

Impact of globalization on marginalized Society: A case Study of India

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Abstract

Indian economy in general and Indian society in particular has changed in a significant way which has in turn impacted the marginalized communities in India. Globalization through the instrument of structural framework of economic policies has a direct impact on the marginalized groups. On the other hand the neo-liberal policies formulated and executed by the state have also played an important part in marginalization of various groups particularly scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and women. The paper argues that globalization with its neo-liberal driven economic policies have a negative impact on marginalized groups whether for weaker sections of society, women, tribal, etc. The paper has studied the globalization as a process which has altered the socio-economic and political environment of marginalized sections of Indian society.

Introduction

Globalization over the three decades has become a buzz word¹ which has impacted every section of Indian society. Globalization as a process of structural adjustment is emerging as a process that is eroding the authority of state, the implications of which are far reaching to Indian economy and society.² Globalization means different things to different people, to some it is a world with no barriers, to some it is a world of doom, erosion, displacement and destruction. In general, there are some broad features as integration of economies and erosion of societal barriers, transnational flow of information, of ideas, financial and capital investment and the flow

¹ K.Ojha, "Globalisation and Liberalisation - Prospects of New World", *Third Concept*, August 2002, P. 13

² Ibid

of people. The essential feature of globalization therefore is connectivity in all sphere of human interaction whether economic or social, cultural and political.³

Thus a precise definition of globalization is yet to be formed but some of them are worth mentioning. Stephen Gill has defined globalizations as reduction in the transaction costs of trans border movements of capital and goods, thus of factors of production and goods⁴ while David Held has observed that: Transnational networks and relations have developed virtually across all areas of human activity, goods, capital, people, knowledge, communication and weapons as well as crime, pollutants, fashions and beliefs rapidly move across territorial boundaries. Far from the world of discrete civilisations, or in a simple phrase an international society of states, it has become a fundamentally interconnected global order, marked by intense pattern of exchange as well as by clear patterns of power, hierarchy and unevenness⁵. Anthony Giddens has observed globalization as organizational clusters in capitalist world, in which global network of nation state is universalizes where time space distinction makes local-global interface a complex problem. According to him, *“Globalisation can then be defined as the intensification of worldwide social relations which link distant localities in such a way that local happenings are shaped by events many miles away and vice versa. This is a dialectical process because such happenings may move in an obverse direction from the very distanced relations that shape them. Local transformation is as much a part of globalisation as the lateral extension of social connections across time and space”*⁶.

Considering the background of these definitions an attempt has been made to analyse the impact of globalization on marginalized communities in India. We have taken the meaning of Marginalization in the paper as those groups who have been denied the opportunities and outcomes and who are „living on the margins“ by those who are „at the center“. Marginalization is a combination of social, economic and political discrimination and social exclusion. Those who are at the center in India particularly the upper and upper middle class have been benefited

³Rangarajan C, globalization, concepts and concerns-I, the Hindu, 6 January 2003, available at <https://www.thehindu.com/2003/01/06/stories/2003010600451000.htm> Accessed on 6th April 2019

⁴Gill.Stephen, “Globalization: Market Civilization and Disciplinary Neo liberalism”, Millenium, Vol. 24(3), 1995, pp 399-42

⁵ Held.David (et al), “Global Transformation: Politics, economics and culture”, Prenty Press, Cambridge, 1999, P.49, quoted by A.K Ojha,Op, Cited, p. 13

⁶Giddens, Anthony, *The Consequences of Modernity*, Polity Press, Cambridge, 1990, p.64

by the globalization but those at the margin, for example lower caste and lower middle class, tribal's, minorities and women in general who were already at the margin were more marginalized by globalization. Marginalization erodes human dignity and denies human rights especially the right to equality with its combination of discrimination and exclusion.⁷ And the mostly visible impact of globalization has been on the groups who were already traditionally marginalized.

Marginalized Groups and globalization: An Overview

The various marginalized groups who have been further marginalized groups because of globalization are discussed as under:

Scheduled caste groups:

Scheduled caste groups known as Dalits are at the bottom of caste hierarchy of Hindu society. They have been the one of the most marginalized community in India and victim of social exclusion and oppression. They are economically most backward and socially marginalized. Although Dalits have made some progress since independence due to affirmative action but they still are marginalized on various social and economic indicators such as illiteracy, unemployment heavy dependence on agriculture and the situation is worse if we consider residence, housing, poverty and health conditions and these have been aggravated by the globalization.⁸ Globalization has affected the level of education among Dalits as the commercialization and privatization of education increased it becomes more and more difficult for them to attend those costly institutions because of their low income. Sine majority of upper caste and upper income groups go to private institutions, government's schools, colleges and higher learning institutions have become dysfunctional for marginalized groups like Dalits.⁹

⁷ Globalization & Marginalization: Discussion Guide to the Jesuit Task Force Report, *Loyal Institute*, July 2007. Available at <http://www.sjweb.info/documents/sjs/docs/globalizationandmarginalizationdiscussionguide.pdf> Accessed on 7th April 2019

⁸ Kakde Suresh, "Globalization and Scheduled Castes ", in Karade Jagan (ed.), *Development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in India*, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, U.K., 2008, pp, 11-12

⁹ Ram Ronki, "Globalisation, Dalits and Social Democracy", *boloji.com*, 7 July 2012 available at <https://www.boloji.com/articles/12418/globalisation-dalits-and-social-democracy> Accessed on 9th April 2019

