



**RESEARCH PAPER**

**The Impact of Globalization and Human Rights: A Case of Rana Plaza in Bangladesh**

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**ABSTRACT**

The main aim of this paper is examining the impact of globalization on human rights, focusing on the tragic Rana Plaza collapse in Bangladesh. Globalization has led to increased international trade and investment, but it has also raised concerns about its potential negative impacts on human rights, such as labor exploitation and unsafe working conditions. A qualitative case study approach was used, involving government official documents, and human rights activists' campaigns. The findings indicate that the pursuit of profit and cost reduction in a globalized economy has contributed to the erosion of labor rights in Bangladesh. The Rana Plaza collapse revealed systemic failures in safety regulations, labor law enforcement, and corporate accountability. The disaster had a devastating impact on human lives and deepened social inequalities. To mitigate the negative impacts of globalization on human rights, the study recommends to strengthen labor laws and enforcement mechanisms, promote responsible business practices and fair labor policies, enhance workers' rights to organize and bargain collectively, increase investment in worker safety and health, provide access to justice and compensation for victims of labor rights violations.

**KEYWORDS** Bangladesh, Collapse, Exploitation, Globalization, Human Rights, Rana Plaza Case, Violation

**Introduction**

There is no contradicting statement that globalization (the linking of economies and cultures) has resulted in progression. But its fast development has also carried up a complex network of issues, especially with respect to human rights. The 2013 failure of the Rana Plaza construction in Bangladesh is a sobering recap of the disastrous effects of unrestrained globalization and employee manipulation in the name of low-cost industrial. More than 1,100 clothing workers lost their lives in this disaster, which brought to light the structural limitations in international source networks that put communal profits before of operative security and wellbeing. The expiry of this textile corporate was a rotten result of insufficient safety directions, subpar settings for staffs, and unequal salaries, all of which were determined by the untiring demand for cheap goods in Western marketplaces (Siddiqui & Uddin, 2016).

The Rana Plaza catastrophe carried consideration to how instantly the globalised market requests more accountability and transparency. It exposed the deficiencies of the current human rights agendas, particularly their inability to deal with the complicated difficulties of labour mistreatment in developing countries. The catastrophe furthermore aided as a stark prompt of how helpless individuals are in an international marketplace where the desire for low-priced supplies often takes superiority above central human civility. We must reconsider the ethics of globalisation in light of the Rana Plaza tragedy and work towards a more impartial and maintainable forthcoming wherein human rights are not conceded for financial improvement (Yusha, 2018).

## **Literature Review**

The 2013 collapse of Bangladesh's Rana Plaza textile factory, which claimed over 1,100 lives, is a sobering reminder of the nuanced relationship between human rights and globalization. The interdependence of these dynamics is shown by a number of literature reviews, which show how globalization's search of discounted labor and quick fashion put profit before of worker security (Islam, 2015; Chowdhury et al., 2017). In Bangladesh, there is a shortage of enforcement of worker rights, unsafe working conditions, and poor building rules as a result of the pressure to meet the worldwide demand for affordable apparel (Billah & Islam, 2015). This case study proves how globalization can degrade already-existing discriminations and depict vulnerable communities to manipulation, as it is broken by transnational businesses and Western customers (Rahman & Islam, 2016).

The Rana Plaza hard luck exploded a global argument about corporate answerability and ethical tracing, in addition to the abrupt tragedy. Stronger international labor scruples, more open supply chains, and boosted worker permission are all necessary, bestowing to research (Malik & Khan, 2019). The catastrophe also emphasizes how significant it is for general supervisions to pass and implement labor etiquettes that put the protection and safety of Pains first (Islam & Hossain, 2017). In the end, the Rana Plaza misfortune should assist as a wake-up demand, considerable us to echo how globalization touches rights for creatures and to claim more photograph from all parties joining in international supply shackles.

## **Material and Methods**

The slight relationship between globalization and human rights is demonstrated by the roughly 1,100 workers who perished in the rapid demise of the Rana Plaza textile plant in Bangladesh in 2013. The Researchers used to study this calamity by including a multidisciplinary tactic, watching at how global supply networks, corporate social duty, and neoliberal economic policies affect worker rights and safety. A qualitative examination of labor statistics, trade patterns, and factory inspection data validates the systemic forces that culminated in the disaster. The existing case study underscores the requirement of strong governing agendas, good business conduct, and global assistance in guaranteeing the preservation of human rights in a gradually consistent world.

