

Impact of the Globalization in the Socio-Economic Development of Women in Nagaon District of Assam: A Case Study on Hatigaon and Borachuck of Nagaon District

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“Where globalization means, as it so often does, that the rich and powerful themselves at the cost of the poorer and weaker, we have a responsibility to protest in the name of universal freedom”----- Nelson Mandela.

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Abstract

The world is in a fluctuation. The change weather in technologies, telecommunications or travel, affects our daily lives. Globalization is the multi-dimensional process. Even though it is frequently implicit; basically in economic terms that linked to the establishment of an interlocking global economy. Along with this socio cultural implication is also significant. In this globalised world women has greatly influenced by this modernity. With the times of yore the lives of women has been impact by globalization in developing nations. Globalization may be denoted as a complex economic, political, cultural, and geographic process in which the mobility of capital, organization, ideas, discourses and peoples has taken a global or transnational form. Globalization has momentous impact on multiple sphere of life. The status of any section of population in a society is closely connected with its economic position. The development strategy which neglects the need for enhancing the role of women cannot show the way to socio-economic development. Globalization has contributed in reshaping the identity and the role of women which challenged straight ideas about gender roles. During the past two decades women have entered the work force throughout the world due to the rise and demand in the service sector. So in the current wave of globalization has greatly improved the lives of women worldwide, particularly the lives of those women in the developing world. Nevertheless, women remain disadvantage in many areas of life, including education, employment, health and civil rights. The present study determined to analyze the socio-economic effects of globalization on women in Nagaon with special reference of the two villages i.e. Hati Gaon and Bora Chuck. The major objectives of the study were to find out the impacts of globalization on women's socio-economic position and their participant in different economic activities.

Key-words: Globalization, Society, Economy, Development, women.

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1. Introduction:

Globalization is a rising phenomenon for the last few decades. It is multi dimensional in nature and also has economic, social, cultural and political connotations. In the 21st century globalization creates the world into a small village. Basically globalization refers to the overall development as well as modernization of a group of people. As a whole the term 'Globalization' is used in social sciences since the 1960's and it would become popular as a process in the 1980's and 1990's. Today, due to the globalization our world is shaping into a small village. It has noteworthy impact on numerous sphere of life. Robertson (1992) argued that globalization can be defined as the firmness of the world, strengthening of the whole world and in its thoughts and functions it makes the whole world a single unit. Globalization has minimized the differences among different countries and its nation. Due to the Globalization, advancement has taken place in diverse sphere of life such as advances in transport system; computer networking, genetic and computer system led the entire world to become a single place. Elson & Cagatay, (2000) explored that it is the re-emergence of the neo-liberal economies around the world, the effects is globalized technological change, the development of multinational corporations and the enormous gathering of capital in the course of merger and acquisitions. Globalization's forces are the implication of nationwide economy, hi-technological innovation, and process of production, distribution of resources, institutional changes and formulation of policies of the different countries of the world.

The present wave of globalization has drastically enhanced the lives of women worldwide, predominantly the lives of those women in the developing world. Globalization has the notable impacts on both of the gender (male and female) and also on their families. The

most experimental impact of globalization is amplified the involvement of female in salaried labor market more than males. It has however been obvious that women in the developing countries, both as consumer and producers are placed at a drawback under the new regime of globalization. The prevalence of income poverty among women is said to be increasing compared to that among men. Globalization has been responsible to have increased the incidence of unemployment and under employment among women and also have given rise to many forms of discriminations in the labor market. Some women might have gained better access to the labor market but the majority of them are staying locked in at relatively low levels of pay and skills, becoming increasingly discriminate against. Globalization also has the scope of widening the wage gap between men and women and also increases inequalities of income. Keeping these points in view the present study was undertaken with the objective:

1. To study socio-economic condition of women in Assam.
2. To assess the impact of globalization on the socio-economic status of women.
3. To identify the problems in socio-economic status of women.

2. Methodology:

This study is principally analytical and descriptive. Both primary and secondary sources of data have been explored. The secondary sources data are published and unpublished books, journal, articles and the internet sources have been used for the background materials.

