

## Impact of 'War on Terror' on South Asian Security

Shameer Modongal

### Abstract

The US-led global war on terror has impacted the security of South Asian states more than any other regions. Such impacts can be analyzed at four levels: domestic, bilateral, regional and global levels. This essay analyzes the policies of India and Pakistan during the global war on terror and examines the security impacts of these policies. It also checks the impacts of war on terror on bilateral relationship among India, Pakistan and Afghanistan. It also figures out the potential security challenges to the region when the US withdraw from Afghanistan.

**Keywords:** War on Terror; South Asia; Security.

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### Introduction

In the international system, states are principal actors, and they have a monopoly over using violence. Theoretically, state controls and rules what inside of its territory, and it cannot use violence outside territory except for legally recognised purpose such as self-defence. The terrorist attack on the twintowers of the World Trade Centre and Pentagon questioned this ultimate power of "states". The emergence of non-state actors was seen as a threat to established nation-state system. The USA, the sole Superpower in the international system, declared the "war on terror", and most of the states declared their support to this war willingly or non-willingly. Since Afghanistan belongs to the region, the USA's war on terror policies affected South Asia more than another region. This impact has global, regional, bilateral and domestic dynamics. It has both positive and negative sides. Sometimes, the same phenomenon affects differently on different

states. For example: While toppling of the Taliban regime is a positive benefit to India, its effect on Pakistan's interest is exactly different. This essay will examine the different level impact of war on terrorism on South Asian security. The first part of the article will summarise the conceptual and historical aspects of terrorism. The following section will analyse the positions and policies of South Asian states during the US-led war in Afghanistan. It will explain the causes and consequences of such policies on the security of these states. As the most affected countries, the focus of the article will be mainly on India and Pakistan. The next section will analyse the impacts on security at the bilateral level. This section will examine the relations between India and Pakistan, India and Afghanistan and Pakistan and Afghanistan. Then it will figure out the security impacts of war on terror on South Asian at the regional and global levels. The last part will examine future possibilities of US's policy on 'war on terror' and its implications in the security concern of this region.

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### Terrorism and war on terror

The root of word 'terrorism' traced into the Latin word 'Terrere' that literally means "to frighten". In modern time, terrorism was firstly used in the French revolution of 1789 (Dar and Kalis 2013: 19). In Afghanistan, it was an outcome of political struggle among USA, USSR and Arab states. America funded Afghan Mujahedeen to fight against USSR

with the help of Pakistan. Thousands of radical Muslims migrated to Afghanistan to fight against enemies. Dar and Kalis say that "Never before in modern times had so many Muslims from so many lands who spoke different tongues separately journeyed to a Muslim country to fight together against a common enemy. There were Egyptians, Saudis, Yemenis, Palestinians, Algerians, Sudanese, Iraqi Kurds, Kuwaitis, Turks, Jordanians, Syrians, Libyans, Tunisians, Moroccans, Lebanese, Pakistanis, Indians, Indonesians, Malaysians and others". Even though Mujahideens were initially funded by the USA, they hit back the US when they attacked the twin towers of World Trade Centre and Pentagon- the chief symbols of American economic and military supremacy.

After the 9/11 attack, America demanded the Taliban to hand over Osama Bin Laden, the chief proponent behind the attack, to the USA. Taliban regime faced a dilemma between Sovereignty and Security of the State. Taliban refused to American request and said his trial would be based on domestic law of Afghanistan. The wounded sole Superpower of world USA decided to strike back and to launch a global campaign against terrorism. President Bush said in his address to the joint session of the US Congress on 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2001. "Our response involves far more than instant retaliation and isolated strikes. Americans should not expect one battle, but a lengthy campaign. We will starve terrorists of funding, turn them one against another, and drive them from place to place, until there is no refuge or no rest. And we will pursue nations that provide aid or safe havens to terrorism. Every nation, in every region, now has a decision to make. Either you are with us, or you are with the terrorists." War started on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2001, and due to high level of bombing, within eight and a half week, the civilian death is estimates range from 1000 to 3767. South Asia was the main victim of both terrorism and war on terror. Stephen P. Cohen has said, "no part of the world has more affected by the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 than South Asia". (Musarrat: 3)

