

Is a Bangladeshi female textile worker in 2016 better off than her "sister"
in the Victorian years?



1

(circa 1860s)



2

(circa 2010)

3861 words

¹<http://www.teara.govt.nz/files/p-25166-atl.jpg>

²http://images.waronwant.org/sites/default/files/styles/inline_full_width/public/Bangladesh_Factory_IMG_2738.jpg?itok=Mg7URama

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I) Introduction

At the end of the 18th Century England, 80% of the population lived in the country. Most people worked the land and very few worked in what was to become the industry. The technological progresses from the Agricultural and Industrial Revolution helped the economy to grow, but despite all the technical improvements, the living and working conditions of the workers and their sanitation were poor and their improvement was slow compared to the wealthy industries they had created.



It is in this frame of mind that Edward Palmer Thomson said: "It is neither poverty nor disease but work itself which cast the blackest shadow over the years of the industrial revolution, long hours of unsatisfying labour under severe discipline for alien purposes."¹

One has to remember that at that time (circa 1825), there were no social welfare nor powerful unions to fight for those rights. In addition, the place of women in Victorian society wasn't significant. All this led to multiple uprisings and strikes in an attempt by the working classes to better their future.

During the second half of the 19th century, a series of improvements in the form of Acts were passed and the workers saw the successful creation of Trade Unions, which included more and more workers who were not satisfied with their working conditions. ²

The textile industry was the most important industry of the Industrial Revolution since it was the main employer of workers and specifically of women workers at that time. The conditions of women workers with the

¹THOMPSON (Edward Palmer), *The Making of the English Working Class*, United States of America, RANDOM HOUSE, Inc,1963, p.446

²<http://firstindustrialrevolution.weebly.com/working-and-living-conditions.html>.

Consulted the 2nd of October 2015.

³<https://www.nwhm.org/media/category/exhibits/industry/haymaking.jpg>

advance of modern techniques are of interest since they are still extremely relevant today, in our fashion driven modern society.

As a woman I am very interested in the condition of female workers in our society. Watching the collapse of the garment factory Rana Plaza in Bangladesh in 2013¹ on the news, triggered my interest in wanting to find out more about the working conditions of women in the textile industry. I wanted to try to understand if and how the past has influenced today's working conditions of women.

At the time of the Industrial Revolution, workers, and women in particular, were often reduced to very hard and low qualification labour in factories with low salaries and very hard living conditions.² These harsh working conditions can unfortunately be linked to today's situation in undeveloped countries. Women, as well as men and children, are not treated fairly: low salaries, factories in unsafe buildings, dangerous working conditions, these are issues still relevant today. They have to be addressed by governments and need the support of various associations.

When I was thinking about my subject, a lot of additional questions came to mind when buying clothes: "Where were they made? In which conditions were they produced?" This led to my ultimate question, which gives the title to my work: "Is a Bangladeshi female textile worker in 2016 better off than her "sister" in the Victorian years?"

To begin with, I will examine the historical context. I will then write about the different classes that existed at the time and the general working conditions of women in particular. I will then illustrate how women managed to gain a better place in society and even started to rebel against their working conditions. Finally, I will discuss the textile industry today. I will detail how the big industries are producing clothes

¹<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/jun/06/bangladesh-factory-building-collapse-community>. Consulted on the 28th December 2015

²GASKELL (Elizabeth), *Mary Barton, Modern World History*, Beck-Black-Krieger-Naylor-Shabaka, McDougal Littell, 2007, p.120

and will try, in the last section, to give an answer to the topic analysed before drawing some conclusions.

a) Historical context

I chose Britain as the centre stage of my research because England was a leading power in industrial development at the time: it had coal and iron and was a very important colonial power.¹ Britain could get raw materials that it needed from the colonies and sell them the goods it produced.

The Industrial Revolution of the early 1800s was an event that brought many changes not only to the economy but to society and culture as well.² It is important to briefly describe the Industrial Revolution in order to understand its relevance.

