

GLOBALIZATION AND IT'S IMPACT ON YOUNG-OLD RELATIONSHIP

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Abstract: 'Ageing of population' has become a global issue with its constant increase during the second half of the last century. Globalization, on one side, made easy availability of life saving medicines, supply of nutrient & health facility, controlled various communicable diseases. Hence, results in drastic reduction in mortality rates, substantial increase in life expectancy at birth and the overall span of aged people. On the other side, it has cornered the old within the four walls of home, separated them from young members of the family, deprive them from honor and love they used to get centuries ago. Consequently, the traditional values and institutions are in the process of erosion resulting in weakening of inter- generational ties that were the hallmark of the traditional family. This paper is trying to understand Ageing in Indian context from globalization perspective. One needs to look at role of globalization on individual's private lives and its impact on aged member of the family. There is dearth of seriousness on this topic. The discussion and deliberation on the issue will enhance our understanding and will definitely provide us a new perspective to look at the 'excluded member'. The paper is based primarily on the secondary sources. Material will be collected from books, journal articles, newspaper articles, internet sources, reports, etc. This paper will argue that study of ageing is detrimental to overall development of the country. Although, the criticality of situation varies from rural to semi- urban to urban but aged people are disadvantaged everywhere.

Keywords: Aged, Social Dimension, Globalization, Family, Inter- generation gap.

Introduction: Globalization, according to Wikipedia is "the process of international integration arising from the interchange of world views, products, ideas, and other aspects of culture." Hence, the original underlying idea is the progressive integration of societies and economies by new economic relationships, policies & programmes of government, civil societies, business houses, organizations at national and international level. As per International Monetary Fund (IMF) four basic aspects of globalization include trade and transactions; migration; capital and investment movements; and broadcasting of knowledge. Academic literatures so far discussed three major areas of globalization: Economic, Political and Culture. Social dimension of globalization has not received significant importance. It plays a major role in the life and work of people, on their families and their societies. Impact of globalization on working condition, employment security has been analyzed to some extent by organization likes ILO but how the improvement in education, ideas and thoughts, job opportunities, improvement in health has affected the relation within the four walls of family has been rarely touched upon. For business class, globalization is an asset but for the old or aged or elders or seniors, the developments except advancement in medical facilities, have not wholly benefitted this section of population in society.

This paper is an attempt to study the impact of globalization on the lives of elderly member's of the family. The researcher has tried to critically study major sectors where globalization has shown numerous advances but simultaneously have made

the aged feel left out. Where global era has opened up new possibilities for young generation; encouraged them to move to various places meanwhile is separating them from their parents leaving alone at that phase of life when they need them the most. There is no direct work done so far as the impact of globalization is not direct on aged people but it is one of the crucial areas that needs to be studied for future planning.

Demographic Perspective in India: According to demographers, the demographic trends such as falling mortality rates, increasing life- expectancy, declining fertility have increased the population share of elderly people drastically. Like most other developing countries, the population growth of elderly in India is seen similar to world's trend. According to Annual Report (2011- 12) of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, the population of senior citizen in the age 60+ has increased from 77 million in 2001 to 96 million in 2011 and projected to increase to 301 million in 2051 i.e. 17.3 percent to the total population in that year. Similarly, population of age 70+ was 29 million in 2001, increased to 36 million in 2011 to 51 million in 2021 to 73 million in 2031 and then 132 million will be in 2051. The same trend is seen in age 80+ population that was 8 million in 2001 (account to 0.5% to the total population) will increase to 23 million in 2014 to 32 million in 2051 as evident from the below data. In the absence of socio-economic security system, aged people rely primarily on family based social support network. As India's population ages, the country will face a shrink in working- age people to support the elderly population. According to census 2011, old-

dependency ratio in India has risen from 122 million in the year 1991 to 131 million in the year 2001 to 142 million in 2011. Another point to be noted here is that the overall share of female aged persons appears to be larger than their male counterparts over a period of time that is being termed as 'Feminization of Ageing'. Doubtless, the problems multiply for widows, divorced, single aged women in the patriarchal society. Therefore, we need to study the impact of globalization on both the groups in family setup.

Globalization and change in relationship within family: Another understanding about Indian elderly is based on 'Globalization'— that processes of migration, urbanization, higher education, employment of women etc. is leading to erosion of the traditional value systems and older people are being neglected. Concerns and issues are often raised about the impact of globalization on employment, working conditions, income and social protection. Beyond the world of work, the social dimension encompasses security, culture and identity, inclusion or exclusion and the cohesiveness of families and communities".

This section is in relation to the changes that have been occurring within the society at large— for instance migration of working- age children, dual earner families, technology advancement, lifestyle, modern ideas determinism— and made an attempt to link these changes to the transformation of family. Due to vast diversity in culture, religion, India has generated a large volume of studies, research, investigations on family patterns rather than dynamics in family. The impact of external forces like globalization, urbanization and modernization on size, form, type, composition, pattern & roles of families have been enquired a little bit from parent-child, marital, power relationship side but how these changes effect the health of aged people of the family been less bothered. Lots of variation being seen in the family in the form of authority & leadership pattern, structure, system maintenance, household task responsibility of shifting child- rearing, food habits & way of greeting, dressing style, interaction etc.