### Levels of Analysis

Varun Sahni (2003) analyses the cross-level impacts of 9/11 on South Asia. Firstly, System→ region level (International politics→ South Asia). Post-9/11, the changed international context affected South Asia because of the presence of terrorists here. Second, region→ system level (South Asia→ International politics). Now dynamics of the region affect global

politics. The third one is System→ State level (International Politics→ domestic politics) like the impact of war on terror on the domestic condition of Pakistan. Fourth, State→ System (Domestic politics →International politics) like the influence of Musharraf's "transformational politics" in Pakistan on the global war on terror. The fifth is System→ Interstate (International politics→ India-Pak relations). For example, the impact of war on terror on the Kashmir issue. Sixth is interstate → region level (India-Pak relation →South Asia). For example, the impact of India-Pak problem in regional cohesion in the fight against terrorism. The seventh one is interstate→ System-level (India-Pakistan relation→ international politics). For example, military mobilisation between these two nuclear powers internationalises the Kashmir issue.

In short, it is difficult to confine the analysis impacts of war on terror on a single level. This paper will analyse the impacts at four levels: domestic level, bilateral level, regional level and global level as a whole and its implication at the regional level.

### Policies of South Asian Countries in GWoT and its impacts

When G. W Bush declared Global War on Terror (GWoT) he gave two "options" to other states "Either you are with us, or you are with the terrorists". Most of the countries helped the USA in GWoT either militarily or diplomatically. Before 9/11 attack positions of Pakistan and India on Taliban and Al-Qaida-linked terrorist groups were entirely different. Pakistan supported the Taliban regime in Afghanistan, and its ISI has a connection with militant groups working in Kashmir. But India was waiting for an occasion to get international support against terrorism and to accuse Pakistan as a sponsor of terrorism. In Afghanistan, India's support was to northern-alliance against Taliban regime. For Pakistan, if Afghanistan is under control of the Taliban, it had not to worry about its western borders and could focus on eastern borders with India. But when the USA declared war on terror, Pakistan had no safe choice other than making a U-turn and supporting the USA. On the other hand, India did not provide its land or air-base to the USA to fight against the Taliban regime, and its support was diplomatic, ideological, and political. (Dar and Kalis 2013:19). The following section will evaluate each country's policies separately and analyse the causes and consequences of such policies.

### Pakistan between Terror and War on Terror

Pakistan's geopolitical location and connection with the Taliban was crucial to the US in the fight against terrorism. So the USA required unconditional support from Pakistan in GWT. Pakistan was really in a dilemma that if Pakistan supported the US, the Taliban would retaliate. At the same time, if it supported the Taliban, the US would not only retaliate but also destroy its nuclear capability. Finally, Pakistan extended its support for various reasons. At the systemic level, bandwagon with the USA was the only option to its national security. Consequently, Pakistan was declared as Major Non-NATO Ally in the war against terrorists. Pakistan hoped it would increase its international status from a 'failed state' to a 'responsible state'. At the regional level, when it ensured India would not directly involve in the GWT, Pakistan had to improve the relation with the USA to counter India especially when the latter's relation with China is growing. The US has also promised its assistance and support to ensure socio-economic and political stability in Pakistan. On the other hand, Bush's order to attack terrorist and those who harbour them jolt Pakistan and compelled them to avoid the support to the Taliban. Finally, Pakistan extended its support to the USA and provided territorial and military support and opened Pasni, Jacobabad, Shamsi and Dalbandin military bases for the USA.

### Effects on Pakistan

As hoped, Pakistan's pro-active role helped it present himself as a responsible, moderate Islamic state, rather than a rough, failed and radical state. It ended the country's international diplomatic isolation, the result of past sanctions. It also brought desperately needed international aid from the United States, Japan, Europe and international financial institutions. The Bush Administration notified Congress of his plan to sell Pakistan \$1.2 billion worth of sophisticated weapons by mid-2005, to India's displeasure (Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies 2005:5). In the security point, Pakistan could avoid retaliation of America and got military support from it, which was useful to balance against India.

