

Q14. According to your opinion, what are the main issues in women as representatives in Pakistan? (CSS-2022)

Ans. I-INTRODUCTION: MAIN ISSUES IN WOMEN AS REPRESENTATIVES IN PAKISTAN

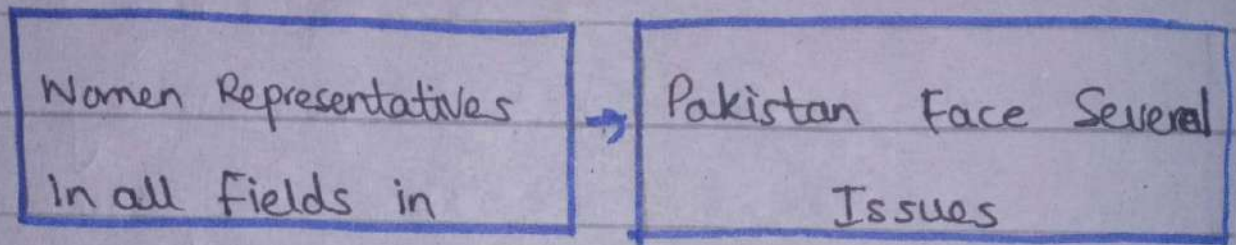


Figure 1: Status of Women Representatives in Pakistan

Since the inception of parliamentary form of government, women's political participation and representation are tied to several issues. In Pakistan, women legislators are into politics on a 17 percent quota in the national and provincial assemblies. These women face various problems like lack of experience, absence of family

support, prevalence of favouritism, etc. Not only, the women in politics, but also, the women as representatives in all domains of life face obstacles. Thus, the government need to take effective measures to address women's issues as representatives.

## II - WOMEN'S REPRESENTATION IN PAKISTANI PARLIAMENT

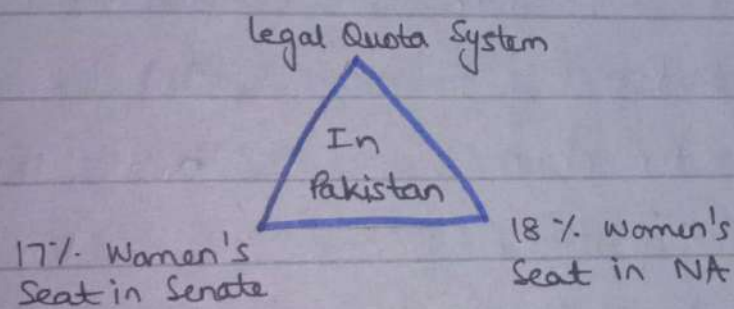


Figure 2: Women in Pakistani Parliament

In Pakistan, there is legal quota system. The National Reconstruction Bureau (NRB) has announced that 17 of the 100 seats in the Senate or 17% will be reserved for women and in the National Assembly, 60 of the 342 seats (18%). The distribution of women's seats in the National Assembly is as follows:

Punjab (35 seats); Sindh (14 seats),  
Khyber Pakhtun Khwa (8 seats) and Baloch-  
istan (3 seats). An additional 10 seats  
are reserved for non-Muslims

### III - MAIN ISSUES IN WOMEN AS POLIT- ICAL REPRESENTATIVES

Women are continuously ignored when it comes to legislations,  
Political integration and party politics as explained by  
Gail Minault in her book, *The Extended Family: Women and  
Political Participation in India and Pakistan.*

#### a) No Support and Encouragement from Family and Society

Pakistani people have patriarchal  
mindsets; they have restricted women to  
domestic chores and child care. Thus, the  
women parliamentarians are mostly discouraged  
from by their family and forced to leave  
politics.

#### b) Lack of Experience

A majority of women entering  
into politics are first-time entrants, with  
no background or training in governance.  
With no prior affiliation with political  
parties, women's groups or civil society  
organizations, many members found their  
voices and opinions being ignored. They

also have been sidelined within their own parties. (Bari).

### c) Absence of Meritocracy Towards Women Quota

Due to quota system, there is an absence of regular elections within most of the political parties. Leaders usually nominate party activists to party positions on the basis of favouritism and nepotism.

Example: Benazir Bhutto, Maryam Nawaz, Aseefa Bhutto and others mostly inherit the quota seats.

