



IMPACT OF GLOBALIZATION ON THE ROLE OF WOMEN WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO TIRAP DISTRICT, ARUNACHAL PRADESH

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Abstract

Tirap, one of the oldest districts of Arunachal Pradesh, located in the southeastern part of the state, is home to two major tribes- Nocte and Tutsa. Traditionally, Tirap displays a patriarchal society that allocates more authority and privilege to men, while women have a very limited power and role to play. But in today's world, the social, economic, political and cultural lives of people worldwide are increasingly shaped by modernization. These global transformations have begun to influence even the traditional tribal societies of Tirap district, especially with regard to the role of women. Deeply rooted in tribal traditions and customs, the lives and status of women in Tirap district have been undergoing significant changes due to the influenced of various forces of globalization. Positively, modernization have reduced the traditional role of women in homemaking, farming, livestock management by creating awareness amongst the women through education and by enhancing their skills. Nowadays, women have stepped out from the four walls of their homes and started participating in economic sectors to support their families. They can be seen sitting by the roadside selling organic vegetables, handicrafts, homemade pickles etc., to become financially independent. The number of women participating in politics has also increased. Women have also become more vocal in presenting their concerns in public. With globalization many new women entrepreneurs are emerging. On the other hand, women are facing several challenges due to the current wave of globalization. In search of better job opportunities and to earn their livelihood, women leave their homes for other places, but they are often exploited and become victims of sexual harassment. This paper attempts to study the positive and negative impact of globalization on the socio-economic participation and role of women in Tirap district.

Keywords: Tirap district, Globalization, Women, Society, Tribal traditions.

Introduction

Tirap district, located in the Patkai hills of Arunachal Pradesh is a hilly region sharing its international border with Myanmar. It is home to diverse indigenous tribes such as Nocte and Tutsa along with the sub-tribe like Olo. It is known for its unique tribal cultural practices and colourful festivals.

Tirap, a traditionally male-dominated society in Arunachal Pradesh, had limited opportunities and privileges for indigenous women. However, the rise of globalization has opened many doors for women in India, particularly in economically backward and remote areas like Tirap.

Before globalization touched the land of Tirapians, they lived according to the traditions and customs passed down by their ancestors. It was a common belief that women should remain homebound, responsible for managing household affairs, caring for children, fulfilling the needs of their in-laws. Meanwhile, men were expected to earn and take care of the family's financial and economic responsibilities.

However, with the emergence of globalization marked by the increasing interdependence and integration of economies, societies and culture across the world, the people of Tirap especially the women, began to embrace modern values. Today, Tirapian women walk side by side by men, participating equally in social, cultural, economic and political sphere. Women can now hold both government and private jobs just like men, helping to meet the basic needs of their families. They are also participating in politics and contributing to the development of their society. Even housewives are now selling agricultural and domestic products in the market, which has greatly helped them in fulfilling the financial needs of their families.

Objectives

1. To identify and analyze the past, present and emerging roles and status of women in Tirap district.
2. To examine the negative and positive impact of globalization on the role and status of women in Tirap district.

Methodology

Both primary and secondary sources of data have been used. The primary sources for the study has been collected on the basis of observation and informal interviews. Secondary sources of data has been collected from national and international reputed journal, books, articles and internet.

Findings

What is globalization?

International Forum on globalization (IFG) defines 'Globalization is a present worldwide drive towards a globalized economic system dominated by supra-national corporate trade and banking institution that are not accountable to democratic processes or national governments.'

Antony Giddens defines globalization as the "intensification of worldwide social relations which link distant localities in such a way that local happenings are shaped by events occurring many miles away and vice versa."

Globalization can be explained as the rising connection and mutual dependence of countries through various aspects like trade, culture and communication. It a process of world becoming more interconnected and integrated. It is a process through which social, economic and political and cultural

life of people worldwide is being increasingly affected by international influences. It transformed local phenomena into global ones.

Traditional Role of Women in Tirap

Traditionally, Tirap women played a crucial role in the day to day functioning of their communities. They were primarily engaged in wide range of domestic activities such as managing household activities, taking care of children, weaving cloths, cultivating crops, collecting firewood from forest, managing livestock . They often walk long distances through difficult terrain to fetch water from streams and were actively involved in jhum cultivation, a traditional form of agriculture practiced in the region

Modern Role of Women in Tirap

With the advent of the 21st century, modernity has gradually reached the remote region of Tirap transforming their traditional roles. Increased access to education and by skill development programs, tribal women have gradually moved beyond their traditional domestic roles. They are now participating in modern activities such as employment, entrepreneurship, and community leadership, and contributing positive roles to the regions development.