However, it had many negative impacts on Pakistan's security at domestic and international level. At the domestic level, state and society were divided into different opinions. The Pakistani society does not share the state's perceptions of the war on terror. Pakistan's decision to join the

international coalition against terrorism challenged the social norms and values of a larger Pan-Islamic identity. It also challenged the base of Pakistan's support for Kashmiri's right of self-determination and recognition of the Taliban as the legitimate regime in Afghanistan. Pakistan society was against killings of innocents whether it by terrorist groups or the USA. So they were against 9/11 also. Additionally, the war in Afghanistan led to the mass migration of Afghanis to Pakistan territories. It caused the economic and social crisis in Pakistan. The North West Frontier Province (NWFP), named as Khyber Pukhtunkhwa (KPK), hosted these migrants. Many radical Taliban ideologists were included in these migrants. The socio-economic condition of these areas was suitable to get roots to Taliban-Al Qaeda ideology. Pakistan started its anti-terror campaign by military action in tribal areas searching for militants fled from Afghanistan. By September 2005 more than 80,000 troops were involved in the anti-terror campaign in FATA, and they had captured about 700 Al Qaeda suspects. During the operations, 270 Pakistani troops were killed, and 600 were wounded (Ahmad 2010: 105).

Pakistan military operation in Lal Masjid fuelled anti-government sentiment among the Pashtun population. Tahrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) spread to whole FATA and swat valley. Anti-terrorists operation in KPK was seen as genocide against Pashtuns and attack against Islam. Pashtun chauvinism, in turn, fuelled the recruitment to the "New Taliban" on both sides of the border with Afghanistan, and challenged the US and Pakistani counterterrorism operations in Pashtun-dominated areas. This feeling among Pashtuns caused many terrorist violence and fatalities in the country. According to a report by South Asia Terrorism Portal (SATP-2010), in the period 2003-2010, Pakistan faced serious fatalities due to terrorist violence. The total fatalities include 3,087 civilian and 10,887 terrorist casualties (Ahmad 2010: 107). The war on terrorism, which is started at Afghanistan, shifted firstly towards the tribal belt of Pakistan and then to the main streets of Pakistan. These terrorist attacks not only caused security threats and domestic instability, but also affected the international reputation of the country.

Violation of sovereignty and continues drone attacks of USA is another major security crisis to Pakistan. According to US Senator Lindsay Graham, the USA had killed 4,700 people using drone aircraft as of early 2013. The people think that if we gather at the incident site after the drone attack, there is a possibility of further attacks on them because the

drones might think the Taliban have gathered and fire again. This so-called "rescuer attacks" have had a devastating impact on people in North Waziristan (Amnesty international 2013: 28).

### India and war on terror

As a victim state of terrorism, India welcomed war on terror of the USA. India regarded GWOt as a necessary tool to stabilise the region by eliminating the proxy war of Pakistan in Kashmir. In the same year of the 9/11 attack, terrorists attacked the Indian parliament also. So when Bush declared war on terrorism, India hoped it would be a war by the free world against all terrorists including Pakistan based wings. India tried to use it as an opportunity to expose Pakistan a terror-sponsoring country. But India did not allow the USA to use its territory to launch this GWOt due to various reasons. Firstly the military presence of the USA regarded as a threat to the core value of national unity of India. Since the war on terrorism was viewed as a war on Islam, the government feared it would affect sentiments of Indian Muslims. Absence of direct involvement in the war in Afghanistan helped to avoid anti-Indian sentiments among Afghans. Indian role was seen as a constructive one like roads, bridges, hospitals and schools etc. So in the post 9/11 period, terrorists attack in India was comparatively less than Pakistan. India also has to secure its Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline from terrorist attack. So India was avoiding a direct fight with Taliban or al Qaida (Dar and Kalis 2013:21). On the other hand, India got benefits of anti-terrorist feeling among the international community to accuse Pakistan of facilitating its territory for terrorists.

