



Globalization and its Impact on Women Empowerment in India: A Critical Study

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Abstract: *Globalization has a great impact on women empowerment across the globe. It lays the foundation for women to explore themselves in different spheres like political, social, economic and cultural. Women empowerment means giving the women power and control of their lives so that they can live their lives according their own terms and can have access in all those filed where they were not allowed once upon a time. Legal Policies framed by developed countries helping the women to know their actual rights and working for their personal benefits and societies also. Globalization is creating an environment across the world that women from various sectors and various ages can show their personal talents and hold accountable institutions that affect their lives as well as the societies. Due to globalization the economic conditions have developed so govts and various companies are promoting various amenities for the betterment of the future of women socially, economically and politically. The success of Team chandrayaan 3 even powered by various Indian's outstanding women. On the one hand globalization has increased various opportunities for women. Women have entered the workforce through jobs that are mostly produced by globalization. On the other hand, it has dark sides too. India is a developing country rather than developed country so here the economic status of all the people are not equal, various unskilled workers in general are victims of globalization. Though women empowerment is one of the fruits of globalization but in various cases it also causes social disruption of the family and expose women to exploitation, violence and sexual abuse. Sometimes due to lots of work pressure Women have less time at home as they have to contribute more to sustain in the competitive world.*

Key Words: *Globalization, Women Empowerment, Economic status, Legal Policies, Victims of Globalization.*

“There is no chance of the welfare of the world unless the condition of women is improved. It is not possible for a bird to fly on one thing”

Swami Vivekananda

Introduction:

“VASUDHAIVA KUTUMBAKAM”, this world is one family is an ancient and core part of Indian Philosophy, Globalization is a term which shows that how trade, culture, commerce of different parts has connected together to made a world one and independent place, it is described as the process by which regional economics, societies, and cultures have become integrated through a global network of communication transportation and trade Globalization is making a path for the women to make them aware about their rights and various opportunities so that they can create their own destiny by becoming self-independent and more vibrant by availing all the opportunities across the globe. “In the past we have

witnessed that how women were treated and confined by various restrictions due to lack of opportunities and ignorance of their own rights but now a day we can see due to globalization the participation of women in different fields like sports, politics, business, corporate, Film industries, space science has increased. Globalization has opened a new vista for all the womanhood to prove themselves not only nationally but internationally too". Globalization actually aims to build a connection across the globe through economically, traditionally, politically and socially.(Laxmi Rana, 2020) On the other hand, "women empowerment "tends to encourage, inspire and boost the power of women in different areas which is already within them. So, we can say globalization is creating a bridge which can be used to celebrate the strides that women can proof themselves by making them financial independence and high confidence.

Concepts of Globalization

As per **A Giddens**- "Globalization is the intensification of World-wide social relations which link distant localities in such a way that local happenings are shaped by events occurring many miles away and vice versa".

Exchanges of commodities, ideas, and usages are nothing new; they are commonplace in the economic sector, particularly in commerce and banking, and people have long reaped advantages from a variety of geographical locales. Obviously, no one state can meet everyone's needs. Likewise, the same thing is happening today on a large scale by introducing new trade agreements new policies. various states are connecting and exchanging trade, commerce with one another internationally. There is a large development in international relations which enable various states to derive benefit from each other interests. The term "globalisation" describes the current condition of affairs in which states are more interdependent and cooperate in many fields. The causes of globalisation are multi-faceted and include,

- (i) Technology
- (ii) LPG Reforms
- (iii) Faster transportation
- (iv) Rise of WTO
- (v) Improved mobility of capital
- (vi) Rise of MNCs

Need and Importance of Women Empowerment:

"... for a nation to reach its full potential, for global prosperity, and for peace to prevail, women must actively participate on par with men in every sphere of society."- *The 1979 Convention to End All Forms of Discrimination against Women.*

Giving women the tools they need to stand up for them and break free of oppression is what we mean when we talk about women's empowerment. We all know that since the very inception of society most of the women are deprived from their various rights though they occupy half of the population as compare to male community. Women hold less than property and income as compare to men. Women empowerment is needed to improve the condition of women socially economically and politically. Women empowerment is the needed one for today's competitive world. Still a huge number of female children are not allowed to basic education which is their fundamental right. (Rao, 2012), The only way to overcome this problem is to make them aware about their talents, inner strength and actual power. Men and women both are the counterparts of a society, the overall development of a society is not possible without the development of women. Now a days women's power is not confined within the households' chores only they are showing their power in different fields like corporate, technology, medical, engineering, military, police, navy and so

on. Now the scope of women through women empowerment has widened because of the felt necessities of the time. Mahatma Gandhi firmly states that the status and upliftment of women would not be possible only by bringing legislation, it must be supported by social circumstances, situations and society's attitude towards women.

