Saver Tragedy: DCH Observation & Recommendation

Bangladesh has one of the largest garment industries in the world, with factories suppliers of clothes to European and American retailers. One of the worst industrial disaster happened on last 24th April 2013. The collapse of garment factories (Rana Plaza) an nine-storey building which housed five factories, but it had become almost like a three-storey building. The upper floors had completely fallen down. The building was designed to house shops and offices rather than factories or industrial equipment, and that three floors had been illegally added to the original building. It had been constructed with weak materials, such as sub-standard steel rods. The generators started up after a power cut, sending powerful vibrations throughout the building, which - together with the vibration of thousands of sewing machines - triggered the collapse. The owner of the collapsed building, Sohel Rana, is a local politician connected to the ruling Awami League and reportedly used retainers to intimidate workers who refused to enter the ill-fated building on Wednesday morning.

More than 1100 bodies have been pulled from collapse of a Bangladeshi garment factory building, most of them women working in clothes factories. It happened just five months after a fire, where more than 100 workers perished, located in a township close to Dhaka where hundreds of factories are located.

Cheap labor, fiscal support such as duty-free import of fabrics and accessories and new infrastructure to help smoother, quicker exports have helped the industry grow rapidly. But the lure of quick dollars has attracted a whole range of cowboy operators who cut corners to drive costs further down. The result is factories in unsafe buildings with poor safety measures.

Preliminary results of a government inquiry into the building collapse found that "heavy machinery and high-capacity generators" were "largely responsible," the owners of factories in the building had ignored warnings about cracks.

The collapse has already triggered anger among garment factory workers who were holding protests in Dhaka. Garment factory owners and Western retailers are likely to face tough questions from labour rights campaigners in the coming weeks.
The deaths as a result of the collapsed building in Bangladesh were a tragedy but not an accident. Steps had taken to prevent future accidents but no one believes this government promise. The scenario of Bangladesh is like that the country is made for few political families who gamble with human rights and life and enjoy power. As the rescue operations continue, serious question are being asked about why Sohel Rana (building owner) known to have close ties with the Ruling Awami League was allowed to build nine storeys while he had permission only six.

Teams from the Local Volunteers, army and the fire service have been working for rescue. Rescue teams have been frantically searching for survivors as they are aware that they are racing against time. The heat and the dust could take its own toll. The broken concrete blocks are precariously placed and there are concerns for rescue workers as well. When more people are pulled out alive, that give lots of encouragement to the rescue workers, mainly of whom are local volunteers. People from local village, even housewives, neighboring, male and female garment worker, students from local school & colleges, local private medical college and other medical students and doctors where the main rescue workers from within minutes to till last survivors rescued. Some rescue workers also needed treatment as they had been working without a break since the incident on Wednesday. This is where the love and passion for the nation surfaces. In the face of the ultimate adversity, sheer dedication, the love for your fellow human beings came into play and continues to do so. People came in unity and the goal was to save lives.

Rescuers retrieve garment worker Reshma from the rubble of the collapsed Rana Plaza at Savar on Friday May 10, 2013, seventeen days after the nine-storey building collapsed. Reshma is a Miracle girl "People here were extremely surprised".

As a human being, I felt it was my duty to try and help other human beings. When I first went in I saw a dead body and I was frightened. But I gathered up my courage as I went on, said one of the rescuer who actually saved lots of human from the collapsed building. The Local Volunteer cut the leg, hand to rescue people from the collapse building without any experience. It is a great scenario of local people involvement in any kind of disaster in Bangladesh.
Social media where very active from first hour after the building collapse. Worldwide crises recently prompted new attention to the role of Social Media. Social Media playing a great role Saver tragedy from the beginning. Social media services and tools involve a combination of technology, telecommunications and social interaction. They use a variety of formats, including text, pictures, audio and video on Saver tragedy. Now are participating rehabilitating of victims.

Social media such as Facebook played a pivotal and crucial role. Immediately after the news of the devastating collapse was spread, people started posting links and information through their status updates about blood donation and places where people can contribute and help. Through Facebook, status updates raised and continue to raise donation and supplies. People posted pictures of the heavily required oxygen cans which were vital towards saving those still trapped. Complete strangers came together and helped out.

DCH Trust has been working from the beginning for the Survivors of Saver Tragedy. We are providing Food, Water, Medicine, cash directly to the patient or his/her guardian. DCH Trust’s Disaster Management Team & Medical College students are working for the Survivors of Saver Tragedy. We are strongly proposed to develop Search And Rescue Team in the all district level from the local volunteers. Trained them, support them with rescue equipment, they will play active role in any kind of disaster with use of local media. Also involve factory worker, farmers, students, teachers, building resident in this program.

Implementation of the following recommendation would be save more people from the future disaster:

- Trained to the local volunteers in 64 districts of Bangladesh
- Formed Search And Rescue Team in 64 districts of Bangladesh
- Identify & supply required equipment to the Search And Rescue Team
- Organized Seminar for the local volunteers, teachers, students, building owners, building resident, local doctors and medical students to develop awareness and preparedness for the future disaster in 64 districts in Bangladesh.
Savar Tragedy; DCH Response
Savar Tragedy; DCH Response