Given the rate of accelerating ageing population along with the problem of socialization and inter-generational gap in today's India, there is a need to focus on ageing and take effective steps for improvement in the quality of life. Bhat and Dhruvarajan (2001) asserted that under the impact of technical change, education, globalization, urbanization, industrialization, Indian society is undergoing rapid transformation. As a result, the traditional institutions and traditional values are in the process of adaption and erosion, consequently weakening the inter- generational ties that sometimes ago were the benchmark of the traditional family. Khan (2007) described intergenerational

relationship as a communication between individuals of various generations who share identical but not similar experiences as are born, die and live within same historical period. It is the interaction between children, parents and grandparents that make the bond stronger among themselves. 'Two hours intervention' with Kendriya Vidyalaya children in the age range of 10- 16 years seconded the fact that values and culture taught by parents play a vital role in bridging gap between generations. Children complained that parents discouragement lead to less interaction with their grandparents and lack of sensitivity towards them.

Old age is a period similar to childhood where a person demands for extra care, affection, sharing, motivation to live healthy life. To fulfill all these desires, family has a significant role to play. Joint family once considered the backbone of Indian social organization has declined its relevance following globalization, technological advancement, migration, education, high- expenses in child- rearing etc. Data on the size of Indian household (Census 2011), shows that over the years families with maximum number of members are declining. Household with 9 persons and above have come down from 11.3% to 6.6% whereas families with 3-5 persons have increased to 55.1% in just 10 year period. Hence, we can say this, many people have very small informal network and that some have no informal care available at all. Care giving, help & support for the elderly can be viewed from different perspective; economic support, social support; physical support and caring during illness (Chekki, 1996).

Gidden identified several factors for this transformation- (a) influence of western values and culture on marriage, role expectation, selection of partner etc. (b) low birth rate (c) migration for employment from rural to urban areas (Sooryamoorthy, 2012). Individual linked itself for nurture, growth, support, values & development to the family that is strong, cohesive, integral, fundamental unit and solid foundation of the Indian social structure. Older people are often abused, mistreated, ignored, psychologically tortured, disregarded and dishonored in the family setting. According to HelpAge India report (2014) on elder abuse in India, the % of elder abused drastically increased from 23% in the previous year to 50%. The daughter-in-law (61%) and son (59%) emerged as the topmost perpetrators. Often we hear lacuna of adjustment, accommodation, assimilation, space problems but they all are overlooked by the comfort, facilitative, protective and friendly social environment it establish for its members.

More than half of the day children spend with their parents who need to feed their children but what happen in families where both mother and father are

working. Hence, the change in livelihood system is one of the reason behind decline in close contact with the aged. Social isolation and loneliness has become common to old people as grandchildren along with their parents have joined the race to win the battle of rich vs. poor and success vs. failure. A very limited time is allotted to children to play with their grandparents as they have lots of school work burden. Music, coaching for extra-curricular activities, both indoor and outdoor games have attracted children more than stories of grandparents and games that they used to play in their times. Another aspect of globalization is Authority patterns are changing from previously being determined by age & sex to contemporaneously being decided by education & income. Ross “demonstrates a change in roles & relationship with nuclearization. A closer examination of the process indicates consultation & bargaining between the spouses, leading to conjugal solidarity and equality. Hence, the basic predictors of grandparent- grandchild contact and relationship quality are geographical proximity, age and health of grandparents, gender of grandparent and developmental level of grandchild” (Mueller & Glen, 2003). Mathews and spreng reported that “the quality of late adolescent’s relationships with their grandparents was predicted by a close childhood relationship with a grandparent and by the perceived quality of the parent grandparent relationship” (Mueller & Glen, 2003). Thompson and walker found that “grandmother’s feeling for granddaughters were indistinguishable from their feelings for their daughters. In contrast, granddaughter’s feelings for their grandmothers were mediated by the granddaughter’s relationships with their mother and by the intensity of their feelings for their mothers” (Mueller & Glen, 2003). According to Thompson and walker, “daughter’s feelings for their mother ‘overflow’ to their grandmothers. To some degree, in both generation feelings were generalized across the lineage system” (Mueller & Glen, 2003). Hence family relationship histories have effects on later life.

Grandparent and grandchildren play important social roles in each other’s lives. Some grandparents may engage in a series of shared activities and also served as mentors to their grandchild, or may promote a particular life direction through their authority and experience (Singh, 1994).

Further, Migration brings about changes to the family structure, it decreases the labour available to run the household, it decreases the independent members who care for elders, reduces social interaction between older and younger generation. On the contrary, Habibullah Ansari (2011) asserted that impact of migration of younger generation is not always negative rather contributed positively to their status and respect. The better off have a negative

perception but among the lower status it is positive that means impact varies as per social status of older persons.

Globalization in context of status of women implicates the relegation of the stereotypic pattern of duties of the women like rearing and caring the children to the background and taking up the various diversified occupation and thus making their living quite vibrant and alive. Many studies have pointed out that the care giving is foremost a feminine responsibility and in families where both sons and son’s wives go out for work, elder care in the family setting becomes problematic (Balarajan, 2013).