### Security of Afghanistan After GWOt

As a strategic geographical location, Afghan was invaded by outsiders throughout history. In modern time Britain, USSR and USA invaded it. The radicalisation of Afghan society was an outcome of the Cold War. After USSR's invasion, America helped Mujahedeen to in their war fight against the invasion. They got support from Pakistan and Saudi Arabia also. After the 9/11 attack, when the Taliban regime refused to hand over Bin Laden to the USA, Afghanistan became the first victim of the war on terror. After the ouster of the Taliban government, USA and ISAF tried to rebuild Afghanistan into a safer situation which is less hospitable to terrorists. The socio-economic conditions of Afghanistan have improved in the post-Taliban years. But, Taliban ideology has still influence in many areas. Security

concern becomes an obstacle in the development of these areas. It may regain power after the withdrawal of American troops. Another problem is warlords and militias continuously defy the power of the central government. The disarmament of local militias or absorb them into Afghanistan's new security forces is a major challenge to the national government. The major security threat to the Afghan government is competing interest of outside powers in Afghanistan. For a long time Afghan was the victim of the rivalry between foreign countries. The tribal division in Afghan society is utilised by other countries to implement their strategic/ideological interest in Afghan. For example, Iran-Saudi difference is reflected in Afghanistan through their support to northern alliance and Pashtuns respectively. Interests of India and Pakistan also are competing in nature.

### Impact of War on Bilateral relations

New global and regional situations after the 9/11 attack have impacted bilateral relation of South Asian countries. This section will analyse India's relation with Pakistan and Afghanistan and Pakistan's relation with Afghanistan.

### India-Pakistan relation

The support of Pakistan to the war on terrorism has a major impact on its Kashmir policy. By utilising global feelings against terrorism, India highlighted Pakistan-based militant groups and Pakistan's proxy war in Kashmir. New Delhi has stepped up the ante and questioned Pakistan's sincerity and commitment to fight terrorism while "sponsoring cross-border terrorism" into Indian held Kashmir. But, according to Pakistan's definition of terrorism, there are at least five elements in that: First, Pakistan considers terrorism a threat to humanity and human civilisation and in principle condemns all acts of terrorism anywhere in the world. Second, Pakistan maintains that the root causes of terrorism should be addressed as part of the international campaign against terrorism. Third, the fight against terrorism should include "state terrorism", implying the case of Kashmir. Fourth, a distinction should be drawn between freedom struggles and terrorism. Fifth, a distinction should be made between Islamic religion and terrorism. (Akhtar 2012: 2) So for Pakistan, Kashmir militants were not terrorists but were freedom fighters. But India argued issues of Kashmir as connecting with terrorism. India had consistently accused Pakistan of waging "proxy war", "low-intensity conflict" and 'cross-border terrorism' in Kashmir.

As Pakistan shares its longest border with India, its main security concern was from India itself. When the Taliban regime was in rule in the eastern side, Pakistan could focus on western borders with India. But after toppling of the Taliban, Karzai's rule was pro-India, and he made economic and military cooperation with India. Indian military presence at Afghanistan increased security threat to Pakistan. One positive effect of GWoT is that even when Pakistan considers Kashmir fighters as freedom fighters, the new global situation pressured it to refrain from support to these militants. It caused for comparatively a stable situation in India-Pakistan border in the following one decade.

### **Afghanistan between India and Pakistan**

Historically Afghanistan had a good relation with India. But this relation worsened after the Taliban government reached power. After its toppling, India and Afghanistan relations regain its old heydays. India has a major role in rebuilding Afghanistan under ISAF by providing economic and military assistance. On the other hand, Afghanistan-Pakistan relation was a conflictual one. The Durand line between Pakistan and Afghanistan was not acceptable to Afghanistan. This boundary divides Pashtuns into two different countries. Soviet invasion to Afghanistan created a refugee crisis in Pakistan. During the Afghan civil war, Pakistan supported Mujahedeen and achieved a good relationship during the Taliban regime. Oliver Roy in his essay "The Taliban: A strategic Tool for Pakistan," identifies two perspectives to understand Pakistan's Pro-Taliban Policy: Firstly, the geostrategic perspective was aimed at asserting the regional influence of Pakistan by establishing a kind of control in Afghanistan, through a fundamentalist Pashtun-dominated movement. Secondly, an ideological and religious connection provided by extending the informal networks of Madrassas in Pakistan.

However, the Pashtuns along the border interacted across the border during the Soviet-Afghan war. It continued during the Taliban regime and even after the US attack against the Taliban. This interaction caused to spread Taliban ideology among Pakistan tribal areas and internal crisis in Pakistan. So Pakistan's pro-Taliban policy became a disaster after 9/11 attack. The direct involvement of Pakistan in the war on terror also has affected its relationship with both Taliban and other Afghan people.

