



Globalization Impact on Human Rights of Women

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ABSTRACT

The term "women's human rights" and the set of practices that accompanies its use are the continuously evolving product of an international movement to improve the status of women. In the 1980s and 1990s, women's movements around the world formed networks and coalitions to give greater visibility both to the problems that women face every day and to the centrality of women's experiences in economic, social, political and environmental issues. In the evolution of what is becoming a global women's movement, the term "women's human rights" has served as a locus for praxis, that is, for the development of political strategies shaped by the interaction between analytical insights and concrete political practices.

There are many different definitions of globalization, but most acknowledge the greater movement of people, goods, capital and ideas due to increased economic integration which in turn is propelled by increased trade and investment. It is like moving towards living in a borderless world.

During the United Nations Decade for Women (1976-1985), women from many geographical, racial, religious, cultural, and class backgrounds took up organizing to improve the status of women. The United Nations-sponsored women's conferences, which took place in Mexico City in 1975, Copenhagen in 1980, and Nairobi in 1985, were convened to evaluate the status of women and to formulate strategies for women's advancement. These conferences were critical venues at which women came together, debated their differences and discovered their commonalties, and gradually began learning to bridge differences to create a global movement. In the late eighties and early nineties, women in diverse countries took up the human rights framework and began developing the analytic and political tools that together constitute the ideas and practices of women's human rights.

Key words: *Globalization, Human Rights, Women Rights, Women human Rights*

1. Objective:

Studying the impact of globalization on the human rights of women serves the crucial objectives of promoting gender equality, identifying areas of progress and challenges, influencing policies and advocacy

efforts, empowering women, addressing disparities, and ensuring that women's human rights are protected and advanced in a rapidly changing globalized world.

Globalization is a multifaceted phenomenon with both positive and negative impacts on women's human rights. Studying this relationship helps in understanding the nuances and complexities of how globalization affects women. One of the primary objectives of studying globalization's impact on women's rights is to advance gender equality. By identifying areas where globalization has improved women's rights and areas where challenges persist, policymakers and advocates can work toward policies and initiatives that promote gender equality. Research in this area helps identify regions or countries where globalization has positively influenced women's rights, serving as examples for others to follow and replicate successful strategies. Knowledge about how globalization affects women's rights empowers women themselves, enabling them to make informed choices and decisions in a rapidly changing globalized world.

2. Introduction:

The term "women's human rights" and the set of practices that accompanies its use are the continuously evolving product of an international movement to improve the status of women. In the 1980s and 1990s, women's movements around the world formed networks and coalitions to give greater visibility both to the problems that women face every day and to the centrality of women's experiences in economic, social, political and environmental issues. In the evolution of what is becoming a global women's movement, the term "women's human rights" has served as a locus for praxis, that is, for the development of political strategies shaped by the interaction between analytical insights and concrete political practices.

The concept of women's human rights owes its success and the proliferation of its use to the fact that it is simultaneously prosaic and revolutionary. On the one hand, the idea of women's human rights makes common sense. It declares, quite simply, that as human beings women have human rights. Anyone would find her or himself hard-pressed to publicly make and defend the contrary argument that women are not human. So in many

ways, the claim that women have human rights seems quite ordinary. On the other hand, "women's human rights" is a revolutionary notion. This radical reclamation of humanity and the corollary insistence that women's rights are human rights have profound transformative potential. The incorporation of women's perspectives and lives into human rights standards and practice forces recognition of the dismal failure of countries worldwide to accord women the human dignity and respect that they deserve—simply as human beings. A woman's human rights framework equips women with a way to define, analyze, and articulate their experiences of violence, degradation, and marginality. Finally, and very importantly, the idea of women's human rights provides a common framework for developing a vast array of visions and concrete strategies for change.

3. Background: Globalization and Human Rights:

There are many different definitions of globalization, but most acknowledge the greater movement of people, goods, capital and ideas due to increased economic integration which in turn is propelled by increased trade and investment. It is like moving towards living in a borderless world.

Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, this world is one family, is an ancient and core part of Indian philosophy. Strange, that globalization is often portrayed as a recent western imposition on India and the world. Goods and people have moved across the globe for centuries, in fact, far more easily than now. Neither passports nor visas were required, and traders, pilgrims and adventurers moved around without let or hindrance.

The word 'globalization' is now used widely to sum up today's world order. It means the world is increasingly integrated into one capitalist political economy operating under a neo-liberal free market ideology. Economic globalization as witnessed in the world today is not a new phenomenon. It has been evolving for the past several years and gaining momentum day by day. The trend, at present, is a shift from a world economy based on national market economies to a borderless global market economy increasingly governed by one set of rules. In this context, globalization means global economic liberalization, developing a global financial

system and a transnational production system which is based on a homogenized worldwide law of value. The demise of the Cold War helped the emergence of a new aggressive competitive global economic order. This was possible mainly due to the integration of the newly industrialized countries and much of the developing nations.