To begin with, people produced their own tools and clothes.³ They subsisted most of the time in small rural communities and worked mainly in the primary sector, for example as farmers, woodcutters, fishermen.⁴ Malnourishment and diseases were common throughout society and infant mortality was high because of the lack of sanitation.⁵

It's important to remember the Agricultural Revolution preceded the Industrial Revolution and brought about several important innovations in people's day to day lives. Modernised farming techniques were the main improvements that appeared at this time. When the Agricultural Revolution took place, the peasants were able to produce more food thanks to these new techniques and methods. Food production grew and with it the population was better fed and therefore healthier. The growth

¹BECK-BLACK-KRIEGER-NAYLOR-SHABAKA, *Modern World History*, McDouglas Littell, 2007, p.126

²BECK-BLACK-KRIEGER-NAYLOR-SHABAKA, *op.cit.*, p.123

³ BECK-BLACK-KRIEGER-NAYLOR-SHABAKA, *op.cit.*, p.115

⁴BECK-BLACK-KRIEGER-NAYLOR-SHABAKA, *op.cit.*, p.114

⁵<http://www.history.co.uk/study-topics/history-of-death/trends-in-death>. Consulted the 5th of January.

of the population led to an increasing demand of goods and to the subsequent Industrial Revolution in Britain.¹

Agriculture wasn't the only sector that profited from this demand; the clothing production was increasing rapidly as well.² As a result, factories and housing estates slowly made their appearance to create the first towns. This transition led people to move from the countryside to the towns hoping to find new opportunities. New machines were invented to quicken the production of clothes. "The Spinning Jenny" which had been created in 1764 by James Hargreave, made manufacture even more efficient reducing the production costs.³ Modern factories were developed thus creating jobs in the clothing industry such as tailors, mercers, cloth manufacturers.⁴

Probably the biggest innovation was the steam engine.⁴ It allowed Britain to power factories and transport goods by boat using the man-made canals and rivers that were developed for this purpose. Britain could import or even better, export, and trade more goods.

b) A brief introduction to the working classes

The Victorian era was without a doubt a period of social, economic and technological changes. Five social classes formed society at the time: the nobility, the new gentry, the middle class, the working class and the under class.⁵ Today we know, thanks to numerous writers' accounts, what their

¹This all paragraph is taken from the book: BECK-BLACK-KRIEGER-NAYLOR-SHABAKA, op.cit., p.123

²BECK-BLACK-KRIEGER-NAYLOR-SHABAKA, *Modern World History*, McDouglas Littell, 2007, p.115

³<http://www.britannica.com/biography/James-Hargreaves>. Consulted the 22th of January 2016.

⁴According tot he diagram from the book of: BURNETTE (Joyce), *Gender, Work and Wages in Industrial Revolution Britain*. United Kingdom, Cambridge University Press, 2008, p.35

⁴BECK-BLACK-KRIEGER-NAYLOR-SHABAKA, op.cit., p.118

⁵<http://www.aboutbritain.com/articles/victorian-society.asp>. Consulted the 6th of February 2016.

professional opportunities were and the reality of their daily life.

The nobility, or aristocrats, were there by heredity. Their ancestors were at the top of the feudal system, paid little or no tax and thus had accumulated a lot of money. They usually didn't work. Their women's future was described as such: "The established career for society women was marriage - full stop".¹

The new gentry were seen as "the new money". They succeeded by being bankers or doctors.² What differentiated them from the middle-class was more wealth, gained through access to education and professional opportunities.³

The middle-classes were poorer and their professional opportunities were to be found in teaching and trade.⁴

The working class, in contrast to the higher classes, had no power of any kind. This is well described by the accounts of 1900 that Emma Griffin could gather for her recent book. According to her, there were five areas where most of women worked: "textiles, agriculture, domestic service, retailing and needlework."⁵

The last rank of the English society was that of the very poor. They weren't even considered by the society and were the ones who suffered the most during this period. Most of them weren't educated and therefore couldn't have a "proper job" and were left to survive.⁶

When we talk about the general working conditions in the Victorian years, we must know the difference between men and women's activities. As Emma Griffin⁷ said in her book: "Men were called upon to take up the

¹<http://www.aboutbritain.com/articles/victorian-society.asp>. Consulted the 6th of February 2016.

