

GLOBLIZATION & ROLE OF INDIAN WOMEN

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Introduction:

The roles of women in India have been changing and they are now emerging from the past traditions into a new era of freedom and rights. The basic objective of this paper is to examine the changing role of women due to globalization in Indian society. This concern is not merely academic but is central to the process of emerging development in India. There is a need to critically evaluate the impact of globalization on women in India and also to know the positive & negative impacts of it on the position of women in India at present.

In this paper, I focus on some of the ways in which, directly or indirectly, globalization impacts the everyday lives of women in India. The ruthless game of globalization can only go on at the cost of the flesh and blood of ordinary people: the vulnerable are offered on its altar. People (women and men) do not hesitate to use members of their own kind, so long as faces remain invisible, in support of their own interests. For a patriarchal, capitalist, consumerist, globalize society, the lives of women and children, become expendable.

Womens in India:

It's true that we are in the midst of a great revolution in the history of women. We see the evidence everywhere; the voice of women is increasingly heard in Parliament, courts and in the streets. While women in the West had to fight for over a century to get some of their basic rights, like the right to vote, the Constitution of India gave women equal rights with men from the beginning. Unfortunately, women in this country are mostly unaware of their rights because of illiteracy and the oppressive tradition. Names like Kalpana Chawla: The

Indian born, who fought her way up into NASA and was the first women in space, and Indira Gandhi: The Iron Woman of India was the Prime Minister of the Nation, Beauty Queens like Aishwarya Rai and Susmita Sen, and Mother Teresa are not representative of the condition of Indian women.

India today, a country where women are becoming more prominent., yet increasing numbers. women are fighting long-standing prejudices. Women still faces enormous pressure to conform to social mores-conforming to traditional roles within families poses as much of a barrier to businesswomen in India as the will too thick glass ceiling at companies. Though women have made great strides in the corporate world in the last three decades, women from all income classes are still too often discouraged by family members from having careers that infringe too much on family life.

POSITIVE EFFECTS OF GLOBALIZATION :

Globalization has opened up broader communication lines and brought more companies as well as different worldwide organizations into India. This provides opportunities for not only workingmen but also women, who are becoming a larger part of the workforce. With new jobs for women, there are opportunities for higher pay, which raises self-confidence and brings about independence This, in turn can promote equality between the sexes, something that Indian women have been struggling with their entire lives Globalization has the power to uproot the traditional views towards women so they can take an equal stance in society.

Women in the urban settings have become more independent and self-sufficient. The lower middle class is experiencing a shift in the way family relations worked. Traditionally women stayed at home taking care of domestic needs and children. Now most of the women are setting out of their private spaces to earn a living Globalization has created certam needs based on capitalist sentiments Advertising everyday reinforces new needs and creates a vicarious lust for more and more consumer good in the masses. This has resulted in families desiring more household income to be able to afford these items. Therefore, the women need to work and contribute to the household income to afford a certain lifestyle,

NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF GLOBALIZATION

Globalization has had negative implications for India women. Their plights are similar to those of women in other developing regions such as Africa and Asia. Globalization has made many international corporations richer by the billions. However, what most people are not aware of is that women in these developing countries are suffering enormously due to this

expansion of corporate empires According to estimates from World Development Indicators. "Women work two-thirds of the 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.

Women are suffering two fold. As women in developing countries move into the work force, their domestic responsibilities are not alleviated. Women work two full time jobs. One in a factory. where they are paid next to nothing, the second is in the home where they are paid nothing According to Merlin A. Taber and Sushma Batra, editors of the book *Social Strains of Globalization in India*. development for poor women has meant the migration of men to cities, higher prices for commodities, poorer job opportunities. The mixture of corporate capitalism and Western culture models is dissolving family and community social controls as witnessed by higher rates of family violence, rape, divorce, and family breakdown."

Women's Contribution to the Economy :

Although most women in India work and contribute to the economy in one form or another, much of their work is not documented or accounted for in official statistics. Women plough fields and harvest crops while working on farms, women weave and make handicrafts while working in household industries, women sell food and gather wood while working in the informal sector. Additionally, women are traditionally responsible for the daily household chores (c.g. cooking, fetching water, and looking after children) Since Indian culture hinders women's access to jobs in stores, factories and the public sector, the informal sector is particularly important for women. There are estimates that over 90 percent of workingwomen are involved in the informal sector.

The informal sector includes jobs such as domestic servant, small trader, artisan, or field laborer on a family farm. Most of these jobs are unskilled and low paying and do not provide benefits to worker. More importantly, however, cultural practices vary from region to region. Women have now only found their place in work places but are also want their part in governance. In recent years we've seen explicit moves to increase women's political participation. Women have been given Raj system as a sign of political empowerment. There are many at the central and state levels too women

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The impact of globalization on women in agriculture :

Agriculture contributes just over 30 per cent of GNP and accounts for 60 per cent of employment. Nearly 63 per cent of all economically active men are engaged in agriculture, compared to 78 per cent of women. In the three rice-growing states of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, women provide more than 2/3 of the inputs including transplanting, weeding, manuring and fertilizing, harvesting threshing, winnowing, drying, stacking and carrying produce. In the tribal economy of Orissa, women spent 105.4 hours per year on shifting cultivation compared with 50.11 by the men. In the Himalayas, a research study found that where a pair of bullocks works 1,064 hours and a man for 1.212 hours a year, a woman works 3,485 hours a year on a one-hectare farm. A woman on an average works for 640 hours for agricultural operations like weeding, 384 hours for irrigation, 650 hours for transporting manure, 557 hours for sowing, 984 hours for threshing and harvesting."

Conclusion:

The roles of women in India have been changing and they are now emerging from the past traditions into a new era of freedom and rights due to globalization.

Women 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 st large.

Women today are more practical and rational than earlier. Indian women have never been af expressive and independent as she is today. Today's women no more feel that a career

would be at the cost of neglecting the family and children. The Indian woman is also spending a lot more money on her personal appearance.

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