### d) Non-Assignment of Key Positions to Women

Women in Pakistani politics are kept at margins i.e. soft politics area e.g. health and education.

Example: Shireen Mazari is a Phd. in Political Science and Head of Institute of Strategic Studies, yet she was placed as head of Ministry of Human Rights.

### e) Male Dominance in Politics

In Pakistan, women are often seen as inferior to men. The decision-making bodies are un-equally surrounded by a male hierarchy and women are still struggling to achieve their rightful place in politics.

### f) Lack of Coordination among Women Parliamentarians

The women parliamentarians have almost no co-ordination and as such they lack a common goal and strategy towards women's rights. Also, the women parliamentarians are not keen to take up women's issues because of party politics and they mostly serve their party interests.

Example: None of the women parliamentarians has taken steps towards improving education in Balochistan, where girls have no access to schools or colleges.

## IV- MAIN ISSUES OF WOMEN AS REPRESENTATIVES IN OTHER FIELDS

In Pakistan, not only the women as representatives in politics suffer issues, but also, they face issues as representatives in all other domains:

### a) As Doctors

Although, ~~the~~ medical field is one of the safest jobs for women in Pakistan, yet the female doctors are discouraged because of night-duties, their interaction with males, negligence of their domestic chores, etc.

### b) As Engineers

Engineering is entirely considered a male-dominated field and as such girls are not allowed (mostly) to pursue engineering careers. Further, women engineers are mostly disregarded in field works.

### c) As Civil Servants

The patriarchal male-dominated

society of Pakistan do not want female CSPs to rule over them.

Example: In 2019, the then AC Quetta Syeda Nida Kazmi had to face severe criticisms for her behavior/treatment of an old man.

#### d) As Pilots

Pakistan has very few female pilots. The Pakistan Army ~~in~~ Air Force (PAF) mostly grounds female pilots after kids are born.

#### V- RECOMMENDATIONS

Following are the recommendations to address women's issues as representatives:

1. Educate people to eradicate patriarchal mindsets.
2. Reserve more quotas for women in all fields.
3. Enhance the role and power of women parliamentarians.
4. Government and media should play their roles toward women's empowerment.

5 Strengthen the security institutions to provide adequate security to women against harassment, bullying, rape, etc.

## VI - CRITICAL ANALYSIS

Women face obstacles in all domains of life, all over the world. Especially, as politicians they face severe problems. The socio-economic factors as well as existing structures are considered as barriers to their advancement. In Pakistan also, the women representatives face problems due to patriarchal society, lack of transparency, corruption, etc. To address the women's issues, the government, <sup>men</sup> ~~males~~ and women must coordinate collectively as:

"Human rights are women's rights,  
and women's rights are human rights."

(Hillary Clinton)

## VII - CONCLUSION

In a nutshell, the women parliamentarians are women's representatives. They face



more problems than other women e.g. domestic pressures, societal pressures, males' arrogance, etc. Not only, as politicians, but also, as representatives in all domains, women face problems. The government and the society, thus, must join hands to ~~cooper~~ empower women and only then the society can progress in real means.

Q18. In the last two decades, globalization has had a huge impact on the lives of women in developing countries/nations, including Pakistan. What are the impacts of global political economy on Pakistani women? (CSS-2018)

Ans. I-INTRODUCTION: IMPACTS OF THE GLOBAL POLITICAL ECONOMY ON PAKISTANI WOMEN

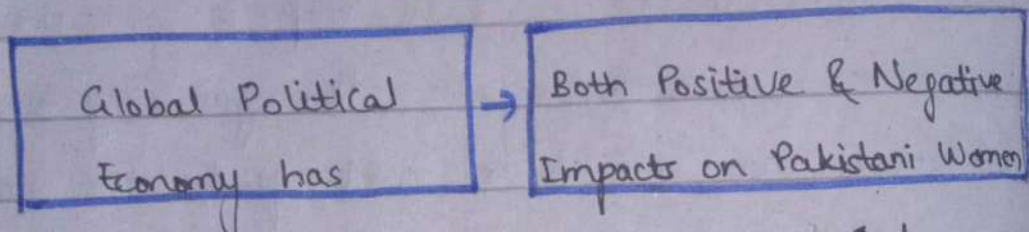


Figure 1: Global Political Economy And Pakistani Women

The process of globalization has resulted in the global political economy which is a field of study that deals with the interaction between political and economic forces. The global political economy has cast huge impacts on the entire globe - especially on the lives of women in developing countries <sup>like Pakistan</sup>. These impacts are both positive and negative in nature e.g. on one hand, it has improved the overall status of women and on the other hand, it has resulted in women's exploitation. Thus, in

order to benefit from globalization, the global community needs to devise strategies to counter its negative impacts.