²Ibid, consulted the 8th of February 2016.

³Ibid, consulted the 8th of February 2016.

⁴<http://www.logicmgmt.com/1876/living/occupations.htm>. Consulted the 12th of January 2016.

⁵GRIFFIN (Emma), *Liberty's Dawn*. Great Britain, Yale University Press, 2014, p.86 to p.87

⁶<http://www.aboutbritain.com/articles/victorian-society.asp>. Consulted the 18th of December 2015.

⁷GRIFFIN (Emma), *Liberty's Dawn*. Great Britain, Yale University Press, 2014, p.21

hardest, dirtiest and most dangerous occupation”; for women: “Unlike young male apprentices, women did not work for below-market wages in the hope of learning a skill that would earn them greater rewards at some unknown time in the future. They worked to get money for the here and now”¹.

Joyce Burnette’s studies published in her book show that 80% of women’s work was chiefly focused on: “domestic services, textiles and clothing.”²

What was important to notice as well is that women rarely had the same opportunities as men such as today.

II) Women’s working conditions in the Industrial Revolution:

“At the onset of the Industrial Revolution, textile production was the largest employer of women.”³

a) Women in the textile industry



“We now approach a darker period—a period as disastrous and as terrible as any through which a nation ever passed; disastrous and terrible because side by side with a great increase of wealth was seen an enormous increase of pauperism [and] the degradation of a large body of producers... The steam-engine, the spinning-jenny, the power-loom had torn up the population by the roots... The effects of the Industrial Revolution prove that free competition may produce wealth without producing well-being”⁴This quote is important since it exposes the fact

¹GRIFFIN (Emma), *Liberty’s Dawn*. Great Britain, 2014, p.94

²BURNETTE (Joyce), *Gender, Work and Wages in Industrial Revolution Britain*, United Kingdom, Cambridge University Press, 2008, p.18.

³BURNETTE (Joyce), *op.cit.*, p.39

⁴TOYNBEE (Arnold), *Lectures on the Industrial Revolution in England*, (London, 1884) in the book of GRIFFIN (Emma), *Liberty’s Dawn*. Great Britain, 2014, p.13.

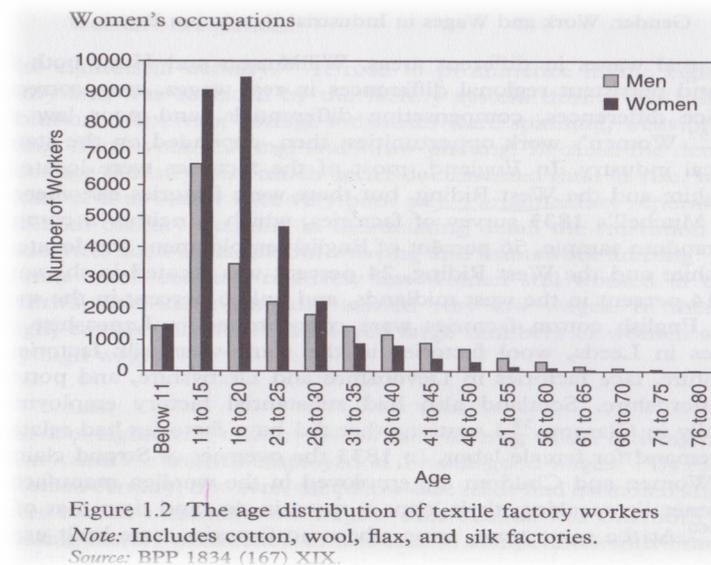
⁵http://myalternativehigh.com/industrialization1/view/12081/the_second_industrial_revolution

that the dawn of “mass-production” was not beneficial to the greatest part of the workers.

