

Women Empowerment in the Age of Globalization: A Study

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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.¹

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 21st 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 21st 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.²

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.³

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 73rd and 74th 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.⁴

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.⁵

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.*"⁶

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.⁷

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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