

Globalization and Its Impact upon Indian women: A Historical Analysis

TANMOY DEY

*M.Phil Scholar, University of Kalyani, Nadia, West Bengal, India
Guest Lecturer, Sudhiranjan Lahiri Mahavidyalaya, Nadia, West Bengal, India*

Abstract: *Globalization is an ongoing and unending process around the world. It has many impacts upon the people of developing countries. The culture, politics, economy, languages, education and in every aspect of human-being are affected by Globalization. It has both positive and negative effects upon people. In this research paper I have presented my view on its impacts upon Indian women. I have also tried to find out solutions to get rid off from the negative impacts of Globalization upon Indian Women.*

Keywords: *Globalization, Indian Women, Working Sector, Culture, Global Village etc.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Every Nation is depending on the development of its Natives, Every country is depending on its countryman. Men and women both are related with this development process. This development process could be progress by sharing each other's common ideas, needs and also by taking some relevant measures with the demand of time to make an adjustment with the globalized world. The demand of people is changing and the development process is related with this changing attitude of the people of a particular age or time. From the changing of people's first invention of stone tools to today's invention of mixer-grinder, we can say that this kind of invention is a revolutionary process of time. There was a time when man used a stone to smash the spices in order to grinding it, but nowadays this spice smashing system has been replaced by electrical Mixer-grinder. In this paper I want to elaborate this trend of changing as well as development process, especially the Globalization and its impact on Indian people, especially on Indian women.

2. BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

We have to understand, what Globalization is and what its main theme is. Globalization or globalisation is the trend of increasing interaction between people or companies on a worldwide scale due to advances in transportation and communication technology, nominally beginning with the steamship and the telegraph in the early to mid-1800s.¹ With increased interactions between nation-states and individuals came the growth of International trade, goods and also other related areas of Economic World.²

So that is the main theme of Globalization and there are many dimensions of globalization; like Economic Globalization, Cultural Globalization, Political Globalization and Military Globalization. Here the three dimensions which I have mentioned, (Economic Globalization, Cultural Globalization and Political Globalization) is the main pillar of Globalization, because they affect directly men and women. Women have been deeply influenced by the changing scenario of culture around the World. It is something like sharing some common creeds, like language, fashion and related things with each other from any corner of the world. Those people are also aware about the changing context of people's economic role playing around worldwide. There was a time when the economic world was mainly dominated by Men, but in today's world this kind of ideas is totally obsolete, women are also getting chances to mark their presence by doing something innovative works; nowadays many successful entrepreneurs and business person are coming from Women counterpart.³

Total population of India are 1,324,171,354⁴ in which about 47% Are women (according to 2011 census of India, total population of India are 1,210,854,977; in which Men are 623,724,568 and Women are 586,469,294)⁴. The current wave of globalization has greatly improved the lives of women in worldwide, particularly the lives of women in developing countries like India. Nevertheless, women have been remained disadvantaged in many spheres of life; including education, employment, health and civil rights. Two International declarations form the basis of women empowerment are- Nairobi forward-looking strategies for the advancement of women (1985) and fourth world conferences and documents have served to crystallize the understanding the problems of women face

worldwide and to promote efforts to address them. This issue in depth will examine the effects of Globalization on women worldwide, namely on their participation in the economy, representation in the political process, education, health and sexual slavery.

3. GLOBALIZATION AND INDIAN WOMEN

3.1 Economic Globalization and Indian Women

“Women do two thirds of the world’s work, receive ten percent of world’s income and own one percent of the means of production.” This is the present picture of women workers in the era of globalization. To understand the workplace culture for Indian women, a brief note on women’s empowerment in the present global scenario is highly essential. In the context of development, women’s leadership and agency in social change have been levers for women’s empowerment within communities. Women have sought to fight entrenched interests for community benefits, and through their collective strength, have earned a new identity. Women’s rights around the world are an important indicator to understanding global well-being.

The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank encourage developing countries to use export-led growth to expand their economics. Such Globalized economies require a labor force of a size that must include women, but women’s employment varies greatly by region. There is a gap of 25% between men and women.⁵ In India rural women are mostly related with working sector than the women of urban area. Overall, the labour force participation rate for women is falling from 37% in 2004-2005 to 28% in 2016. In 2015-2016 women comprised 26.7% of all rural workers down from 32% in 1972-1973.⁶ In this same time period there is a small increase of urban women’s participation in working sector from 13.4% in 1972-1973 to 16.2% in 2015-2016.⁷

There is also a gap of paying wage between Women and Men. Women earn 57% of what their male colleagues earn for performing the same work.⁸ The more educated a women is, the wider the gender pay gap.⁹ This gap also increases as women advance in their careers.¹⁰ India will add 110 million workforce or working-labor within next 40 years to achieve the target of increasing the GDP to 16% by 2025.¹¹ In India 7.7% board seats and just 2.7% of board chairs are shared by Indian women.¹² 54% companies on the Bombay Stock Exchange, 100 have no women board directors.¹³ These kind of statistics shows that in spite of the effect of globalization, Indian women are still laying behind than the expectation. But with the implementation of effective laws these problem could be solved and Indian women will be able to merge themselves with the globalized world satisfactorily.