Many families had to move to industrial areas and households were facing higher costs of living. In her book, Ivy Pinchbeck makes clear the fact that women had to find an employment and gain their own salary to help support their family.¹

Women’s work at home disappeared throughout time and women became the “victims of the new industrial regime”². Often women had to work more than one job to earn an appropriate salary.

I find the diagram below interesting since it compares the number of male and female workers and their age in the textile industry in 1834. It’s important to notice that the largest number of female workers are aged between 16 and 20 years old.³



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¹PINCHBECK (Ivy), *Women workers in the Industrial Revolution. 1750-1850*, London, Routledge, 1977, p.1

²PINCHBECK (Ivy), *Women workers in the Industrial Revolution. 1750-1850*, London, Routledge, 1977, p.4

³This paragraph is based from the book: BURNETTE (Joyce), *Gender, Work and Wages in Industrial Revolution Britain*, United Kingdom, Cambridge University Press, 2008, p.43.

⁴Diagram scanned from the book: BURNETTE (Joyce), op.cit., p.43

“It is generally assumed that women by custom received one-third to one half of the wage of men.”¹ Because of this reason women often had more than one “job” to help the family’s income.

What I could understand from my research is that the lower wages for women were in part due to the fact that women had repetitive tasks and probably less physical than men’s and were therefore not considered as worthy.² This general assumption lasted throughout the 19th Century and still has repercussions today, since salaries equality is not a reality yet.³

b) Diseases and dangers

As a result of this rural exodus caused by the Agricultural and Industrial Revolution, towns became full of migrants from the countryside. Houses and apartments were built in a very compact way. The streets and courts were narrow, and houses were built near the factories. The air was thus polluted and left the towns under contaminated clouds.⁴

« You went down one step even from the foul area into the cellar in which a family of human beings lived. It was very dark inside. The window-panes many of them were broken and stuffed with rags... the smell was so fetid [foul] as almost to knock the two men down... they began to penetrate the thick darkness of the place, and to see three or four little children rolling on the damp, nay wet brick floor, through which the stagnant filthy moisture of the street oozed up »⁵

¹BERG (Maxine), What Difference Did Women’s Work Make to the Industrial Revolution?, History Workshop Journal 35 (1993), p. 31. Footnote from: BURNETTE (Joyce), Gender, Work and Wages in Industrial Revolution Britain, Cambridge University Press, 2008, United Kingdom, p.72

²According to the diagram from the book: BURNETTE (Joyce), Gender, Work and Wages in Industrial Revolution Britain, Cambridge University Press, 2008, United Kingdom, p.76 and 77

³<http://www.payequity.gov.on.ca/en/about/pubs/genderwage/wagegap.php>. Consulted the 13th of December 2016.

⁴BECK-BLACK-KRIEGER-NAYLOR-SHABAKA, *Modern World History*, McDouglas Littell, 2007, p.120

⁵GASKELL (Elizabeth), Mary Barton. Taken from the book: BECK-BLACK-KRIEGER-NAYLOR-SHABAKA, *Modern World History*, McDouglas Littell, 2007, p.121

Friedrich Engels wrote in his book: "Again, the repeated visitations of cholera, typhus, smallpox, and other epidemics have shown the British bourgeois the urgent necessity of sanitation in his towns, if he wishes to save himself and family from falling victims to such diseases."¹ Sanitation was poor, water was contaminated by the rejects of the factories.²