## II- GLOBALIZATION AND THE GLOBAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

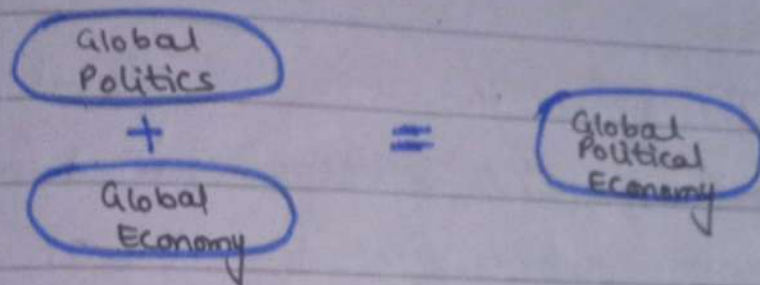


Figure 2: Global Political Economy

### a) Globalization

Globalization means the speed-up of movements and exchanges (of human beings, goods, and services, capital, technologies, or cultural practices) all over the planet.

### b) Global Political Economy

The Global Political Economy is relatively a new discipline that comes out as a result of the interaction between economic and political issues that directly affects all nations and states in the world. It is conventionally understood as the study of how

politics and economics mutually shape each other and the global system.

### III - IMPACTS OF GLOBAL POLITICAL ECONOMY ON WOMEN IN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING NATIONS

Globalization and the global political economy have drastically impacted/changed the lives of women globally. However, they have huge impacts on the lives of women in developing countries because they have mostly been deprived of their basic needs and rights.

Following statistics show the positive and negative impacts of global political economy on women:

1. Women account for 47.7% of the global workforce in 2022. (Positive)
2. Globalization has created new transactional public spheres in which political opinion can be marshaled to hold leaders democratically accountable. (Positive)
3. Women are double-burdened due to domestic and labor work. (Negative)
4. Almost 70% of the world's extreme poor are

women.

(Negative)

#### IV- IMPACTS OF GLOBAL POLITICAL ECONOMY ON PAKISTANI WOMEN

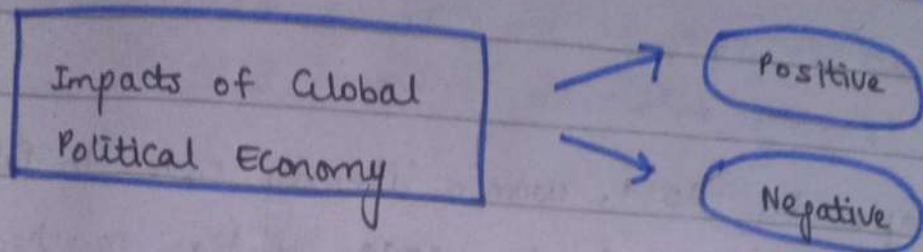


Figure 3: Impacts of Global Political Economy on Pakistani women

According to Jagger, the globalization has promised many things that are crucial to feminists: peace, prosperity, social justice, protection, etc. However, neoliberal policies have brought about the opposite of these aspirations, too. Following are the impacts of global political economy on Pakistani women:

##### a) Positive Impacts

##### i) Women Have Broken Patriarchal Norms

Many Women in Pakistan have broken the chains of patriarchy and started working in private and public sectors. This has also

improved their lifestyles.

## ii) Girls' Literacy Rates Have Increased

The tools of global integration and access to online learning have increased the literacy rates of girls in Pakistan.

Example: In 2019, women literacy rate in Pakistan was 46.49% and in 2022, it has reached 48%.

## iii) Women's Political Participation has Increased

Due to global political economy, women start to participate in political affairs and their participation continues to increase. This has contributed great towards women's representation and their empowerment.

