

Understanding Globalisation Through Gender Lens

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***Abstract:** What impact has globalization on gender equality ? The world has witnessed an enormous economic, social, political transformation over the past three decades, fostered by increasing global flows of goods and service, technology and information. Globalization has brought increased opportunities in various factors both men and women. It is said that, globalization has the potential to contribute gender equality. However in the absence of public policy, as well as the presence of societal norms and culture, globalization alone cannot end gender inequality. In the current globalised world also, larger gender gap remain in many countries. Public action is needed to close gender gaps endowment, agency, and access to socio, politicaland economic opportunities. Only then countries will be able to capitalize on the potential of globalization as a force for greater gender equality. The present paper aims to study the impact of globalization toward achieving gender equality. It*

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again tries to analyses the negative and positive effect of globalization on women and lastly it tries to provide an actionable recommendation to make globalization more gender neutral.

Keyword: Gender, Globalization, Women, Patriarchy, Gender Equality.

1. INTRODUCTION

Globalization is a recent phenomenon which emerged as a trend in the 20th century. Globalization has become a phenomenon that change people's lives and can be envisaged as a process of transformation in international relationship, cultural exchange, environmental, economic and socio cultural relations. The concept of globalization tends to be difficult to understand because of its various meaning that depend on various dimension or aspects of globalization being addressed. Globalization operates beyond nation-states boundaries and causes nation-states to lose aspects of their sovereignty to an integrated world economy.

Globalization can be defined as “a complex, economic, political, geographical process in which mobility of capital, organization, ideas, discourses, and people has taken a global or transactional form.”

Gender equality was made part of international human rights by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which was adopted by the UN General Assembly on 10th dec, 1948. Gender equality is a precondition for advancing development and reducing poverty. Gender equality is when people of all gender have equal rights, responsibilities, and opportunities. Everyone is affected by gender inequality- women, men, trans and gender diverse people. Gender equality prevents violence against women and girls. It is essential for economic prosperity. It is the state of equal access to resources and opportunities regardless of gender in every aspect.

Globalization has changed the dimension over gender. This study examines the impacts of economic integration, technical change and access to information on gender inequality. The world has witnessed several change over the last decades in terms of flow of goods, services, culture, technology etc and these has made drastic change in the global markets which in turn lead to transformation in individual, household, government, politics and so

on. Globalization has brought increased access to job opportunities to everyone; again it helps to change the traditional role of women by providing the advantages of ICT. Globalization also produces economic benefits for women which help to increase the wages of women relative to man. Along with the advantages of globalization, it also has some fault lines. Many time the benefits that developed by the process of globalization failed to touch the women from rural area. The existing patriarchal norm often disrupts the process of benefiting women by the globalization process. In such a scenario it is therefore needed to examine the process of globalization through gender lens.

2. RESEARCH PROBLEM

The main purpose of this study is to evaluate globalization through its effect on achieving gender neutral role. The study will examine the changes with respect to globalization. World Bank(2011) conducted a study on gender equality in which it states that, the world has witnessed an enormous economic transformation over the past three decades, fostered by increasing global flows of goods and services, technology and information. These changes has transformed the way of domestic and global market and institutions functions, and have thus change the economic landscape for individuals, household and governments. The globalization process has changed the gender role in all over the world. It has reshaped many issues; population growth, health, service sector, human rights and so on. Globalization process affecting the overall job structure of society, economic and social pattern etc.

In this study, we basically deals with the questions like, what are the different dimensions of globalization? Do globalization effects gender roles? What are those? What is the positive and negative side of globalization?

3. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

- ✓ To examine the globalization process through its various dimension.
- ✓ To analyses the impact of globalization on changing gender role.
- ✓ To provide an actionable recommendation so as to make globalization favorable for developing a gender neutral society.

4. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The last three decades have seen remarkable changes in socio-political-economic structure both within and across the countries, loosely captured by the term globalization. The current wave of globalization has greatly improved the lives of women worldwide, particularly the lives of those women in the developing worlds. Nevertheless women remain disadvantaged in many areas of life including education, employment, health and civil rights.

This paper helps to gain an understanding how economic, political, cultural dimension of globalization have a profound impact on gender norms. Again, the present study helps to address both the positive and negative impacts of globalization so as to have a complete picture of the globalization process. Lastly the study tries to provide some recommendations for the reader to make globalization process a gender inclusive process.