A part from the already poor health and extremely long working hours which drove them to exhaustion, the employees, mainly women, in the textile industry also worked with hot instruments and temperatures due to the introduction of steam engines. By being already weak and exhausted by the more than 12 hours a day work they were less attentive and their limbs could also get caught in the unprotected moving parts of the machines. The machines were extremely noisy and many workers became deaf. All of the above led to a very high accident and mortality rate among female workers.³

c) Minor and major steps towards improving women's working conditions

The horrible conditions, long hours and poor wages prepared the ground for social unrest and by the early 1830's British workers were asking the government for reforms and better regulations to improve their working conditions and hours.⁴ In 1833 a Factory Act was passed as law: it regulated the working hours in the textile industries.⁵ It was modified again for women in 1844, limiting the maximum working hours per day to 12.⁶ Three years later, in 1847 the maximum hours per day for women

¹ENGELS, Friedrich, *The Condition of the Working Class in England in 1844*, New York, 1885, p.7

²BECK-BLACK-KRIEGER-NAYLOR-SHABAKA, *Modern World History*, McDouglas Littell, 2007, p.120

³ The paragraph is taken from the website: <https://prezi.com/ibtxtxwblmxv/hardships-of-the-industrial-revolution/>. Consulted the 27th of December 2015.

⁴[http://www.historyofsocialwork.org/PDFs/1965,%20Young%20Ashton,%20British%20social%20work%2019th%20century%20OCR%20\(c%20notice\).pdf](http://www.historyofsocialwork.org/PDFs/1965,%20Young%20Ashton,%20British%20social%20work%2019th%20century%20OCR%20(c%20notice).pdf). Consulted the 22th of December 2015.

⁵<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/1833-factory-act/>. Consulted the 12th of January 2016.

⁶Ibid, consulted the 13th of January 2016.

went down to 10, six days a week.¹ The changes were slow but the government was becoming aware of the problems and was trying to improve female and child labour at the same time.

From the 1850's onwards organizations to protect workers' interests started to be created, with the idea that if workers got together they had a stronger voice for their demands. The Trade Unions were not immediately considered legal. It's only in 1871 that they were recognized as such.²

Women were not accepted in Trade Unions at first and had to fight for their rights on their own. They organized strikes and walk-outs, the most famous one being the Manningham Mills strike of 1890-1891. The Mills, owned by Samuel Lister, employed over 5'000 workers, mainly women, who went on strike for 19 weeks.³

As women were the majority in the workforce, the Manningham Mills strike showed women workers were as militant as their male counterparts. However, despite great efforts, women and men that took place in this important strike were not as successful as they were hoping for.

In the following decades, the idea of being able to produce large quantities of goods became a reality. In the United States, for example, the moving-assembly line, invented by Henry Ford⁴ in the 1920s, was one of the most brilliant ideas to mass-produce objects. When Henry Ford introduced this method to build cars, he also believed that his workers could be his customers and that they should be able to afford the cars they were producing. This assembly-line revolution was then used worldwide in factories to maximise production and therefore sales.

¹<http://www.todayifoundout.com/index.php/2011/05/why-a-typical-work-day-is-eight-hours-long/>. Consulted the 3rd of November 2015.

²Source of the paragraph: <http://www.striking-women.org/module/rights-and-responsibilities/claiming-rights-role-trade-unions-uk#The%2019th%20Century>. Consulted the 20th of January 2016.

³Source of the two last sentences of the paragraph: <http://www.socialistparty.org.uk/articles/11928>. Consulted the 2nd of January 2016.

⁴<http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/fords-assembly-line-starts-rolling>. Consulted the 3rd of January 2016.

Most of our everyday objects are still mass-produced. Geographically, throughout the years, these industries have been moved to countries with cheap labour, like in Bangladesh. In this country, as I will explain in the following section, cheap labour is an important factor for the development of the textile industry.¹

III) Today's textile industry

a) The textile industry in Bangladesh

When the Rana Plaza collapsed in April 2013 killing 1100 workers, a reporter said:

"Each worker might have had serious doubts about going into the building – and in fact some of the workers I spoke with said they did have doubts about its safety – but they had no power as individuals and no ability to say anything about it, and so they kept going. And then it did go wrong."²



3

This incident demonstrates that workers in the factories were aware of the danger of their condition, like the women in the 19th century, but had no power and little rights. Suddenly the world was paying attention to the cause of the workers in the clothing industry.

