

Globalization: A forward and backward linkages of Women and Children in India

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Introduction

The gender concerns have started gaining attention of economists, demographers and policy makers world-wide since 1970s. The Convention of the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women since 1990s. (CEDAW) in 1979 made people more aware of the gender issues. World conferences on women have also been focusing on different aspects related to advancement of women. The World Development Report(1990) showed that women are solely disadvantaged compared to men and face all manners of cultural, social, legal and economic obstacles that men do not face..

The roles of women and children in India have been changing and they are now emerging from the past traditions into a new era of freedom and rights. The basic objective of this paper is to examine the changing role of women due to globalization in Indian society. This concern is not merely academic but is central to the process of emerging development in India. There is a need to critically evaluate the impact of globalization on women in India and also to know the positive & negative impacts of it on the position of women in India at present.

In this paper, I focus on some of the ways in which, directly or indirectly, globalization impacts the everyday lives of women/ children in India. The ruthless game of globalization can only go on at the cost of the flesh and blood of ordinary

people: the vulnerable are offered on its altar. People (women and children) do not hesitate to use members of their own kind, so long as faces remain invisible, in support of their own interests. For a patriarchal, capitalist, consumerist, globalize society, the lives of women and children become expendable.

Women in India

It's true that we are in the midst of a great revolution in the history of women. We see the evidence everywhere; the voice of women is increasingly heard in Parliament, courts and in the streets. While women in the West had to fight for over a century to get some of their basic rights, like the right to vote, the Constitution of India gave women equal rights with men from the beginning. Unfortunately, women in this country are mostly unaware of their rights because of illiteracy and the oppressive tradition. Names like Kalpana Chawla: The Indian born, who fought her way up into NASA and was the first women in space, and Indira Gandhi: The Iron Woman of India was the Prime Minister of the Nation, Beauty Queens like Aishwarya Rai and Susmita Sen, and Mother Teresa are not representative of the condition of Indian women.

The Constitution of India guarantees equality of sexes and in fact grants special favors to women. These can be found in three articles (Article 14, Article 15 (3) and Articles 15 (A)(e)) All these are fundamental rights. Therefore, a woman can go to the court if one is subjected to any discrimination. The most important issues

stand as those pertaining to marriage, children, abortion, crimes against women, and inheritance. Crimes like rape, kidnapping, eve teasing and indecent exposure can be grouped as crimes against women.

India today, a country where women are becoming more prominent., yet increasing numbers, women are fighting long-standing prejudices .Women still faces enormous pressure to conform to social mores - conforming to traditional roles within families poses as much of a barrier to businesswomen in India as the still-too-thick glass ceiling at companies. Though women have made great strides in the corporate world in the last three decades, women from all income classes are still too often discouraged by family members from having careers that infringe too much on family life. .

Positive Effects of Globalization

Globalization has opened up broader communication lines and brought more companies as well as different worldwide organizations into India. This provides opportunities for not only workingmen, but also women, who are becoming a larger part of the workforce. 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, something that Indian women have been struggling with their entire lives. Globalization has the power to uproot the traditional views towards women so they can take an equal stance in society.

Women in the urban settings have become more independent and self-sufficient. The lower middle class is experiencing a shift in the way family relations worked. Traditionally 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 a living. Globalization has created certain needs based on capitalist sentiments. 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. Globalization has aided their opportunities in various ways. SEWA has established a Women's Cooperative Bank with 125,000 members, and through the aid of globalization, they have even reached the women in the rural areas of India. Markets in different areas can now be reached by Indian women who have a part in businesses, or by craft-making women who have licenses to export their goods. With more freedoms and opportunities, these women are raising their standard of living by generating more income. Technology that may seem out-dated to the United States is viewed as modern technology to India. With the aid of satellites and computers, SEWA has been able to reach more women to share self-help knowledge. Even the telephone is advancement to many women in their business ventures. After one of the SEWA women took out a loan of four dollars to buy a telephone, her income was increased because she could reach more people.

Negative Effects of Globalization

Globalization has had negative implications for Indian women. Their plights are similar to those of women in other developing regions such as Africa and Asia. Globalization has made many international corporations richer by the billions. However, what most people are not aware of is that women in these developing countries are suffering enormously due to this expansion of corporate empires. According to estimates from World Development Indicators, "Women work two-thirds of the world's working hours, produce half of the world's food, but earn only ten percent

of the world's income, and own less than one percent of the world's property.

