

Globalization and Women Security

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Abstract:

Globalization reached India through the combination of internal and external, political and economic forces, thereby opening India to the outside world. There are various processes of globalization such as commercialism, where services are monetized and income is obtained in money rather than compassion; more capitalization; foreign trade; free movement of capital globally etc. These changes affect the human being as a whole but women are affected differently. Women are the worst sufferer in this process of globalisation they have been affected socially, politically, economically. Capitalization has led to more self-employed marginal farmers becoming migrant workers, which makes it less likely for women to manage housework while engaging in productive work. Generally, macroeconomic policies affect women through the household, the market, and gender relations. In a country like India where women suffer severe discrimination, anything that affects the family will worsen the status of women. Therefore, the process of liberalization, privatization and globalization will turn back time for women and the poor as a whole.

Key Words: Globalization, Security, Commercialism, Foreign Trade, Women, Family, Liberalization, Privatization etc.

Introduction:

Before embarking upon the conceptual framework of globalisation and women security, at the outset, it is imperative to have a brief outlook on both the concepts. Both globalisation and security are integrally interrelated to each other. Both are inherently associated with each other in various ways. Globalization is a multidimensional phenomenon: Information technologies, along with a variety of other technologies, are developing rapidly and spreading widely. Trade is expanding globally, as is the flow of private capital and investment. Interdependencies are growing in all aspects of our lives. These developments create real possibilities to achieve economic prosperity, spread political freedom, and promote peace. Yet they are also producing powerful forces of social fragmentation, creating critical vulnerabilities, and sowing the seeds of violence and conflict. Economic crises extend across state borders and are producing global hardships. All of these are aspects of what is commonly referred to as “globalization,” and all have important security implications.

Conceptual Framework of Globalisation

Globalisation gained its momentum in the last half of the twentieth century. The term became a buzz word in late 1980s and more specifically since the mid-1990s. The process grew rapidly in those decades. Before looking into the meaning of globalisation in detail, it is imperative to have an overview on the discourse of globalisation.

Anthony Giddens (1990) defines globalisation as the “Intensification of the world wide social relation which links distant localities in such a way that local happening are shaped by the events occurring many mile away and vice-versa.” The thought given by Anthony Giddens in relation to globalisation captures the most of the sense of the global process where the interconnectivity of the events is very vital. It establishes a widespread of networks that make connected to each part of the earth. According to David Held (2007) “Globalisation includes transnational networks and relations in all areas of human activities such as goods, capital, people, knowledge, communication and weapon as well as crime, pollutants, fashion and belief rapidly more across territorial boundaries”. David Held has also the similar opinion which says that the relations or the communications go beyond the territorial boundary. Albrow defines it as “All those processes by which the peoples of the world are incorporated into a single society, global society”

The dynamics of globalisation is that, the labour migration has become one of the recurring process and has been incorporated in different aspects due to globalisation. Migration as a phenomenon gets driven, defined and reshaped the capitals only. The flow of capital determines the directions, forms and overall its pattern. The inflow and outflow of the migration also gravely influence the social fabrics of the society and the cultures, customs, new codes, symbols and other things are accumulated and some of the things are erased due to the very process of migration. This very nature of migration makes it as the integral part of globalisation. Migration can bring the major changes in the social transformation and it plays a vital role in shaping and redefining the communities and the societies (Castles & Wise 2008).

However, it is worth taking account that the social transformation which is inherent in globalisation does not always results out of economic aspects. The socio-political aspects accounts for these kind of re shaping of the society. Along with all these factors, hundreds of thousands people migrate or are displaced due to violations of human rights and the violence unleashed at them. It also happens through different natural calamities or the developmental projects. Forced migration and the existing conflicts of the society create hurdles in the development.

Many social transformations have come into the society due to the changing political scenario which was influenced by so many factors. The appearance of violence, other turmoil or political instability of the state led to enormous changes of the society even resulting into mass flight or migration. Sometimes, these displacements happen within the state. In some contexts, this takes the international migration crossing the defined boundaries of nation states.

