WOMEN IN THE LIGHT OF GLOBALISATION IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Globalization has brought both fears and hopes to the people of the world. It has had different effects on the various communities of developed and developing countries, cities, suburbs, men and women.

This Issue in Depth will examine the effects of globalization on women worldwide, namely on their participation in the economy, representation in the political process, education, health, and sexual slavery. It also will discuss the possibility of globalization's ability to greatly benefit women in the internationalization of the movement for gender equality, and the legal structure that supports this goal and recognizes women's rights as basic human rights.

For women, the impact of globalisation has been uneven. A small layer have gained work opportunity in terms of newly emerging forms of employment, especially in the IT, service and food-processing sectors, but the semi-/unskilled ones have lost control over their natural recourses (land, water forest etc), as well as in traditional industries, resulting in the loss of traditional livelihood and sustainability. Gender is not a homogeneous category, but is intersected by class, caste, community and ethnicity, and impacted by age, ideology and sexual preference.

Even among leftists, there exist various views on globalisation. Rohini Hensman argues that an 'anti-globalisation' agenda would actually deprive third-world women of job opportunities and improving their conditions. She argues that talk of alternatives at the present juncture is to dream, and reality demands recognizing that some job is better than no job. Even if trade unions have collapsed due to capitalist offensives, jobs for some women enable them to survive, be independent of male relatives and feed their families.

KEYWORDS: Economic Improvement, Political Empowerment, Women Education, Women Health and Modern Day Slavery