According to Vandana Shivea, and Indian economist and scholar, globalization along with the support of organizations such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, have created slave wages. These wages are not necessarily the result of "unjust" societies, but of the fact that global trade devalues the worth of people's lives and work. While globalization has brought jobs to rural, developing areas such as India where there was previously no employment, these jobs seem to be wolves in sheep's clothing. The work available to women is almost always poorly paid, mentally and physically unhealthy, demeaning, or insecure.

Women are suffering two fold. As women in developing countries move into the work force, their domestic responsibilities are not alleviated. Women work two full time jobs. One in a factory, where they are paid next to nothing, the second is in the home where they are paid nothing . According to Merlin A. Taber and Sushma Batra, editors of the book *Social Strains of Globalization in India*, development for poor women has meant the migration of men to cities, higher prices for commodities, poorer job opportunities. "The mixture of corporate capitalism and Western culture models is dissolving family and community social controls as witnessed by higher rates of family violence, rape, divorce, and family breakdown."

One example of women's labor being exploited would be the Noida Export Processing Zone, which is 24 km from New Delhi. These "zones" prefer to hire women because they are "more docile and more productive in men." In short, they are easier to control and less likely to retaliate against less than ideal working conditions, which are exactly what thousands of women encounter 12 hours a day. The zone is dangerous, hot, and unsanitary. Unnecessary body searches are routine. There are no maternity benefits and minimum wage is never enforced. Women who become pregnant or

marry are immediately fired. Overtime is compulsory but women are paid lower rates than men. In order to avoid being fired, women turn to unsafe abortions performed by unqualified "doctors." In the zone, "respiratory problems, pelvic inflammatory disease, and sever cases of dehydration and anemia are common."

How Globalization Affects India's Children

Fifty kids huddled in a makeshift school in Debitola block of Dhubri district in Assam are part of a single-teacher village school which has been in existence for 15 years. But the school has not received a single paisa in aid from the state government. Nor has the teacher received a salary.

The school is part of the Bharat Jan Vigyan Jatha's Lokshal Programme for the Universalisation of Elementary Education, and can be started by any individual. The teacher runs the school in the hope that some day it may get recognised by the state educational authorities. Meanwhile, its attendance register is being used to swell primary school educational statistics in order to meet the World Bank's objective of 100 per cent literacy.

An NGO called Haq: Centre for Child's Rights has come out with India's first state of the nation report on the impact of globalization on Indian children. Titled 'Children in Globalizing India — Challenging Our Conscience', the report is an overview of how India's 370 million kids are faring. It is broken into different sections which touch upon education, health, the young child, the disabled child, the girl child, the trafficked child, the working child, children in armed conflict and child participation. The report is edited by Enakshi Ganguly Thukral and Bharti Ali.

Educational expert Anil Sadgopal, who has contributed a piece titled 'Globalization and the Political Economy of Education' points out how it was pressure from the World Bank that forced the government to reduce the tenure of elementary education from eight to five years. 'Article 45 of the Constitution has unambiguously

declared that primary education would be spread over eight years and an eight-year curriculum was drafted at the Wardha Conference in 1937. Not only has this been changed but the newly-introduced Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, or Education Guarantee Scheme, has reduced primary education to three years,' says Sadgopal.

Experts also condemn the sweeping aside of earlier educational commitments. In the National Policy on Education 1992 the government committed to having three teachers per primary school. But, under the World Bank-sponsored District Primary Education Programme (DPEP), multi-grade teaching allows a single teacher to handle five classes simultaneously.

The World Bank and the Indian government began signing MOUs to introduce the DPEP in a phased manner in all the states from 1994. The MOUs were treated as secret documents, almost as though they were military secrets. The following trends have emerged after the inking of this agreement:

- The dilution and trivialization of the aims of education.
- The fragmentation and compartmentalization of education.
- The alienation of knowledge from social ethos.
- The restriction of access through commercialization, privatization and competitive screening.

What's alarming, says Sadgopal, is that one of the underlying assumptions of the DPEP is that a non-formal centre, an adult literacy class and a multi-grade class can replace a regular school with its regular teacher. Literacy, he points out, cannot be equated with education.