The belief that everyone, by virtue of her or his humanity, is entitled to certain human rights is fairly new. Its roots, however, lie in earlier tradition and documents of many cultures; it took the catalyst of World War II to propel human rights onto the global stage and into the global conscience.

Throughout much of history, people acquired rights and responsibilities through their membership in a group – a family, indigenous nation, religion, class, community, or state. Most societies have had traditions similar to the "golden rule" of "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." The Hindu Vedas, the Babylonian Code of Hammurabi, the Bible, the Quran (Koran), and the Analects of Confucius are five of the oldest written sources which address questions of people's duties, rights, and responsibilities.

Human rights documents asserting individual rights, such the Magna Carta (1215), the English Bill of Rights (1689), the French Declaration on the Rights of Man and Citizen (1789), and the US Constitution and Bill of Rights (1791) are the written precursors to many of today's human rights documents. Yet many of these documents, when originally translated into policy, excluded women, people of color, and members of certain social, religious, economic, and political groups. Nevertheless, oppressed people throughout the world have drawn on the principles these documents express to support revolutions that assert the right to self-determination.

4. The Concept of Women's Human Rights

During the United Nations Decade for Women (1976-1985), women from many geographical, racial, religious, cultural, and class backgrounds took up organizing to improve the status of women. The United Nations-sponsored women's conferences, which took place in Mexico City in 1975, Copenhagen in 1980, and Nairobi in 1985, were convened to evaluate the status of women and to formulate strategies for women's advancement. These conferences were critical venues at which women came together, debated their differences and discovered their commonalities, and gradually began learning to bridge differences to create a global movement. In the late eighties and early nineties, women in diverse countries took up the human rights framework and began developing the analytic and political tools that together constitute the ideas and practices of women's human rights.

Taking up the human rights framework has involved a double shift in thinking about human rights and talking about women's lives. Put quite simply, it has entailed examining the human rights framework through a gender lens, and describing women's lives through a human rights framework. In looking at the human rights framework from women's perspectives, women have shown how current human rights definitions and practices fail to account for the ways in which already recognized human rights abuses often affect women differently because of their gender. This approach acknowledges the importance of the existing concepts and activities, but also points out that there are dimensions within these received definitions that are gender-specific and that need to be addressed if the mechanisms, programs, and the human rights framework itself are to include and reflect the experiences of the female half of the world's population.

When people utilize the human rights framework to articulate the vast array of human rights abuses that women face, they bring clarifying analyses and powerful tools to bear on women's experiences. This strategy has been pivotal in efforts to draw attention to human rights that are specific to women that heretofore have been seen as women's rights but not recognized as "human" rights. Take, for example, the issue of violence

against women. The Universal Declaration states: "No one shall be subject to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment." This formulation provides a vocabulary for women to define and articulate experiences of violence such as rape, sexual terrorism and domestic violence as violations of the human right not to be subject to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. The recognition of such issues as human rights abuses raises the level of expectation about what can and should be done about them. This definition of violence against women in terms of human rights establishes unequivocally that states are responsible for such abuse. It also raises questions about how to hold governments accountable for their indifference in such situations and what sorts of mechanisms are needed to expedite the process of redress.

In this paper we exclusively focus on the impact of globalization on human rights of women. The study also aims to analyze the Development and Impact of Globalization on Human Rights and provoke the whole world to think about implementation of these human rights.

5. Globalization: Development and Human Rights:

The relation between globalization, development and human rights raises policy and legal questions. One such question is whether globalization of market-oriented economic system is essential for development and protection of human rights? While searching for an answer to this question we should analyze how we perceive the concept of development and human rights, especially in the context of developing countries. Human rights have become an integral part of the process of globalization in many ways. The Western countries are increasingly using their view of human rights concept as a yardstick to judge developing countries and to deal with economic and trade relations to extend development assistance. At the same time globalization intensifies impoverishment by increasing the poverty, insecurity, fragmentation of society and thus violates human rights and human dignity of millions of people.

Development or economic development is widely perceived as a historical process that takes place in almost all societies characterized by economic growth and increased production and consumption of goods and services. Development is also often used in a normative sense as a multi-valued social goal covering such diverse spheres as better material well-being, living standards, education, health care, wider opportunities for work and leisure, and in essence the whole range of desirable social and material welfare. But, in today's globalization, the concept of development itself is interpreted differently and the concept of right to development is not taken seriously.

The Preamble of the Declaration of the Right to Development, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1986, describes "development as a comprehensive economic, social, cultural and political process that aims at the constant improvement of the well-being of the entire population and of all individuals on the basis of their active, free and meaningful participation in development and in the fair distribution of resulting benefits". The 1990 UN Global Consultation on the Right to Development as a Human Right, stated that the right to development is an inalienable human right with the human being as the central subject to the right and that all the aspects of the right to development set forth in the Declaration of the Right to Development are indivisible and interdependent, and these include civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights. It was further maintained that the right to development is the right of individuals, groups and peoples to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy continuous economic, social, cultural and political development, in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized. A development strategy that disregards or interferes with human rights is the very negation of development.