It may be assumed from the above facts that the changes in the society create the background for both forced and economic migration (Koser, 2010). Mostly women from underdeveloped and developing countries are being affected with the all these developments. The structural and social barriers of the societies made women to encounter the battered conditions. They step out to seek different opportunities. Globalisation has escalated the chances for women to challenge such kind of hurdles boldly. The end number of situations and opportunities flourished by the global process have uplifted the conditions of women drastically. At the same time, globalisation has its share in escalating the trafficking of women and children along with the migration of both women and men to different labour markets. Immigrants and refugees are also included in this whole process of movement.

Globalisation has had such negative consequences for women and children that some commentators argue that 'globalisation is a man'. They point to the way women suffer disproportionately from IMF and World Bank policies as public services are cut and they are forced to care for sick, disabled and older relatives, as well as earn a living. Capitalism's expansion across the globe has depended on a massive influx of tens of millions of women into the workforce who had traditionally been dependent on husbands and male relatives. Globalisation has contradictory effects on women (Horgan, 2001).

The global development of capitalism over the last 20 years has depended almost everywhere on women pouring into the formal workforce. From Dublin to Dhaka, Bangkok to Bradford, women workers have provided the cheap labour from which super profits have been extracted. This feminisation of the formal workforce has been a contradictory experience for most women. On the one hand, becoming economically independent leads everywhere to women having more choices about what they do with their lives. On the other, the 'double burden' faced by all women because of their role in the family means that the lives of women workers are everywhere fiendishly difficult as they try to reconcile work and family life.

Globalisation has also increased women's unpaid work as social services are privatised. Wherever women are working they usually earn less than men, sometimes less than men who are doing exactly the same work. In less industrialised countries women earn as little as half their male counterparts' wages. The hidden face of globalisation also shows how female factory workers in Free Trade Zones (FTZs) are treated in terms of maintaining quota deadlines. The women are constantly verbally and physically abused in order to keep up with production demand from corporations. They have to work in any condition even during the sick days. The culture of female employment in developing countries is based on formal labour, housework, and informal sector production. Only a small portion women work in export factories compared to the entire female population. Most work in agriculture, perform housework, or are employed in the informal sector. Female in these nations limited in society by patriarchal control. There society claims that female labour is an extension of their household chores. The women are given limited access to resources and authority over their work.

Impact of Globalisation on women

Globalization is a complex and diverse historical process. This is not a new phenomenon. Under the rule of colonialism, we were caught in the whirlpool of international power through international trade, which brought us unequal benefits. The current so-called globalization phenomenon is different from what we experienced in the colonial era (Thurow 1996). Generally globalization has been portrayed as an "inevitable" fate, which is beyond our control. All we can do is to endure it or relax and enjoy it. Non-globalization will cause us to die in isolation (Nayyar 1996).

Ideally, globalization should mean the process of connecting the economy with the rest of the world through a two-way network of free flows of information, trade, finance, and the movement of people (Albrow and King 1990). Bagchi has identified the five processes of globalization, such as commercialization, monetizing more and more goods and services, earning income in currency rather than in kind, and more capitalization, which means replacing its own account production, More people become wage laborers. The owner of the means of production (the person who owns capital, land or assets) is separated from the person who actually produces (labor). Foreign trade is very important to the production and distribution process in the economy. The greater financial development, that is, buying and selling in the market More assets (land, stocks, shares, bonds, gold and silver, etc.), international capital flows more freely (Bagchi 1994).

Under the economic reforms which is started in 1991, which we divided into three parts: liberalization, privatization and globalization. The state is primarily responsible for the development of education, health, science and technology, as well as basic sectors such as national defense, steel, cement, heavy chemical industry, heavy power, electric power, transportation and communications, but the social sectors have been ignored (Bagchi 1994).

Due to globalization, commercialization has increased, which means more wage labor. In large parts of India, agricultural workers are paid in kind, especially in the form of grains. Among our female workers in agriculture, a large percentage (50%) are workers working on other people's farms. When women receive grain as payments, they are not affected by price fluctuations. Now, wages are paid more and more in cash. Cereals give families food security. With the reduction in rations, most rural families have to buy food on the market. In addition, with the development of liberalization and privatization, many ordinary and free commodities have become unavailable, such as forest products used as fuel and feed, water sources or agricultural waste (Krishnaraj 1999).