The 93rd amendment places the onus of a child's education on the parents, making education the responsibility of parents, not the State. This lays the foundation for inequity in education. The poor are equally keen to educate

their children but fail to do so because they lack the means. The result is that, even today, only 24 per cent of boys and 16 per cent of girls between the ages of 11-14 are enrolled in the elementary school system, according to the department of education, Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD). These statistics are for 1999-2000. The dropout rate at the primary level remains equally high. Of the 64.1 per cent of boys who enrolled at the primary stage in 1999-2000, almost 39 per cent dropped out before completing class five. The dropout rate is even higher for girls. Of the 49.5 per cent of enrolled girls, about 42.3 per cent dropped out at the primary stage, according to MHRD figures.

The situation is not much better in the area of health, according to the report. Expenditure on public health has declined from 1.3 per cent in 1990 to 0.9 per cent in 1999. With budgetary allocations for health being stagnant, or in decline, as is the case with state governments, most health programmes including TB, malaria, blindness control and HIV/AIDS are dependent on loans from the World Bank.

With 79 per cent of the union health budget dependent on these loans, there is simply not enough money to tackle such diseases. The result is that 65 per cent of the population is being forced to take treatment from private hospitals/clinics. Medical treatment has emerged as the second most common cause of rural indebtedness.

What does this mean for kids under the age of 14? Of the 25 million annual births, 2.7 million kids die before the age of five, according to statistics compiled by the National Family Health Survey. Outbreaks of falciparum malaria in four districts in Rajasthan, Orissa and Assam saw several hundred children lose their lives in the past few years. TB remains the disease of the poor. Of every 1,000 Indians, seven children and 20 adults suffer from TB. Three lakh kids dropped out of school after contracting TB in the last year (Prabhu 2002). Similarly, UNAIDS'

Global HIV/AIDS Report shows an estimated 170,000 kids suffering from AIDS.

The impact of HIV on children is two-fold. First, there are those children who are infected and destined to die. Second, there are children whose parents (either one or both) are infected or who have died of AIDS. Both situations are disastrous for the children. In the case of infected children there is a sense of hopelessness, with many people feeling that there is no need to look after the child because he/she is destined to die soon. Fifty per cent of children who get the infection from their mothers die between the ages of one and five. In cases where the child is not infected (but the parents are), he/she will remain neglected and will, therefore, end up facing an uncertain future.

Children remain susceptible to a host of diseases, explains Mira Shiva in her write-up. Diarrhoea continues to be a major killer accounting for around 20 per cent of all under-five deaths, according to the concerned ministry. Some 600,000 kids die of dehydration brought on by diarrhoea every year. No other country in the world is known to suffer such a high number of dehydration and easily preventable deaths.

These deaths can easily be prevented by the distribution and use of ORS (oral rehydration solution) packets throughout the country. Unfortunately, even these are now being distributed on a commercial basis, with each one-litre packet selling at between Rs 8 and Rs 14, thereby making them unaffordable for the poor. The fact that even ORS packets are being sold commercially is tragic at a time when the public health system is close to collapse. Meanwhile, most doctors continue to prescribe streptomycin combinations which have been legally banned as a means to combat diarrhoea.

Environmental degradation also adversely impacts the lives of children. Thousands of children working in brick kilns, stone quarries and coal mines etc suffer from silicosis, backache, cervical spondylosis and TB. Child

bidi workers inhale tobacco, which damages their lungs. Child carpet-weavers squat for hours, putting a severe strain on their backs and eyes. They often end up developing bony lesions and deformities.

The situation for children living in areas of armed conflict, whether it is in the north-eastern states, Kashmir or Punjab, is equally grim. The riots in Gujarat are still fresh in our memories. The wounds of the Mumbai riots have still to heal. Every other day we hear of caste violence in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh where scores of children are mercilessly gunned down. What can remove the scars from the minds of hundreds of children in Gujarat who have seen their parents torched to death by rampaging mobs?

The human rights abuses faced by our children can best be summed up by the fate of 14-year-old Chenchu Hasda. Hasda was one of those arrested for the murder of the missionary Graham Staines and his two sons. After languishing for a year in an adult prison, Hasda was found guilty and 'convicted'. Several questions remain about whether Hasda did indeed actively participate in the killings or just happened to be present at the spot and was therefore arrested as an abettor. Why was he housed in a jail with hardcore criminals? These are questions that remain unanswered, as do so many other questions about the miserable lives of our vulnerable children.