5. SCOPE AND LIMITATION

The scope of the study is limited to only providing an overall scenario of the impact of globalization on gender equality. It does not make any comparative study of different countries exploring the impact of globalization process on gender role. The study is limited only to explore how different dimensions of globalization process affect the women to achieve their rights in an egalitarian society. Again the scope of the study is only limited to the condition of women, it does not cover the status of other gender identity, such as transgender.

All research has some limitation. This study is not any exception. This study only provides a subjective interpretation of the collected data, and not includes any scientific enquiry. This study is purely an empirical study.

6. METHODOLOGY

For the present study, researcher focused on the main objective to “understanding globalization through gender lens”. Researcher reviewed the available literature, achieves, published research papers, journals, published reports as well as online authentic material which is published by government and non government organization. A thematic analysis

was done to draw the conclusion and provide recommendation with references to research questions and objective of the present research.

7. DISCUSSION

7.1 Globalization and Its Various Dimensions

7.1.1 Economic Dimension: Economic dimension is one of the supreme forms of globalization. It is often argued that it is characterized by three different factors or characteristics. The first characteristic is the increasing movement of capital around the world, in and out the country through information technology. The second factor is the presence of supra national bodies such as WTO, World Bank, and the IMF, and the third characteristic is the increased influence of Trans national companies.

There is both positive and negative side of economic globalization. On one side it helps to reduce poverty in a large number of developing countries, and on the other side there are some 2 billion people live in the countries that are left behind.

7.1.2 Political Dimension: Political globalization denotes that states are no longer the only key actors, military issues no longer dominate, conditions under which force is an effective tool have declined. It refers the situation where the era of nation state is over. Political globalization has referred in the part to an increasing trend toward militarism, where UN plays an active role, national nongovernmental organization act as watchdog over governments, and NGO's increase their activities and influence.

There is a considerable debate regarding the usefulness of this organization, their contribution to world social welfare and whether this institution's power is waning or is threatening the sovereignty of nation states. Contemporary political globalization signifies a redefinition of politics in the sense that political activity is increasingly transcending national borders and taking place at global level. One of the key aspects of the political globalization is the declining importance of nation state and the rise of other actors on the political scene.

7.1.3 Cultural Dimension: Various aspects of globalization have promoted growing contacts between different cultures, leading partly to greater understanding and co-operation

and partly to the emergence of transnational communities and hybrid or mixture identities. Cultural globalization basically means the transmission of ideas and values between countries. It helps to foster innovation, including technological change.

Today we have the main question associated with cultural globalization, whether globalization increase or decrease cultural diversity/homogenization. Cultural globalization may cause cultural uniformity, where a small number of cultures may disappears, and diversity will be disappeared. Sometime some small and weak countries will follow powerful country's culture. They will be forced to accept the powerful culture.

Thus globalization comes with various dimensions and brings huge effect to countries across the world. Now days, countries are left with no option but adopting with the changes that suddenly hit them economically, politically and culturally. No doubt globalization has brought in new opportunities to developing countries, but globalization has thrown up new challenges like growing inequality across and within nations, unpredictable financial market and environment deterioration. One of the major issues that come along with the emergence of globalization is what the effect of globalization on achieving gender equality is.

7.2 Positive Impact of Globalization

Trade openness and the diffusion of new information, communication technologies and other emerging technologies have translated into more jobs and stronger connection for many women, which helps them to increase their access to economic opportunities. The demand for female workers in the export and ICT enabled sector has increased, and as women have filled these new jobs, the gender distribution of employment across sectors and across countries has changed. Women turned income earner may be able to leverage their new position to change gender roles in their households by influencing the allocation of time and resources among households members, shifting relative power within the household, and more broadly increasing stronger agency.

Globalization of national economies into global economy are shifting the formulation and implementation of policy away from local and national levels to the international levels, which over the years provided women's movement with a strong ground for advancing their civil identity and claims for equal rights.

In terms of political field, some studies concluded that globalization helps to increase the political participation of women and also make women issue as the centre issue on human right issue. Increased access to information, primarily through television and the internet allows countries to learn about social norms in other places which can change perception and promote adoption of more egalitarian attitudes.

