

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 backlashes 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 economic and political changes that have to an interconnected and connected world owing to liberalization and open communication.

3) Ways in which Globalization has Helped Women:

Begin with your own idea

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.

If 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 agri products whose cultivation, control and export was controlled 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

Owing to globalization and rise of international and supranational entities' pressure and support Pakistani women have got created local NGOs of their own that are 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. Owing to this, we have seen increased efforts for economical and social ~~status quo~~ 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 treatment 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, with 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.

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c) Cultural Backlash

The idea of globalization have
had a negative effect on 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
inequal pace of growth.

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

5)

Conclusion:

Add analysis in which you take
side and prove either it is more
effective or dangerous in the form
of future prospect

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.