Economic Status of Women

Women have been described as "invisible labour force". The male-female and superior-inferior hierarchy along with certain norms, values, practices and beliefs are still prevailing in the employment sector. In other words, the hierarchy is established on the basis of sex differences, whereby males have represents the outside world and women represents only in the household work. It is also referred in Hindu mythology that male is bread earner and a source of Moksha while the female is supposed to look after siblings and domestic affairs and

thereby she is treated as liability rather than an asset in the family. Census figure almost ignored and excluded the women who are agricultural labour, work in informal sector and traditional works and household unpaid workers. The above mentioned points are affecting the position of women in the society and make them live in the vulnerable position. A country like India which is bounded by the traditional norms and values, which is highly patriarchy in character already put women into the miserable position and the process of globalization is added up spicing it and makes women life hell from every angle and putting millions of burden on their shoulder. Instead of providing solution to gender inequality, globalization sharpens the division between the two sexes. Globalization has entrenched gendered hierarchies in the labour force as well as increases the percentages of women living below the poverty line. Globalization is actually welcomed by male leading institutions. New technologies are made for male use, and hence they become skilled labour and women unskilled labour. Thus women have been exploited under the process of globalization. Female labour is thus increasingly integrated into global production, but in a fragmented form with contradictory consequences. In terms of sectoral share of employment the status of women has shown

somewhat a stagnated position over the years. Most of women are engaged in agriculture sector in rural areas for their sustenance. In certain Himalayan states, their role in agriculture sector is reported to be significantly high as compared to their male counterparts. The share of agriculture has declined, though it continues as prominent sector of employment accounting for 74.9 per cent of the total female work force. Most of the primary sector activities offer subsistence employment and are low paid or unpaid. The industrial sector does not show much change though on the whole the sector shows a marginal growth. Within the secondary women are mostly concentrated in the informal sector, which offers no security either the employment or conditions at work. The most important trend as far as women's employment that needs to be highlighted is the considerable increase in the share of tertiary sector over the last decade. In the sector women are found largely in the trading and retailing activities or in the care economy, which do not offer much in terms of remuneration or skill endowment. Data from 66th round of NSSO indicates that female work participation rate has increased during 2004-05 to 2008-10. The share of women in usual status workers declined from 28.7 per cent to 22.8 per cent. In rural areas, this has declined from 32.7 per cent to 26.1 per cent and in urban areas, from 16.6 per cent to 13.8 per cent.

Participation in the Labour Force

Indicators	Rural (per cent)			Urban (per cent)			Total Persons
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
Labour Force Participation Rate	55.6	26.5	41.4	55.9	14.6	36.2	40.0
Work Participation Rate	54.7	26.1	40.8	54.3	13.8	35.0	39.2
Proportion Unemployed	0.9	0.4	0.7	1.6	0.8	1.2	0.8
Unemployment Rate	1.6	1.6	1.6	2.8	5.7	3.4	2.0

Source: NSSO 2009-10

There has been significant decline in women self employment during 2004-05 to 2009-10 both in rural and urban sector however, women employment as regular wage employee has been showing an increasing trend in rural and urban sector over the corresponding period. Similarly, women employment as casual labour has significantly increased both in rural and urban sector during the

corresponding period. Women employment in manufacturing and construction sector has shown fluctuating trend. Overall women employment has increased in urban sector however, women employment in agriculture sector has declined both in rural and urban sector during the period of 2004-05 to 2009-10

Women Employment in Different Sectors
(Per 1000 Distribution of Usually Employed)

Sr. No.	Year	Agriculture		Manufacturing		Construction		Others	
		Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
1	2004-05	814	147	87	254	17	45	30	147
2	2007-08	816	129	76	252	23	48	28	150
3	2009-10	789	118	76	258	42	51	34	139

Source: 61st, 64th and 66th Rounds of NSSO Surveys.

Women's employment in public and private sector by industrial activity During 2004, 2.89 million employed in public sector while 2.04 million women were employed in private sector. Most of the women employed in public sector were found engaged in industrial activity like community, social and personal services as well as financing, insurance, real estate and business services. Similarly, majority of the employed women were engaged in manufacturing and community, social and personal services in private sector. The proportion of women's employment in the organized sector was reported to be 18.7 per cent only. This proportion was significantly found higher for the private sector (24.8 per cent) as compared to public sector (15.9 per cent). There has been significant growth in women's employment in public sector however; women employment in private sector has shrunk significantly during 2001-2004. During 2004-05, there has been significant increased in women's employment in primary sector while their number has declined in manufacturing sector. Their number has increased significantly in services sector during the period. The unorganized sector is large in India, accounting for 370 million workers in 1999-2000, constituting 93 per cent of the total workforce and 83 per cent of the non agricultural work force. Women account for 32 per cent of the workforce in the informal economy, including agriculture and 20 per cent of the non agricultural workforce. 118 million women workers are engaged in the unorganized sector in India, constituting 97 per cent of the total women workers in India. The informal sector in the non agriculture segment alone engaged 27 million women workers in India.

