Globalization and Structural Change: A Case from Tokha Village of Kathmandu

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Abstract

Globalization is the intense of worldwide social relationship and is the development of worldwide networks – social and economic systems that are remote from our individual concerns. Globalization and structural change are at core of current intellectual, social and developmental discourses in Nepal. The main objective of this study is to describe the role of globalization in changing scenario of society and creating new type of society in Peri-Urban area of Kathmandu. For the same, this paper highlights empirically the visible changes in various aspects of institutions. The theory of globalization particularly Sceptics - who question the extent to which globalization has occurred - is applied. Both primary and secondary data were used in this study. This paper is basically based on qualitative data. The results show that slowly and gradually social changes are seen by globalization but structural traditional norms and values are not changing in this area as literatures show in different societies. Another conclusion of this research is that the parents are very disappointed with their children's future due to access and misused of technology. The overall findings show that the effect of globalization is seen very slowly in Peri-Urban Newar community of Tokha Kathmandu.

Keywords: Globalization, Technology, Structural change, Norms and values, New Society

Introduction

The word globalization has been used by various scholars in various time and space. However, about the coinage of the term globalization, Fisher (2011) writes, 'Globalization, a word first coined as recently as 1950, but which has achieved such common currency that one can hardly avoid it now in any newspaper, magazine, TV programme, or even internet blog'(p.4). Various scholars have defined it differently. Steger (2009) defines 'It might be defined as the expansion and intensification of social relations and consciousness across time and space' (p.15).

Amin (1996) views, 'It reproduces, therefore, a new hierarchy in the division of revenue on a world scale, more unequal than ever, and sauternes the industries of the peripheries. The newly industrialized countries are not on the way to ''overtaking'' the dominant centres, while those of the Fourth World simply fall behind' (p.213).

However, Robinson (2011) opines globalization is 'a shift from international market integration to global productive integration'(p.17). Robinson (2011) further writes 'this conception of changes in recent decades is incompatible with world-systems theory, which sees the world economy as broken down into distinct and competing national economies bringing together

national capitalists and firms with their respective states that the theory posits as immanent and immutable to the capitalist world-system' (p.17).

Some scholars define globalization as intensification of social relationships, high modernity, liquid modernity, network society, takes place in various spaces, closer integration of the countries and peoples of the world. However, some other scholars define globalization as 'processes' or 'set of processes'. Ritzer (2010) explains globalization as a transplanetory process or set of processes involving increasingly liquidity and the growing multidirectional flows of people, objects, places and information as well as the structures they encounter and create that are barriers to, or expedite, those flows. However, 'the concept of liquidity used in Ritzer's definition is taken from the work of Bauman' (Haralambos et al., 2017, p.1006).

 O'Byrne (2014) has examined a range of definitions of globalization and concurs with Ritzer that it should be seen as a process rather than an end state. And Ritzer defines globalization simply as 'the process of becoming global' (P.1006). O'Byren and Hensby (2011) define globalization should be distinguished from other processes that could be linked to it, but that refer to more specific aspects of social change than globalization itself. These other processes may result from or be linked to globalization, but polarisation, Colonisation, Americanisation, McDonalisation, Trans-nationalisation, Balkanisation, - are not globalization itself. As cited by Haralambos et al. (2017) 'O'Byrne and Hensby's definition of globalization is slightly more restricted and exclusive than Ritzer's, but it is still quite vague' (p.1007). Fisher (2011) opines that 'globalization is no more simply a modernising or westernising affair than it is a homogenising one' (p.10). Fisher (2011) further says that 'globalization must be read instead as a complex process that brings the West to the rest and rest to the West' (p.10). At the same line, Inda and Rosaldo (2008) write that 'Globalization must be understood, in short, as a process of mutual imbrication' (p.25).

Haralambos et al.(2017) say that 'Some sociologists go so far as arguing that 'globalization is instrumental in creating a new type of society, whether that is defined as high modernity (Giddens), liquid modernity (Bauman) or network society(Castells)' (p.1006).

In this way we can say that globalization is the intense of social relationship, high modernity, liquid modernity, network society, takes place in various spaces, closer integration of the countries and peoples of the world as well as it is a process involving increasing liquidity and growing multidirectional flows of people, objects, places and information, becoming global, slightly more restricted and exclusive. It effects of all us in our daily lives. It is an instrument that creates a new types of society and structure that link distance locality in such way that local happening are shaped by events occurring many miles away and vice versa.

'There are numerous theories of globalization and very in terms of the extent to which they believe globalization has taken place, is inevitable and is irreversible' (Haralambos et al., 2017, p.1007). 'Theorists ranges from hyperglobalists who opine - globalization is taking place, has profound consequences, is new and is irreversible - to sceptics - who question the extent to which globalization has occurred. The third range/phase – informationalists - who are likely to believe that reformed globalization; can be a force for social progress' (pp.1007-1008).

Giddens (2001) says that most people accept that there are important transformations

occurring around us, but the extent to which it is valid to explain these as 'globalization' is contested' (p.58). As cited by Giddens (2002), Held et al. (1999) have surveyed the controversy and divided its participants into three schools of thought: sceptics, hyperglobalizers and transformationists (p.58).