### **Security at the regional level**

For a number of reasons, South Asia was centre of the war on terror. The main reason was Osama Bin Laden's presence in the region and the support of the Taliban regime. Secondly, and more importantly, perhaps, there was no other state in the world that knew the radical regime of the Taliban better than Pakistan. Thirdly, after the end of the Cold War, Americans began to develop a feeling of threat from the Islamic revivalism. South Asia happens to be home to quite several active Islamic revivalist movements. Fourthly, America feared the nuclear capability of Pakistan might fall into the hands of non-state actors (Musarrat: 4). It is a populous region with huge weaponry. It consists of high human and economic resources. The two nuclear powers in the regions have a history of mutual hostility. Consequently, the USA considered South Asia with major strategic importance. After 9/11, the USA viewed peace in the region as an essential factor for completing its mission in Afghanistan. i.e War on terrorism. The good relation with India and Pakistan and stability in this region was also important to contain China. So, the USA worked to ensure stability in this region and bring Pakistan and India, Pakistan and Afghanistan close together. Consequently, the US motivated both countries to solve Kashmir issues.

In one point of view, war on terror and involvement of USA has brought stability in this region. Regional instability was mainly due to the India-Pakistan problem. The war on terror brought both states on the same side of the war and reinforced India-Pakistan bilateral relation. The global feeling against terrorism and American military presence in the region reduced Pakistan's support to Kashmir militants. The military presence of USA prevented India, from attacking Pakistan following the attacks on its parliament. It became difficult, if not impossible, to plan an armoured strike in the desert sector without first accounting for Pakistani air assets in Jacobabad, where several hundred American troops are currently based (Sahni 2003: 96). America perceived that a war between India and Pakistan would certainly subvert, and disrupt its campaign against terror. In a theoretical sense, the regional stability in the South can be explained by using 'hegemonic stability theory'. According to it, the presence of a hegemonic power stabilises the system.

On the other side, the war on terror has created many security problems in South Asia. Firstly, the USA has not succeeded in its fight against terrorism. Taliban enjoys influence in various areas

of Afghanistan. It will affect the future security of the region. Secondly, after starting the war on terror, terrorists attacks in the region have increased more than any other region compared to the pre 9/11 period. Thirdly, India used new condition to allege Pakistan as promoters of terrorism, and it has created tension between countries. Fourthly, changing relation of India with Afghanistan creates trouble for Pakistan. Pakistan sees Indian presence in Afghanistan as an encircling policy of India. Fifthly, the presence of the USA affects the sovereignty of regional states. America uses it as a way to access to central Asia and to contain China.

Future possibility in the American war on terror is also will have an impact on South Asian security. America has declared many times its intention to withdraw from Afghanistan. So the USA may avoid its policy of war on terror and concentrate more on containing China or other areas. But for South Asian countries, the threat of terrorism has not finished by the death of Bin Laden. Another possibility is extending the military presence of the USA in the region. It may stabilise India-Pakistan relation and the regional politics of Afghanistan. But states in this region are against that also. Even when they want to fight against terrorism, they prefer the sovereignty of states and the non intervention of the external power in the region. So, states in the region would oppose the continuing presence of the USA in South Asia and would argue for a regional settlement mechanism. The third possibility is a political settlement with the Taliban and their integration to domestic politics. By this policy, the USA has to distinguish between Al Qaida and the Taliban and focus on Al Qaida. In this settlement, the USA may have to give a separate territory to the Taliban. It leads to the fourth possibility of dividing Afghanistan based on ethnicity/ideology. It is also unacceptable to the region and Afghan itself.

### **Impact at Global Level and Its Regional Implication**

The war on terror, in a sense, was a war of sovereign states against non-state actors to protect Westphalia nation-state system. But in doing so, America violated the sovereignty of many states. To support its attacks on Afghanistan and Iraq, the Bush administration put forth a 'selective sovereignty' thesis that would legitimise an intervention in states that were accused of supporting terrorists. (Acharya 2007:274). So this GWOt has both positive and negative effect on sovereignty itself. Another positive impact of GWOt is states can get international support to defend/suppress non-

state militants violating domestic laws. In South Asia, Sri Lanka could oppress LTTE by using new global condition. But the problem with this aspect is that the same act may be terrorism for one state, but freedom struggle for another country. For colonialist powers, Nelson Mandela, Subhash Chandra Bose, Nehru, Ho Chi Minh and Sukarno were radicals and terrorists, but they are heroes in the third world states. Kashmiri militants are freedom fighters to Pakistan, but they are terrorists for India. LTTE is freedom fighters to Tamil people but terrorists for Sri Lanka. Taliban was, for the USA itself, good terrorist during the war against USSR and became a bad terrorist after 9/11 attack.