**Women's Employment in the Organized Sector by
Major Industry Divisions**

Sl.No.	Division & Industry	Women Employees (In '000') as on 31.03.2006		
		Public Sector	Private Sector	Total
1.	Agriculture, Hunting, Forestry & Fishing	56.92	438.03	494.95
2.	Fishing	1.26	0.45	1.71
3.	Mining and Quarrying	76.98	8.49	85.46
4.	Manufacturing	77.73	812.66	890.39
5.	Electricity, Gas & Water Supply	50.37	2.18	52.54
6.	Construction	61.37	4.16	65.53
7.	Wholesale & Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles Motorcycles and Personal and Household Goods	12.85	23.82	36.67
8.	Hotels and Restaurants	1.06	10.77	11.83
9.	Transport, Storage & Communications	180.42	10.24	190.67
10.	Financial Intermediation	168.62	47.09	215.71
11.	Real Estate, Renting and Business Activities	37.11	76.96	114.08
12.	Public Administration and Defence; Compulsory Social Security	729.08	0.22	729.30
13.	Education	798.05	557.69	1355.74
14.	Health and Social Work	650.50	106.14	756.64
15.	Other Community, Social & Personal Service Activities	54.08	10.66	64.73
16.	Private Households with Employed Persons	0.07	0.21	0.28
17.	Extra-Territorial Organizations and Bodies	0.00	0.07	0.07
	Total	2956.46	2109.83	5066.29

Source: India, Ministry of Labour, Directorate General Employment and Training, (2008), Employment Review 2005-2006, New Delhi.

Women employment in organized sector has been reported significant in the developed states while women's employment in private sector has been found high in the states Maharashtra, Delhi, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and West Bengal.

Employment of Women in the Organized Sector

Sl. No.	India/States	Employment of Women ('000') As on 31.3.2005			Employment of Women ('000') As on 31.3.2006		
		Public Sector	Private Sector	Total	Public Sector	Private Sector	Total
	India	2921.0	2095.2	5016.2	3002.82	2117.69	5120.50
1.	Andhra Pradesh	241.8	231.8	473.6	241.46	194.23	435.69
2.	Assam	81.7	284.9	366.6	83.58	295.59	379.17
3.	Bihar	29.5	2.0	31.5	20.46	1.88	22.34
4.	Chhattisgarh	36.9	5.0	41.8	38.04	4.92	42.961
5.	Delhi	92.6	32.9	125.5	92.98	33.78	126.76
6.	Goa	13.3	9.0	22.2	10.18	6.91	17.09
7.	Gujarat	144.7	90.2	234.9	147.51	94.24	241.75
8.	Haryana	60.7	38.2	98.9	60.54	38.68	99.22
9.	Himachal Pradesh	44.4	7.5	52.0	44.17	9.17	53.34
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	20.7	1.9	22.6	20.70	1.87	22.57
11.	Jharkhand	61.8	13.7	75.5	85.77	24.62	110.40
12.	Karnataka	268.4	309.9	578.3	267.69	323.61	591.29
13.	Kerala	187.6	262.0	449.7	187.28	240.55	427.82
14.	Madhya Pradesh	124.0	19.2	143.3	123.67	18.78	142.447
15.	Maharashtra	357.7	215.4	573.1	373.77	233.38	607.15
16.	Manipur	18.0	1.0	18.9	18.40	0.64	19.04
17.	Meghalaya	15.0	4.4	19.3	14.96	4.38	19.34
18.	Mizoram	10.4	0.6	11.0	10.41	0.58	10.98
19.	Nagaland	12.4	1.4	13.9	14.29	1.66	15.95
20.	Orissa	98.1	10.5	108.6	104.42	10.59	115.00
21.	Punjab	89.8	39.1	128.9	101.77	44.79	146.57
22.	Rajasthan	138.1	40.8	179.0	150.92	42.44	193.35
23.	Tamil Nadu	419.8	288.3	708.1	423.06	293.13	716.19
24.	Tripura	21.0	5.8	26.9	27.72	6.04	33.76
25.	Uttar Pradesh	171.1	50.1	221.2	173.01	53.03	226.043
26.	Uttarakhand	29.1	4.9	34.0	32.22	6.30	38.52
27.	West Bengal	106.4	113.6	220.0	107.24	120.08	227.32

Source: India, Ministry of Labour, Directorate General of Employment and Training. (2008). Employment Review 2005-2006. New Delhi. p. 65.