A national policy on women empowerment was passed in 2001 for the purpose of social advancement and development of women the various objectives of this policy was –

- (1) Making strides towards gender parity in economic and social policy so that women may reach their full potential.
- (2) Women should be able to exercise their basic freedoms and enjoy all human rights on an equal footing with men in all areas of society, including politics, economics, culture, and the law.
- (3) Women should have the same opportunities as males when it comes to health care, education, employment, social security, occupational health and safety, equal pay, and other services;
- (4) Putting in place stronger legislative frameworks to eradicate gender discrimination in all its manifestations.
- (5) Bringing about a shift in community norms and social attitudes via the combined efforts of men and women.
- (6) Women should have the same opportunities as men to participate in and have a say in the nation's social, political, and economic life.
- (7) Mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development process.

Major Problem Faced By Women in Indian Society:

To know the real status of women in India we should look at historical background at first. In **Vedic period** women enjoyed a high status and equality in the society. In Vedic there was no discrimination on the basis of gender. Women used to participate in all spheres like man they had the equal rights of education, marry, performing religious duties, and all other important social activities. But in **post- Vedic period** the picture was not same like Vedic period. In post – Vedic period the status of women suffered a set back due to the lots of restriction put by the society. With the invasion of Alexander and Huns in the **mediaeval period** the women position was further degraded. Women were denied to right to education and all other important activities. In that period, we can see the rise of various social evils like, child marriage, purdah paratha, sati, female infanticide etc. the medieval period saw the oppression of women.

In the **British period** society faced a drastic change due to western impact on the socio-cultural life in India. In that period in 19th and 20th century various social reforms and movement raised the question of equal status of women. Various social reforms took place by our great leaders against various evil practices of our society against women like sati, ill- treatment of widows, the ban on widow- remarriage, polygamy, child marriages, denial of property rights and education to women. A watershed moment in the fight for gender parity occurred during the All India Women's Conference in 1927. In a nutshell, throughout the British era, there was a concerted effort to end all forms of societal oppression against women by providing them with equal rights, equal education, equal career opportunities, and freedom. The actual seed of women empowerment had shown in that period.

The real development and consciousness of women empowerment can be seen in contemporary India after the **enactment of Constitution of India**. Indian constitution is a proper legal document with various rights and duties which really works in favor of women empowerment by providing all important basic human rights at par men. Women in India are protected by the Constitution of India via the preamble-enshrined ideal

of gender equality, basic rights, basic obligations, and directive principles of state policy. Women in India still confront several significant societal issues, including the following, despite numerous chances and facilities:

- Poverty and hunger.
- Child marriage
- Purdah paratha
- Gender biasness
- Female infanticide
- Rape and sexual harassment

Effects of Globalization on Women in India:

Globalization has both of its positive and negative effects on women in India. It has both of losers and winners. The positive effect of globalization is that it has opened up the market which make the communication more boarder by attracting so many companies as well as different organization. More investment leads to more job opportunities more employment. Globalization has undermined the traditional role of women in home making, farming, livestock, animal husbandry, handicrafts, handlooms etc., and offered a better environment for women. Women are becoming a larger part of the work force. Now due to globalization as women have more jobs so they are becoming more active in all those avenues which generally reserved for men. This opportunity raises economic empowerment of women which raises self-confidence and brings about more independence. Now the role of women is not just restricted to household it has affected both the quality and quantity of the work available to the majority of women in India. Globalization has the power to promote gender equality, modernization and uproot the traditional violent treatment against women which women have been struggling through their entire lives and afford them an equal stance in society. In earlier times most of the families used to common and joint family which was mainly patriarchy, but globalization has posed a major challenge to this patriarchy in India. As now women are becoming economically and socially empowered so they are raising their voices against all social stigma and began to stand up for their rights. It is now simpler for women to demand equality and exercise their rights in the workplace. Once upon a time, marriage was strictly limited to those of the same social class. However, these days, women may legally marry anybody they choose, regardless of their caste, creed, or religion.(Malik & Raval,2017)

Women in India do not enjoy the same level of respect as their counterparts in industrialised nations since, as is well known, India is a developing nation, not a developed one. However, as a result of globalisation, women in India are taking cues from their counterparts throughout the globe who are fighting for equal rights as they get closer to their own country.

. Though all of these changes are not generalized but to large extent various changes in the society in relation to the status of women have received a great push from the new era of globalization.

Effects of globalization on women's education:

Globalization has welcomed various new educational institutions, foreign universities, organization, which had facilitated women to impart higher education. Due to FDI (foreign direct investment) in education sector so many foreign universities are opening their campus in India either in collaboration or in joint ventures, which has helped the women to avail world class education. More educated women are more aware of their rights. There is a saying that. "If you educate a man, you educate an individual, however if you educate a

woman, you educate a whole family, women empowerment means mother India Empowerment” Impact of globalization on women’s political lives (Meena,2014)

Due to globalization various political sector has opened for women. The concept of women sarpanch has been introduced in India. women are taking parts in various political performance. Recently President has India has grants assent to the constitution (106th amendment) Act 2023. Which provides 1/3rd reservation for women in Lok Sabha and state legislative Assembly. Now women are becoming, CM, PM, PRESIDENT, and also holding so many leading posts in MNCs.