Example: In 2022, 85 women parliamentarians and around 130 women MPAs are working for women's empowerment and protection in Pakistan.

## iv) Made Women Economically Independent

Women's economic dependency on men constitute a source of their suppression.

Due to the globalization and internet, many Pakistani women have started their own businesses.

Example: Many women in Pakistan are now digital content creators, bloggers, youtubers, and they earn handsome amounts.

### v) Made Women Aware of their Rights and International Laws

A major cause of women's oppression is that majority of them are unaware of their rights. Through global politics, women started to highlight women's rights. Further, the social media and media played key role in women's awareness.

Example: Malala Yousafzai's global recognition for her educational services is a blessing of globalization and global politics.

### b) Negative Impacts

#### i) Promoted Gender Inequality

The process of globalization has widely contributed in developing gender inequality within countries, especially in Pakistan.

Example: Equal Measures 2030 has released

the 2019 SDA Gender Index, which finds that nearly 40% of women and girls live in countries that are "failing on gender inequality".

### ii) Increased Women's Poverty

Despite the success of globalization and the global political economy, women are still the poorest category.

Example: Almost 70% of the world's extreme poor are women (statistics).

### iii) Facilitated Women's Harassment

Globalization has increased the exploitation of women. Their harassment has increased manifold, especially the online harassment and workplace harassment.

Example: A survey stated that nearly 93 percent of working women are alleged to have been subjected to sexual harassment in Pakistan.

### iv) Reduced the Demand of <sup>Un-</sup>skilled or Trained Labor

As majority of Pakistani women are uneducated and mostly rely on unskilled work for their livelihood. The deve-



lopments of global political economy have reduced their demand.

### v) Increased Divorce in Society

The more women become aware, the more they become liberal. Same is the case in Pakistan where divorced rates have increased due to freedom, caused by globalization

Example: According to a 2019 Survey, the divorce rate in Pakistan has reached an all-time high

### V - CRITICAL ANALYSIS

Globalization and the global political economy aim at turning this world into an ideal place. The global community has worked only towards creating more global opportunities. As a result, the negative impacts of globalization have out-reached the positive impacts. In developing countries like Pakistan, the women have negatively benefitted from the global integration. Thus, the international and national governments and institutions need to devise strategies towards hitting a balance between the pros

and cons of globalization.

## VI - CONCLUSION

To conclude, the global political economy is a study of <sup>how</sup> politics and economics mutually shape each other and the global system. This field has cast both positive and negative impacts on the lives of women globally and especially in Pakistan. Thus, globalization has resulted both in emancipation and oppression of women.

Q19. The process of globalization has connected nations worldwide and has made the world a global village, yet it has also increased inequalities across nations. Discuss the gendered inequalities created and promoted by the process of globalization in contemporary societies worldwide. (CSS-2017)

Q "Powerful forces of globalization have highlighted various gender issues across culture and throughout the globe." Discuss by quoting examples from developing countries. (CSS-2017)

Ans.

## I - INTRODUCTION: GENDER ISSUES AND GENDER INEQUALITIES CREATED AND PROMOTED BY GLOBALIZATION

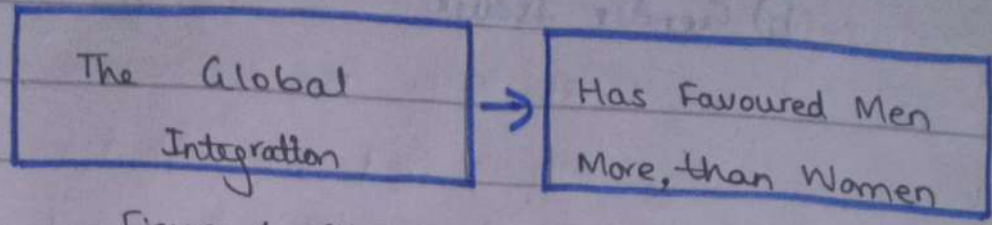


Figure 1: Globalization Impacts

The integration and flattening of the world through globalization have cast wide-ranging impacts on the global community. It has greatly benefitted the entire humanity. However, it has also caused many unsolvable problems — gender issues and inequalities, e.g. educational issues, wage-gap issues, health issues, leadership issues, harassment issues and others. Thus, there is a dire need that the proponents of globalization must devise strategies to address the issues of created by globalization.

