



GLOBALIZATION AND WOMEN IN INDIA

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Abstract

Globalization is an inevitable process in the present socio-economic scenario. Every aspect of our life is affecting by it, every section of our society-rural people, tribal people, peasants, labours and women are influencing by it. The paper will give an overview of the forces of globalization have in store for the women of India are in the rural-urban and organized-unorganized sectors, tribal areas. Socially the majority of Indian women are still tradition bounded is in a disadvantageous position. Since globalization is opening up the Indian society for the world. Globalization is affecting our society negatively and positively both. It has opened new employment opportunities for Indian women in the urban areas, metro cities. Women who have been involved with production in the traditional ways have to cope with numerous problems and yet try to avail of the opportunities which an open economy promises. In the new globalised era, there are many challenges which Indian women are facing in every sphere of life- social, political, economic, educational and cultural. "The personal is political" is true in the present scenario. Research methodology used in this paper is based on secondary data.

Key Word: Globalization, inevitable process, Impact of Economy, challenges for Indian women etc.

INTRODUCTION:

“Women do two-third of the world’s work, receive ten percent of world's income and own one Percent of the resources.”

This is actual picture of women in the age of globalization, In year 2000, the Beijing + 5 Documents, while reviving progress made since the 1995 United Nations conference on women, emphasis that globalization presents opportunities to some women but leads to marginalization of many others and thus advocates to achieve gender equality. Globalization affects different groups of women in deferent places in different ways. On the on hand it may create new opportunities for



women to be forerunners in social progress in male dominated society, with the advent of global communication networks and cross-cultural exchange there seems to be a change in the status of women although not to a very large extent. However, globalization has indeed promoted ideas and norms of equality for women that have brought about awareness and acted as a catalyst in their struggle for equitable rights and opportunities. On the other hand it may make worse gender inequality in a patriarchal society in India. Globalization may lead to further marginalization of women in the informal labour sector or impoverishment through loss of traditional source of income.

The process of globalization may have resulted in new avenues of growth but due to unequal distribution of its benefits women have been adversely affected in many cases.

WHAT IS GLOBALIZATION

Globalization is an ongoing process that involves integrated shifts in social, cultural, economical and political spheres of society. As a process it involves the ever-increasing integration of these aspects between nations, regions, communities and ever seemingly isolated places. Economically it refers to the expansion of an economy to the rest of the world for integration into one global economic system. Culturally it refers to the global spread and integration of ideas, values, norms, life style and way of life. Politically, it refers to the development of forms of governance that operate the global scale, whose policies and rules cooperative nations are expected to abide. These three dimensions of globalization are boosted up by technological advancement and information technology.

In fact, Globalization is a double edged process as far as women are concerned. On the one hand, majority of women in India find themselves stripped off the benefit of social security. On the other hand there are possibilities of better education facilities and opportunities.

CURRENT STATUS OF WOMEN IN INDIA

Our constitution has given equal rights to man and women, but as our society is male dominated society, women suffer immensely. Women are responsible for bearing children, yet they are malnourished and in poor health. Women are also overworked in the field and complete the all of the domestic work. Most Indian women are uneducated. Although the country's constitution has



given equal status to women to men, women are powerless and are mistreated inside home and outside the home.

In Indian society, women of the household are required to prepare the meal for men. In rural India only after the males are finished eating, can the females eat. This creates a major problem with malnutrition, especially for pregnant or nursing women, as their diet is insufficient. Very few women seek medical care while pregnant because it is thought of as a temporary condition. This is one main reason why India's Infant mortality rate and maternal mortality rate are so high. From birth, girls not get as much care and commitment from the parents and society as a boy has received. Majority of women suffered much due to patriarchal structure and ideologies; they have been bound to face inequalities and subordination.

If we consider in education areas, the low enrolment ratio and high dropout ratio of girls than boys. One reason is that parents get nothing in return for educating a girl child. Most services given by women in agriculture or in domestic area, needs no any formal education. Girl has one day should have to go to her husband's family. A typical day for a woman in an agriculture position, works for whole day and works in home is also. Women do the majority of the manual labour that uses a lot of energy compared to the men who do mostly machine operating. All together we can say that the women's present status is inferior to men. She has dual responsibility in inside home and outside home. Globalization is affecting her life, her role and status in a mixed way.