Nowadays, textile industries are unfortunately not well controlled by the authorities and trade unions. Despite great efforts, they do not always achieve their goal: to protect the workers from inhuman conditions and grant them decent wages. Through an interview I could understand that the power of trade unions depend not only on the country women work in

¹<http://www.thedailystar.net/op-ed/politics/the-delusion-bangladeshs-cheap-labour-96151>. Consulted the 4th of January 2016.

²<http://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/2015/apr/24/bangladesh-factories-building-collapse-garment-dhaka-rana-plaza-brands-hm-gap-workers-construction>. Consulted the 14th of January 2016.

³ <https://thefableists.files.wordpress.com/2013/11/skc04.jpg>

but also on the power of their associations and the legitimacy they have. To explain it simply, owners, who have full "ownership" of and authority over their workers, can decide largely of the level of wages and working conditions.¹ In addition, workers have little power against them which means that they take the risk of being fired if they complain, sometimes even if they belong to organised unions. According to a "Reuters" article women in Bangladesh earn approximately 68 Swiss Francs per month.²

Furthermore, an article in "the guardian" states: "The report estimates that workers are being collectively denied roughly £1m in wages each week, and forced to complement their wages with welfare benefits. On top of that it details widespread workplace practices including: inadequate health and safety standards, bullying, threats, arbitrary humiliation, denial of toilet breaks, theft of maternity pay and the absence of employment contracts."³This shows that there are still numerous injustices in the mainly female working sector.

The problem persists today and this is due to the system. People are now used to consume more often for less. As a result, in order to still earn some money, companies squeeze their suppliers for cheaper goods and by doing this silently impose unethical working conditions. English brands such as Primark, Mark and Spencer, Debenhams, but also European and American ones that are responsible for "fast fashion" have this successful approach of selling clothes at very low prices to attract more customers.⁴

¹Theresa Skibinska: Formerly the director for the cause of men and women equality nominated by the Geneva Government. She was Secretary General in the education department and in charge of equality throughout education. (9th of November 2015)

²<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-bangladesh-garments-idUSBREA3C0N520140413>
Consulted the 9th of November 2015.

³<http://www.theguardian.com/world/ng-interactive/2014/apr/bangladesh-shirt-on-your-back>. Consulted the 9th of November 2015.

⁴<http://www.theguardian.com/fashion/fashion-blog/2013/nov/05/marks-and-spencer-primark-sales-figures>. Consulted the 10th of November 2015.

b) How are the big industries that mass-produce clothing controlled?

On the one hand, we are directly responsible for this situation, since the majority of us expect to buy more and more clothes at lower prices. I have noticed that often a t-shirt, that should last more than one season, is of such poor quality that it unfortunately has to be replaced sooner.

"Le Temps"¹, a Swiss, French speaking newspaper, explained indirectly how this phenomenon works. It pointed out that people in general not only eat "low cost" but want to travel "low cost" as well. This relatively new habit may explain why people now expect to dress "low cost" as well!

On the other hand, thanks to the medias and the public work of NGO's and other organisations, the public is informed of the horrible textile working conditions in most developing countries. It is mainly up to us to change our shopping habits in order to stop what could be called "modern day slavery"

c) Is a Bangladeshi female textile worker in 2016 better off than her "sister" in the Victorian years?

Now that I've described the every-day life of women workers in England in the 19th century and in Bangladesh today, I can analyse the evolution or progress, if any, between these two periods.

Most people can agree that women's place in Western society has improved since the 19th Century. Even though the salary might still not be the same as men, women have acquired important basic rights like the right to vote.² In developed countries such as the UK, education is accessible to everyone and many women have successful careers.

¹ "LE TEMPS", the 2nd of November 2015.

²http://bdlaws.minlaw.gov.bd/print_sections_all.php?id=367. Consulted the 3rd of December 2015.

