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“ANALYZING THE IMPACT OF GLOBALIZATION ON SC COMMUNITY “

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Abstract

It's been more than two decades since Globalization became a reality for a developing country like India. And since 1991, the Schedule caste community is divided in their stand on Globalization. Those opposing it are of the opinion that this would gradually lead to total dismantling of all the protective constitutional measures, including the reservation policy, guaranteed in their favour by the Constitution of India. However, this is not absolutely true and in this article I will be discussing the contrary view i.e. we will see globalization as a positive weapon to achieve what we have not been able to achieve so far with State measures. Instead of criticizing globalization, the Scheduled caste community should take it as an affirmative approach and use it as a means to enhance their bargaining power and improve their socio-economic status. So for this purpose we will be dealing with the impact of globalization on Scheduled Caste community under separate heads like on employment opportunities wherein the earlier belief was that with the globalisation there will be advancement of the nation by which all new technologies will be brought in , more and more multinational companies will come in India which will ultimately lead to shutting down of those incompetent companies of India , ultimately leading to removal of workers and labourers belonging to SC community . So, in this article, we will discuss as to how globalisation can be seen as a golden opportunity for all those belonging to SC community to prove their worth because these Private MNC's are free from the prejudice of the reservation. Not only this , but globalisation has also shown immense positive impact on the SC's of rural areas like with the globalisation telephones line and electricity has been made available in those villages for which earlier such facilities were just a dream. Now coming towards agriculture sector, in which by the coming of the globalization in the country various machines like tractors, harvesters etc. were introduced in the farming sector which was taken as a negative impact of globalization as it lead to the removal of labourers from the farm land. But when we actually go to the ground reality where we see that the state government try to invest in the agriculture industry so as to help the SC

community's labourers, it becomes redundant as the people belonging to SC community suffer from the problem of landlessness.

GLOBALIZATION AND MAINSTREAM CULTURE

The meaning of globalization demonstrates that it has all capacity to emerge as a threat to country's political sovereignty and the so called culture. According to me this concern holds no value in Indian context which is a Sovereign State because of the fact that in India irrespective of the fact that how far we have come with globalization but still here exists dominance of the upper Caste be it in urban area or rural area and majorly in rural areas which is negatively affecting the life and livelihood of the people from such community. Political Sovereignty ensuring the development of only certain communities/castes reflects indeed nothing but a 'protected dictatorship'. Regarding globalization which has always been criticized from the viewpoint of negatively affecting the Indian culture, SC Community need not worry much and take it as an opportunity which has been given to them to showcase their capabilities which they were earlier never given or when given then criticized by the people of India that they got this opportunity only as a favour because of the existing favouring provisions in the Constitution with respect to them. Thus, it can be said that the Indian constitution is very much different from the mainstream, backward and primitive Indian Culture. Therefore, in the researcher's view their culture is not severely affected by the on-going process of mass globalization¹.

GLOBALIZATION AND ITS IMPACT ON SCHEDULED CASTE

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

With the advent of globalization, the focus of state has shifted towards privatization specially public sector companies and institutions and they are putting in all their efforts to attract multinational companies to invest in India. This had led to the shutting down of many industries and institutions of India who were incompetent and could not face the competition from those MNCs which has led to the loss of jobs for the labourers in great number belonging to lower castes i.e. SCs. As we all know that there is no such obligations on the private institutions providing job to give reservations to SCs and backward class people thus people belonging to such classes were scared that whether they will ever be able to survive and sustain in this

¹Dr. Anand Teltumbde, "Globalization and Dalits" *Amberkar.org* available at <http://www.ambedkar.org/research/GLOBALISATIONANDTHEDALITS.pdf> (last visited on Aug. 25, 2025)

globalized world and whether they will be able to find job and spend their life in the new world. This argument of them holds validity in all sense. But the immediate question would be: “What are the other alternatives that they are left with? How can then this question be taken in a positive manner so as to find out all other ways to finding job opportunities and making the best out of Globalization? Now, let’s take a positive and a broader approach towards this issue².

