

The background of the cover is a dark, textured surface with a faint, ethereal image of a woman's face. Overlaid on this are vibrant, abstract brushstrokes in shades of yellow, orange, green, and purple, creating a sense of movement and depth. The title text is prominently displayed in the upper half.

WOMEN AND HUMAN RIGHTS

THE NORTHEAST INDIAN CONTEXT

**Internal Quality Assurance Cell
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The Northeast Indian Context

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The equal status of women with men could be achieved when the attitudes and the outlook of society towards women could be changed. There is an urgent need to create awareness among the women in particular, of the evils of the society.

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Globalisation And Indian Women

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1. Introduction:

Globalisation refers to the process of interlinking of the economies of different countries through unhindered flows of trade, capital and technology. Freer trade, more deregulated labour, good and financial markets bring out the concept of the global economy. The Human Development Report of South Asia, 2001, has defined globalization as "the free movement of goods, services, people and information across national boundaries. It creates and, in turn, is driven by an integrated global economy, which influences both economic as well as social relations within and across countries."

During the 1980's, economies of different less developed countries performed poorly in respect of growth, development and poverty reduction. As the protectionist policies, so far adopted by these economies, failed to provide the desired results, they moved towards the policy of liberalization leading to globalization and the 1990's came as a decade of globalization.

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inning of 1990's saw India struggling with macroeconomic crisis and depletion of the foreign exchange to almost nothing. Change became a necessity and India embarked on the era of globalization with the declaration of the policy of liberalization, privatization and globalization in 1991 by the then Finance Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh.

2. Review of Literature: Globalisation has mixed impact on different countries of the world. Developing economies although are benefited to some extent, in terms of employment and output, but the indicators of social sector development show a dismal picture in most of the countries. Globalisation may not be the major cause of income inequality and poverty in developing countries, but it has contributed to the poor performance of a number of developing countries (Pangestu, 2001). Certain sections of the society, especially the women, are found to be adversely affected by globalization except receiving some small benefits. Globalisation has increased the employment of female labour in some sectors as women are generally docile workers (Bacchus, 2005). But, the vulnerability of women to violence against women has increased after globalization (Soentoro, 2004). Human trafficking and forced prostitution have emerged as major problems. Poor women are forced into the brothels of large cities and tourist hubs. However, outmigration of women has occurred due to some other factors also. In some South Asian countries like Sri Lanka and Philippines a larger percentage of outmigration of women is due to higher levels of education of women and also due to high levels of unemployment of women in these countries (Bagchi, 1999). Break down of the families is one of the major effects of globalization that goes against the women (Pais, 2006).

3. Objectives: The main objective of the paper is to find out the effects of globalization on Indian women. The paper tries to bring out both the positive and negative effects that globalization has on the women of India.

4. Methodology: The methodology, to be used in the paper will be analytical in nature, based on the secondary sources. Various papers written on the subject are used for the purpose of analysis and derivation of conclusion. Papers are downloaded from the internet.

5. Results and Findings: In India, globalization has provided opportunities to the Indian women to join the economically active population of the country through opening up of more avenues of employment through the penetration of the market forces. The Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) in India is a union of women labourers searching for work opportunities and willing to work hard. Globalization has aided their opportunities in various ways. SEWA has established a Women's Cooperative Bank with 125,000 members, and through the aid of globalization, they have even reached the women in the rural areas of India. Markets in different areas can now be reached by Indian women who have a part in businesses and also by the craft-making women who have licenses to export their goods. These women are raising their standard of living by generating more income by harnessing newer opportunities.

Different non-profit organizations have entered India from around the globe. These organizations have helped women in acquiring the skills they need to advance, such as literacy and vocational skills. For example, one such organization, Indiacorps, has brought in a range of programmes to help women to help themselves. One programme in Ahmedabad, has taught poor women how to create different crafts to generate income. Women have become able to earn their own personal money which is being used to send the children to school.

With globalization, Indian media has grown stronger. Various women related issues are brought to the notice of common people by the media. This has helped in creation of public awareness to some extent.