Societal aspects of women’s lives in the era of globalization:

Globalization has a positive effect on increased access to technology, information and social medias. Due to improvement of connectivity and communication a growing attitude towards adoption of more egalitarian attitude in society can be seen. Despite various flaws globalization has helped women a lot in achieving their position in society and various progressive rights. Globalization also leads to social empowerment and social participation of women too. Now a days in 21st century women are getting equal status and position, and gradually they are becoming equivalent to that of males, and society as a whole moving towards that imposing same rights and duties on women. Now a days Indian women are taking part most of those sectors which were mainly restricted for man like navy, military, air force etc. Jagdeep Singh, (Kumari, 2022). The success of Team chandrayaan 3 even powered by various Indian’s outstanding women. So, we can say the social participation and social aspects of women has increased in the era of globalization. Due to the increase of social status women are more conscious about their rights and as a result various crime against women like dowry, violence against women, domestic violence has been decreased.

So, followings are the various positive effects of globalization on women empowerment in India:

- Higher quality of education has become more feasible for those women who were unable to afford them economically and socially
- Employment in technological and other advanced sectors which has global bearing, has opened up for suitably qualified women.
- Women are enjoying more egalitarian set of gender relationship especially in urban areas
- women’s movements through exposures at various levels nationally and internationally will help bring about major changes in the economic, social and political lives of women.
- Globalization which leads to economic empowerment of women will help to boost the country economically.

Negative Effects of Globalization on Women In India:

- A fist the social and economic lives of women have been greatly improved by globalisation. Despite these good consequences, globalisation does have some negative aspects in the realms of education and politics. The plight of women in the workforce warrants particular emphasis, even if globalisation disproportionately affects unskilled people. There are more career prospects for women now than ever before because to globalisation. However, in certain industries, women still face social exploitation and prejudice.
- A large portion of females who are specially coming of from the poorer segments of the society have been pushed into the unorganized sector mostly produced by globalization. Most of the women migrant workers belongs from the poorer section of the society so they are already in a situation of vulnerability. Most of this women worker who are seeking paid work, are paid poorly and have no job security or social security. Most of the corporate sectors have no proper job hours the main

purpose of this sector is profit making and to maximize their profit by minimizing the cost, so they used the female labor unethically by paying minimum of their services which are affecting female workers health, family life and social life.(Neeta Panchal, 2015), These jobs have also led to social disruption of the family and expose women to social abuse, violence and sexual exploitation, trafficking. So, we can say:

- Globalization has increased the number of low paid, part-time, exploitive and discriminatory jobs for women.
- Due to open economy and increase job opportunities led to rise of nuclear families, sometimes due to lots of work pressure Women have less time at home as they have to contribute more to sustain in the competitive world, it causes family disorganization. So as a result, number of divorce cases, family dispute has increased.
- “On the other side, male migration from rural areas to urban areas has put the women under triple burden of home making, farming and job in rural sector”.
- “Vulnerability of women is increased during their stay at foreign places as they are regarded as form of cheap and exploitable labor. Most of these jobs are appear to be wolves in sheep’s clothing”.

Conclusion:

The best way to understand the spirit of civilization is to study the history of women folk-development and change in the status of women from time to time. If we analyze the empowerment of the women in the present scenario, we have to determine that how their position have been changed over the periods of time. It is very much important to have an overall view of the position of women in the present society and to evaluate their original status in the eye of law, to determine the real condition of a developed society. globalization has both of its winners and losers. So, in conclude we can say globalization is good, it is a good sign for the economy but total globalization should not be entertained, India is a developing country rather than developed one so here the economic status and financial position of all the people are not equal. Though our constitution guarantees right to equality under their fundamental rights but equality can be compared between equal peoples but in our country, there is a great difference between the have and have nots. There is a huge difference in terms of financial position between the women in rural areas and women in urban areas. If we consider the total impact of globalization on women it has had a mixed impact. Actually, the effects of globalization depend on the socio-economic status of the women where they live. One hand globalization has great positive impact on women lives, we can say economic empowerment of women is one of the fruits of globalization, which make the women more aware of their various rights but still a larger portion of women in our country are victim of rape, dowry-death. Sexual abuse, domestic violence, eve-teasing so we can say in real we are still far away from the goals set up by the constitution and Indian commitments to the international forum. So, we should remember that globalization as a concept is neither pro rights of women nor anti women’s rights. It could offer opportunities for promotion of rights of women as well as abridgement of human rights of women at national and international forum. Now we should decide that how much globalization we should accepted and entertain that it can be act as a boon not bane.

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