



Impact of globalization on Indian women in attaining social and economic opportunities gender equalities

Dr. Sohail Akhtar

Lecturer, Department of Sociology, DR. Z H I I College Nidhauri Kalan Etah, Uttar Pradesh, India

Abstract

Globalization is the process of increasing interdependence and integration among the economies, markets, societies, and cultures of different countries worldwide. This is made possible by the reduction of barriers to international trade, the liberalization of capital movements, the development of transportation, and the advancement of information and communication technologies. The term *globalization* first appeared in the early 20th century (supplanting an earlier French term *mondialisation*), developed its current meaning sometime in the second half of the 20th century, and came into popular use in the 1990s to describe the unprecedented international connectivity. The origins of globalization can be traced back to the 18th and 19th centuries, driven by advances in transportation and communication technologies. These developments increased global interactions, fostering the growth of international trade and the exchange of ideas, beliefs, and cultures. While globalization is primarily an economic process of interaction and integration, it is also closely linked to social and cultural dynamics. Additionally, disputes and international diplomacy have played significant roles in the history and evolution of globalization, continuing to shape its modern form. Economically, globalization involves goods, services, data, technology, and the economic resources of capital. The expansion of global markets liberalizes the economic activities of the exchange of goods and funds. Removal of cross-border trade barriers has made the formation of global markets more feasible. Advances in transportation, like the steam locomotive, jet engine, and container ships, and developments in telecommunication infrastructure such as the telegraph, the Internet, mobile phones, and smartphones, have been major factors in globalization and have generated further interdependence of economic and cultural activities around the globe.

Keywords: Interdependence, integration, liberalization, global interactions, cultural dynamics

Introduction

Globalization is the process whereby nations increase their inter-relatedness and interdependency through the spread of democracy, the dominance of market forces, the integration of economies in a worldwide market, the transformation of production systems and labor markets, the spread of technological change and the media revolution that results in sets of increasingly transnational and multinational economies and political structures and processes.

Globalization is not country based but company based and participation in global economy is not a choice but becomes a necessity. It is a transformation of global society resulting in the negation of territorial frontiers. There are various transnational factors that are considered as determinants of globalization such as macro-economic prescriptions, trade & travel, migration, food security, environmental degradation, technology & communication and foreign policy.

Although academics and economists differ on the definition of globalization, globalization can generally be defined as the integration of world economies by removing barriers to trade and encouraging the free flow of foreign investment, private portfolio capital and labor across national boundaries. The main principles upon which the entire theory of globalization is based are as follows:

- Sustained economic growth, as measured by gross national product, is the path to human progress.
- Free markets i.e., markets that are free from government intervention, generally result in the most efficient and socially optimal allocation of resources.
- Economic globalization, is achieved by removing barriers to the free flow of goods and money anywhere

in the world, which in turn fosters competition, creates jobs, increases economic efficiencies, lowers consumer prices, increases consumer's choice and is generally beneficial to everyone by increasing overall economic growth.

- Privatization, which transfers functions and assets from government to the private sector, improves efficiencies.

Impact of Globalization on Women in India

Within the past two decades, globalization has created a tremendous impact on the lives of women in India. Globalization can be defined as "a complex economic, political, cultural, and geographic process in which the mobility of capital, organizations, ideas, discourses, and peoples have taken a global or transnational form" (Moghadam, 1999) ^[9]. With the establishment of international free trade policies, such as North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and GATT, transnational corporations are using the profit motive to guide their factories toward developing nations in search of "cheap" female labor. Corporations prefer female labor over male labor because women are considered to be "docile" workers, who are willing to obey production demands at any price. In developing nations, certain types of work, such as garment assembly, is considered to be an extension of female household roles. Therefore, cultural influences in developing nations also impacts employment stratification. Bringing a high demand of employment opportunities for women in developing nations creates an instantaneous change within the social structure of these societies. Although the demand for female employment brings about

an array of opportunities and a sense of independence, the glass ceiling continues to exist with the “feminization of poverty” (Moghadam, 1999) ^[9]. Given these circumstances and the empirical evidence collected in the various studies, does globalization have an overall positive or negative impact on the lives of women in developing nations like India?

