

STUDY OF THE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES OF WOMEN WORKERS IN THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY

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Abstract: *The textile industry contributes significantly to the economy of different countries of the world. Over the years, the industry has seen an increase in the number of women working in it. The textile industry has been one of the most female-dominated industries in the world, as over 80% of the workforce is female. The increase in the number of female workers in the world industry has both positive and negative consequences. On the positive side, women have more opportunities by improving their economic position, providing formal employment, gaining knowledge and gaining digital skills.*

Keywords: *Textile Industry, Labor Industry, exploitation of Women, Health.*

Абстрактный: *Текстильная промышленность вносит значительный вклад в экономику разных стран мира. С годами в этой отрасли наблюдается рост числа работающих в ней женщин. Текстильная промышленность является одной из отраслей, в которой женщины доминируют в наибольшей степени, поскольку более 80% рабочей силы составляют женщины. Увеличение числа работающих женщин в мировой промышленности имеет как положительные, так и отрицательные последствия. С положительной стороны, женщины имеют больше возможностей для улучшения своего экономического положения, обеспечения официальной занятости, приобретения знаний и навыков работы с цифровыми технологиями.*

Ключевые слова: *Текстильная промышленность, Индустрия труда, эксплуатация женщин, здоровье.*

INTRODUCTION

The textile industry can be defined as the industry that deals mainly with the design, manufacture and distribution of clothing or clothing. Textile is a flexible material made up of a network of natural or artificial fibers, often called yarn or yarn . The textile industry also contributes significantly to the economy of different countries of the world. For example, the textile industry accounts for 4% of India's GDP and 11% of the country's total exports (Gulhane & Turukmane, 2017). Over the years, the industry has seen an increase in the number of women working in it. According to Ahmed and Raihan (2014), the textile industry is one of the most female dominant industries in the world, with over 80% of the workforce being females. The increase in the number of female workers in the world industry has both positive and negative consequences. On the positive side, women have more opportunities by improving their economic position, providing formal employment, gaining knowledge and gaining

digital skills. In contrast, the influx of textile workers exposed many of them to gender-based violence, harassment, overwork conditions, poor working conditions, and situations under payment.

A study by some data shows that the majority of women working in the retail industry come from families with money debts, and only a few of them have some assets and savings in their homes, while a large proportion of women working in the textile industry include young women who are not yet married to poor backgrounds, with about 86% of women working in the textile. Despite the industry's ability to significantly contribute to the economic growth of individuals and countries, the reality that most female textile workers face is far from what they expect. The textile industry is a profitable company in the world. However, it is clear that workers in this area often have poor wages, working conditions, and they are often exposed to extended hours of work without pay. In the modern world, some people argue that the exploitation of female textile workers is a way to expand women's opportunities.

Despite these advantages, there is need to have skepticism about the actual potential of the industry to transform the lives of women. This is so because developing countries are in constant competition to produce for international brands through providing textile products at the least price and in a more rapid manner. This is achieved by making the source of labor to be cheap. This comes at the expense of the labor force that have to be paid lower salaries, forced to work for longer hours and less observation of work and environmental standards. The owners of big textile factories take advantage of the unequal position of women in the society to come up with an even cheaper and more flexible workforce. The textile industry is underserved and demonstrates great potential in influencing the lives of millions of women from developing countries. It is necessary to ensure that the impact of industry on women's lives and families is positive. There are opportunities for companies in the textile industry to take action to expand the reach of women within existing value chains. There are more opportunities in the ability of textile companies to use their collective influence for programs, policies, and partnerships that can have a lasting impact on the lives of women textile workers.

The textile industry makes significant contributions to the economic status of different countries around the world. Improvement in the economic status of a country consequently has a positive implication on the empowerment of women and labor force on general. In Bangladesh, the textile industry is the most significant industry contributing 86 percent of all exports. 60 percent of clothes made in Bangladesh are exported to Europe while 23 percent are exported to the US. This makes the country the second-largest garment exporter in the world after China. Bangladesh has 4 million textile workers working in more than 5000 textile factories. More than 15 million people (30% of the total workforce) are employed in Pakistan's textile industry. The industry contributes 9.5 percent of Pakistan's GDP. In Vietnam, the textile industry provides employment to more than 2.2 million people who work in the more than

3800 companies across the nation. In Cambodia, the textile industry is the main driver of the country's GDP accounting for about 80% of the country's total exports.

Increase of women in the textile industry has brought about changes in the face of the workplace. Unlike the older days when women working in the industry did not have enough skills, unmarried, childless because they are captured by work, nowadays women have been empowered to marry and have children while still attending to their workplaces. For instance in Bangladesh, a study conducted in 2015 by the Asian Center for Development indicates that 57% of the interviewed textile female workers were married. Therefore, the increase in the number of women working in the textile industry has shifted the view of companies and has enabled them to appreciate the need for a more diverse female workforce.

Conclusion

The textile industry is primarily concerned with the design, manufacture and distribution of clothing or clothing. Almost every person on the planet is influenced by the world textile industry. The textile industry contributes significantly to the economic situation of both peoples and individuals. In recent years, the industry has seen a large influx of female workers, with over 80% of the global workforce being female. The increase in the number of female workers in the industry is both a blessing and a curse. This is a blessing because it leads to an increase in the economic position of countries, ensuring that women take better advantage of social amenities. In addition, more women are able to support their families and lifestyle by working in this area. The increase in female textile workers means that gender has the right to participate in public and family decision-making. This means that more females have the opportunity to control machines, acquire digital skills, gain experience and become aware of the environment. This means that more women have the opportunity to earn money, become champions in gender equality, as well as participate in leadership in the workplace. The increase in females in the textile industry also means that many of them are exposed to workplace accidents and health risks, endangering their well-being. Despite these negative consequences, this paper assumes that the textile labor force leads to more authority than the exploitation of growth in women.

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