

Yugoday Reads

REVOLUTIONARIES

September 2021



**"Equal Education could
Revolutionize Mankind."**

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REVOLUTION

by Bhargav Pakhare

The world we live in today, wasn't always this way. It was shaped, molded sometimes snapped into place. This was always done by the hands of a revolutionary, to change an aspect of the world in a way he/she saw fit. Be it in changing the way you consume content, a change in better from of electricity or even to overthrow an entire government to gain freedom from the EIC, without revolutionaries and their revolutions we wouldn't have, well, anything.

Consider the freedom struggle, without all the key revolutionaries and all the underlying support they had, India would still be under British rule. It was over decades that the concept of swaraj or self-governance was propagated and instilled into the minds well enough to cause an uproar big enough to topple the government. An idea insinuated by not just one but hundreds of individuals getting through that phase.

The struggle is only a struggle as long as there's an opposition. One does not exert oneself to aid water flow down a waterfall, or make fruits and berries fall down when ripe, one has to make efforts against the current cycle, to bring about a change that makes life a lot easier. We salute these harbingers of change and development and hope to aspire at least a few of you that read our newsletters.

A Collapse that caused FASHION TO REVOLUTIONIZE

by Vibhorika

There is a silver lining in every dark cloud, they said, and the Rana Plaza incident fits in perfectly. 24th April 2013 was the day that turned the fate of the fashion industry insinuating the talk on fashion ethics in the town. A building in Dhaka, Bangladesh collapsed which housed five garment factories, killing over 1100 people and injuring more than 2500 workers.

This tragic event changed the fate of the industry not only in Bangladesh but all across the globe.

Collating all the industrial accidents, the Rana Plaza incident was pivotal to the conversation starter on fashion morality. Five factories that worked in the same building collapsed due to its owner's negligence who placed profits over the life of its workers. Until this incident, the hands that went behind making the garments that we wear were not only paid low but their safety standards were hugely compromised transparency.

It was a wake-up call for the garment industry and likewise.

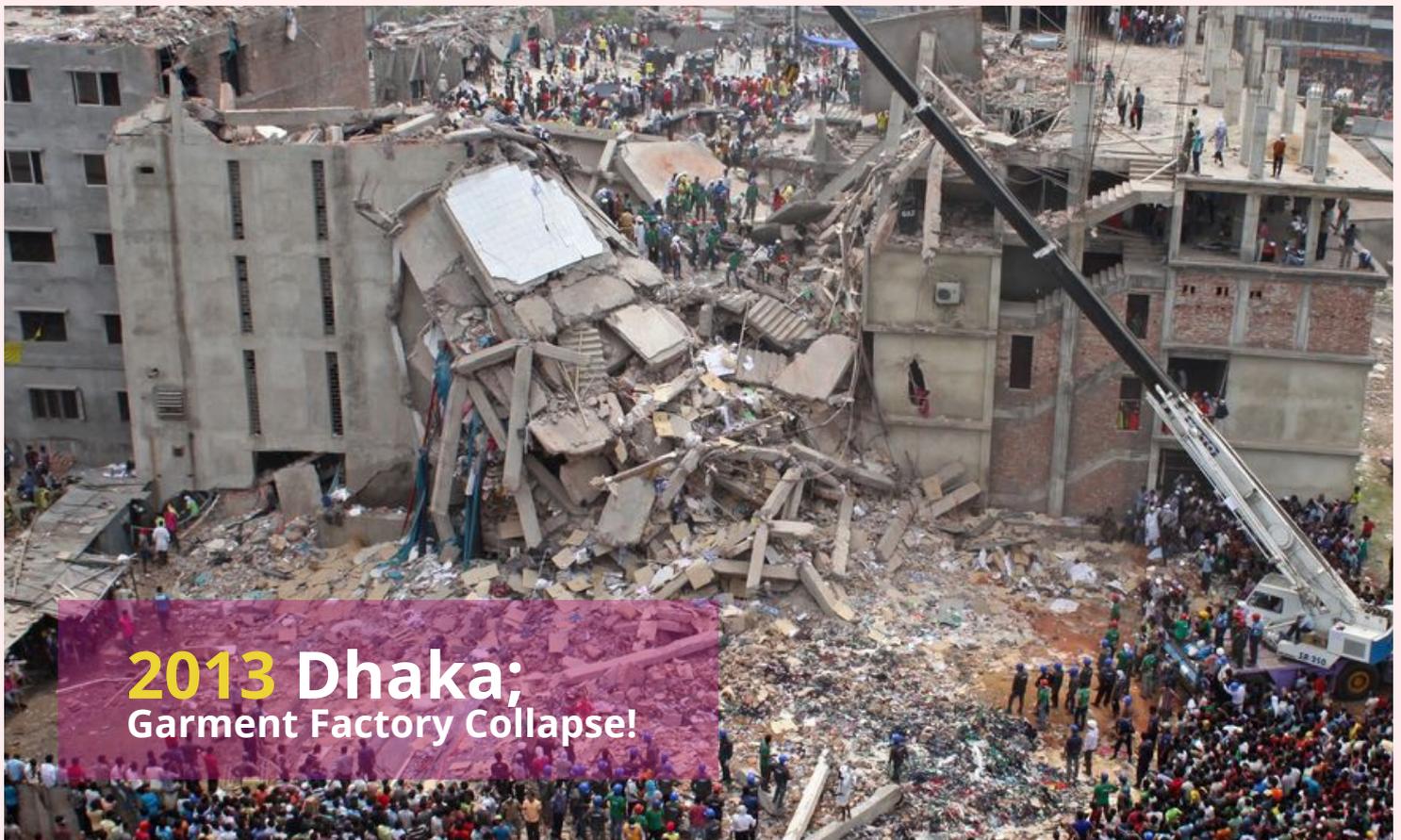
Today, we talk about labor rights, wages paid to them, and their dignity life. Retail outlets such as H&M, Zara, Mango, American Eagle and so to speak have been questioned along the same lines. Their labor conditions have questioned the brand's ethics. Back in 2013, H&M joined hands with the Bangladesh Fire Safety Accord to address health and safety issues in more than 100 factories. However, the brand has failed to pay its workers a living wage as promised to them by 2018.