Economic Impact of Globalization on Women in India

Women are defined as housewives and forced to a status of invisibility. Women are engaged in different kinds of works within and outside the domestic sphere, but it continues to be a long struggle to even get women’s work recognized and acknowledged that the burden of domestic work, wild rearing and care of household members, constitutes a major chunk of work undertaken by women, there is a limited understanding of what is actually involves. There is a need for regulatory frameworks designed to protect women from the negative effects of globalization with regards to health and safety, occupational standards etc. Women in other.

Sectors have lost their jobs as a result of technological advances. For example, several traditional industries where women work in large numbers like handloom and food processing have undergone changes in the forms of production with the introduction of machines, power looms etc, which have result in the loss of employment for large number of women. Unemployment, underemployment and temporary work are more common among women than among men. These subsets of workers do not have any social security or health care benefits. As a result, the work-related illnesses, which they suffer from, remain hidden. Furthermore, long-term unemployment constitutes a serious risk for the worker’s emotional stability, because it leads to poverty and deteriorates self-image and self-esteem.

No doubt, some aspects of globalization have provided women with greater opportunities to work but however, it has also led to gender wage differentials and the marginalization of women which is clearly reflected through segregation of women workers in certain specific jobs. Unfavorable working hours, lack of training and skill up-gradation opportunities and lesser career mobility in the formal sector of economy still prevail in almost every country. Therefore, a new vision for the future is required and we need to create an alternative society based on gender justice, ecological sustainability and local global democracy. At this juncture, societies need to see women as dynamic promoters of social transformation, and have a powerful influence on their ability to control their environment towards contributing to economic development. Though umpteen steps are taken in this direction like invoking equality and equity, discouraging discrimination, and lengthy legislations, the picture is still disheartening and remains only in the talk.

Thanks to globalization, school hours are now more flexible to the labour demands of girls, international organizations have built an increasing number of schools in India so that more children have access to these institutions and about 18 % of India’s teachers are female today. These influences of globalization will probably continue in the near future. NGOs support especially the basic human and therefore women’s rights for education in India. Thus, a decrease of illiteracy among women is expected in the next decades. Furthermore, the Indian government facilitated the access of girls to education, made the primary school compulsory for all children and put large amounts of money into the

educational system to provide an educated workforce to international companies. The state also tries to build up uniform school system, but the variety of languages, religions and the Indian caste system complicates these efforts. Regrettably, private educational programmes only promote male-dominated professional and technical courses, which are very lucrative for men but usually not for Indian women. In order to educate adults, the government developed in cooperation with international organizations documentations on TV at the adult schools. A special program for the alphabetization of women started in 1988 in several Indian states and was very successful.

Globalization in India led to a shift from subsistence to a market economy, which has had dramatic negative effects on women. The so-called “Green Revolution”, which aimed an increased yield of rice and wheat, resulted in the use of more technological equipment and less human workforce. The work, experience and knowledge of women were marginalized and their role in agriculture shifted to subsidiary workers rather than to being primary producers. Furthermore, men predominantly run the machines so that women are replaced. This process of commercialization and the focus on yield has created a situation where food is transported directly from the farm to the market. Before that, the majority of products were stored at home and the women had the possibility to exchange them for other commodities. The rural women mainly controlled the former system. Other negative effects of globalization can be observed in India. Large multinational corporations frequently push away local businesses such as tailoring, jobs usually taken by women. Supporters of the neoclassical theory argue that globalization can lead to a lack of unionization because very often governments tend to decrease labour rights in order to attract foreign capital. Therefore, working conditions in multinational companies are very often insufficient, people work very long hours without being paid well enough to make a good living. Often, a small group of foreigners end up making all the profit whereas locals are exploited, especially women since they are less likely to oppose. People who are already rich get even richer and mostly the money does not trickle down to the poorest who would really need the money but who instead get even poorer. These economic effects of globalization are often a race to the bottom, where leaders make concessions because they want to attract foreign capital.

The economic effects of globalization also improved the women’s human rights situation since global corporations in India have introduced certain incentive systems. Especially for companies such as McDonalds their brand image is paramount. If they violate human rights, which would of course include women’s rights, they would encounter great pressure from their consumers. The spotlight would be on them and they could loose their reputation as well as a lot of money. SO, this large scrutiny could be a factor that convinces companies to take part in the process of improving the human rights situation. Another positive effect of globalization in India is that foreigners tend to pay their workers more than local companies do. There are also many call-centres as well as IT-businesses that hire well-educated women. However, the overall appearance of women in business-life is still limited. Furthermore, we should not forget that many women cannot yet afford all this technology and are excluded of the process of technological globalization.

