novel approach to live sustainable. One of the objectives of the circular economy is decreasing the waste by considering the concepts of rethinking, refusing, reducing, reusing, repairing, recycling in the consumption and production processes.

People have a role in the consumption and the production side of the system. We, as partners, are aware of that adult education takes an essential place in the change of the system. In order to spread the adaptation of circular economy's concepts, we will be sharing our experiences and hits for sustainable consumption.

The link between Circular Economy and Consumer Behavior

Consumer behavior and circular economy-lifestyle are associated with one another. It is our responsibility to alter our consumption habits and reconsider our consuming behavior in order to move towards a more circular economy. There are various processes until a product takes its place on a shelf and be ready to be purchased. Therefore, it is crucial to understand every time we purchase a good; we impact our planet in many ways.

Second Hand Shopping

Consumption is the act of purchasing goods and obtaining the behavior we exhibit to meet our needs and wants. The fact is that we do not have to purchase new goods to satisfy our needs and wishes. We discard the items that they are still usable in order to upgrade, renew, or just because we do not need it anymore. These items end in the landfill and causing negative impacts as a result of our choices. There are alternative ways of consumption to reduce our impact. Some of the products are on sale rather than discarded, such as electronic appliances, automobiles, furniture, clothes, etc. We can increase our positive impact, but it requires us to reconsider. What can we sell rather than throwing away or can we meet our needs by purchasing second-hand products, which also refers to reusing concept.

Second-hand shopping is an alternative way of consuming, which takes place through a circular economy. Although second-hand shopping is spreading and becoming popular in today's world, it is still perceived differently by people. People have concerns about the hygiene, safety, and durability of the products. Furthermore, people's assumption that if you purchase second-hand goods or put second-hand goods up for sale, perhaps you are a person who has low income. At this point, we should remember that there are many reasons for our consumption preferences and habits, such as cultural orientations and commercial effects (advertising).



However, people can prefer second-hand shopping for many reasons. There are some researches to understand what the motivations and drivers of second-hand shopping are.

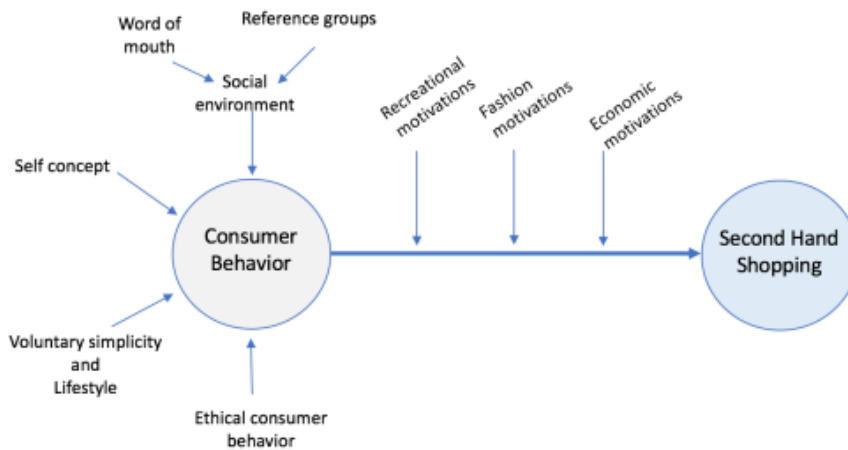


image 1 : A theoretical model for the drivers and motivations of a second-hand consumer (Haraldsson, F., & Peric, S. (2017). Drivers and motivations for second-hand shopping)

The Hint for Second Hand Shopping

There are several reasons why we should choose the second-hand shopping. Besides, there are things to consider that is why we would like to share the hints out of our project;

Acceptance of second-hand goods;

We, as consumers, need to remember we have biases and assumptions against the second-hand shop. The fact is that just because second-hand goods are cheaper does not mean they are less functional than the new one. So, the second-hand goods can still be usable and solid most of the time but more affordable. In order to utilize second-hand goods safely, it is required to consider spreading second-hand shopping as well as accomplishing standards. These standards (ISO/TS 20245:2014) are measure goods based on their conditions and classification, helping to protect consumers' health and rights* and also constructed by considering sustainability.

Alternative of Throwing Away ;

Sustainable choices should not only be made during purchasing but also during discarding. Sharing, selling, or donating belongings are more sustainable rather than throwing items away.

Second-hand options are available on open garages, local shops, and online platforms. Sustainable consumption requires considering all the facts and if it is applicable for all principles of the circular economy. For instance, it is necessary to review local options before placing an order that will lead to an increase in* carbon footprint.

In conclusion, contrary to popular belief, second-hand shopping is a reliable way of consuming, and its contribution to sustainability is of great importance. Besides, it is also budget-friendly





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