Focus group discussions, in-depth interviews and sample surveys have been employed for collecting the primary data. The study has covered 50 household out of the total household population of the two villages. Here have taken 25 household from the

Hatigaon villages and 25 from the Borachuck villages of Nagaon.

Profile of the study area:

For my study I have selected two villages of Nagaon District i.e. Hatigaon and Borachuck. By covering 4000 sq. K.M. of fertile alluvial plains and thickly forested hills, Nagaon is one of the largest districts of Assam. The district lies between 25°-45' north to 26°- 45' north latitude and longitude 92°-33 to 93°- 33' east. The populations of two villages are as around 330 at Hatigaon and near 250 at Borachuk village of Nagaon district.

Socio-Economic Development of Women in Assam in the Context of Globalization:

Assam is one of the northeastern states of India. The structure of Assamese society is slightly different from the other states of India. Most of the women of Assam plough fields and harvest crops weave and making handicraft, cook food and gather wood etc. In addition women are traditionally responsible for the daily household chores. As globalization covers whole over world, it has had a huge impact on the lives of women within the past two decades. Globalization is altering these norms day by day. The new global developing economies stipulate women in the monetized as well as non monetized sectors of work. In fact, globalization has the potential to recover women's economic achievement. Increased employment opportunities for women in non-traditional sectors might enable them to earn and control income, thus providing a source of empowerment and enhancing women's capacity to settle their role and status within the household and society. Due to the

globalization women have required to fight fixed Interest for community benefits, and through their combined potency, and they have earned a new idea. Women's rights around the world are an important indicator to understand global well-being. It is because of globalization that provides opportunities for not only working men, but also women who are becoming larger part of the workforce. With these opportunities women developed their self-confidence and bring independence on their life. Thus it can encourage equality between the sexes.

Since the early period women treated as much neglected manner. The women are the weakest sections of society are frequently being sidelined from taking any important decision. Another very important aspect of this point is that women themselves are still rude about their own rights and policy formulated specially for them. Since of late modern women has become very aware of their rights, and empowering the women as a whole has become a new dictum of the world around. The fundamental rights and directive principles given in the constitution of India bear authentic function of the principle of nondiscrimination; so that women are entitled to the same rights as men as citizens of India. Apart from this in present time Government of India (GoI) has given main focus to the development of Women. Till today there are no genuine efforts on the part of national and regional political parties towards the Upliftment of women. The Status of Women in North East India is a little different in comparison to those living in rest of the country. In Assam, the status of Women is high in comparison to the women of some other states of India. One salient feature in the Assamese society was the absence of the dowry system. In present time due to the Globalization women of Assam

has changed their day to day life. In this era of globalization it affects diverse groups of women in different places in different ways. On the one hand it may generate innovative opportunities for Assamese women to be forerunners in economic and social progress. With the advent of global communication networks and cross-cultural exchange there seems to be a change in the status of women even though not to a very large extent. However, globalization has indeed promoted ideas and norms of equality for Assamese Women that have brought about awareness and acted as a catalyst in their struggle for equitable rights and opportunities. Women of Assam have entered the labor force in large number that has embraced liberal economic policies. Now a day's women have to work for self empowerment through engagement in action at multiple levels. Basically globalization has impact on the health and livelihood of Assamese women. Women development is incomplete without social development of them. Therefore in present time women education get more concern in Assam. They are also become highly qualify in professional courses like IT sector, MBA, C.A etc. with new jobs for women, there are opportunities for higher pay, which raises self-confidence and brings about independence. This, in turn, can promote equality between the sexes that Assamese women have been struggling with their entire lives. It has the power to uproot the traditional views towards women so they can take an equal stance in society. Traditionally, in Assam most of the women stayed at home taking care of domestic needs and children. Now most of the women are setting out of their private spaces to earn living. As it all known globalization is all about technology and it developed instruments like computer, television etc. advertising everyday