More and more self-employed small marginal farmers, small craftsmen and handicraft workers find that production is not feasible and cannot withstand competition. Therefore, they became workers or unemployed. This is not a new process, rather it will accelerate. Many marginal farmers lease land and seek paid work. Males immigrate to cities, and females work on farms that lack resources, resulting in low yields. Despite other shortcomings, family production, small handicrafts or other small-scale production on family farms still has an advantage. These jobs enable women to manage childcare and perform housework while productive

work; but in paid jobs, this possibility becomes less and less possible, especially if they migrate (Krishnaraj 1999).

The market is very volatile, which means that the market is not safe. The unit may open today and may disappear tomorrow. For many reasons, women's position in the labor market has been weak. First, their obligation to perform unpaid work at home limits time, location and availability. Their education, skills and training are inferior. Due to ideological prohibitions, they may or may not go to outside to perform their work. Even in organized sector, temporary work, contract work and unorganized work are becoming more common (Vaidyanathan 1995). Women's free access to foreign investment in production lines where they occupy an important position has replaced their positions in fisheries, animal husbandry and food processing. Deep-sea trawlers have adversely affected fishing communities across the country and triggered protests. For women, this means losing livelihoods. In the past, they used to dry fish, repair nets and sell fish. The acquisition of large companies also means that they no longer eat fish. Consumer tastes are also being shaped to sell foreign products, thereby damaging local food and nutrition habits. Fast food, junk food, and convenience food have not only replaced the traditional food of the rich, but also replaced the food of the middle and lower classes (Sarkar 2007).

The globalization of the media has unleashed cultural influences that are harmful to everyone, but even more so for women. The continuous creation of desire, the stimulation of women's desire to pursue the perfect body through the cosmetics and fashion industries, and the selection of queens as role models have all regressed in terms of the ideals that feminism strives for for the country. The struggle of feminism for education, autonomy, a voice in public affairs, the right to fairness in family and marriage, and the dignity of life among human beings requires a resolute commitment to increase Amartya Sen's so-called investment. Increase the opportunities and abilities of women in society (Sen and Dreze 1995).

Generally speaking, macroeconomic policies affect women through the family, the market, and gender relations. In a situation like India, women suffer severe gender discrimination, and any factor that affects the family will worsen the status of women. As prices have risen, the state has withdrawn its commitment to education and health, and many things have been privatized. In order to save money, these expensive commodities are now withdrawn from women and girls. Women will bear a greater burden in terms of work to meet basic needs.

Indeed, not all women suffer the same fate. The rapid development of higher education and the diversification of services, media and software industries have become positive things. On the other hand, paid work is no longer a choice of middle-class women, but an obligation. A middle-class family can only survive on two people. However, although more jobs are provided and workplaces are more suitable for women's needs than before, there are already signs that women's pressure in urban areas is increasing (Desai 1994).

To sum up, the processes of liberalisation, privatisation, and globalisation will turn women back (and for the poor in general). As it is, women account for 70 per cent of the world's poor and two-thirds of the world's illiterates (Joekees 1987). In India, the female literacy rate after 50 years of public education is only 33.9%. At

this stage of development, the female infant mortality rate is still alarmingly high, 104 per 1,000 live births. Inequality has increased. Today, the income of our richest 20% of the population is 50 times that of the next 20%, and the latter barely earn 9% of the national income. Even 40% of the Indian population only earns 21.3% of national income. The rise in AIDS and prostitution is an ominous portents. The return of tuberculosis and malaria are other warnings that occur when public health, nutrition and sanitation facilities are neglected (Pillai 2013). High levels of air and water pollution are the price we pay for uncontrolled augmentation in the name of economic growth. Ransacking our natural resources for profit is a very short-sighted move, because what the first world lacks is our biodiversity and our tropical fertility. The income and wealth of East Asian countries are not as inclined as ours, their development has affected everyone. In the context of our huge inequality and poverty, liberalization and globalization require different priorities. The country must fulfill its mission of social development for the toiling people. Foreign investment must ensure that it does not sacrifice national interests for the sake of certain vested interests (Krishnaraj 1999).