POSITIVE IMPACT OF GLOBALIZATION ON INDIAN WOMEN

Globalization has opened up broader communication lines and brought more companies as well as different worldwide organizations in India. This provides opportunities for women, who are becoming a larger part of the work force. With new jobs for women, there are opportunities for higher payments, which raise self confidence and brings about independence. This can promote equality between men and women, for which Indian women have been struggling with their entire life. Globalization has the power to uproot the traditional thoughts towards women so they can take an equal status in society.

The Gujarat based SEWA (The self employed women's Association) is a union of women workers willing to work hard and seize any work opportunity they might get. Globalization has aided



their opportunities in various ways. SEWA has established a women's cooperative bank with more than one lac members in rural areas in India and through the aid of globalization, they have reached the women in all over India with more freedom and opportunities, these women are raising their standard of living and quality of life by generating more income.

Technology is playing a vital role in India, with the help of satellites and computers SEWA has been able to reach more women to share self-help knowledge. By it Indian working women is sharing her knowledge of the global world and economy with other Indian women so they can establish as better life for themselves. Globalization has helped women to share ideas and network in international markets.

Different non-profit organizations have been brought to India from around the global. These organizations have given women the skills they need to advance, such as literacy and vocational skills. One organization- Indiacorps, has brought in a range of programs to help women help themselves.

Media can be viewed as a positive aspect of globalization. Media has opportunity to reach people and convey a message to people all over the world. A magazine called 'Femina' is one of important magazine for Indian Urban women. It was started in 1959 and since it started its website in 1996, it has received much feedback from Indian all over the world. It shows the success stories of different Indian women from all over and provides inspiration to the women who read it.

NEGATIVE IMPACT OF GLOBALIZATION ON INDIAN WOMEN

In many ways, globalization has negative impact on Indian women also. Globalization has made many international corporations more richer. However, other side is, women, in developing countries like India, suffering immensely due to this expansion of corporate. It is said that women work two-thirds of total world's working hours, produce half of the world's food, but earn only ten percent of the world's income and own less than one percent of the world's property. Globalization along with the support of world financial organizations as World Bank and International Monetary fund, have created slave wages. (Vandana Shiva) These wages are not necessarily the result of 'Unjust' societies but of the fact that global trade devalues the worth of people's lives and work. While globalization has brought jobs to rural areas, undeveloped areas such as in India, where there was



previously no employment. But the work available to women is almost always poorly paid, mentally, and physically unhealthy and insecure.

Women are suffering two sides one side, as women move into the work force, other side is their domestic responsibilities are not alleviated. Women are involved in two full time jobs. Development for poor women has meant the migration of men to cities, higher prices for commodities, poorer job opportunities (Marlin A. Taber & Sushma Batra). The mixture of corporate capitalism and western culture model is dissolving family and community, social control as witnessed by higher rates of family violence, rape, divorce and family breakdown.

How women's labor being exploited, one example is from Noida Export Processing zone. These zones prefer to hire women as they are easier to control and less likely to retaliate against less than ideal working conditions. The zone is dangerous, hot and unsanitary. Unnecessary body search is routine. There are no maternity benefits and minimum wage is never enforced. Women who become pregnant or marry are immediately fired. Overtime is compulsory but women are paid lower rates than men. In order to avoid being fired women turn to unsafe abortions performed by unqualified 'doctors'. In the zone, 'respiratory problems, pelvic inflammatory disease and sever cases of dehydration and anemia are common' (Subhalakshmi).

CONCLUSION:

Globalization has affected Indian women in many ways. The effect has a lot of do with liberalization. Globalization has given women as stronger voice. People are more accepting of women's rights. Globalization has relaxed moral attitudes. There has also been increased focus on women's rights at the gross root level. Media has performed vital role in this area. Women in the urban areas have become more independent and self sufficient. In rural area, women are the primary bread winners but this is the one side of the globalization. In fact, globalization is just the spread of corporations who are accountable to no one with no checks and balances. It promotes capitalism and consumerism. The exploitation of women has increased. Altogether we can say globalization may no longer be an option, but a fact. However, it must be implemented with a human face.

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