

GOVERNANCE OF THE PROJECT

The study has been designed, and is being implemented by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD). Financial support for the study has been extended by the Embassy of Sweden, Dhaka, GIZ, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Dhaka and FES Bangladesh. Overall guidance in the implementation of the CPD RMG Study 2016 is provided by an Advisory Committee chaired by the Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of Bangladesh. Members of the Committee include representatives from partner organisations, ILO, BGMEA, BKMEA, trade unions, major buyers, relevant NGOs and senior CPD researchers on the study team.



CPD RMG STUDY 2016
Stitching a better future for Bangladesh

New Dynamics in Bangladesh's Apparels Enterprises *Perspectives on Restructuring, Up-gradation and Compliance Assurance*



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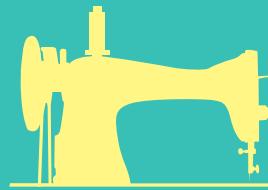
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Published in October 2016



The CPD RMG Study 2016

New Dynamics in Bangladesh's Apparels Enterprises



Bangladesh has set an export target of **USD 50 billion** worth of apparels by **2021**. Realisation of this aspiration demands an improved and in-depth understanding of the ongoing dynamics of transformation taking place in the country's apparels sector in the aftermath of the Rana Plaza tragedy. This unique CPD RMG Study 2016 is geared to bridge the existing knowledge gap, capture the multifaceted upgradation taking place at the enterprise level, and assess the implications of the key changes for the performance of the sector.

STUDY OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the study is to examine, with the help of extensive survey on enterprises and workers, the state of ongoing transformation taking place in the apparels sector of Bangladesh, particularly focusing on **economic** and **social upgrading**, and to assess the nature of gender-embeddedness of the various initiatives. The objective is to capture the implications of these ongoing changes for enterprise-level performance with a view to come up with appropriate policy recommendations towards a strengthened and sustainable RMG sector in an increasingly competitive and demanding global market.

OUTCOME

The outcome of the study will be a globally **competitive**, highly **compliant** and export-oriented apparels industry in Bangladesh that respects workers' rights, promotes gender empowerment and ensures distributive justice along the value chain.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

The distinguishing feature of the study is the in-depth enterprise-level survey involving about 350 enterprises and 2,000 workers. Appropriate statistical and analytical tools will be deployed to generate data on benchmarks and trends concerning key parameters, costs involved for compliance assurance, implications of economic and social upgradation, profitability of enterprises and distribution of earnings along the apparels value chain. Research reports, policy briefs and other materials will be prepared based on insights drawn from the analyses.

OUTPUTS

A diverse range of outputs will be prepared including databases, research reports, policy briefs, working papers, research monographs and books. Databases will be created based on the information gathered through the enterprise-level surveys carried out under this study, and on information generated from various secondary databases available to different organisations. Communication materials in the form of popular write-ups, blogs and videos will be prepared for wider dissemination.

NETWORK AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

The programme will use networking and outreach activities to a great extent for policy influencing. A dedicated website will be launched to highlight the study findings from time to time, host broad-based discussions, and circulate research outputs extensively. The study team will maintain close collaboration with key stakeholders of the RMG sector, who will be engaged with the programme through expert group meetings, focus group discussions and national dialogues. Blogs and social media will be used widely to convey the key messages emerging from the research findings.