Moreover, the brand has received a 71% score in the Fashion Transparency Index, and it publishes information about its supplier policies, audit, remediation processes, as well as information about forced labor and gender equality, which is a good place, to begin with.

There have been revelations on child labor being the pertinent factor since fashion industries require low-skilled labor and children fit in this box pretty well, thus exploiting them and their basic needs. Many times, workers in factories are not allowed to form unions which in turn puts an end to their voice.

The Human Rights Watch representative after the Rana Plaza tragedy said, “If their workers had more of a voice, they might have been able to resist managers who ordered them to work in the doomed building a day after large cracks appeared in it.” The question to ruminates is whether the clothes that we wear, have their worker’s rights been given, or are they exploited and abused under the weight of those apparel industries?

The aim is for us to be aware of the apparel brands that we use so that there are not many skeletons in the closet.



Welcoming the unwelcomed

The **LGBTQ+**

Community

by Anushka Gupta

The LGBTQ+ community is Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender and related Communities.

India is quite far from being a gay-friendly country. In 2019, Delhi High Court legalized homosexuality in India but still in the present times there are numerous people who are still not comfortable with words like "gay" "lesbian", "same-sex marriages".

In Hinduism sexuality is not openly discussed especially in modern times. However, in older times or Vedic times, homosexuality was portrayed or termed as natural and joyful. There are several Hindu temples that depict the concept through carvings or statues of people indulging in varied sexual relations. Mahabharata and Ramayana acknowledge the third gender as well but in reality, people have still not accepted the LGBTQ+ community wholeheartedly



There's still a little bit of hesitation attached. Ironically, people worship the gods but find it hard to accept the third gender. The author like Devdutt Pattanaik summarizes the place of homosexuality in Hindu literature in his books. He quotes, " Though not part of this mainstream, its existence was acknowledged but not approved".

In 1999, Kolkata hosted India's first gay pride parade, 'The Kolkata Rainbow Pride' with 15 people in participation.

Talking about the LGBTQ+ revolutionaries in India, the first name that appears is ASHOK ROW KAVI. He was India's oldest and first gay rights activist, known by the name "Amma", the mother of the gay community. He was the first man in India who came out of the closet in 1984.

He was the founder of Mumbai-based LGBTQ rights NGO, 'Humsafar Trust', and was one of the people who petitioned for the removal of section 377 which criminalizes homosexuality.

It's still a long way ahead until we get to a 100% acceptance stage but the fact that we have begun our journey is commendable and welcoming to the community that was denied the rights and was avoided for a very long time in history.





CONTRIBUTORS!

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Editorial Team: *Bhargav Pakhare*
Vibhorika
Anushka Gupta

Graphic Team: *Khushi Bansal*
Jayanthi Shailendra

Promotion Team: *Supriya Sharma*
Surbhi Mishra