## II - GLOBALIZATION AND GENDER ISSUES

### a) Globalization

Globalization means the speed-up of movements and exchanges (of human beings,

goods and services, capital, technologies, or cultural practices) all over the planet. In the context of women, globalization would mean a better social and economic status as indicated by Lourdes Beneria in Gender, Development and Globalization.

## b) Gender Issues

Gender issues are the issues or problems affecting women and men that result from society's perceived generalizations and beliefs on characteristics, capabilities, and behavior of women and men. Gender issues may happen anywhere, such as the organization, workplace, household, etc. These gender issues create gender discrimination.

## III - GENDER ISSUES AND INEQUALITIES CREATED AND PROMOTED BY GLOBALIZATION

The gender issues and inequalities due to globalization are:

### a) Feminization of Women and their Double Duty

Due to globalization, there is an increased number of women in paid jobs. These jobs employ women in low-skill sectors, which require much effort. Resultantly, women are double-burdened due to domestic work and outside labour work. This issue is faced by both developed and developing countries' women.

### b) Wage-Gap and Poverty

Gender and income inequality are linked to each other. A survey conducted in nineteen G-20 countries by international pollster Ipsos MORI revealed that four in every ten women in all the countries of the world listed pay-gap as the most important workplace issue. This has resulted in women's poverty. According to statistics, almost 70% of the world's extreme poor are women.

### c) Increased Unemployment in Developed World

Globalization has shifted the labour intensive industries from developed countries

to the developing countries. Resultantly, in developed countries, there is prevailing an increased women unemployment. Whereas, in developing countries, women are forced to work with low wages.

#### d) Lower Female Literacy

Despite that globalization has promoted women's literacy, there is a huge gender-gap in the global literacy rate. According to Statistica Research Department, as of 2020, about 90% of males and 83% of females in the world were literate. The condition of women's literacy in developing countries is no different than the global condition.

#### e) Inadequate Women Leadership

Women need to be in more leadership positions to highlight and legislate on women's issues. Unfortunately, women's representation in parliament in the 21st century is still inadequate. As of May 2015, the proportion of women in parliament<sup>s</sup> around the world stood at 22.1%. There are roughly 10 percent ~~women~~ countries of the world ruled

by women.

### f) Insufficient Health Care for Women

Women's health is more sensitive than that of <sup>men</sup> males due to menstruation, pregnancy and other issues. However, women all over the world lack inadequate <sup>access</sup> ~~hea~~ to health care (despite there are innumerable online doctors too). According to a <sup>research,</sup> ~~survey,~~ almost 300,000 women died from complications in pregnancy and child-birth in 2018 only.

### g) Socio-Cultural Taboos Against Women

There are many cultural taboos especially in the third world countries which need to be highlighted. All these taboos are in favor of men and have exploited women. In 2019, the United Nations estimated that 5,000 women were victims of honor-killings each year.

### h) Harassment Against Women

A survey conducted in nineteen G-20 countries by international pollster Ipsos

MORI revealed that workplace harassment is the second-ranked issue that women face after wage-gap. A survey stated that nearly 93 percent of working women are alleged to have been subjected to sexual harassment in Pakistan.

## 1) Domestic Violence

Domestic violence is a common issue and mostly women of third-world countries are its victims. Almost one-third (30%) of all women who have been in a relationship have experienced physical/sexual violence by their intimate partner.

## IV- CRITICAL ANALYSIS

Globalization aims at turning this world into an ideal place. The global community has worked only towards creating more global opportunities. As such the negative effects of globalization have out-reached its positive effects. Globalization has promoted gender issues and inequalities and women have become the victims. Thus, there is a dire need that the proponents of globalization, the national



and international governments must work towards reducing the negative effects and enhance women's empowerment, especially in the third world countries.

## V- CONCLUSION

In a nutshell, in every form of activity, women contribute substantially to the value addition. Globalization has also expanded due to women's contribution—especially of the third world countries. However, globalization has resulted in more gender issues and discrimination against women. Therefore, there must be some strategy devised to hit a balance between the pros and cons of globalization.