With globalization, the entry of MNCs is in fact an opportunity for Scheduled caste community to prove their worth as these are more likely to be free from caste prejudice. “Profit being their ultimate motive they look for ‘talents’ and not for ‘upper caste talents’. MNCs and their establishments would be much more open, compared to the companies and establishments of fellow upper caste Indians who prefer employing them only as sweepers and peons despite having the required credentials”³. Working at good platforms and earning great has something always been attached to the upper caste society only in India. But with internet, which is another contribution of globalization, even SC youths have begun to gain access to such avenues which was earlier just a dream or a thing which was meant only for upper class people. This has not been possible till date in the Indian managed private institution. It may be noted that taking advantage of globalization hundreds of SCs and BCs have been able to find jobs (since mid-1990s) in Europe and America which are paying them handsome salaries which they could never thought of getting in India, “although the merit of such Indians is always questioned by the fellow upper castes. This has been possible for the SCs because the ‘outsiders’ are mainly for talents; not for identifying one’s lower caste background and selectively ignore him, as it happens in India in most cases”⁴.

Moreover, globalization has helped them to establish platforms where they can raise problems which they face in day to day life like by starting NGOs, educational institutions and training centres of high standard. These organizations have been doing a commendable job in sensitizing people all over the world about caste based issues and globalizing Scheduled caste concerns. It is due to globalization it has become possible for such organizations to raise their

² Bankim Chandra Mandal, “Globalization and it’s Impact on Dalits” 5 *Afro Asian Journal of Social Sciences* (2014) available at <http://www.onlineresearchjournals.com/aajoss/art/135.pdf>

³ George Goldy M., “Human Rights, Dalits and the Politics of Exclusion”, 4 *Afro Asian Journal of Social Sciences* (2013)

⁴ Ibid

issues to other countries and ask for justice even from international organizations like UN⁵. Fortunately those who were in contradiction with the idea of globalization with respect to the fact that it was uprooting the age old practice of dominance of upper caste people irrespective of the fact that it is because of them only that these SCs were never given to showcase their opportunities as they were not considered at par with upper caste people which was the main reason for the ongoing miserable conditions of SCs in the past.

GLOBALIZATION AND SCHEDULED CASTE OF RURAL INDIA

Globalization in the larger perspective also concerns itself with the welfare of the poor and the marginalized. Therefore, the question comes what benefit does the scheduled caste from rural area will get due to globalization?" Today it is due to globalization, that all developments of the technology are even available in small villages and have connected them globally through telephone, cell phones and internet. Even computers have reached villages and they are showing keen interest in learning those technologies. Families whose children move to cities for education and employment are able to be in touch with their children through telephone. This to some extent has empowered them⁶.

GLOBALIZATION AND AGRICULTURE

With the coming of this era, a lot of new technologies have been introduced in the agricultural sector following which even Indian Farmers have resorted to mechanization of agriculture and allied sectors with tractors, harvesters and other such machinery became part of farming activities of landlords. As we all know every coin has two sides so is the case with Globalization as well. When we look at positive sides of the Globalization which has made our life easy by bringing in the best the best of best technologies, skills, knowledge in India but it has also shown it's negative impact on the marginalized sections specially SC community. This led to the displacement of lakhs of SC and backward class daily wage laborers as a result of rapid industrialization and mechanization of agriculture pursued by the government of India. Though in this article my main focus is on the positive side of the Globalization on SCs but in the agricultural sector there is hardly any positive impact of Globalization on them. Because Globalisation can only help those in agricultural sector who hold some land and the major

⁵ Gianluca Grimalda, Nancy Buchan, Marilyn Brewer, " Social identity mediates the positive effect of Globalization on Individual Cooperation: Result from International Experiment" PLOS (2018) <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0206819>

⁶ Ghosh Joyati, "Rural Employment In The 1990's" 25 *People's Democracy* 30 (2001)

problem with SC community is that they hardly own lands and the meagre section of people those who own land from is community are the owners of only marginal area of land. So the introduction of technologies and facilities through Globalization like tractors, advanced machines for farming, best quality manures, pesticides, insecticides etc. is of no use to them. So the question is in what way State's higher investment in agriculture going to help the Scheduled caste farmers when most of them are mainly landless wage labourers? Landlessness has been one of the main factors responsible for the unchanging poor economic status of this community since long time. Most of the SCs are landless wage labourers, depending mostly on agricultural and allied activities to eke-out their livelihood. According to 2011 Census among the landless agricultural labourers the SCs constituted 45% percent, and among the cultivators (those owning land) they constituted only 33% percent⁷. But most of these cultivators are small and marginal farmers owning less than two acres of land. These data indicate the dire need of distributing land to the landless Scheduled caste community⁸.

