

Project Title: Corporate Social Responsibility and Global Labor Justice the Case of Bangladesh Apparel Industry

Abstract:

In the wake of 'flexible accumulation', and intense market competitions under the conditions of neoliberal globalization, the responsibility of multinational corporations ensuring labor justice has become both significant and challenging. In case of labor, only a minority of working people today hold jobs that are well paid and well-secured, while the majority of them are faced with inhuman working conditions and are living in poverty. Good jobs are getting harder and harder to find and keep; while bad jobs seem to getting worse. Frequent industrial accidents cause innumerable deaths and physical disability. Survivors lead very inhuman life for lack of subsistence, treatment and other familial needs. Corporate partners are supposed to carry out responsible role for protection of physically challenged and mentally depressed workers. Based on empirical evidence from Rana Plaza survivors, this study will explore the needs of the survivors, roles played by the state and corporate partners. Data will be generated through the experiences of the researcher's fieldwork on the RMG Industry in Dhaka, Bangladesh, using four kinds of methods—documents reviews, observation, in-depth interviews, and focus group discussions. The views of the representatives from US based global brands, transnational workers' union and consumers will be added to ascertain the role of MNCs and consumers. Therefore, a significant portion of data will be collected from them while staying at host institution. The task for the development of theoretical framework and data analysis will be made in collaboration with the professor of host institution. A number of presentations will be made and critical issues will be discussed with the active participations of scholars and students of the host institution. The study speculates to develop a model for global labor justice based on the findings of the study.