After the war on terror, USA's unilateral interventions have marginalised the UN. The decreasing importance of UN will badly affect the international system mainly for third world countries. The war on terror was seen as a part of "Pax America" which provides global peace under hegemonic control of the USA. War on terror created insecurity not only among terrorists but also innocent people who become its victims directly or indirectly. Just like any other wars, it affected social, economic and political conditions of states. Business people fear to invest in such countries. Education and health systems of such states also go backwards. KPK area of Pakistan is the best example for it.

Another significant impact is, war on terror was viewed as a war on Islam. It was interpreted as modern Crusades and just war. It divided communities based on religion and created troubles in minorities, especially in South Asian states. In India, Muslims felt insecurity especially Hindu nationalist party BJP was in power. The laws like POTA and UAPA caused the arresting of innocent Muslims also. In Pakistan, it created insecurity to the Christian community.

When GWOt seen as an attack against Islam, innocent Christians were also attacked by radical Muslims. The GWOt divided Muslim community itself into 'good Muslim' and 'bad Muslim'. This same binary logic was applied during colonial time as 'good' and 'bad' natives. Hans Koechler (2002) says "War on Terror affects not only the rights of citizens in the states targeted by the US war on terror, but also those of citizens in the United States and in countries that define themselves as allies of the global superpower, such as the Philippines.<sup>1</sup> In "targeted" countries such as Afghanistan, Iraq, or other Muslim nations, citizens have often become or may become victims of indiscriminate use of force.<sup>2</sup> In "allied" countries outside the Western

hemisphere as in the Philippines, for instance the US war on terror may further aggravate internal tensions, ethnic rivalries, existing social problems, etc. Regarding "allied" countries, the war on terror may further complicate their relations with neighbouring countries, forcing upon the former an agenda that may not always be compatible with regional peace and stability.<sup>3</sup> In the United States proper and in its "allied" countries in Europe, the war on terror has had a negative impact on traditional civil liberties. In the West, in the name of the "war on terror," extraordinary security measures were taken, which constitutes an intrusion into the personal sphere of citizens. Above all, the entire population groups were defined according to religious, racial, ethnic criteria and were discriminated based on such identities (Koechler, 2002:7-8). Many times South Asian citizens were victims of this extraordinary checking in American airports and other places.

### Conclusion

In the international system, security is the primary concern of all states. War on terror also was initiated after America felt insecurity following the 9/11 incident. However, direct and indirect impacts of the American policy in the last decade on the security of other states and people cannot be neglected. Due to many reasons, South Asia was the most affected region in the world. These effects have occurred at various levels: global, regional, bilateral and domestics. It happens at social, economic and political aspects also. South Asian people face its effects not only in the region but also when they are going to western countries due to extraordinary checking and controls. War on terror divided people based religions. It created troubles to religious minorities. Whatever drawbacks, the war on terror and American presence in the region also caused in stabilising South Asia. South Asian countries themselves have to cooperate with each other against terrorism considering both causes and consequences of it.

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## Women Empowerment in the Age of Globalization: A Study

Kapil Khare

### Abstract

The presented research paper is based on a study of women's empowerment in the era of globalization. In this paper, an important effort has been made to know the political and constitutional status of women in the era of globalization. Without the participation of women, it is very difficult or almost impossible to get the desired benefits. Therefore, through women empowerment, women are to be provided employment, self-reliance ability is to be developed, decision making ability is to be developed, women's control over resources and self-consciousness of very prominent women is to be developed. Whether there has been empowerment of women in this era of globalization? It remains to be seen whether, over time, policy makers have formulated policies and plans targeting women. What is the impact of these policies and plans? Analysis about this is very important. Today, women are playing a very important role in the construction and development of the country and society, as well as taking steps in the social, economic and political field of the country, so to make their social, economic, status strong, the structural barriers should be reduced. They have to be provided with literacy, health, housing, availability of credit and finance, employment opportunities etc. so that they can become self-reliant and empowered.