Globalization helps to undermine the traditional role of women and resulted in relatively better environment for women. It also pose a major challenge to the institution of patriarchy in India. As women take up jobs and achieve social mobility, they become more concern about their rights. Prospects of higher and quality education have become feasible for women due to the process of globalization. Attitudinal changes towards women's role in the family due to good education, benefits of family planning and health care, child care etc which will contribute to the development of embodied and healthy women.

Positive approach to economic and cultural migration will also facilitate women to be exposed to better prospect at the international level. Globalization also helps women in rural area through the media and awareness intervention programs launched by nonprofit organizations. These organizations raise awareness and propose solution. Women are becoming more empowered and powerful than ever before.

Women awareness of the rights has spread around the world which helps them to increase their participation in various aspects. It helps them to actively participate in political bodies, at all level from local to national and international level. Women's voting behavior is now becoming more articulated and mature which is beneficial for the development of the society.

7.3 Negative Impact of Globalization

The invention of the market can have positive effect for women's situation and gender relation. But it has some negative effect too, which may include increase exploitation and dependency on direct engagement with the market, and particularly on the vagaries of the market.

Though globalization helps to provide more employment opportunities for women, but female employment remain concentrated mainly in low skill sectors and gender wage

gap shows no sign of disappearing. The issue of poor condition under which many women enter the labor markets needs to rise also.

It has been observed that globalization limits on the state's ability to provide social protection provisioning of needs and human capital investments has become more strained. This situation creates a challenge to poverty eradication programs. The withering away of the welfare state has constituted a uniformly negative outcome for poor women by working harder both inside and outside the household.

Due to the advancement of new technologies, use of media for the empowerment of women has been impressive but it must be recognized here that millions of world's poorest women and men still do not have access to these facilities.

In the age of globalization we can say that the stereotypical attitudes toward women and their perceived role in the family hierarchy have not changed much. Women are still seen as weak, inferior and second class citizens. Discrimination against working women extends to the workplace as well.

In terms of the impact of globalization on democracy and governance, feminist philosophers argue that neo liberalism has increased the participation of women in politics and the impact of globalization on women and gender relations continue to be overlooked on a national and international level.

According to study the burden of poverty is another negative impact that globalization brought for women. This gap between men and women in terms of income and consumption has widened.

Again WTO regulation has brought about change in national policies so as to allow the free entry of foreign corporations. To give more incentive to big business rather than to small firms and to lift import controls on agriculture products. These have resulted in further marginalization of rural and indigenous women.

8. RECOMMENDATION

Although globalization has led to economic growth, it has been criticized for the absence of gender disaggregated indicators and data in sectors such as agricultural production or the informal sector. Therefore more research is needed to document the

number of people in the informal sector and working conditions of specific groups of workers so as to access the impact of globalization on them. However women's experiences of gender oppression are shaped by other forms of oppression, such as race, class, ethnicity and sexual orientation and disability. More research is needed to be done to integrate gender equality dimensions in policy and operational work so as to promote gender equality across various social categories. There is a need of more social and human centered development to address the impact of globalization, particularly trade and investment policies impact on gender so as to promote gender equality and sustainable human development.

Globalization in one way create opportunities for women in every aspects, but in other way it creates gender biased in accessing control over assets and economic resources. There is a need of the expansion of social media and demand for better treatment of workers so as to push several companies to make fair wages and lead to better working conditions for women. Moreover international peer pressure also needed to rectify treaties against discrimination.

However in the absence of public policy, globalization cannot end gender inequality. In spite of increased economic opportunities and several agency larger gender gaps remain in some areas. Public action is therefore needed to close gender gaps in endowments, agency, and access to economic opportunities. Only then countries will be able to make globalization a force for greater gender equality.

9. CONCLUSION

It is possible to conclude that globalization has had a mixed impact on women. For some perspective it has open up new opportunities in women lives. While for others, it has increased their vulnerability and insecurity. However increasing awareness of the negative consequences, conscious awareness on the part of women, and concerted effort on the part of government and civil society organization will soon enable women to overcome these negative consequences and celebrate the benefits of globalization process. Gender mainstreaming is now an important agenda in all development initiatives at international and national levels. Concreter efforts in this direction will lead to equitable and just development. □

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