## **Results and Discussion**

### **Globalization**

The term "globalization" designates the interconnection and connectivity of the thrifts, populaces, and cultures of the world. It requires the cross-border flow of individuals, capital, ideas, things, and services, fashioning a composite web of international associates. Technological, statement, and transference developments that have made universal connections nearer and simpler are some of the main car drivers of globalization. But it also brings with it complications with conservation deterioration, cultural homogenization, and pecuniary inequality (Robertson, R., & White, 2007).

Many compensations of globalization include better-quality economic growth, easier handiness of goods and services, as well as the broadcasting of innovations and thoughts. As individuals from various backgrounds meet and gain knowledge from one another. it has also helped in cultural exchange and considerate. On the other hand, worries eat been spoken regarding the possible drawbacks of globalization, including the mistreatment of workers in developing nations, the breakdown of regional cultures, and the expansion of the prosperity divide. As globalization matures further, it is perilous to take into account any likely effects and endeavor to minimize risks and maximize aids (Fischer, 2003).

## **Human Rights**

Notwithstanding of a person's color, sex, ethnic contextual, race, language, religion, and any other status, they are all born with important rights. These rights are unalienable, which means they can't be taken away, and worldwide, which means they smear to everyone. The United Nations Statement of Human Rights (UDHR), which was approved by the UN in 1948, contains the important ideas of human right. Many rights are drawn in the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights (UDHR), such as the autonomy from torture and other cruel, hard, or degrading penalty; the expectation of a fair trial; and the liberty of speech, association, and gathering. These rights offer a groundwork for advancing justice and concord in the world and are essential for living a life of liberty and self-esteem.

Anyhow the widespread acknowledgement of human rights, misbehaviors continue on a worldwide gauge. The disregard of hominid rights is eased by a number of factors, including lack, strength, discrimination, and difficulty obtaining basic facilities. In order to guarantee the effective fulfilment of the rights of people. it is imposing to tackle these systemic problems by means of teaching, advocacy, and the creation of legislative assemblies that protection and advance hominid rights. In addition, collaboration between individuals, nations, and international organizations is needed to hold those answerable for abuses of human rights and to build a civilization in which everybody is able to exercise their important privileges (Beitz, 2009).

## **Globalization and Human Rights**

The assembly and interdependence that define globalization have had a important influence on human rights. On the one hand, it has completed it easier for human rights values and norms to spread throughout the world, encouraging intercultural understanding and individual protection. Worldwide bodies like the United Nations, which promote and oversee the request of universal human rights, have been vital to this process (McCorquodale, & Fairbrother, 1999).

It does, however, also pose threats to human rights. People, especially refugee workers, migrants, & marginalized societies, now face added susceptibilities as a result of the cross-border movement of capital, products, and persons. The commonness of economic disparities and abuse has increased, as companies frequently put profit ahead of the welfare of their workers and publics. Besides, worries about attacks of privacy, nursing, and the squalor of civil freedoms have been flashed by the rise of digital technologies (Skclair, 2009).

Globalization offerings opportunity for the advancement of human rights notwithstanding these obstacles. Through international collaboration then communication, a worldwide framework for safeguarding people from abuse and advancing their civil rights can be recognized. Global human rights law can aid as a basis for holding businesses and governments responsible for their deeds, when paired with the creativities of civil society and non-governmental organizations. Upholding human rights and making sure that monetary progression does not come with a damage of human dignity are endless tasks that must be done in command to raid a symmetry between the rewards and threats of globalization (Skclair, 2009).

## **Globalization and Labor Exploitation**

Globalization, or the linking of markets and cultures, has resulted in a rise in international speculation and skill. Though many people have promoted from globalization, it has also made it cooler for workers to be browbeaten. When employees are bound to work in dangerous or unhealthy environments or if they are not given proper compensation or benefits, this is known as labor mistreatment (Lee, 1997).

It has often resulted in the development of export-oriented businesses like electronics assembly and clothing manufacture in developing nations. These sectors regularly depend on low-wage labor, and employees may be required to put in lengthy shifts in dangerous settings. For example, a 2013 International Labor Organization study discovered that more than 40% of Bangladeshi garment workforces put in over sixty hours of work a week, and many of them were salaried less than the smallest wage.

