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Q12

Discuss the positive and negative effects of globalization on women in India?

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2015 · GS I · 12 marks · Women, Population and Urbanisation

Role of women and women's organization, population and associated issues, poverty and developmental issues, urbanization, their problems and their remedies.

Core demand of the question

- Discuss both positive and negative effects of globalisation on women in India
- Keep a balanced view and close with what decides the net outcome

Revision summary

After 1991, garments, services, and media opened some paid work and rights talk for women.

A slice of educated urban women gained income and delayed marriage.

Much new work stayed informal, and unpaid care did not shrink.

Female labour-force participation did not rise in line with growth.

Class and location decide whether globalisation helps or hurts a woman.

Flow diagram

Open trade media services -> New paid jobs ideas
Open trade media services -> Informal cheap labour
Open trade media services -> Unpaid care double burden
New paid jobs ideas -> Split net effect
Informal cheap labour -> Split net effect
Unpaid care double burden -> Split net effect
Education care law -> Split net effect

Conclusion

- Treat care as infrastructure, enforce equal pay and factory law in export chains, and expand skills beyond a few metro services.

Globalisation has given some Indian women pay, mobility, and a louder rights language. It has also packed many into insecure work, heavier unpaid care, and new social pressures. The net effect is therefore split by class, caste, and city, not a simple story of liberation or ruin.

Facts & figures

1991 liberalisation

Policy turn that opened trade and investment and frames the globalisation decade in this question.

Export garments and ITES

Two large female-employing global sectors, one mostly informal-factory, one mostly urban services.

Female LFPR puzzle

National Sample Survey rounds that showed low or falling female labour-force participation despite growth.

Self-help groups

Village credit and thrift groups that grew with state and NGO support in the globalisation years.

Vishaka to workplace law

Judicial and later statutory frame on sexual harassment at work in a more mixed public-private economy.

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