6. Impact of Globalization on Human Rights:

Human rights have been on the international schema of things since the end of the World War II, certainly since 1948, but their violation as consequence of globalization has not been adequately scrutinized. The "international bill of human rights" holds states accountable for realization of human rights. But in the

contemporary era it is the private global players that are frequently the most egregious violators of rights, and as far as their accountability is concerned they are accountable to none. Strikes and demonstrations protesting worsening labor conditions have become widespread, including in communally based societies where individual political action has been rare. Political authorities often react to this strife by increasing restrictions on civil and political rights and, at times, grossly violating basic rights, such as the right to life, in an effort to control the labor force.

Human rights violations (whether of individual civil/political, economic/social, or minority rights) as a consequence of destructive social change resulting from globalization might result, at least in some instances, in radical shifts in a society's cultural values and norms that, in turn, may lead to a reconfiguration of the substance of traditional or historic notions of human rights. The outcome of this search for a revitalized identity and meaning is unpredictable. There may be a reinforcement of an exclusive communalism with little personal autonomy or there may be a loosening of communal ties and an expansion of individual demands based on class. The evidence points in both directions. Clearly globalization has had a deleterious effect on the entire complex of human rights, resulting in significant transformations in the behavior and values of masses of humanity across the globe.

The negative shock of globalization has, it should be noted, affected not only non-Western societies, but those of advanced, industrialized Western Europe, the United States, and Japan. The consequences of globalization for the poor and middle class in the United States are enormous.

Some of the benefits of globalization contribute to the enhancement of human rights. Increased trade often aids developing countries and thus contributes to the mitigation of poverty; increased communication permits countries to learn from each other. In the sphere of human rights, communication via email has permitted human rights advocates in their locality and to communicate with other human rights advocates throughout the world.

However there are other less beneficent effects on human rights arising from globalization. The emphasis on competitiveness and economic development has had especially negative effects on such vulnerable groups as migrant workers, indigenous peoples and migrant women. Globalization has been cited as a contributing factor in violations of the right to life, the right to protection of health, the right to safe and healthy working conditions and freedom of association in many countries.

. While the rules and policies of the global economy are important in shaping an international and social order conducive to the protection of human rights, the active features of globalization, the growth in trade and financial flows, the new information and communication technology and the growth in size and power of corporations, have a dynamism of their own which affect human rights in ways beyond the rules and policies referred to above. The following section issues needing further research concerning some of the possible impacts of these processes on the enjoyment of human rights. The summary of issues is built on recognition of the many positive effects that the processes of globalization have on the enjoyment of human rights for many. However, from a human rights perspective, the principles of equality and nondiscrimination underline the importance of promoting the human rights of all. This concern forms the basis for the identification of the issues that follow. The issues are identified in order to assist States in identifying factors relevant for a continuing dialogue on globalization.

7. Globalization Impact on Human Rights of Women:

There is no unambiguous answer to the question how economic globalization affects the lives of women worldwide. In order to be able to analyze the impact of globalization on women one should be able to isolate the factors which are linked to the globalization process and which causes changes in the position of women,

thereby excluding possible other factors which also affect women's position but which are not directly linked to the globalization process.

Generally it has been submitted that globalization affects women differently in different parts of the world and within different social groupings. Moreover, a common understanding is that the impact may include both positive and negative aspects. For example in areas with export-driven industries the establishment of new industries may provide new opportunities of employment and thereby regular income for women and men. In fact empirical evidence shows a significant increase in women's share of industrial employment in developing countries such as Bangladesh, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines. However, at the same time these new employment opportunities might be coupled with inferior working conditions and low remuneration. For women living in countries at the margin of the globalization process (e.g. Sub-Saharan Africa) the employment opportunities are much more scarce forcing the majority of women into the informal sector often with poverty as the result.

The impact of globalization on women has been linked to an increase in sexual exploitation of women in the form of trafficking for prostitution particularly in countries undergoing rapid economic transformation.

In sum, present globalization trends and policies influence a number of human rights both civil and political as well as economic, social and cultural rights. However, it seems reasonable to conclude that particularly economic, social and cultural rights are threatened when addressing the position of women in a global economy.

8. Conclusion:

The above preliminary overview of impact of globalization on human rights of women identifies evidence to suggest that while globalization provides potential for the promotion and protection of human rights through economic development, increased wealth, greater interconnection between people and cultures and new opportunities for development, its benefits are not being enjoyed evenly at the current stage.

Globalization has its negative and positive aspects. It creates both help and hindrance in realization of women's human rights. With the expansion of trade, market, foreign investment, developing countries have seen the gaps among themselves widen. Globalization as a concept is neither pro women human rights nor anti human rights, it could offer opportunities for promotion of women human rights as well as abridgement of human rights, at national and international prospect. Now we have to decide that whether globalization should be boon for human rights or bane!

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