

Conclusion

One of the many advantages of ISO 26000, is that it enables consistent approaches to SR to be developed along the whole of a company's supply chain or a value added chain because it is an International Guidance Standard. Everyone involved from the procurement of raw materials to the various transport stages through manufacturing to the delivery of finished product and in case of knitwear and garments to the sale into the hands of retail customers can make a commitment to be guided by the same understanding of SR.

An effective way for the organisation to start to identify its responsibilities and civic duties is to become familiar with the seven ISO 26000 principles and seven core subjects. The company needs first to abide by the laws, rules and regulations of the country and then to deliver additional benefits to its workforce, community and stakeholders.

If it is not clear how the ISO 26000 guidance applies in a particular circumstance, consultancy support may be needed to guide and train the proprietor and managers on how to comply with the principles and core subjects of the ISO 26000 SR standard. Consultancy can also help to measure and report on the extent to which the organisation or factory meets the requirements of this international SR standard. SR 'KPI tools' will be useful in this development and evaluation process.

Awareness raising events may be needed in the business sector to be ready to make the best use of ISO 26000. Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Trade Associations have a role in explaining and promoting SR and ISO 26000 and in providing training for member companies. These organisations can also have a role in developing the measuring tools for SR, the evaluation methodologies and SR benchmarking standards in Bangladesh. With measured, monitored and evaluated SR, Bangladeshi companies will be able to show how favourably Bangladesh SR compares to that of competitor countries in the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) region and beyond. ISO 26000 International Standard Social Responsibility is an excellent way to demonstrate SR achievements to buyers and 'ethical retail customers' in North America, Europe and beyond. The objective is world class SR developed in Bangladesh.