**Keywords:** Women; Empowerment; Globalization; Study.

**Research Methodology:** This study is based on secondary data for the study of research, along with important books, newspapers, magazines, etc., scholarly guidance has also been obtained.

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### Introduction

Presented research paper Women empowerment in the era of globalization Under a study, various dimensions of women's empowerment have been highlighted significantly.

Through which the country and the world get the knowledge of the real status of women. In the changing global environment of the present time, more emphasis is being laid on making women politically and constitutionally more strong and self-reliant in society, country, and the world.<sup>1</sup>

### What is Globalization

Globalization can be defined as the increasing interaction and interdependence of people and countries. It generally encompasses two interrelated elements: the opening of international borders to a faster flow of goods, services, finance, people and ideas; and to bring about changes in the institutions and policies at the national and international levels that facilitate or promote such flows. Globalization is associated with acute inequality, but often involving different and polarized outcomes.

We recognize the 21<sup>st</sup> century as the century of women because women are the fundamental axis of any nation, the current situation is clearly showing us this. Empowerment of women is a multi-faceted process by which women have to become so aware that they can acquire power and develop their ability to gain control over social, economic and political resources. The nature of any society depends on the status of the women there. If the condition of women is strong and respectable,

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then the society and the country will also be strong and strong. On this importance of women, Napoleon had said that "Give me a worthy mother, I will give you a worthy nation". At present, the contribution of women is being accepted in every sphere of life because women and men are the two wheels of the vehicle of development. In today's time, women also have as much importance in the development of the nation as men do. Therefore, in today's time, proper development of the country is not possible without the participation of women. In the present time, women have got their proud and honorable place in different areas of the country and the world. Today women are happily ready to go to any place in the country and the world for better employment, there is no such area left where women have not registered their presence in today's time. From the land to the sky and from the sea to the mountains, the steps of women have made their mark. At present, women are working shoulder to shoulder with men in private and government sectors. Women have made everyone aware of their power and wealth on many occasions. Today the male dominated society has come to know that without the participation of women in the development works, how difficult it is to achieve the desired goal in the morning. Economic, social and political development of society, state and country cannot be imagined without connecting women to the main stream of development.

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, lakhs of women are employed in every sphere of national life. Women have proved their talent by working in the posts of MLA, Chief Minister, Governor, Prime Minister, President, MP etc. Today women are making their identity not because of their relatives and family members but because of their ability.

Ever since globalization has intensified, the number of women working outside the home has registered a rapid increase, especially in Asia, Europe, America. Where the number of women working in America was one-third in 1950, the same number has increased to more than two-thirds. In Japan and Italy, this number is more than 42 percent. In Asian countries, more than 84 percent women are working.

Most of the employment in India is in the unorganized sector. According to a survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization in the year 2011-12, the total employment in both the organized and unorganized sectors in the country was 47 crore, out of which the employment in the organized sector was 8 crore and in the unorganized sector. 39 crores. The share of workers in the

unorganized sector in the total employment of the country was more than 90 percent. They are not covered by any formal system of social security or working conditions regulations.

According to the Women Labor Statistics 2012-13 (Statistical Profile on Women Labor) published by the Labor Bureau of the Ministry of Labor and Employment, the participation rate of women in work in the year 2011 was 25.63 percent. Out of which 30 percent was in rural areas and 15.4 percent was in urban areas. In rural areas, women are mostly doing agricultural work and are also agricultural workers. About 80 percent of women workers in urban areas are engaged in unorganized sectors like domestic industry, petty trade and services, building and construction etc.<sup>2</sup>

For the progress and development of women, it is necessary that they should be empowered in every sphere of life, especially in the field of politics. The level of participation of women should be high.<sup>3</sup>

The political status of women can be known from various dimensions such as participation of women in elections, representation of women in Parliament and political parties, representation of women in Panchayati Raj institutions etc. The National Women's Empowerment Policy, 2001, has talked about adopting the approach of bridging the gap between women and men in the budget process as a viable strategy. By the 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment of the Indian Constitution, 33 percent reservation in local bodies has also been implemented for women. The formation of the National Commission for Women on 21 January 1992 is an important step with the view of women empowerment, which is committed to the constitutional and legal protection of women.<sup>4</sup>

### **Positive impact of globalization on women**

#### *Economic upliftment*

Globalization has given economic opportunities to women, who are becoming a major part of the workforce. Women are gaining confidence and independence with higher pay. For example: Globalization has assisted the Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) to set up a women's cooperative bank with 125,000 members.

