



Bangladesh

Vital Statistics

- 44 per cent of Bangladeshis live below the poverty line
- Literacy rate is 41 per cent
- Average life expectancy is only 59

Clothing industry in Bangladesh

- 3,024 clothes factories
- 1.3 million people work in garment manufacture, making it the largest industry
- 80% of these workers are women, mostly aged 14 - 29 years old
- The average garment worker in Bangladesh has five people financially dependent on them
- There is no national minimum wage in Bangladesh and so workers are often paid well below a level which they can comfortably live on
- Garments are the largest export earner in Bangladesh; however the wealth created by the garment sector has had little effect on improving the lives of ordinary women workers and their families.
- Most of the women workers have fled poverty, land erosion, floods, debt and landlessness. They leave rural villages and come to the city to find work and a better life. Often it doesn't work out for them as they had planned.

Profits before people

Women making jackets for a major brand name get 51p per jacket. This jacket is then sold in the UK for £100! The overall profit of this brand name company in the year this jacket was sold was US \$579 million. The wages of the women sewing these jackets could easily be doubled without any extra cost being passed on to the consumer.