Corporations desire female labor for assembly production because women will work in labor-intensive industries at wages lower than men would accept, and in conditions that unions would not permit" (Moghadam, 1999) ^[9]. Females are attracted to assembly production because of the lack of opportunities for female employment in other industries (aside from the informal sector). The main reason for this lack of employment is gender employment segregation, which subjects women to inferior employment positions than those held by men. When comparing occupations, "nearly two-thirds of women in manufacturing are categorized as laborers, operators and production workers while only a few can be found in the administrative and managerial positions predominantly held by men" (Tzannatos, 1998). Corporations are reinforcing women's subordinate economic position in society by offering them inferior employment positions and wages that sustain this position.

The lack of protective tariffs allows corporations to take advantage of female workers. Aside from low wages, women are also subjected to work in hazardous conditions that can cause health problems. The film entitled, *The Hidden Face of Globalization* (2003), discusses the effects of globalization and free trade on women in Bangladesh. All of the garment workers are young women who work long, tedious hours in order to support their families. Lengthy work hours and pressures to meet work quotas have caused nervous breakdowns in several female factory workers. Workers in textile factories are exposed to dust and lint which can cause lung disease. Electronic factory workers are exposed to carcinogenic chemicals without proper ventilation or tools to handle the dangerous materials. *The Hidden Face of Globalization* (2003) also states that factory workers are rarely given breaks during the day and cannot afford to take sick days. Corporations, such as Sears and J C Penny, employ local sub-contractors in developing nations that "show little concern for the health of their employees" (Fuentes and Ehrenreich, 1998). The women are constantly verbally and physically abused in order to keep up with production demands from corporations. One woman in the film claimed that even though she was sick she had to continue working. Women are dying from working under such hazardous conditions.

Other researchers have found that although "working conditions, and job security in the export factories are inferior to those in the developed countries, they are comparable if not superior to those found in women's (and even men's) jobs in most other sectors of these still poor, underdeveloped local economies" (Lim, 1990) ^[6]. Women working in larger, modern factories have better opportunities for unionization. They are more capable than smaller factory workers to organize a political demonstration, such as a strike, to negotiate more rights. It is important to understand that when analyzing the economic conditions in developing nations, entirely Western views of social justice is liable to skew the literature available about working conditions and wages. Although women are subjected to certain terms and conditions, they are a significant improvement from traditional and alternative employment opportunities in these nations. The introduction of factory employment has improved the economic status for several families, even in the slightest way, as compared to other forms of employment. Regardless of the advantage of earning more capital in

manufacturing industries, "the wages earned are often insufficient to support a family" (Lim, 1997) ^[7]. Generally, females hold a secondary status –compared to males- in the household and work environment. Therefore, although women in export factories are likely to be paid higher wages than women who are farm workers, the wages are not enough to keep them from depending on the financial support of males in their family.

Cultural Impact of Globalization on Women in India

To understand the work place culture for Indian women, a brief note on women's empowerment in the present global scenario is highly essential. In the context of development, women's leadership and agency in social change have been levers for women's empowerment within communities. Women have sought to fight entrenched interests for community benefits, and through their collective strength, have earned a new identity. Women's rights around the world are an important indicator to understanding global well-being. Although women hold a unique position in every society, they still belong to a disadvantaged class of society due to various social barriers and impediments. Women are usually the most exploited and least privileged members of households and as the primary caregivers of their families; they are often overburdened with domestic work for their families. Notwithstanding their second-class status in several societies, women's issues have acquired salience. Pollution and industrial waste also have considerable impact on women's health. The smoke from household biomass, made up of wood, dung and crop residues, within a three-hour period is equivalent to smoking 20 packs of cigarettes. So, these women suffer from eye and respiratory problems, chronic bronchitis as well as lung cancer. To fight against this development, international organizations and governments have supported the foundation of the organization "Janani" in India. The aims of this institution are to train young couples in rural areas to become medical practitioners. They provide family planning services and explain the use of contraceptives as well as certain medicaments. These couples then go back to their villages and communicate the new information to all interested couples and especially women. Usually, Indian women are very shy and do not want to talk about sex with doctors being predominantly men. They only entrust these trained women. Janani states that women and men should be equal within partnerships. This is a wholly new way of thinking about women for the majority of men. The women being trained usually are more confident and have more power than before. The participating couples are a role model for many women. Today, more than 10,000 couples take part in this program. A result of this globalization based process is that women are increasingly accepted and respected by their husbands as equal human beings. Due to a global exchange process in the medical sector, modern abortion methods are becoming increasingly available for women also in rural areas of India. However, this is fuelling fears that the trend towards the abortion of female fetus is on the increase. The great influence of the WHO as well as of international NGOs on India improved women's health care rights on a large scale in recent years. Better education in the medical field, more vaccinations and medication as well as medical assistance for mothers and children ameliorated the situation of women.