Another area where the globalization has negatively impacted Dalits is their traditional occupations are increasingly erased. Dalits traditionally have been involved in the occupations of household productions, agricultural production and low income occupations which is now being replaced with the global capitalist productions. The mass production with heap priers because of liberalization of economy has resulted in the devastation of their livelihood.¹⁰ The most catastrophic effect of globalization has been on agrarian sector which is deepening and has affected rural sector held by Dalits. Vast majority of Dalits live in villages approximately 89% of them among whom 50% are landless laborers and remaining 26 per cent are marginal farmers. Only a small number among them have substantial holdings.¹¹ As a consequence of liberalization policies which are an integral part of globalization, marginalized sections like Dalits have lost their land. There is evidence that landlessness has increased among Dalits during last three decades of globalization. The acquisition of land from Dalits for big companies and corporations has increased discontent and conflict which is evident in Naxal movements in many parts of India. Due to snatching of land from Dalits employment of agrarian sector is fallen sharply among rural people who have affected Dalits the most.¹²

Scheduled Tribes

The major effect of globalization on tribal's in India is that they have been displaced from their traditional lands. Because of the construction of development projects of 1500 since independence it is estimated that over 16 million rural people were displaced among whom 40 per cent were tribal population. The destruction of life and natural habitat and displacement of tribal population continues under the garb of development.¹³ Before the advancement in technology it was hard to encroach in tribal lands but the modern technology along with political will and capitalism have created favorable conditions for the evasion and extraction of natural resources from the ecologically fragile territories of tribal people. Therefore the displacement of

¹⁰ Sunar Giri Bahadur, "Dalits and Globalisation", My Republica, 2012. Available At [http://www. My republica. Com/portal/index. phy? Action = news_details & news_id = 38813](http://www.Myrepublica.Com/portal/index.phy?Action=news_details&news_id=38813). Accessed on 9th April 2019

¹¹ Teltumbde Anand, "Reflecting Dalit Movement In The Era of Globalization", countercurrents.org., 2011, Available At <https://www.countercurrents.org/sikand020811.htm>. Accessed on 9th April 2019

¹² George Goldy M., "Globalisation, Fascism And Dalits", countercurrents.org., 2006. Available At <https://www.countercurrents.org/dalit-george020906.htm>. Accessed on 9th April 2019

¹³ Sah, D.C., "Displacement and Rehabilitation" in "Tribal Situation in India", (ed. Vidyut Joshi)

tribal's continues which is mostly the result of privatization which is a feature of globalization.¹⁴ in central Indian belt there is a heavy concentration of industrial bases for example big steel plants, BALCO, NALCO, heavy engineering etc. and the density of tribal population is also concentrated in these belts, despite heavy concentration of industrial base the employment among tribal's has not increased. Apart from government provided reservation there is no such provision in private, or joint sector enterprises to provide employment to scheduled tribe people. Therefore they mostly rely on unorganized labor market which is often low paid and insecure. about 40 per cent of tribal's work in this unorganized sector where they are rushed.¹⁵ Another impact of globalization has been the building of large dams around the centers of tribal belt approximately 60 percent of these dams is constructed in western and central India where 80 percent of tribal population lives. Although there is not a exact figure of displacement of tribal's due to dams but estimates range between 5 and 7 million primarily due to construction of dams, unregulated mines and industrial factories which means that one in every ten tribal's has been displaced by these projects which is largely due to globalization¹⁶ and in turn pushes them to marginalization.

Globalization and Marginalization of Women

The globalization has very adverse effects on women's livelihood, employment and education in India. increase in violence against women; deterioration of the health system; increase in female headed households as men lose jobs or are pushed out of their traditional income-generating roles; shrinking of resources available to women; increasing women's total labor hours, etc. The marginalization of women in economic activities has the added impact of pushing an increasing number of women into the informal or casual sector, which is characterized by low productivity, minimal incomes, and a lack of economic and social security, and lack of enforcement of labour laws. For instance use of new technology in agricultural production has shifted women into operations which are unrecorded and unlisted as economic activity, being counted in home based production, leading to a greater invisibility of women's work. Not only are an increasing number of women pushed into the informal sector, but even in

¹⁴ Pathy, Janganath, "Impact of Development Projects on Tribals" in "Tribal Situation in India",. Vidyut Joshi (ed.)

¹⁵ Pathy, Janganath, "Impact of Development Projects on Tribals" in "Tribal Situation in India",. Vidyut Joshi (ed.)

¹⁶ *Ibid*

this sector they are to be found at the lower end of the scale with very few in entrepreneurial positions. Most women are involved in various kinds of low-income activity, in casual or seasonal work, often of an unskilled and physically demanding nature, with low productivity, long hours and little opportunity for upward mobility. The actual extent of their work in this sector becomes extremely difficult to gauge because many of them help in carrying out activities of the production process which are not counted as work at all, like bringing the clay and water for pottery, or pre-processing the yarn for textile production.¹⁷ In spite of, this in general, the impact of globalization on women and work varies from sector to sector. In most cases globalization expands opportunities for women in work place, but it does not remove barriers to advancement Globalization has” reduced the ability of women in developing nations to find paid work that offers security and dignity” . 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 evidence has proven to be negative.

Conclusion

Although there are various other groups in this country who have been marginalized because of process of globalization but these three groups have been most severely affected by globalization and its progenies such as liberalization, privatization and neo-liberal economic policies. In some sectors these three groups have improved their sale of economic prosperity but overall their income and their traditional roles are eroded and they have been subjected to marginalization in India. Therefore there is an urgent and honest need to look into their problems and address them

¹⁷ Ajeet Jaiswal, “An Anthropological Vision on the Impact of Globalization on Indian Rural Women: A Critical Reality”, *Arts and Social Science Journal*, Vol. 5, no, 2, 2014, pp.02-09