But Despite the positive effects of globalization through increased employment opportunities for women, globalization has a darker, more sinister side. Out of the total 397 million workers in India, 123.9 million are women and of these women 96% of female workers are in the unorganized sector. Accordingly, although more women are now seeking paid employment, a vast majority of them obtain only poorly paid, unskilled jobs in the informal sector, without any job security or social security. Additionally working women in India are more likely to be subjected to intense exploitation; they are exposed to more and more risks that cause health hazards and are forced to endure greater levels of physical and mental stress. Thus it would appear, that globalization has made many international corporations richer by the billions at the expense of women who are suffering enormously due to this expansion of corporate empires

Though more and more women seek paid employment, the stereotypical attitude towards women and their perceived role in the familial hierarchy has not undergone much change. Women continue to be perceived as weak, inferior, second-class citizens. For working women, this discrimination is extended to the workplace also. The improper and insufficient dietary intake along with the heavy workload results in nutritional disorders. In addition, this perception that they alone are responsible for the domestic work, leads to a feeling of guilt when they are not able to look after the children or family members due to their official work, often resulting in emotional disorders.

From the above observations, it is evident that the harassment of women is a major social problem with the wide spread entry of women into the labor force. Sexual harassment is a multidimensional phenomenon that needs to be studied from multidisciplinary perspectives. No doubt, the aspects of globalization have provided women with greater opportunities to work out. However, it has also led to gender wage differentials and the marginalization of women which is clearly reflected through segregation of women workers in certain specific jobs. Unfavorable working hours, lack of training and skill up-gradation opportunities and lesser career mobility in the formal sector of economy still prevail in almost every country. Therefore, a new vision for the future is required and we need to create an alternative society based on gender justice, ecological sustainability and local global democracy.

3.2. Cultural Globalization and Indian Women

The discourse regarding the effect of Globalization on cultural diversity has been polarizing the argument- Here one side feels that the emerging Globalization negatively impacts upon cultural diversity, while the other feels that the impact is positive. Negative impact cultural diversity may be negatively impacted by the following- the largest impetus behind globalization are the multinational corporations, which encourage consumer culture, standardize products, values and exploit materials desires.¹⁴ Western ideals and western culture can be viewed as universal. It also affected the culture of India women. There was a time when Indian women were used to wear such dresses like- Sari, Churidar, Salwar kamiz etc. they were used to put on red color sindoor and red color bindi on their forehead, but those cultural practices have been replaced by the influences of globalization. Today Indian Women mostly used to wear Jeans, kurti, leggings and also different color of bindi and sindoor. Today Birthday celebration is optimized by cutting cake, not by eating sweet-rice; the traditional oil lamp has been replaced by different types of candles. Regional languages are on the verge of extinction. They have been replaced by languages like English, French, Spanish and many others. Valentine's Day are broadly celebrated by young women with great enthusiasm. They used to buy expensive gifts, flowers and do other things to celebrate this day. There are many examples like this and it seems that festival like Diwali are surviving from the cultural domination of globalization.

So that was the cultural effects of globalization. There is a contradiction on the basis of liberalization and up gradation. Indian women believe that they have to accommodate those all things which are being use by women from another part of the world. They got that information with the help of television and internet. Many advertisements are playing the role of brain washing and it helps to make them fond of those advertised commodities. We see in many advertisements Indian women are being use as sex symbol. It is also the effect of Globalization but it has a negative impact upon Indian women and Indian culture. It is true that cultural globalization makes people aware about the changing trends in worldwide and it makes people culturally prosperous , but it also play the role of cultural demolisher of a particular nation like India by establishing the globalized thought on traditional thought.

3.3. Political Globalization and Indian Women

One of the basic intentions of this point is to show the urgency of political equality besides social equality and economic equality. What is happening with the retreat of the Nation state, which is reflected in the policies at the governmental level, is attempts have been made to quality and assert citizens rights. The globalization was introduced in India in 1991 as economic liberalization; but as the time has been changed, so political liberalization is also needed to cope up with many problems, related with women, like- Child marriage, Dowry system, Female infanticide, Honour killing and also the lacking of women's participation directly with the government in India at different levels. Women knows their problems better than others, so it will be more effective to making themselves as integrating part of those law making body which are related with women welfare. If women got this kind of chance then political globalization will be successful. Not only by raising voice against those miserable practices in society but also by making women politically empower, women will be more liberate.