reinforces new needs and creates a vicarious lust for more and more consumer good in the masses. This has resulted in families desiring more household income to be able to afford these items. Therefore, the women need to work and contribute to the household income to afford a certain lifestyle. The Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) in India is a union of women laborers willing to work hard and seize any work opportunities they might get. It has established women's cooperative bank and through the aid of globalization, they have even reached the women in the rural areas of India and Assam also gets benefit from it. Through this way women of Assam can now easily developed their business and those women who are the craft- makers have licenses to export their goods with more freedom and opportunities, these women are raising their standard of living by generating more income. SEWA has been able to reach more women to share self help knowledge. Even telephone is the advancement to many women in their business ventures. Apart from it due to the globalization, now most of the women in Assam has developed their thinking and make standardize their daily life. They modernized their children with help of the aid of globalization and make themselves up to date. Again they leave their beliefs like so called superstitious belief and deep-rooted out the problem of racist. Women today are more practical and rational than earlier. Although most of the women in Assam work and contribute to the economy of their family but it wouldn't be counted e.g. women work in the work place and at the same time she work in daily household chores which not to be counted. Most of the working women of Assam involved in those jobs are unskilled and low paying. Most of the families of Assam, women are not allow to work late

night. But in present time, due to the globalization the scenario has been changed and able to create a new prestigious status in society. To understand the above mentioning I have chosen two villages of Nagaon district. Here has the analysis the scenario of those two villages.

Findings:

Without the development of women, society can't be developed. Thus, it is globalization that society becomes modernized and women get equal status in society. For the development of society education played a very decisive role. Educated society helps to create a society into a new shape. Now a day, the women of education get more concern and become self-dependent. This shift from traditional to modernity has been immense in every sphere, starting from household to workplace. Here is the outlook:

Educational level	No enrolled
Primary level	45
M.E School level	43
High School level	52
H.S level	36
B.A/B.SC/C.COM	30
M.A/M.SC/M.COM	12
Others	29
illiterate	3
Total	250

Educational status

Table no 1:

Education level in the Hatigaon village

Educational level	No enrolled
Primary level	65

M.E level	60
High School level	79
H.S	57
B.A./B.Sc./B.Com.	36
M.A./M.SC/M.COM.	10
Others	17
Illiterate	6
Total	330

Source: field survey

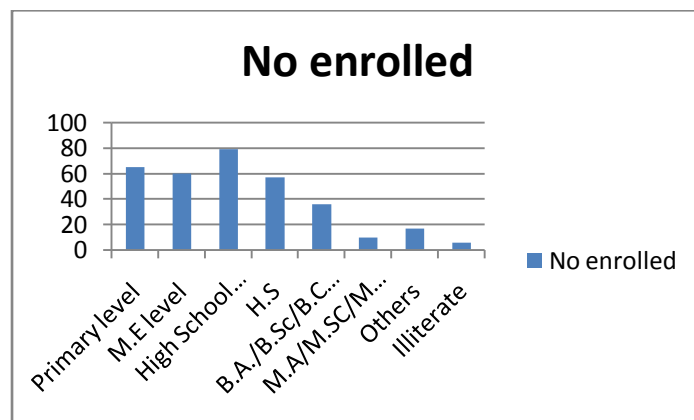
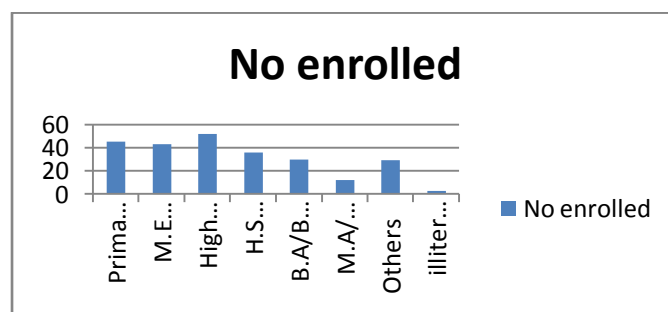


Table no 2

Educational status of Borachuck village

Source: field survey



Source: field survey

It is evident the above tables that both of the villages is educated. The number of population is high in primary to B.A level. But gradually their numbers are decreased in M.A level. But it is clear that most of the population can read and write. It would help in the development of outer knowledge. In my study areas most of the population who involved in services is men. Here it is clear that the main income source of the families dependent on men.

