

GLOBALIZATION AND EXCLUSION: IN SPECIAL CONTEXT OF OLD AGE PEOPLE IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

We live in the era of globalization. Globalization refers to the process through which societies and economy are integrated through cross border flows of ideas, communication, technology, capital, people, finance, goods, services and information. Globalization is not limited to the economy of the countries only; but the term globalization actually refers to every aspect of life, like social, cultural, communal, psychological, political etc. It has opened avenues for employment and encouraged women participation too. This leads to the rise in economy. But due to rise in competition and unequal income distribution both within and between countries; India suffer from low economic status. Rich are becoming richer and poor are becoming more poor, which results in marginalization or exclusion of particular group or sector of society; like aged people. Connection between globalization and ageing appears artificial. No significant change is seen on the life of aged people. On one side, aged population is increasing rapidly and on the other side, the traditional welfare institutions are deteriorating. Thus, care for the elderly has emerged as an important issue in the country.

Keywords: Globalization, Economy, Aged People, Exclusion, Liberalization.

Introduction

Before independence India's share of world economy has 24.4% in 1700, which declined to 4.2 % in 1950. And its share of global industrial output declined from 25 % in 1750 to 2% in 1900. After independence India was very poor as a result of de-industrialization by Britain. India's economic growth was not good due to lack of proper resources, poor financial and industrial development. Thus, India adopted "Five Year Plan" policy from Russia and started depending totally on Five Year Plan policy for its economic development. India the poorest country in the world was the brightest jewel in the British crown in terms of per capita income at the beginning of 20th century.

After economic crisis of 1990 the central government launched economic liberation. For this India adopted the LPG growth model to boost its economy. Laws and rules were liberalized and relaxed by the government, with a goal of making the country's economy more service and market oriented., free flow of capital between nations and the efficient allocation of resources and competitive advantage. Thus, allowing India to emerge as one of the world's fastest growing large economy. After this India became second developing country in the world and the 7th largest economy, which contributed approximate 1.4 trillion in the world's GDP. But this liberalization resulted into Neo-liberal era which focused on reducing government spending as welfare state and to increase the role of private sector and supported the extension of competitive market into all areas of life including economic, political and social. Since the last decade competition has reached its peak. It has also led to greater economic and sociocultural disparities. Due to MNC's culture domestic industries start losing its place in market because of uncertainty and threat to its

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existence. MNC place their own profit and growth ahead of the needs of their host countries; for this they use their money and power to influence and interfere in the political matters and in decision making process. They even impose their culture and give rise to conspicuous consumption and acculturation. To make maximum profit with minimum investment, they even started marginalizing the values, tradition, ethics of the country and sometimes they exploit or exclude women, poor people and elderly, as they are not productive or economic mean for these big industries. Globalization has not lifted everyone. We cannot see it as a tool to eradicate poverty. It has created generation gap and inequality in terms of class, gender, race, income, living standard, etc. We can see a huge gap between rich and poor. According to **Oxfam report** India's richest 1% holds more than four times the wealth held by 953 million people who make up for the bottom 70% of the country's population; while the total wealth of all Indian billionaires is more than the full year budget. The combined total wealth of 63 Indian billionaires is higher than the total Union Budget of India for the fiscal year 2018-19 which was at Rs.24,42,200 crore. It won't be wrong to say that 'Islands of prosperity are surrounded by oceans of poverty'. There is ample evidence that proves Marx's theorizing is becoming reality; income inequality has risen, there is class war going on and capitalism is making a comeback. Domestic income inequality has risen. Prior to globalization old people were the first beneficiary of the welfare state, but now they are the first target of economic restructuring and financial cuts. Due to disintegration of joint family the family which was considered as a life insurance agent started losing its importance. As young people are move towards urban areas in search of new employment opportunity and to improve their standard of living; they are leaving their parents alone.

According to **Ulrich Beck** Theory of Risk society of modernity; the risk in modern society are created by our own social development. In the age of globalization risk is not restricted to one country only, but it affects whole world and all social classes. Risk society includes a whole series of interrelated changes such as shifting employment patterns, heightened job insecurity, declining influence of tradition and custom, erosion of traditional family patterns, etc. In Classical industrial society the idea was equality. The notion of welfare, humanism, freedom and equality were inspired by enlightenment. But this idea is abandoned by New Modernity. This gave rise to individualism and inequality based upon class, gender, race, etc. And now we are moving in the era of second modernity.

Significance of Study

'Living longer is a triumph, but living better is a challenge.' Indian population is undergoing a process of drastic demographic transition. Decline in fertility rate, reduction in mortality and increasing survival at older age contribute to population ageing. Ageing is basically a bio-physical and neural phenomenon, characterized by global decline in the efficiency of reflexes and decrease in physical and mental ability over the time. The size of elderly population in India has increased over a period of time. According to the **census 2011** there are nearly 104 million elderly persons in India. According to report released by the **United Nation Population Fund and Help Age India** elderly population is expected to grow up to 173 million by 2026. Thus, India has been classified as an "Aging country".

Below are certain reasons and results of exclusion of aged people due to globalization; they are:

- Young generation in search of employment opportunity and better living standard leave their aged parents alone and move to another city or country. This results in isolation, rejection and loneliness of elderly; leads to psychological distress, unwantedness, anxiety and crime against older people.
- Globalization has given rise to Information Technology. Older population are not or less proficient in technology or sometimes cannot embrace change. Thus, being alone their day-to-day works like e-banking, transactions, purchasing, communication, ticket booking, etc. becomes challenging. This gives feeling of exclusion.
- Globalization has introduced advanced medical technologies. But in context of India, 80% of Indian population lives in village and cost of medical care is also very high which is not affordable for them.
- Globalization has not only lead to faster growth but faster inflation also. Older population find their savings eaten away by inflation. Thus, they are left with no or scanty of money.

- After retirement, the third age people unable to find clear role and this realization leads to loss of status, loneliness and worthlessness. Problem increases when they have to economically depend on their children.
- Woman's weaker property rights also give chance to family members to exploit old women and to place them in old age homes.
- In this era of Globalization both man and woman are employed. Sometimes they find it difficult to balance between personal and professional life. As a result, older people feel neglected and burden on family. Sometime due to lack of financial stability, they are forced to move to old age homes.

Aged people need more care and attention. Old age homes are neither adequate nor they provide sufficient accessibility. They are reported to be insensitive to the needs of aged people.

Third age people are often discriminated in office and argued that they have lost their productive capacity. As a result, they don't find employment to cope up with their economic needs. They are constantly marginalized.

Conclusion

The effect of globalization is very much visible in India. The family in India is undergoing a rapid transition in respect of the structure, function and interpersonal relations. Westernization and modernization have led to breakdown of traditional joint family into nuclear family. Marginalization of elderly is caused by the erosion of individual values, attitudes and prevailing cultural order. Modern values have taken over traditional values. It is considered that old age people are weak - physically, financially, socially, emotionally and they are unproductive; they are not suitable for this progressive global society. Globalization has prolonged their life but eroded the purpose of life. Seeing the Rapid growth of population, India would be left with high number of dependent population, who needs to be cared for. Government policies and plans should be crafted with this in consideration. The present private and public pension, National Health Care plans and personal savings are underfunded and insufficient to lead a decent life. Due to limited resources, negligence and apathy of government workers; they are not making effective plans and policies for the aged population and to meet their needs. This ultimately leads to the exclusion of aged people from the mainstream of society.

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