

What are the impacts of global political economy on Pakistani women?

The global political economy play a pivotal role in shaping the lives and opportunities of women world wide, including those in Pakistan while international organization like the IMF, WB, UN women have made significant contribution in promoting gender equality through policies aimed at enhancing women education, health care, and employment opportunities, their impacts are often intertwined with broader dynamics of the global market. These dynamic such as trade agreement, foreign investment, global supply chain and climate change also influence the economic and social reality of women. The global political economy create both opportunities and challenges - offers women in certain sector such as textile and technology but simultaneously exposing them to exploitation and inequality. As Pakistan become increasingly integrated into global economic system, women roles are both empowered and constrained by these interconnected global forces.

Impacts of world political economy organization on Pakistani women.

Impacts of international monetary funds (IMF)

"Austerity measures have a gendered impact, disproportionately affecting women." Diane Elson

The IMF has provide loans to Pakistan during financial crises, helping stabilize the economy. This stability is crucial for maintaining public services including healthcare and

education which women rely on disproportionately. IMF promote financial inclusion, leading to increase micro credit for women.

"In 2021, Pakistan's microfinance sector deposited more than 50% of its client were women."

Negative impact of IMF

IMF imposed austerity measure result in cuts to subsidies on food, healthcare and education, directly impacting vulnerable women. They cause increase in poverty but increasing fuel prices and other.

2) Impacts of World Bank

investing in women's education and jobs can boost a country's GDP by 25% - WB.

Positive impact

World Bank has financed many program aimed at increasing female literacy and school enrollment. As of 2020, girls education in Pakistan increased 30% in last decade due to WB funded programs.

"In 2021, about 35% of all business funded by Pakistan poverty alleviation fund were women led."

Negative impact

The loans taken from the World Bank often with condition that increase national debt, limiting govt ability to spend on social program, that benefit women such as healthcare. They can also led privatization of public services.

According to 2022, report of UNICEF, World Bank supported health system in Pakistan have led to increased privatization, with maternal care becoming more expensive for women in rural areas, where 30% of women give birth without skilled health care.

1) World Trade Organization

"Trade can empower women, but only if policies are fair and inclusive - WIO report."

World Trade Organization agreement helped Pakistani women entrepreneurs sell handicraft and fashion product internationally creating new source of income. Similarly textile and garment industry is major export industry in Pakistan.

According to the Pakistan Bureau of statistics (2022), textile sector employ 60% women.

Negative impacts

- low wages, poor working condition and lack of job security.

According to international labour organization average wage for women textile worker 40% lower than that of men.

- WTO's trade policies can hurt small scale local entrepreneur. cheaper export goods from China and India, threaten local industries where women are employed.

Foreign Direct Investment and women economic opportunity.

Foreign investment in Pakistan technology, agriculture and infrastructure sector can have mixed effect on women. Due to that investment, there is an increase in job opportunity for Pakistani women.

According to Pakistan Technology Report, 2013, "The Tech Pak initiative in Karachi, supported by FDI, has led to increase women participation in digital jobs, with **over 40%** of employees being women."

Negative impact

① Women shift from traditional role to technological advancement and lower opportunity for male.

a) Rural female unable to obtain tech training become predator of disparity.

Climate change and global environmental policies.

The global political economy also affects Pakistani women through climate change policies and their local implementation. Pakistan is the 5th most vulnerable country to climate change and women in rural and agrarian suffer disproportionately.

Positive impacts

Pakistan's participation in global climate agreement such as Paris agreement can lead to funding for climate adaptation project, including that support women resilience in agriculture and water management.

Conclusion

The global political economy shapes Pakistani women's life in profound ways beyond the influence of specific organizations. While it brought job opportunities, social reform and gender equality advancement, it also caused exploitation in the labour market. The challenge for Pakistan is to ensure that global economy integration does not undermine the progress made in achieving gender equality and women's empowerment.