Due to globalization prospects of higher education have become feasible for those women who can afford them. With employment of more women in advanced technological sector, attitude towards women has changed towards more gender equality for at least a section of Indian population. Good education, availability of jobs and adoption of family planning measures, have created a class of healthy and confident Indian women. Political participation of women has also increased, although reservation may be a major cause of it.

But, if we consider the majority of Indian women, globalization can not be regarded as a blessing for them. It has resulted in an increase of women's employment in low paid jobs, mainly in manufacturing. Female labour is wanted because women work in labour intensive industries at wages lower than men. Moreover, women workers are often submissive who obey production demands at any cost. Feminisation of flexible labour in industries is favoured by the employers not only due to reduction of labour costs, but also due to the extension of the working hours imposed on the female workers. This is more common in export oriented industries, specially promoted in export processing zones (EPZs), like garment, electronics and shoe industries.

Market forces are rapidly covering the rural areas and small towns, leading to the displacement of women engaged in agriculture, animal husbandry and various artisanal works. Mechanisation related to the market based economy has led to the destruction of the traditional economy and as a result migration to the urban areas has taken place. But, the most of the employment in the informal sector is low paid and exploitative. Women are compelled to work for long hours at deplorable working conditions. Their human rights are often violated and many of them fall prey to sexual exploitation. In many industries, there is no provision of maternity leave and the women have to lose jobs if they become pregnant. Forceful abortion is also found in some cases. One example of exploitation of women labour is found in the Noida Export Processing Zone, which is 24 km from New Delhi. The zone prefers to hire women because they are more docile and more productive than men. In short, they are easier to control and less likely to protest against the authority. The zone is dangerous, hot, and unsanitary. Sexual exploitation is very common. There are no maternity benefits and minimum wage is never enforced. Women who become pregnant or marry are immediately fired. Overtime is compulsory but women are paid lower rates than men. In fear of losing jobs, women turn to unsafe abortions performed by unqualified "doctors." In the zone, various health problems like respiratory problems, pelvic inflammatory disease, and severe cases of anemia are common.

With the development of transport and communication, human trafficking, mainly the trafficking of young girls has increased. Very young girls, even below the age of 18 are forced into the flesh trade through kidnapping, fake marriage etc. Poor parents marry off their young daughters to foreign nationals for the greed of money and many of these grooms sell their brides to the brothels.

Globalisation has resulted in the increase of the female headed households in India. 30% to 35% of all rural households in India are female headed. This is the result of male migration from urban to rural sectors. However, increase in the number of female headed households does not portray an optimistic picture for the women folks. Now the women are to bear the triple burden of household works, farming and the paid employment in the rural sector. Moreover, increase in the marital problems and divorce rates have led to the increase in the number of single mothers.

One of the disastrous effects of the globalization- born market economy is the increasing commoditization of women. Print and electronic media often use women as commodities in different advertisements. Growing consumerism has increased the greed of people leading to more dowry related deaths, even in some parts of the country where such incidence were rare a few decades back.

Growing privatisation of education has increased the education costs and the girls of poor families are the worst sufferers. Parents being unable to send both sons and daughters to the educational institutions, give preference to the sons.

Conclusion: It is seen that globalization has both the positive and negative effects on Indian women, but the negative effects often surpass the positive effects. As it is not possible to avoid the global forces at this stage, attempts should be made to minimize the adverse effects of globalization. In this sphere, the NGOs can play a major role by creating awareness about women rights. Global feminism should be build up by using the benefits of global information technology to fight for the legitimate rights of women.

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Globalization, Women And The Labyrinth Of Leadership

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The boundaries of the world have continually been challenged and reshaped throughout history and in present time they seem to be undergoing notable pressure particularly from economic, political and cultural forces. This process which has given a new dimension to the whole world- with the advent of increased technologies, speedier communications and the increased desire for economic expansion may be considered as globalization.

Globalization has a far reaching impact on the development of women. It has given women a stronger voice. Women's right is being increasingly recognized. More women are working, more girls are being educated, women are living longer and having fewer children, there are more females in business and in politics. Globalization led to a significant increase in women's employment and share in the work force. The ratio of female to male average earnings gradually soars up. However in corporate sector the picture is still very grim. In corporate sector women's achievements specially in leadership are not equal with that of men. Here in this study an attempt has been made to discuss the barriers of women in playing leadership role.

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