How is this article legally Connected

As we all know that Article 15 which talks about prohibition of discrimination on the basis of religion, race, caste, sex and place of birth. and Article 16 of the Indian Constitution which talks about equality of opportunity in public employment. Under Article 16(4) which talks about providing reservation in job opportunities to the people from backwards classes who are not adequately represented. And Article 16(4A) which talks about reservation in promotion with respect to SCs and STs. And under Article 15 also power has been given to the state to make provisions for the advancement of the socially and educationally backward classes of people. Because of these sections only no matter how much efforts a person from SC community puts in but if he gets a job in Government sector then there is always a stigma attached that he or she must have got the job because of the privilege which they get through Indian Constitution, their merits and efforts has been ignored in the first place only. So when globalization came, MNCs culture started to groom up in India exchange of knowledge, services, goods, people started to happen leading to so many job opportunities for everyone. The best part of the globalization was that it was way too much distant from this concept of reservation. And for the first time focus was on talent and skill where people from SC communities got the opportunities to showcase their talent where they earn their job by their

⁷ Accessed from <http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-others/landlessness-is-higher-among-dalits-but-more-advantaged-are-deprived/> on

⁸ Hensman Rohini, "The Impact of Globalization on Employment in India and Responses from the Formal and Informal Sectors" (Leiden, Amsterdam, 2001)

skills and talent. Which in turn motivates the other people from their country. So like every other thing if globalization has a negative aspect that then it has a positive aspect as well. It is absolutely on us as to how we take it⁹.

CONCLUSION

Globalization is no doubt a global and the most powerful weapon in the hands of the richest world coming together to help them achieve their common goal of extracting maximum wealth from every possible nation by way of establishing profit-oriented industries and institutions. “One can also not rule out the possibility of the gap between the rich-poor widening. However, none can ignore its positive sides. Globalization is useful not only for the poor and developing nations but also for the poor people of such nations, which are generally ridden with social-economic disparities¹⁰”. Moreover, protesting against globalization by the Schedule caste community without having political power in their hand would not serve any purpose for their interest. Given this context, Schedule caste should focus more on how they can benefit from globalization, instead of opposing it. They should see how best they could use globalization as a means to draw global attention to protect their basic human rights as citizens of India and to have access to a decent means of livelihood and dignified social life.

The fact that the industries and institutions emerging out of globalization are likely to be free from caste prejudice, brings immense scope for talented scheduled caste youth to find jobs, to become entrepreneurs and to enter into various other fields where this community have had no scope till date. There is scope for gaining access to quality education and health care facilities. There is immense scope only for improving the economic condition of this community as a whole if they see the positive side of the aspect rather than howling over its negative impact¹¹. They have gained access to education and dignified employment, which were denied by their fellow Indians who controlled these sectors all along. These things will happen not because the MNCs are committed to the educational advancement of Scheduled Caste, though one cannot rule out such a possibility but because “there is a possibility of negotiating with them to recognize diversity not only in admission to educational institutions but also in appointment in their establishments, and in their economic development activities and also because of

⁹ JN Pandey, *Constitutional Law of India* (Central Law Agency, Allahabad, 55th edn., 2018)

¹⁰ Bankim Chandra Mandal, (2010) “Caste Discrimination Deprivation and the Socio-economic Development of Dalits”, 3 *Voice of Dalit* 149-166 (2010).

¹¹ Kumar Arun (ed.) *New Economic Policy: Its Impact on Dalits* 126-142 (Rawat Publications, Jaipur, 2010)

competitions between Indian institutions and foreign ones on the one hand and between foreign companies”¹². The declining price of certain goods such as mobile/cell phone and cars, which had been the status symbol of upper castes/class till recently is also the another witness.



¹² Supra note 11 at 7