The culture of female employment in developing nations is based on “formal labor, housework, and informal-sector production” (Ward, 1990) ^[14]. Only a small proportion of women work in export factories compared to the entire female population. Most work in agriculture, perform housework, or are employed in the informal sector. Females in these nations are limited in society by patriarchal control. These societies claim that female labor is an extension of their household chores. This ideology is “interwoven in the capitalist economy to justify women’s subordination on the global assembly line, in the home and informal sector” (Ward, 1990) ^[14]. Regardless of which sector of employment women are working in, they are given limited access to resources and authority over their work.

Furthermore, negative reports about Indian men abusing their women, child marriages and companies exploiting women caused an outcry of the international society, which kept tourists from travelling to certain parts of the country. International pressure led to the Child Marriage Restraint Act which “rose the minimum legal age for marriages from 15 to 18 for young women and from 18 to 21 for young men” (Coonrod, 1998). However, illegal child marriages are still common in rural areas. Women can be more easily informed about their rights and information is crucial in the betterment of their overall situation. Moreover, women can complain to the Human Rights Council if they feel that their human rights are violated (Simmons, B. 2006). Increased global awareness for culture enhanced the process of granting women more rights. Many new movies created by the Hollywood-influenced Bollywood industry show women in a very modern and self-confident way: The movie *Monsoon wedding*

e.g. points out the conflict of a young Indian girl who finds herself being torn between traditional and the due to globalization increasing influence of Western value. Most women who choose the option are housewives who do not receive enough money from their husbands to pay for the basic necessities for their family’s survival (i.e. food and clothing). These women cannot seek formal sector employment due to their family responsibilities within the household. Informal/ domestic jobs also provide a survival strategy for women dealing with husbands who don’t want to contribute enough of their wages to provide for the families.

Although women may feel a sense of empowerment, their wages are substantially low in comparison to their male counterparts. Also, “women have the smallest shops, are the least able to compete [in the informal-sector] and are subject to more government inspections than men” (Ward 1990) ^[14]. The glass ceiling also exists in developing nations. Women are given a “taste” of independence that does not allow them to ascend to the same managerial positions as men. The fact that male supervisors believe that garment assembly is an extension of “female work” at home, causes supervisors to stigmatize all women as labors rather promote them to managers. They are confined to these positions because of gender roles and expectations. However, “unemployed...men refused to participate in their wives ‘informal work because they felt they could be called away at any time for a waged job” (Ward, 1990) ^[14]. This double standard causes women in developing nations to develop double role of survival. The informal-sector enables women to maintain these roles without the dependence of her husband’s assistance.

There are other household issues that occur in relation to wages and survival. As mentioned earlier, several women seek informal jobs because their husbands are not contributing enough of their wages to ensure the family’s survival. These men “simply reduce the amount of money they transfer to their wives so as to be able to maintain their preexisting level of alcohol and tobacco consumption” (Elson, 1992) ^[3]. Alcohol and tobacco consumption usually leads to domestic arguments and is associated with domestic violence against women and children... [Because] the men would often beat up the women [and children] to demand money for drink[s] (Elson1992) ^[3]. Men’s addiction to alcohol and tobacco leads them to resort to using the money allocated towards household expenses after they have spent the money set aside for personal expenses. Several males would rather desert their families than give up alcohol or tobacco. Although this reduces the expenses within the household, females hold a subordinate position in society and are forced to depend on a man for adequate survival. The “number of women –headed households relying on insufficient and unstable remittances is reported to have grown” (Elson, 1992) ^[3]. Family abandonment by males can be another reason for the advancement of poverty in developing nations. The unequal gender wages and limited access to resources puts women in a disadvantaged position towards the survival of the families.

