

Q) Critically evaluate the concept of gendered globalization focusing on World System Theory and how the globalization of capitalism has created new forms of patriarchal powers to increase gender inequalities.

Answer:

1) Introduction:-

The phenomena of globalization has had sweeping impacts on every aspect of human life including economy, politics and social life. However, we cannot say that it has completely succeeded in achieving its goals when it comes to women.

The critical evaluation of World Systems Theory is just one area that helps us unearth the gendered nature of globalization. Such a form of globalization has reaped huge profits for men only to the exclusion of women.

In essence, this has led to new forms of patriarchal control and increasing gender inequalities.

It is as George Ritzer says:-

"Globalization reinforces

preexisting gender structures,
barriers and relationships,
only now on global sale."

2) The Idea of Gendered Globalization:-

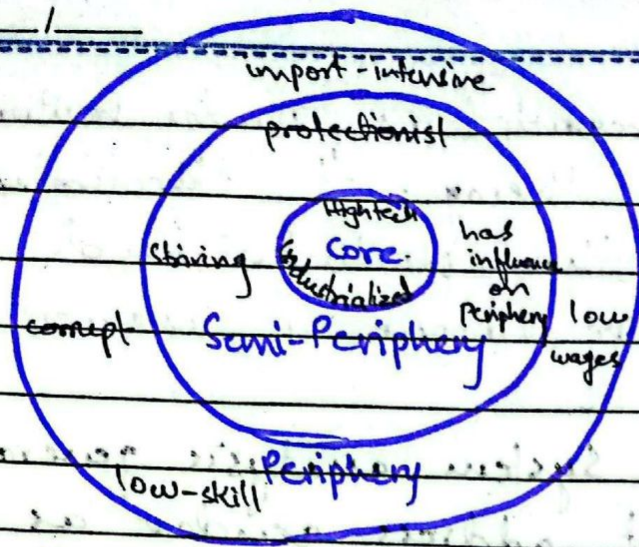
As the term itself suggests, the process of globalization is seen as a biased process (towards one gender i.e. men) as a form of globalization paradox. It suggests that men have been the main beneficiaries of the opening up of world economy, opening up of borders and exchange of goods and services.

3) Interpretation of Gendered Globalization through World System Theory:-

World System Theory is an idea developed by Immanuel Wallerstein to explain the rise of world system where one system benefits the most at the expense of the others.

a) Hierarchy Levels under WST

WST divides the world into three levels in the globalized capitalistic economy.



• Hierarchies Under WST

b) Gender Critique Highlighting Gendered Nature of Globalization.

The following critique of WST explores how globalization is a gendered process.

i) Being Gender Blind

The theory assumes that the world is made up of a homogeneous labour force and so no focus has been made on the types of genders within and among these three hierarchical groups.

ii) Assuming Gender Neutrality of Labour

The manpower which is the "main driving force" for accumulating profits in the globalized world has

been regarded as "gender neutral" in this theory. It effectively ignores the productive and reproductive labour of women.

"World System analysis generally does not address gender as a constitutive element of the system, but gender is deeply embedded."

— Maria Miles
in Patriarchy & Accumulation
on the World Scale.

Ignores
iii) 1 Patriarchy and Capitalism
that are Mutually Reinforcing

The theory also fails to address the issue of patriarchy and the abuses of capitalism on women. It is in fact the women who have been tending to and reproducing new generations of capitalists, yet their contributions have been ignored.

"The production of people is as necessary as the production of things; yet only the latter counts as work in capitalist economies."

— Silvia Federici in Caliban & the Witch.

4) How Globalization of Capitalism has Created New Forms of Patriarchal Controls/ Created Inequalities :-

At least when capitalism was contained within the West, it was oppressing only the women of the West. However, the process of globalization has spread it to every corner of the world and led to new forms of patriarchal controls and inequalities.

It has done so in the following ways :-

a) Marginalizing Women to Subsistence Farming in Asia and Africa :-

This has been done through land appropriations to men to grow export oriented crops and taking land away from women.

b) Creating Wage Inequalities

Although globalization has allowed women to enter economic realm outside her home, she has

been faced with job inequalities and wage gaps. Even today this gap stands at 0.77¢ vs \$1.00 in favor of men in USA.

c) Creating Women's Double Day:-

Women have entered job market but have not been relieved of their care work. Thus leading to Double Burden for them.

d) Men's Control on Positions of Power

According World Economic Forum (2024) Workforce Representation statistics, women only hold 35% of managerial positions and 28% of vice president roles.

5) Conclusion:-

Globalization has indeed revolutionized every area of human life, yet it has failed to deliver the very best to all the genders of the world. It has mostly benefited men while marginalizing women.

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and other genders. It has also strengthened control of men over the accumulations of capitalism. All of this needs to be viewed under a critical lens and modified on priority basis to deliver equitable benefits of globalization to all genders.