

Has globalization helped the women of Pakistan? Critically evaluate.

1) Introduction:-

Globalization has been the most transformative phenomena of the past century that has changed the lives of many both positively and negatively. When it comes to the women of Pakistan, we see both positive and negative impacts of globalization. On the plus side, we see economic opportunities, improved health and education, rise of awareness of rights, rise of agricultural control for women and transnational feminist community. However, we also see the rise of cultural backlash against women, reduction in industry-based jobs, rise of patriarchal control (in few areas) and

income disparity between men and women. So while it appears as if Globalization has only been a fairy godmother to the women of Pakistan, we can not ignore excesses

"Globalization is a fact of life but I believe we have failed to understand its fragility."
— Kofi Anan

2) Defining Globalization:

In general, globalization refers to the economical and political changes that have to arise in interdependent and connected world owing to liberalization and open communication.

3) Ways in which Globalization has Helped Women:

According to Pakistan Journal of Social and Clinical Psychology's Article "Is Globalization Empowering Women? A Case Study of District Lahore, Pakistan", 2020, Globalization significantly and positively contributes towards women empowerment.

It does so by

a) Opening Economic Development Opportunities

Globalization has opened economic opportunities for women of Pakistan in the IT, Textile, Education and Entrepreneurial sectors. (Journal of Business Insights and Innovation, 2024).

b) Feminization of Agriculture Exports.

According to Gender Equity and Globalization, Journal of International Development (2006), the non-traditional agro products whose cultivation, control and export was controlled ~~by~~ previously by men, is now being opened to women.

c) Exposure to New Ideas & Agency for Change:

Globalization has opened the women of Pakistan to new ideas for improvement and betterment of their status.

Examples: UN Women that is working with Commission on the Status of Women is a case in point.

d) Rise of Women led Organisations & NGOs

Due to globalization and rise of international and supranational entities' pressure and support Pakistani women have got several local NGOs of their own that working for betterment of Pakistani women. Examples include Bedari, Noor Project and Aurat Foundation.

e) Support for Intersectionality

Globalization supports and works to eliminate intersectional influences of gender, race and class on gender discrimination. Due to this, we have seen tailored efforts for economical and social ~~improvement~~ ^{for} betterment of Pakistani women.

f) Greater Access to Healthcare and Education

Reports highlight that globalization has drastically changed health and education status of Pakistani women. Latest Nutritional Survey shows that nutritional status of women based on minimum RDA

requirements has significantly improved during the last three decades.

4) Ways in Which Globalization has failed Pakistani Women:

Following points show that globalization has also failed Pakistani women in certain aspects:

a) Reinforced Gender Inequality

Workplace harassment and pay inequality is a clear sign of the inequality that globalization has created. According to UN Women, the wage inequality in South Asian countries still is \$0.77 to \$1 in favor of men.

b) Increased Exploitation

Although economic opportunities have increased, the workload has not lessened, ~~and~~ giving rise to the concept of 'women's double day'.

According to IMF (2025), women in Pakistan mostly find work in exploitative and unregulated informal sector.

c) Cultural Backlash

The ideas of globalization have not been well-received in the Pakistani culture and this has led to significant backlash for Pakistani women.

d) Unequal Access to Technology

Unequal access to tech is due to patriarchal control of resources by men and their unequal distribution. This has led to unequal pace of growth.

Mobile use gap in Pakistan is currently at 25% (GMSA Mobile Gender Gap Report, 2025).

5) Conclusion:

Undeniably, the fruits of globalizations have been inequitably divided amongst the men and women of Pakistan. Although it has helped women in certain ways, it has also marginalized their status in certain ways. Pakistan needs to make policy changes to ensure that everyone benefits from globalization equitably.