Another problem that exists among women in developing nations is that “unpaid domestic tasks are private rather than social and because they are both unpaid and private, there is no social system of incentives, of rewards and penalties, to encourage change” (Elson 1992) ^[3]. Women whose daily lives are centered around housework are solely dependent on their husbands for financial support. They do not have access to the public sector that will enable them to enter the market. The lack of assistance towards women who perform housework, places them in a vulnerable position in relation to their husbands. They might feel obligated to their husbands for financial needs and possibly withstand cases of abuse in order to provide for their families. In Malay Muslims societies, men are given authority over their wives because “women are believed to be particularly weak in spiritual essence...a condition which makes women susceptible to irrational and disruptive behavior” (Ong, 1987) ^[10].

Women are showing their strength by taking responsibility for their family after their husbands leave. Women in the informal-sector are also showing their strength by taking on assembly employment, while managing their familial responsibilities. The governments of developing nations are denying women the opportunities to expand their strength to their fullest potential. If men are afraid that giving women opportunities for advancement would decrease male power, they have already done so by disassociating themselves from the family unit. Men might feel that buying tobacco, alcohol, or abandoning their families are forms of domination over women, but females have found ways to support their families. Either through support networks or informal employment, women are using their strength to overcome obstacles. What if governments in developing nations developed a social services system to further assist the survival of families?

Generally, subordinate status in developing society shows a correlation with their motivation toward factory employment. Young, school aged females are socialized to

be passive and obedient in the classroom. In contrast, boys are encouraged to be leaders in the classroom and in class projects. In Indian society, males and females have to take an examination to proceed from primary to secondary school. Males who pass the exam, usually attend vocational or technical education to prepare for industrial jobs. Unfortunately for young women, “form three is the end of their school career [corporations take advantage of this by encouraging] school trips to the local FTZ after students have sat for their Form Three exams” (Ong, 1987) ^[10]. From this study, it is apparent that females are kept in a subordinate position in society by the incorporation of assembly production into their young lives.

Although a few females passed the Form Three exam and went on to further their education, “for most girls, however, Form Three is the end of their school career” (Ong, 1987) ^[10]. Girls who move on to higher levels of education are also motivated toward factory production but often become dissatisfied with “work conditions and... [look] for better employment opportunities elsewhere” (Ong, 1987) ^[10]. From this evidence, it appears that women with more educational opportunities have more options for earning living than females with a limited educational background. Why are more females than males likely to fail the Form Three exams?

The young girls are given household chores and are required to assist with childcare, whereas boys, spend their “free time... [on] extracurricular school activities” (Ong, 1987) ^[10]. Young females have to perform domestic chores in the house such as: cleaning and cooking, in addition to attending school and doing homework. Therefore, “their gradually increasing participation in these socially reproductive activities interferes with their... [performance] in school” (Ong, 1987) ^[10]. Several females are unable to maintain a balance between household and school work responsibilities. Upholding strong family bonds become a major goal in a female’s life and it eventually causes her to lose focus on school. In contrast, males are relieved from these responsibilities and use their free time towards the benefit of their education. The exam itself is tailored towards males. In several cases in the courses necessary to pass the exam is: “carpentry, agriculture, and domestic science (On, 1987). Females usually do not enroll in the first two courses because they are considered “masculine” subjects. Domestic science is also not taken because females are assumed to learn domestic responsibilities from their mothers and other roles performed at home. Therefore, females usually drop out of school because of this educational disadvantage.

Corporations target young female workers without thinking about the cultural changes that they create within developing societies. It appears that these females live a “westernized fantasy” by working in export factories. Corporations are imposing ethnocentric values (independence -both financial and socially) upon factory workers, without consideration for the implications that result from these value adjustments. The fact that female workers who leave the factories are forced to look for husbands in order to survive in society, makes it seem as though the efforts of these women to gain their independence were merely a waste of time. Corporations might be using the independence factor to lure young women into their factories. Nevertheless, females are still subjected to a subordinate status in society once they leave

the export factories. How can women reclaim this form of independence without depending on the males in developing nations for support?