Women informal workers are concentrated mainly in agriculture – so much so that three-quarters of all employed women are in informal employment in agriculture. 90 per cent of those employed in manufacturing and construction are also unorganized sector workers. Within manufacturing, they predominate in certain industries such as garments, textiles, food and electronics. The seasonality of work in this sector and the lack of other avenues of work make them vulnerable to a range of exploitative practices. They remain the most vulnerable and the poorest.

Steps to Cope with the Changing Scenario

It is seen that the situation facing the majority of Indian women is far from positive. However, efforts are underway to circumvent many of these problems through governmental and the non-governmental programmes. Both the government and NGOs seem to be aware of the fact that the globalization process requires proper focus on rural development, education, health and child care and proper gainful employment for the underprivileged at the initial stages. The price rise associated with desubsidisation, marketisation and liberal export – import policy, have an adverse impact on consumption by the poor in general and that of women in particular. The rising food prices and the reduced or stagnant food subsidies adversely affect the nutritional intake and the nutritional status of the poor women. Similarly, the declining real expenditure on medical and health services adversely affect the status of women as well as children.

Since poverty alleviation programmes are the main responsibilities of the Government, there are direct and sector wise schemes. Some of the important schemes are:

- Public Distribution System for Food Security
- Work Security through various Schemes
- Health Schemes and Services
- Child Care Schemes

- Credit Schemes
- Insurance Schemes

There are also sector wise schemes such as Small Farmers Development Agency and other Schemes of the Department of Agriculture, Schemes of the Dairy Development Boards in the dairy sector, schemes of Forest Corporation in the forestry sector etc. The main goal of the Department of Women and Child Development is to empower women and to bring them within the purview of the mainstream development process.

Also, the capacities and capabilities of women addressing their own development have been the main focus of important NGOs and Women's Organizations. Innovative approaches for poverty alleviation such as savings, credit, and asset creation for poor women have evolved in India as well as in other developing countries. These experiments have been able to organize poor women to –

- Strengthen their capacity to survive
- Meet their social needs
- Enter into income generating activities
- Increase their savings
- Utilize the savings along with available credit
- Improve their socio-economic conditions and that of their families
- Sustain the process.

NGOs such as Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) in Ahmedabad, Working Women's Forum (WWF) in Chennai, Centre for Women's Development Studies (CWDS), New Delhi, etc, have done commendable work in these directions. The Government Departments have also given the necessary boost to such experiments through the support for expansion in many ways.

Conclusion:

The roles of women in India have been changing and they are now emerging from the past traditions into a new era of freedom and rights due to globalization. The number of girls working in the informal/unorganized sector for precarious wages has also increased. National and multinational corporations operating in Free Trade Zones, Special Economic Zones and Export Processing Zones in India employ girls in production units or hire them on a piece-rate basis for home-based work. Using girl-child labourers is the cheapest way to increase the profit margin. In summary, globalization plays a definite role in increasing opportunities for women in the work place. It does not however solve the problems of the movement of women beyond low paying and menial jobs. In addition, it may exaggerate the effect of recession which has traditionally hurt women more than men.

Women have made great strides in the corporate world but still the patriarchal nature of Indian society stops from having careers that infringe too much on family life. Women are now supporting their families with dual incomes thereby increasing the voice not only at home but also at Parliament for 50 % Reservation as they are contributing to Indian Economy at large. They have dual roles to play – as unpaid servant at home and as paid servant in an organization. Not only this, they have to undergo stress & tensions at both places. Women today, consider themselves as the true 'ardhangini of their husbands. She is more cognizant of his world today and she understands his work pressures. It is widely felt that earning power allows them to voice their opinions on bigger decisions. Women today are more practical and rational than earlier. Indian women have never been as expressive and independent as she is today. Today's women no more feel that a career would be at the cost of neglecting the family and children. The Indian woman is also spending a lot more money on her personal appearance.

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