The same cannot be said about Bangladesh. Having an education in Bangladesh is not as easy¹, especially for girls, mainly because of economic reasons. Therefore, like in the Victorian age, young and uneducated girls from villages arrive in the cities dreaming of a better life, hoping to save money to improve their family situation. Unfortunately, similarly to the Industrial Revolution period workers, the wages are so low in the textile industry that they can barely survive on their salary. In most cases, they cannot send any money back home.

An 18 years old girl from a village, "Mahmuda's job-120 trousers an hour, 10 hours a day, six days a week, 300 days a year-was to stitch seams and pockets. She earned 8,000 Bangladesh taka (Bdt) [£63] a month."² This is even considered to be a good salary since the promised minimum wage is of 5300 takas.

IV) Conclusion

The testimonies that served as the back bone of my present research show that the conditions of working women in the Victorian times were very hard seen from today's standards. In these multiple testimonies we can see the bitter atmosphere of their era which is not so much different from women's accounts in Bangladesh today.



If we look closer at the Rana Plaza incident, we can see that many challenges and progresses still have to take place. According to an article from "The Guardian"³: "A lot more work still needs to happen. A lot of commitments that were made by brands, retailers and national

¹<http://www.bangla2000.com/bangladesh/education.shtm>. Consulted the 12th of January 2016.

²<http://www.theguardian.com/world/ng-interactive/2014/apr/bangladesh-shirt-on-your-back>. Consulted the 23th of January 2016.

³Ibid, consulted the 19th of January 2016.

⁴https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/f/ff/Ladies_tailors_strikers.jpg

stakeholders still have to be met."¹ Moreover another problem that is mentioned and could be adjusted is the controlling staff: "[...]they were approved for six floors and built eight. That's still a weak link and we're asking the government to step up."²

However "thanks" to these global shocks, some progress can take place to better factories in Bangladesh and elsewhere. Again, according to the same article³, great improvements have been made since this sad event: "[...] since the Rana Plaza collapse. According to Reddy, out of 3,508 factories identified as exporting clothing from Bangladesh, almost 75% have gone through building fire and safety assessments. As a result, 35 factories have been closed for failing to comply with structural integrity standards." In addition: "The Rana Plaza collapse spurred an increase in both the number of unions and the number of workers joining them, resulting in a more than 20% increase in factory-level unions in the country's garment district."⁴

Another example which illustrates my work is: "Part of the remediation plans that came out of talks immediately following the Rana Plaza collapse was the need to establish worker safety committees at the city's factories, so that employees would have a place to voice concerns about workplace safety. So far, those committees have not been formed because the government has been slow to draft policies for their creation."⁵ This illustrates the lack of consideration of the local authorities which, in my opinion, needs to be changed step by step in order to hear the workers' voices "louder".

¹<http://www.theguardian.com/world/ng-interactive/2014/apr/bangladesh-shirt-on-your-back>. Consulted the 19th of January 2016.

²Ibid, consulted the 5th of February 2016.

³Ibid, consulted the 7th of February 2016.

⁴<http://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/2015/apr/24/bangladesh-factories-building-collapse-garment-dhaka-rana-plaza-brands-hm-gap-workers-construction>. Consulted the 19th of January 2016.

⁵<http://www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/2015/apr/24/bangladesh-factories-building-collapse-garment-dhaka-rana-plaza-brands-hm-gap-workers-construction>. Consulted the 19th of January 2016.

Even though it is still sad to notice that changes in less developed countries usually take place after tragedies happen and are relayed in our medias as catastrophies, in the end, it is a way to shed light on the situation. I am personally convinced that, today, we can still change our way of buying and hopefully make women's working condition in factories more decent in Bangladesh and around the world for future generations!

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Interview : (9th of November 2015)

•Theresa Skibinska: Formerly the director for the cause of men and women equality nominated by the Geneva Government. She was Secretary General in the education department and in charge of equality throughout education.