Political Impact of Globalization on Women in India

Women in various communities throughout developing nations have created self-help groups that “might provide a springboard to transformation if...[women] were redirected toward women’s strategic gender needs as well as toward their practical gender needs” (Elson, 1992) ^[3]. Although women cannot prevent their husbands from leaving, they have joined together to address the problems in the public service sector, including: “housing, schools, nurseries, transport, social security, and hospitals” (Elson, 1992) ^[3]. As mentioned earlier, the SALs require cuts in public expenditure. Therefore, poor women and children are unable to gain adequate

access to the resources mentioned above. Women and children are suffering from the results of this inequality, as well as the effects of economic globalization. Since women are becoming the heads of households, shouldn’t the government acknowledge this form of social change and give them more access to resources?

Community support groups were somewhat successful in their attempts to implement prohibition in India. They’ve managed to reduce the amount of women being abused by their husbands over the consumption of alcohol. It is important to remember that “the degree to which survival and transformation strategies can be successful depends heavily on what happens to the international financial system” (Elson, 1992) ^[3]. Women will continue to work in the informal- sector, with or without the help of their husbands, to support their families. The only way for women to gain access to increased wages or social services is to reform the system that maintains their subordinate position. Joining together and forming support groups is a step in the right direction towards achieving more rights for women. Breaking through inequalities is the next step in the process towards achieving more rights for women in society.

Starting at the local level is important for women in developing nations because it enables more workers to join forces and create an awareness of women’s needs throughout their country. These women share common backgrounds such as: abuse, poverty, and lack of adequate wages and resources. Creating support groups unites women towards a common goal in achieving more rights. The governments within developing nations should become aware that while males are being given more rights, wages, and access to resources, they are using these rights frivolously. Women are responsible for most of the household necessities and should be compensated in order to meet these needs.

During the U.N.’s Decade for Women (1976-85), women’s groups from across international boundaries came together to discuss the impact of development on women in developing countries. Three goals that derived out of The Decade in order to reduce women’s oppressed position in developing nations are: “Equality [which] was seen primarily as a feminist issue coming from Western industrialized countries), Peace [which] was included at the request of the Eastern Socialist bloc), and Development [which] was perceived as key to the Third World countries of the South” (Bunch and Carrillo 1990) ^[1]. Feminism is the

main foundation of these goals, which essentially want to address and resolve the pressing issue of domination over the lives of women around the world.

The U.N. Decade sparked the “development of global feminism... [Where] women of the North and South [discuss] the diversity and commonality of our lives and about how to ‘develop a global perspective with each of our movements’ on all the issues that affect women” (Bunch and Carrillo 1990) ^[1]. The organizations that attended The Decade discussed the male bias in development that fails to consider women’s needs. Women are not considered in development projects because of the patriarchal “persistence in looking at women only in their roles as mothers, ‘rather than as active agents,’ workers, and managers of resources” (Bunch and Carrillo 1990) ^[1]. An example of this scenario exists in Peru, where women are unable to access water for their daily chores because the male who has sole access to the water pump, works in the fields during the day. If a woman was in charge of the pump, women in the village would have adequate access to the water needed to complete their daily chores. Giving women power over their daily chores would advance their positions in society.

It is also states that there are two long term goal of feminism: the achievement of women’s equality, dignity, and freedom of choice through women’s power to control their own lives within and outside the home and the removal of all forms of inequality and oppression through the creation of a more just social and economic order, nationally and internationally (Bunch and Carrillo, 1990) ^[1]. In regards to formal and informal employment, women’s work should be rewarded with wages and benefits that would enable them to support themselves and their family. Creating a just social and economic order will allow more women to further their education and to obtain managerial and technical positions. Allowing women who have worked in certain industry to be promoted to managerial or higher level employment would also enable them to earn more wages to support their families. As mentioned earlier, females are the main providers for their families- since males tend to spend their money on other means. Realizing this cultural factor and allocating higher paying jobs to females, would release their dependency on males for financial support.

As mentioned earlier, the informal sector continues to play an important role in the survival of women in developing nations. The “Self- Employed Women’s Association (SEWA) in India was one of the first organizations to define the various informal activities of women, such as vegetable vending, rag picking and producing goods at home for sale as work” (Desai, 2002) ^[2]. SEWA has been successful in unionizing informal workers in India and establishing an organization where a woman has become leaders. SEWA continues to empower women in India, allowing them to maintain control over various aspects of their daily lives.