The BPO and service sector gives a huge opportunity to women all over the world. Women are also being inducted in the army.

Strong international opinion has been created for women's empowerment. Gender equality as one of the goals of the SDGs, the Beijing Declaration, the

majority of countries with the Women's Commission and world leaders encouraging legislation against marital rape are all results of globalization.

### *Psychological boost*

Female heads of IMF, Indian actresses with access to Hollywood and talented women known around the world are providing psychological strength to women across the globe.

### *Social empowerment*

Working women, single women, divorced women, their different sexual orientations are increasingly being accepted around the world.

### **Negative impact of globalization on women**

#### *Women's dual responsibilities*

Working long hours at the work place along with taking part in household chores like cooking, child care hinders their performance and comes in the way of success. Globalization has promoted equality between the sexes, for which Indian women have struggled throughout their lives, but despite this, there are many negative consequences.

The increasing trend of globalization has not encouraged everyone. Practices such as gender discrimination in liability, time-use patterns, access to productive inputs, and agency securing positive influence for certain individuals have increased inequalities between men and women.

#### **Skilled Jobs**

Women who are skilled are getting employment. Most of the women are not skilled and thus lead a life in constant poverty.

#### **Class difference among women**

Women who are getting jobs are demanding equal rights. The rights of poor unemployed women are being neglected. This has created a class gap among women.

#### **Double Crisis**

Working women are facing double threat where they have to work in office as well as at home. This is putting them under more mental stress.

#### **Increasing violence against women**

Social development is not in sync with economic development. Sexual violence, against domestic

violence is on the rise.

#### **In rural area**

Women farmers due to increase in input cost (MNC supplies seeds, fertilizers and other inputs at higher prices) and less share in price rise (maximum profit is retained by MNC retailers, wholesalers which is a reason for price retaliation) is adversely affected.

In addition, women workers are paid low wages and subjected to unsafe working conditions.

Many traditional industries such as handicraft, puppetry, cottage based industries which are predominantly women labor intensive, are declining due to unequal competition with MNCs.

Misuse of Technology: Indecent representation of women, pornography, voyeurism, anonymous sexist remarks, defamation of women, etc.<sup>5</sup>

#### **Globalization of terrorism**

It is women who suffer the most in violent conflicts. In this case serious crimes like rape, atrocities etc. are committed. eg. ISIS, Nigeria, Somalia

Today the government is emphasizing all the efforts for the upliftment, development and empowerment of women. But still the position of women in India is weak. Very few women get complete control over their situation. Most of the women are dependent on their relatives. For the development of women, along with the attitude of society and men, women themselves also have to change their attitude that they have a separate existence of their own. And this is possible only through awakening, education and economic empowerment. Educating women proves to be a boon for the nation and its importance is proved by this sentence like Janetta Call has said "*When you give a man If you educate, you educate the whole family.*"<sup>6</sup>

What is needed today is that women's labor should be directly linked to production. Its direct relation with production is not ensured whereas indirectly its labor is helpful in production. Due to this reason men became special and women remained insignificant. Therefore, while globalization has proved beneficial for some women, the situation for some has gone from bad to worse.<sup>7</sup>

#### **Conclusion**

In the present research paper, along with knowing and understanding the political and constitutional

conditions of women, an attempt has been made to touch them. Today the country has come to know that without the participation of women in the work of development, getting the desired benefits is just like a dream. Therefore, through women empowerment, it is necessary to provide self-employment to women, develop the ability of self-reliance, ability to choose, control over resources and decision ability and above all to develop self-consciousness of women. Women have to work very hard to get equal status in the society. So globalization has proved to be more bad than good for women. In many cases women are the food donors for the family but the society does not want to accept this truth. The culture of India is such that most people used to think that if a woman chooses to become a working woman, it will adversely affect her family and children.

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