Economic status of women at Hatigaon and Borachuck villages of Nagaon district:

As I selected two villages of Nagaon e.i. Hatigaon and Borachuk for my research; Therefore, I have gone through the 25 household from each of the villages. Most of the respondent are house wives and busy their life with household work. Along with this they are involved in S.H.G. (Self Help Group) and here S.E.W.A. (self-employed women's association, as I earlier mention) helped to them for their economic upliftment. Through this way they support their families. From my study area I have gotten knowledge that most of the respondent has little knowledge on economic globalization. But indirectly they are affected by it. Apart from this due to the lack of knowledge on global market they are not be able to modernize their handicraft.

Social status of women at Hatigaon and Borachuk villages of Nagaon district:

In case of social status of women, most of the respondents are highly developed in site of society. Though traditionally they had lots of superstitious belief but in present context they leave it but there also has some tradition which still they follow. Apart from it women of my study areas has get equal status even though they live in a patriarchal

society. Most of the women are housewives but they have knowledge on outer world. It would only possible because of globalization. In terms of health sector the women of my study area are very heighten. They used medical treatment whenever they needed and they tried refused traditional remedies as treatment. But still there is some women respondent who used traditional methods because of poverty. According to them the cost of the medicine are very high and they couldn't afford and it wouldn't available in the health centre. Another reason behind of the uses are superstitious believe. Here put one example, in very recent time there is a small boy who has bitten by snakes and the family's member used "bej" for his cure instead of going to the hospital. In case of the fashion terms they become modern and they wear saris and mekhela sadar by doing fusion of western culture. Along with this women are able to make their children highly qualified due to development of their mentality and it is only because of the globalization. In this way globalization has impact on the development of my study area.

Understanding the problems:

1. The conventional role of women in agriculture, domestic animals and animal husbandry, khadi and village industries etc. is being destabilized because mechanization and automation is becoming prevailing in the market based economy which will unfavorably affect the village based traditional economy.
2. Globalization has amplified the number of low paid, part-time and explorative jobs.
3. With the male immigration is on the boost from the rural to urban sector, the women have to tolerate the triple burden

of caring, farming and played employment in the rural sector.

4. In the neoliberal work practices, contract work, working hours, cooperative practices, payment by result make it very difficult for women to cope with their multiple responsibilities.
5. In the era of globalization, the number of women working in the night shifts is rising with call centers and export oriented companies employing women in large numbers during the night shift, without providing proper protection or transport facilities to them.
6. Due to the lack of proper education they might not be able to catch up with the development of globalization.
7. Dominating nature of the patriarchal society where women are not still allowed to do work in night shift.
8. The S.H.G'S are occupied in different types of economic activities but in small scale. They don't have information about the market and hence no control over it.
9. The S.H.G's are giving an opportunity to form women's collectives but the treatment meted to them by the representatives of power is not always conducive.

Suggestions:

1. Institutions or organizations should also play their role for ornamental women's position in society.
2. Occupational isolation on gender basis should be abolished. So, women can also perform their role in decision-making posts.
3. Electronic and print media should play their role in acknowledging the role that working women play for their families

and for the country as a whole as their income increase G.D.P. of the country.

4. Recognition of gender issues in the process of globalization and negotiating with the concerned parties.
5. Globalization process requires proper focus on rural development, education, health and child care and proper gainful employment for the underprivileged women at the initial stages.
6. Government should focus for the development of the local handicraft.
7. Meetings, seminar, workshop, symposiums etc. should be organized for modernized the rural women.

3. Conclusion:

Globalization is a term which is used to describe the way that how human beings all around the world have come close to one another and how it has minimized the geographical constrains. Globalization has prejudiced women's life in different aspects of their socioeconomic position i.e. increase in financial resources, multiple job opportunities, better chances to improve professional skills, enhancement in decision making, control on financial resources and social protection of women. Globalization has provided better chances to progress professional skills and information. Global market and multinational corporations and they qualified social protection through economic advancement. Globalization has also given independence to working women to make decisions about their life after having access on resources. Globalization has changed the intra-household errands for males and females, where females are given more responsibility over the survival of the family. Globalization offers women

extraordinary opportunities, but equally new and unique challenges.

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