Another issue facing women in developing nations is the privatization of healthcare. As mentioned earlier privatization “has greatly reduced government funded primary care, thus limiting [the] access... [of healthcare to women]...” (Desai, 2002) ^[2]. The Centre for Enquiry into Health and Allied Themes (CEHAT) in India conducts research on women’s health in India and provides health services to poor communities. Health Watch, which derived out of CEHAT, strives toward a “more woman centered approach to reproduction and eliminated the quotas that local health practitioners had to meet for population control”

(Desai, 2002) ^[2]. At the population conference in Cairo, the declaration emphasized that “the need to empower women and protect their human rights [is the best strategy of population control” (Desai, 2002) ^[2]. Giving women more employment opportunities and power over their reproductive health will enable women to make more decisions in terms of family planning.

The environmental movement is another cause that has derived out of development. Deforestation and desertification caused by the increased need of natural resources in globalization has created several obstacles in the lives of women in developing nations. For women “in the Third World, destruction of the environment means that women have to spend more time every day to gather wood for fuel, fodder for cattle, and fetch drinking water” (Desai, 2002) ^[2]. Spending more time on these chores results in less time spent on production in the informal sector. Therefore, women are not able to produce enough goods to ensure a sustainable income or maintain rural land development.

The Network also seeks to improve the wage and working conditions for women in all sectors of the economy in Central America. Their methods for improvement include “negation, lobbying, media campaigns, and electronically disseminated action alerts” (Mendez, 2002) ^[8]. The Network also maintains records of human rights violations and other labor conditions of their research in factories. The Network uses careful tactics while lobbying so that they don’t urge factories to the point of relocation. This “greatly limits The Network’s ability to engage in the kinds of political maneuvering that have been successful for other transnational advocacy networks, such as international boycotts...” (Mendez, 2002) ^[8]. The Network used the media to gain attention to this factory and was successful in their attempts to monitor the factory conditions. Kathy Lee was in a position where relocation was not an option because if she did, the media would expose the conditions in the new factory. Therefore, NGOs have a significant impact of on the lives of women in developing nations and offer women a form of support and protection against unfair conditions.

Conclusion

Globalization has reduced the ability of women in developing nation to find paid work that offers security and dignity (Desai, 2002) ^[2]. Although women’s roles in the labor force have changed from traditional agricultural and domestic roles, to manufacturing and assembly production, the overall effect of globalization (based on the literature used in this analysis) has proven to be negative. There are empirical claims of women gaining more autonomy over their own wages and a feeling of independence from traditional gender roles in society- especially in marriage and childrearing. Women are also becoming the breadwinners in most households because of the lack of male responsibility in the household. Young daughters are financially supporting their parents and fellow siblings, while mothers (married or single) are seeking informal work to provide for their children. Globalization has changed the intra house hold responsibilities for males and females, where females are given more responsibility over the survival of the family. Males are no longer the providers- yet they have more opportunities for financial and social advancement in society. They fail to include females in managerial and upper-level positions. The limited

achievement woman in the formal sector shows a great disregard for their social and economic responsibilities within developing nations. Female labor is not rewarded in relation to the impact they have on society. Therefore, women's work continues to be stigmatized as inferior, in comparison to Males work, regardless of their increased responsibilities in society.

The establishment of various NGOs around the globe and the collaborative efforts of these organizations have improved the lives of women in developing nations. The U.N. Decade recognized the importance of female labor in developing nations and the fact that economic policies fail to address the needs of females. Representatives from NGOs agreed that global feminism should be established to reduce the inequality facing women in these nations and to improve the advancement of women in society. As a result of The U.N. Decade, NGOs in throughout the developing world have reached out to women to meet their needs in farming, environmental protection, healthcare, domestic issues, employment conditions, and to reduce the financial strains in their everyday lives. The collective organization of women's groups

throughout the world has also generated the attention of the media, which is necessary in educating the general public about the current issues facing women in developing nations. The continued efforts of these groups and the economic realization of the importance of women's work will eventually create greater social awareness about the inequalities facing women in these nations.

The economic policies and structural adjustments associated with globalization create the most negative impact on women in the developing world. The denial of social and economic rights is the most inhumane aspect associated with the formal and informal sectors. Economists and policy makers who implement these adjustments need to consider the impact of the current policies on women's lives and the inequalities that exist between men and women. Enabling the advancement of female opportunities and guaranteeing female workers more rights will increase the quality of life and create more sustainable living standard for women and their families in the developing world. Without these changes, women will continue to suffer in their subordinate positions within the economic market.

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