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# NEXT STEP

# RMG sector: Smart career choice

The textile and clothes sector provides the one aspect supply of financial progress within Bangladesh's speed building overall economy. Exports of materials and garments are classified as the major supply of foreign currency revenue. From 2002, exports of materials, clothes, and ready-made garments (RMG) accounted regarding 77% of Bangladesh's entire products exports. Through 2013, there is about 5million people working in the industry, which is actually minute simply to Farther east, the actual globe's second-largest outfit's exporter of European brands. 60 % of the upload contracts of European brands are usually having EU consumers and regarding 45 per cent having American consumers. The particular cloth market makes up about 76% of the country's export revenue along with 10% of its GDP. Yet, it is not the first choice of career for most graduates!

**How the wage is:** The wage of Garments sector (although under discussion) still is less than the corporate character. Most of the corporate garments or apparel firms argued that they are paying a bit higher salary to their workers. Now, there are two sections within a company. The ones who are working in the production line, and the ones who are running the management. There is no actual measuring standard scale to count the difference between the two employee's salaries. The salary structure of the product line workers is a whole different issue. For the management, salary range is pretty high and satisfactory. Sadly, the highly paid positions are for people with 10-15 years of experience. So, there is less chance for the fresh graduates to get in there at the very beginning. They can eventually get there for sure. But it doesn't work like magic at all. To summarize, the fresh graduates need to be patient in order to get there. They will probably have to walk past the lucrative MNC salary structure at the beginning of their career. Well, it's not always about the salary you withdraw. In this sector, you are investing your time to get better, to be irreplaceable, only if you don't give up in the first few years that is.

**How to build a career in RMG sector:** Readymade garments industry can be the vast and biggest sector for the job seekers. Normally, the students who want to grow their career in



apparel sector need to know about the process to be successful in this field. Generally, they always want people who've studied in a related field—Merchandising, Textile Engineering, Finance, Marketing, Human Resource etc. These are some opportunities for the job seekers to qualify in order to get the job in future. Trainings and

course work are also helpful to get jobs in the RMG sector.

**How to apply:** Although prior experience is preferred in the sector, there are opportunities for fresh graduates as well. The industry demands people who are dynamic, hard working, and ambitious. Also,

there are other departments like finance, sale where graduates can easily achieve their goal of working in the apparel sector. Generally apparel sector job circular publishes in newspaper and job portal. But according to the present situation, most of the garment industry jobs are being given based on references.

Experts suggest that you make better connection with people who are working in the garment industry. This can always increase your chances. I mean that's how it works in every industry!

Most of the garment industries are trying to develop a positive relationship between the employees

and employers. Office environments are changing.

**The Professionals' View:** Asking about the future of the graduates having zero experience in the apparel sector, Mr Nurul Islam, chairman of the Well Group says, "Opportunity, of course, is there. The job seekers should create their chances by connecting to the employers. Websites such as LinkedIn can be of tremendous help. While connecting to the professionals already working in the sector, they should have the idea about the field." He also added, "There is a huge need of talent and the young generation in this field." Because of the unwillingness of the recent generation in the industry, people are hired to work. Mr Sayed Nurul Islam also added, "we are not getting perfectly trained people who can bid this place instead of the foreigners." He has requested the universities, both public and private, to open up some courses, which are relevant to the garments industry. According to Mr Md Monowar Hossain, country manager of Asutex, Corporate MBA holders always get preference because they are likely to understand the nature of different businesses.

Despite a few drawbacks, the RMG sector can be a perfect and smart choice for the job seekers. You only have to be able to see it through.

SHAKIL CHOWDHURY ARNOB

# Staying visible at work

Do you feel that your competence, skills, potential, hard work, and inventiveness are going invisible at work? Do you think others with less input have been rewarded handsomely? Then it's time to get noticed at work.

It does not mean that you should get busy advertising yourself needlessly. This would only make you unpopular if there is no substance behind your publicity. You need to get noticed by indicating that you have contributed and that you are ready to contribute more in responsible ways.

Here are few questions that will let you know if you need to get noticed at work or not:

1. Do you think that your great ideas just seem insignificant when offered to your superior or in a meeting?
2. Do you feel shy to speak up or share your good ideas in front of your superiors or others?
3. Are you conservative to make friends, particularly in working place?
4. Have your other colleagues of equal talent in the same role gone up on the corporate ladder much faster than you?

If all your answers are "Yes", then you have probably not mastered the fine art of increasing your visibility showing the importance of your value and the value you add at your workplace.

Let's look at some tips that you can use to get noticed in the workplace.

## Keep your own horn. Seriously

Going the extra mile is great, but it is significantly less great if no one knows about it. How can you politely spread the word about your accomplishment without sounding cocky? Well, you may send an email thanking everyone for their work on your project, and make sure to cc or direct the email to leadership. It's the smart way of letting everyone know that it was your project and

you were driving the success of the project.

## Communicate effectively

Remember that this is not just about how you talk only, your body language and dialogue should reflect a confident you. Speak up concisely and clearly. People would not take you seriously if you act or talk like a comedian always or someone who is unsure or scared. There is nothing wrong with jokes that can lighten up the mood. However, know the limit and never overdo it. Be serious when situation requires. Have a rational and strong opinion and share it with everyone.

## Speak up at meetings

Many of us spend hours in meetings with our colleagues, typically lamenting over the time lost. Rather than focusing on the 'wasted time' that could be used doing 'productive work', make an effort to get fully engaged in the meeting, ask questions, offer alternative solutions, and volunteer to take on assignments. Contribute to the meeting by throwing in words, if not questions. It's a smart way of getting noticed by your superiors. Just be careful about not asking too many questions. You don't want the "question nerd" tag!

## Volunteer for new assignments or responsibilities

Volunteering for new assignments, projects or responsibilities can expand your skills and develop your leadership capabilities – it will also increase the number of people with whom you interact, so they can see how talented you are. This doesn't mean that you should overwork yourself! But if you see a new project or role that will help you expand your skills, take advantage of it. Do this, particularly if it's one that has high visibility within the organization, or has a significant impact on the bottom line.

## Challenge old-school ideas

Playing it too safe at work will make it more difficult to get noticed. If you are looking to advance in your career and develop as a leader, it is imperative that you continuously test your ideas and ideals. You need to know how your talents best fit within the organization. It's healthy to challenge the old ways of doing things with the intention of making things better, creating new ways of generating results and improving everyone's performance.

## Make your presence felt at every opportunity

Be very visible at work, meetings, and at important functions and be available when your colleagues or boss needs you. Don't just keep an act of busy working; inculcate the habit of adding value as well. If someone needs a favor, see if you can help. Even if you can't, try to be there for the person as much as possible.

## Care about people

Genuine caring cannot be faked, and it goes a really long way towards building real relationships and reliance. To do that, have a few non-work conversations every day with your co-workers, and also try and grab coffee or lunch with someone new each week. It'll do wonders for your set of connections. Increase your in-house network so more people will think of you if and when opportunities arise.

It needs to be remembered that being invisible in the workplace has its attractions, but also makes it easier to disappear permanently when the company downsizes. Trying a few of the above suggestions will get you noticed at work. While you're doing this, make sure that you continue to do the core parts of your job well. If you fail to do this, you'll get noticed but for all the wrong reasons!

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