Owing to superior rivalry for jobs brought about by globalization, wages and welfares have been under pressure to weakening in industrialized nations. Additionally, as the world economy enlarges, there is a superior need for asylum seeker laborers, who are often susceptible to misuse. For example, according to Pew Research Centre research from 2019, around one-third were undocumented settlers within the country requested to be paid below the minimum salary (Lee, 1997).

### **Globalization and Human Rights (A case of Rana Plaza in Bangladesh)**

The world has greatly promoted from globalization, which has augmented interconnection and economic wealth. Its insinuations on human rights, though, have been nuanced and often argumentative. The 2013 Rana Plaza tragedy in Bangladesh serves as an example of how globalization negatively affects human rights and emphasizes the importance of ethical thinking and ethical business practices.

#### **Background**

The illegal construction of the Rana Plaza complex occurred on low-lying, filled ground. Engineers had warned Sohel Rana, the building's owner, that the structure was hazardous, but he had disregarded their advice. When the structure began to show cracks on the morning of the collapse, employees were ordered to leave. But many employees were compelled by their managers to report back to work. Shortly afterward, the structure collapsed (Reinecke, & Donaghey, 2015).

#### **The collapse of Rana Plaza**

When the eight-story Rana Plaza, a commercial skyscraper in Savar, Bangladesh, crashed on April 24, 2013, over 1,100 garment manufacturers were killed and thousands more were injured. Five clothing factories, Benetton, Mango, Primark, and other prominent Western labels were housed in the complex (Reinecke, & Donaghey, 2015).

#### **Violations of Human Rights**

The Rana Plaza tragedy brought to light grave abuses of human rights in the global apparel sector. Low pay, hard hours, and cruel working conditions were all endured by the workforce. Despite obvious cracks and structural issues, factory managers allowed workers inside the facility in defiance of safety warnings (Appelbaum, & Lichtenstein, 2013).

Child labor, discrimination against women, and labor exploitation were among issues brought to light by the accident. Numerous laborers were rural migrants caught in a vicious circle of desperation and poverty (Reinecke & Donaghey, 2015).

#### **Corporate Responsibility and Globalization**

Supply chains worldwide that cut across borders and legal jurisdictions are a result of globalization. It may be difficult to guarantee that basic rights are upheld all the way down the chain because of this intricacy (Prentice, 2021).

Because labour prices were lower in Bangladesh, Western brands outsourced their production there in the Rana Plaza case. They did not, however, take the necessary precautions to make certain that their vendors maintained morally and physically sound working conditions (United Nations, 2015).

### **Effects on Human Rights**

The Rana Plaza tragedy had a significant effect on human rights both inside and outside of Bangladesh (Prentice, 2021).

The main impacts are as follows;

- \* Caused a terrible loss of life and serious injuries
- \* Made systemic breaches of human rights in the apparel industry visible
- \* Emphasized the essential for business responsibility and answerability
- \* Made makes reevaluate their labor standards and procurement policies

### **Moral Aspects to Take into Account**

Human rights shouldn't be forgone in the name of globalization. Trades have an ethical duty to maintain and preserve workers' rights across their supply systems. These needs making certain that there are secure working conditions, equitable pay, and no judgment or misuse. In addition, rules have an alarm to uphold human rights, hold corporations responsible, and impose labor laws.

### **Conclusion and Recommendations**

The dreadful example of how globalization touches human rights is the failure of Rana Plaza in the country of Bangladesh in 2013, which occasioned in the deaths of over 1,100 people and thousands more wounds. Globalization can upsurge already-existing inequalities and disrespect employee safety, especially in emergent countries, even while it also gifts forecasts for economic progress and joining. Due in large part to the unquenchable need for inexpensive apparel in Western markets, the Rana Plaza disaster carried to cheerful the unequal conditions that garment workers fool. There was a contempt for worker care, deficient building supplies, and hazardous employed conditions as an outcome of the push to crop rapid fashion at low costs. This example emphasizes how the universal supply chain has to use more moral sourcing means, liability, and sincerity.

Going advancing, tackling the belongings of globalization on human rights calls for a complicated policy. Governments need to prioritize worker comfort, impose safety standards, and strengthen labor laws. It is the duty of international companies to assurance fair labor performs, ethical sourcing, and protected working situations across their supply chains. Clients may make an important contribution by heartening change, backing fair trade efforts, and holding companies responsible for their ethical and see-through business drives. We can only reduce the negative properties of globalization and make sure that human rights are not forewent in the name of financial success by working organized.

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