Globalization and Indian women

Impact of Globalization on the Lives of Women and Women's Struggle in India Advocates of globalization in India argue in its favour based on rhetoric of development, booming consumerism and expenditure, burgeoning commodity market and increasing standard of living for both men and women. In reality, globalization has proved disastrous to the economic subsistence of Indian women, has led to their marginalization within the domestic political process and has culturally reinstated a stereotypically gendered identity. It has strengthened existing patriarchies and created newer forms of oppression thus setting up new push backs for the women's struggle.

Since globalization begun in India the government has made significant changes in its economic and trade policies in order to facilitate foreign investment and free flow of foreign corporations in Indian markets. All this led to an exploitation and relegation of women to the unpaid labour sector. Women are employed in hazardous conditions, paid lower wages than men, retrenched and face instability of employment. Neither there are any political representative bodies in order to negotiate for just wages and better working conditions for these women (Chhiber, 2009 & Patel, 2007). Moreover, the coerced transfer of natural resources from the poor into the hands of multinational conglomerates, environment and forest damage and production of exportable non-food crops in lieu of subsistence food crops has had a precarious effect on the livelihood of millions of rural and tribal women. The changing of Indian markets into export oriented zones has adversely affected the domestic self-sufficiency of these poor women who now need to walk long distances and toil hard in order to procure cheap food articles for their family as getting food is becoming increasingly difficult. All this has shattered the livelihood of multitudes of Indian women to pieces and has set a blow to the feminist project in India (Sangari & Chakravarti, 1999).

Trapped in the net of national debts and dependency, the government came up with a State Adjustment Programme (SAP) in 1990, which included slashing down on food and fertilizer subsidies, closing down of public distribution services, reduction in public investment, increase in bank rates and insurance charges and reducing budgets for social sector. The SAP policies favour denationalization, devaluation and deregulation

in order to support a capital intensive high-tech production and import intensive growth. The state also revoked statutory protection and social security for workers. The increase in inflation due to these policies and reduction in paid jobs diminishes the expenditure power of households (Patel, 2007). Faced with acute poverty, hunger and unemployment women are then forced into the low-wage private sector jobs and prostitution. Girl-child labour, illiteracy and violence against women also increased significantly in the wake of the SAP. (Sangari & Chakravarti, 1999).

Multinationals identify women workers as ideal to serve inequitable demands within a global division of labour as they constitute an easier and cheaper substitute to male labour force (Chhiber, 2009 & Patel, 2007). In fact, one of the chief strategies for multinationals to reduce wage bills and maximize their profits is to shift their production processes to the third world countries such as China, Thailand, Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Africa and Indonesia due to availability of flexible female labour at extremely low rates (Patel, 2007). The relationship between the formal sector and the decentralized sector is one of dependency. The government itself provides incentives to corporate houses to shut big city firms and establish ancillary units of production where women and girl-child are employed at piece rate basis in place of comparatively expensive male labour. The mythical discourse about 'nimble hands' is then weaved on top of it to legitimize such unethical practices. Women are expected to perform unquestioningly repetitive, laborious and menial tasks and are robbed of any possibility of upward mobility because of the temporary nature of jobs. (Patel, 2007).

Concluding Remarks

Globalization provides women with unparalleled opportunities, but it also brings new and unique challenges too. There are many sources of gender inequality, and it is often difficult to determine which forms of inequality are being eliminated by the effects of globalization and which forms of inequality are increasing. Work toward elimination of gender inequalities is in progress, government bringing various policies and programs for upliftment of women and providing opportunities for them so that they can uplift their status. Various policies like Employment Programme for Women (STEP), Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG), Central Social Welfare Board (CSWB), National Mission for Empowerment of Women (NMEW), Rashtriya Mahila Kosh-(National Credit Fund for Women), Gender Budgeting and Economic Empowerment of Women (GBEEW) etc. this may provide ample opportunity for women to increase their status. Along with this government also brought various reservation policies for women for enhancing their socio-economic status. Government is doing some formidable work for the women yet it is not enough need to do more for the women's upliftment at the same time Patriarchal mind set of our society need to change otherwise policies and schemes may not increase their status.

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