Impact of globalization on the role and socio-economic status of women in Tirap district

Globalization, which has brought many changes in different spheres of life across the world, has played a vital role in shaping the lives of women in Tirap district, both positively and negatively.

Positive Impact

Positively, globalization has impacted the role and status of women in the following ways-

Economic opportunity and Empowerment

Due to globalization, the economic and financial status of women in Tirap district is shifting in a positive direction. In the past, women were primarily engaged in agriculture and farming for subsistence. Today, women are participating in many commercial activities and are contributing significantly to their economy. Women are now getting better job opportunities and are serving at positions that were previously considered only for men. Self Help Groups (SHGs) have given them opportunities to earn a livelihood and showcase their talents and skills. Traditional festivals like Loku of Noctes and Pongtu\of Tutsas are incomplete without stalls run by women-led SHGs selling homemade food, traditional gales, ornaments, handicraft and handlooms. SHGs are often given opportunities by local leaders and officials during events such as Independence Day, Republic Day and local festivals to host lunches or dinners. Women-led Self Help Group of Lapnan, a village in Tirap , is given an opportunity to provide catering services during the APSSB exams at several Government schools of Khonsa. These opportunities help SHGs grow financially and gain exposure within the community. They have also been actively showcasing their art in state and national platforms, such as handloom exhibition held in places like Itanagar and Delhi. There has been a significant increase in small women-run businesses in Tirap. Felicity cakes, Home Bakers etc. are some home-run baking and confectionary businesses run by women. They are also widely involved in running clothing shops, parlors etc. Women are also seen sitting by the roadside selling organic vegetables, fruits, millets, ands homemade pickles. Many young women of Tirap district are emerging as young entrepreneurs, contributing to the promotion and development of Tirap.

Education-

In the past, women in Tirap were very backward in the field of education. They were not allowed to attend school and were instead occupied with household chores and farming activities. However, in the contemporary era, women's attitudes towards education have drastically transformed. The literacy rate among women has significantly increased. The literacy rate for women in Tirap district was 28.84% in 2001, according to the census of India. In 2011 census, it shows a significant increase from the 2001, as it rose to 41.89%. The urge for learning has grown, and women in Tirap have begun to value the need and importance of education. With the confidence gained through educational awareness, many women are becoming more vocal about their views and opinions in social, cultural and political spheres. As a result of increased educational awareness in Tirap district, an increasing number of girls are now enrolled in schools, colleges and universities, and are even pursuing higher studies in fields such as science, technology, law, healthcare, administration, defence fields that were previously dominated by boys. Local leaders of Tirap are providing coaching opportunities to girls just like boys so that they can compete in competitive exams.

Improvement of women's social and political status-

Tirap, traditionally practiced a patriarchal society, where all social and political aspects were controlled by men. However, due to modernization, the inequality gap between men and women has declined. Earlier, women had to depend on their husband to start anything, but now, due to global influences, they are becoming more self-sufficient and independent. They are also becoming capable of running the family in the absence of their husband. The government has also initiated schemes like the 'One Stop Centre' to uplift the social status of women affected by various forms of violence, including physical, sexual, psychological and economic abuse. This centre provide medical, legal, psychological, and counseling support. This service has empowered women to face their challenges within the family and the workplace. The schemes are reaching even the remotest corners of the Tirap district, and women, especially those in rural areas are taking full advantage of these services. In Tirap, NGOs like 'Care Me Home' and Patkai Hills, women-run institutions, are creating a positive impact in society by aiming to bring about social change and providing employment opportunities to women. 'Care Me Home' has also supported many young people in Tirap in overcoming drug use and addiction. During the covid-19 pandemic, Patkai Hills made a significant contribution by distributing food to those in need within the community. The women from Tirap district are being honored for their tremendous contributions to society and for bringing positive changes in education, administration, and the health sector at both the state and national levels. Hence, these activities help them become more financially independent, improving their standard of living and while boosting their confidence.

In today's globalised world, women of Tirap are actively involved in politics, and their participation has significantly increased. Today, they are part of the decision-making process and their participation has enable them to come forward and address the challenging issues faced by women in a globalised society. In remote areas like Tirap, the inclusion of women in panchayats has encouraged rural women to actively participate and become more informed about grassroots political processes. Tirap proudly boasts of having a woman MLA, ZPC, ZPMs, GPCs and GPMs which clearly reflects women's empowerment in the field of politics.

Girls in Tirap are also shining in the sports category by getting opportunities to perform in national and international competitions, while bringing laurels back to district and the state as a whole.

Health & Lifestyle-

In the course of the transition from the traditional to the modern technological world, women are becoming more health-conscious. They are gaining access to advanced health care facilities and becoming more aware of mental health and family planning, which has improved their lifestyle. Rural women are progressively becoming more aware and paying attention to diet, hygiene and nutrition, and embracing the idea that good health is a key to better quality of life and they recognized that health is wealth.