Earlier ‘Namaste’ ‘Namaskar’ was a common spoken greeting in the Indian subcontinent. Now, ‘Hi’ ‘Hello’ ‘Whatsup’ is used to greet people. Secondly, junk food has replaced our traditional ‘sarso ka saag n makke ki roti’. Thirdly, western dresses have replaced ethnic Indian dresses among youth. Hence, these all give a sense of dissatisfaction to elderly people and become a reason for argument between today’s youth and people in 60s 70s n more. Earlier every small festival was celebrated with great colour of enjoyment & togetherness. Now, such a wide gathering with full light can hardly be seen today. People have highly restricted themselves in social interaction. Consequently, the chance to meet relatives, friends is no more in practice. Thus, they have to accommodate in the situation without any option. With modernization of the country, older values are being replaced by ‘individualism’. According to a report data (2011), 40% elderly female & 75% of elderly male lives with their spouse. About half of the aged women and less than 20% of aged men live with their children. 7-8% elderly women live alone and another 6-7% reported to live with other relatives and non-relatives.

Provision by Government of India for Senior Citizen: To make sure aged people live healthy, secured, longer, dignified and productive life, the welfare of the aged has been enshrined in the constitution of India. The item 9 of the state list and items 20, 23, and 24 of the concurrent list speak of “the provision of old age pension, social security, social insurance, economic and social planning and relief to the disabled and the unemployed”. The Article 41 of the Directive Principles of state policy express “the state shall make effective provision for securing the right to work, to public assistance in case of unemployment, old age, sickness and durableness and in other cases undeserved wants, within its limits of economic development and capacity”. Fundamental Right Article 16 (2) emphasizes “on equal opportunity in matters of public employment”. Article 47 of the Indian constitution points out to “the raising of the level of nutrition and the standard of living of its people and

improvement of public health". Coming to the category of legislative measure, the retirement benefits (GPF & PPF) are provided to those who served the government and the public undertakings. The Employees Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 (amended in 1996) provide for economic security to persons or their families in the event of retirement or even death before retirement. The National Social Assistance Programme came into existence on 15 August 1995 and one of its programmes is the National Old Age Pension Scheme that is implemented through the Panchayats and Municipalities. Presently, all state government and union territories are implementing the old age pension scheme under the state sector. But the scheme of the old age pensions in some states is not sufficient to meet the nature of this challenge. Government of India announced the National Policy on older persons in 1999 to reaffirm its commitment to ensure the well-being of the older persons in a holistic manner. Another programme, NSAP came into effect from 15 August 1995. It's a Social Assistance Programme for the poor households and represents a significant step towards the fulfillment of the Directive Principles enshrined in Article 41 and 42 of the Constitution of India recognizing concurrent responsibility of the central and state government in the manner. Other important initiatives by the government are Maintenance and Welfare of Parents & Senior Citizen Act, 2007 and National Policy for Senior Citizen, 2011. Apart from these constitutional and legislative measures, the individual ministries like Ministry of civil aviation, railways, income tax department provide facilities to senior citizens to make their life comfortable, hassle free and safe.

Recommendations and Conclusion: With some positivity of having a generalized knowledge of the globalization, happenings throughout the world, still the major negative impacts are alarming for our country. Hence, we need to move very cautiously with the globalization process to maintain our cultural and societal prestige. We not only have to think for 77 million population in age group 60- 70

years (2011) but also for the 32 million aged people of more than 80 years in 2051.

In brief the major antecedent to the issue of ageing is the changing aspects of Indian social structures which includes family pattern, adoption of individualistic values by youth, migration etc. Thus it is indispensable that the policy intervention should take notice of the socio – economic conditions of the aged individuals. Hence the liberation of ageism does not merely imply a collaborative efforts undertaken by the public- private institutions along with the involvement of voluntary organizations and community at large but it also depends on the freedom from the shackles of 'Individualism' and the 'Self' which will bring back cognitive tradition of Indian civilization. To make this possible, Madrid Plan of Action & the UN Principles for senior citizens adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2002, the proclamation on Ageing & the global targets on Ageing for the year 2001 adopted by General Assembly in 1992. Policy, guidelines and laws at country level designed so far from time to time need to be implemented and check & balance approach must be worked out. Secondly, Like we have courses, chapters on Environment, disaster management. Similarly, Ageing should become a part of our education system. Thirdly, there should be programmes in school that include participation of grandparents so that interaction between grandchild and grandparents become healthy. Fourthly, Pension should be included in both organized and unorganised sectors to avoid dependency of elder people on their children as economic dependency is one of the biggest reason for unhealthy atmosphere at home. Fifthly, Counselling for elderly should become a regular practice in societies & 'mohallas' to make them adapt to the changing society. Sixthly, School and college children should be taken to old age home as part of educational tours. And Lastly, Home based education should be provided to senior citizens as well as family member/s on issues of health, government initiatives etc. so that they don't be burden for themselves and their family too.

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