The global trend has been changed so much and India is far away in this race. Women's participation in politics is higher in 95 countries than India. Though the government of India has passed The Women Reservation Bill on 9th march of 2010 at Rajya Sabha (The Women's Reservation Bill or The Constitution (108th Amendment) Bill, 2008, is a lapsed bill in the Parliament of India which proposed to amend the Constitution of India to reserve 33% of all seats in the Lower house of Parliament of India, the Lok Sabha, and in all state legislative assemblies for women. The seats were proposed to be reserved in rotation and would have been determined by draw of lots in such a way that a seat would be reserved only once in three consecutive general elections)¹⁵, but as of 2013, it has been reported of the members of parliament 11% were women in Lok Sabha and 10.6% in Rajya Sabha.¹⁶ In 2014 there are 61 MP's out of 545 MP's of Lok Sabha and 28 MP's in Rajya Sabha out of 245 MP's.¹⁷ overall participation o Indian women in assemblies is 11.02%, have been slightly increased than 2013. This trend of changing is the result of political globalization. It is right that the political liberalization and inclusion is still not satisfactory for Indian women, but we can assure ourselves by thinking that this negative scenario will be changed in near future by taking essential steps.

Globalization has opened up broader communication lines and brought more companies as well as different worldwide organization into India. This provides opportunities for not only men but also for women. It has the

power to uproot the traditional views towards women, so they can take equal stance in society. Women in the urban settings have become more independent and self reliant. Middle class women are also shifting towards new feet; now most of the women are setting out of their private spaces to earn a living. Globalization has created certain needs based on capitalist sentiments and vicarious lust for women. This has resulted in families desiring to earn more money to afford these items. Globalization has made many International corporations richer by the billions. Many handicraft industries, mostly run by women workers have been succumbed to decline due to the negative effect of Globalization; the women have become workless.

The roles of women in India have been changing and they are now emerging from the past traditions towards a new era of freedom and rights, due to Globalization. They have made great strides in the corporate world but still the patriarchal nature of Indian society stops from having careers that infringe too much on family life.

Women are now supporting their families with dual incomes, thereby increasing the voice not only at home but also at parliament for 50% reservation as they are contributing to Indian economy at large. They are cognizant of her world today and felt that earning power allows them to voice their opinions on bigger occasions. Indian women have never been as expressive and independent as she is today. Today's women don't feel that a career would be at the cost of neglecting the family and children. The Indian women are also making their foot step into International world by making themselves as role model in many sectors. But still the entire scenario is not so much friendly to fulfill this dream. India is far away to become a 'Global Village'.¹⁹

4. RESOLUTIONS

The government of India should take those following steps to get rid of from negative effects of globalization on Indian Women as well as on Indian mass. The Government should also try to spread its positive effects on Indian Women as well as on People.

- 1) To take some effective steps to making Economic world more open to Indian women and also to help Indian women by giving financial assistance from different institutions.
- 2) Prevent those commodities and corporations which are the results of downfall of rural industry like: Handloom, Jute Manufacturing and Handicrafts etc. It is true that variation is a need as well as demand of time, but we can't pay the downfall of rural industry to adopt those less needed variations. Though many Indian women have got job or work due to globalized economy and they have made an identity of their own in their family as well as in the society they belong to. But they should be aware about the negative effects of globalization on every aspect of India.
- 3) Cultural diversification is one kind of resource of India and it is has made India very much unique than rest of the world. But Globalization has been looted many common cultural creeds of India by replacing those with global culture, that I have mentioned earlier in this writing. The government of India will not be able 100 percent to eradicate those menace related with this globalization, so the people of India should be careful and also willful to prevent those less needed adaptation from the global world. We cannot harm our own culture, which is our identity sign mark.
- 4) Globalization has also increased the needs of people by bringing so many varieties in its products. The EMI (Equated Monthly Installment) system is also helps people to avail an item by giving its price in installment at Equated rate. But if we carefully think about this, then we will be able to conclude that it is a kind of Economic Plundering of Indian women as well as people by such global companies or corporations. It insists people as well as Indian women to earn or collect more money by anyhow to avail those commodities.
- 5) The trend in global leadership is also changing in worldwide. Many countries form the developed zone of the world as well as from developing countries have been elected women political leader as their administrative head, but India is far away to achieve this kind of goal; participation women in Indian politics is less than many countries. There was one woman prime minister and one president in India named Smt. Indira Gandhi (1917-1984) and Smt. Pratibha Patil (1934-), though the Lok Sabha of India has got its two consecutive female speakers but the overall female participation in Indian politics is not satisfactory. Not only by increasing the reservation quota for women in Indian parliament but also by fulfilling this quota, Indian women will be politically empower and liberate. Thus they will make themselves as the key player of world politics and making the term "Global Village" more meaningful as well as successful.

So Globalization is an ongoing and unending process, we cannot escape from that; it have some negative impact on Indian women besides many positive impacts, we need to make a balance between good and bad , positive and negative things. We cannot quit from this changing trend for the betterment of India and also for the betterment of Indian women. Globalization is an unavoidable trend of this century.

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AUTHOR'S BIOGRAPHY



NAME: **TANMOY DEY**

GUEST LECTURER, SUDHIRANJAN LAHIRI MAHAVIDYALAYA, WEST BENGAL, INDIA

M.PHILL SCHOLAR, UNIVERSITY OF KALYANI, WEST BENGAL, INDIA