Media- With the rapid advancement of new technology, social media has become a popular platform in everyone's life. It is influencing women's role to a great extent in every aspects. Social media provides women with opportunities to showcase their diverse talents, including weaving, knitting, and handloom craftsmanship. Many girls and women are utilizing online platforms and websites to promote their handmade, locally-produced goods, thereby fostering self-reliance and economic independence. Women are actively engaging and participating on platforms such as instagram, facebook, youtube, threads to generate income and establish entrepreneurial ventures. These platforms also serve as spaces for women to express their ideas, skills and voice their opinions on various issues. In region like Tirap, young women are even opting journalism as professions and even leading in the field. They are playing a crucial role in highlighting the ground realities of Tirap, whether in political or social context, thereby contributing to greater awareness.

Negative Impact

The impact of globalization also poses a threat and challenges to the traditional life of women in Tirap district

Exposure to Exploitation and sexual harassment – Many young girls and women leave their home districts in search of better job opportunities, often lured by companies promising attractive salaries. However once they join these work places, they frequently encounter various forms of exploitation including poor working conditions and sexual harassment. These women as most of them are from rural areas of Tirap, unaware of their rights, are becoming vulnerable to abuse.

Illegal Drug Activities- The pressure of economic survival has influenced the minds of many, leading some women to engage in illegal activities such as the drug trade. In the past, women of rural areas like Tirap, were unaware about the drug related activities or crimes, but today, not only do some rely on the drug business as a source of survival but they also use the drug they sell. Drug activity in Tirap has been increasing steadily similar to other parts of the states. Communicable diseases like HIV are on the rise and women too are also falling victim to this. Many cases of drug-related activities involving women have arisen in Tirap, where the police have apprehended them. Drug related-crimes have become a growing concern in Tirap in recent years, as they are affecting the families, youth and women as well, who are considered important pillar in building the district's society.

Decline of traditional cultural roles-

In the traditional Nocte and Tutsa societies, culture and tradition played a vital role in shaping the way of life. They guided nearly every aspects of the people's life. However, in recent years, significant transformations have been observed in the traditional and cultural roles of women in these communities. Women have begun to adopt various aspects of modern culture, which has led to the decline of their traditional roles. Due to global influences, women are losing their traditional farming and weaving skills. Earlier, women used to actively participate in all village events and activities, but today, due to the influence of modernization, urban women often do not find time to visit their villages

as they are occupied with their own workloads. Many young girls and women often leave behind their traditional responsibilities in their villages to pursue opportunities in urban areas where they often encounter various challenges.

Social Media

Social media is negatively affecting the role of women by promoting social evils such as divorce, polygamy and adultery. It has been observed that these trends are impacting the status of women, even in the tribal societies like Tirap, where an increasing number of divorce cases have been reported. It is also promoting money-based gambling games such as Ludo, Housie, Rummy, etc. Young girls are getting involved in these online games to earn money. Some women are neglecting their responsibilities and becoming addicted to such games, often leading to family conflicts and violence. Social media has become a platform where many women fall victim to online sexual harassment and abuse. Such harmful practices severely degrades women's mental health, leading to depression and emotional distress.

Lifestyle-

Lifestyles have both positive and negative impacts on women across the world, young girls and women are becoming self-conscious about their appearances. Many pursue artificial looks and take medications without a doctor's consultation, which can harm their health. Many girls are suffering from skin disorders due to the excessive use of imported creams and extreme dieting. These trends have even reached the small tribal society of Tirap, where many girls are seen beautifying their appearances artificially, often at the cost of their physical well-being.

Inequality of opportunity-

The impact of globalization has created a gap between educated and uneducated women. Women in urban areas have greater access to modern facilities and opportunities compared to rural women, who are often less aware and informed.

Conclusion-

Thus, the current wave of globalization has influenced the role of women worldwide, and it has also reached even the farthest corners of Arunachal Pradesh, including the women of Tirap district. While modernization has brought positive changes to the role of women in this region, it has also introduced several challenges that they continue to face even today. Women have moved beyond traditional gender roles and are contributing greatly to the social and economic development of the region. Their roles have shifted from being homemakers and farmers to becoming entrepreneurs, administrators, politicians, lawyers, journalist, teachers and more. The government should place greater emphasis on promoting and preserving women's status in society. Positive aspects of women's development such as skill enhancement, education, self-reliance, awareness, health, hygiene, and improved lifestyle should be actively supported, as they are essential for the overall development of society. The need of the hour in today's globalised world is to recognize the important and unique role of women in the society and find ways to promote their modern roles while also preserving their traditional roles in a balanced manner.

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