World Bank (2012) reported that 'the world has witnessed and enormous economic transformation over the past three decades, forced by growing global flows of goods and services, technology, and information. These changes have transformed the way domestic and global markets and institutions function–have thus changed the economic landscape for individuals, households, firms, and governments' (p.255).

World Bank (2012) reported that in developing countries, the shares of female manufacturing and service employment in global female employment increased from 6 and 17 per cent respectively in 1987 to 7 and 24 per cent in 2007.In contrast, in developed countries the share of female manufacturing employment in global female employment fell from 12 per cent in 1987 to 6 in 2007, while the share of female service employment rose from 44 to 46 per cent over the same period. Changes in male employment shares were qualitatively similar but different in magnitude (World Bank, 2012).ICT-related jobs were concentrated in software, call centres, and geographical information systems, and clustered in Malaysia and India, particularly in Delhi and Mumbai, where call centres employ more that I million people, most of them and women (World Bank, 2012). It further reported that in both manufacturing and service exports, growth in female employment was faster than ever before and faster than in other sectors.

Meanwhile, traditionally, men have been more likely to be employed in sectors and occupation with stronger physical requirement than women (World Bank, 2011). However, in Brazil, Mexico, and Thailand, women were in occupations with lower brawn requirements than men at the beginning of the period, while in India brawn requirements were similar for women and men because of women's heavy presence in agriculture. In Brazil, India, and Thailand, brain requirements increased faster for women than for men. In Mexico, by contrast, the expansion of low-skilled female maquila employment meant that brain requirements declined and brawn requirements increased slightly among women (World Bank, 2012). In this age of globalization, ICTs can improve access to markets and increase participation in market work place.

World Bank (2012) reported that 'Mobile phone access, very high in developed countries, has grown substantially in the recent past in the developing world, and the gap between the two is closing fast. Within countries, gender differences in cell phone access and use are almost imperceptible in high–and middle income countries, especially among young people, but gender differences are still large in low-income countries, where a woman is 21 per cent less likely than a man to own a mobile phone. This figure increases to 23 per cent in Africa, 24 per cent in the Middle East, and 37 per cent in South Asia (World Bank, 2012). In many cases, women, particularly rural women, were willing to reduced expenditures on other items to have access to a mobile phone, suggesting that the perceived benefits out-weighed the costs, which averaged 3.5 per cent of household income among those surveyed (World Bank, 2012). This indicates that traditional gender roles have been changing most of the developed and underdeveloped countries. World Bank (2012) reported that women turned income earners may be able to leverage their new position to change gender roles in their households by influencing the allocation of time and

resources among household members, shifting relative power within the households and more broadly exercising stronger agency. It further reported that in fact, women appear to gain more control over their income by working in export-oriented activities, although the impact on well-being and agency is more positive for women working in manufacturing and away from their male relatives than for those working in agriculture.

World Bank (2012) reported that over the past 25 years, trade openness and the spread of information and communication technologies have expanded economic opportunities. The demand of female workers in the export and ICT-enabled sectors has increased, and as women have filled these new jobs, the gender distribution of employment across sectors and across countries has changed. World Bank (2012) reported that the globalization had changed gender roles all over the world. It further reported that globalization has reshaped many issues, international relations, population growth, development, human rights, the environment, labour and health care system. It has increased awareness of individuals of profound way in which policies and practices in one region can affect the livelihood of people living in other region.

World Bank (2012) reported that the demand for female workers in the export and ICT-enable sectors has increased, and as women have filled these new jobs, the gender distribution of employment across sectors and across countries had changed. It further reported that women have moved out of agriculture and into manufacturing and particular services. These changes have taken place across all countries, but female(and male) employment in the manufacturing and services has grown faster in developing than developed countries, reflecting broader changes in the global distribution of production and labour (World Bank, 2012).

Various studies show that globalization is creating new type of society in both developed and underdeveloped countries. These phenomena could be seen all over the globe. After reviewed available literatures, the most of the studies found that globalization is playing for creating new type of society mostly in urban areas of the nation. However, is globalization play in creating new type of society in Peri-Urban area near by most globalized city? And is visible changes are seen in Peri-Urban society? These are unsolved questions – are research questions of this study.

The Methods and the Area Selection

Primary and secondary information/data were used in this study. Primary data were collected by Focus Groups, observation and key informants interviews. Two Focus Groups were conducted with Newar participants during field work. Likewise, secondary data were collected from published and unpublished literature, official records, books, and other materials relevant to the study. This study is limited only in Tokha Village of Kathmandu. Tokha is a village and former Village Development Committee that now part of Tarakeshwar Municipality of Kathmandu district in province No.3 of Central Nepal. The distance between Tokha village and Kathmandu city is about 10 km.

Findings

In this study area various caste/ethnic groups such as Brahmin, Chhetri, Newar, Tamang, Magar etc. are found. However, the majority of people are Newar. So, this study covers only changing scenario of Newars of Tokha village. As we know that access of technology, economic

opportunities, migration, and contract with other people who had various experience help to change the everyday life of people of any society in this age of globalization. The drastic visible structural changes cannot be observed, however, slowly and gradually the younger generation are being affected by globalization in this study area. The researcher observed that this affluence being slowly affected the traditional norms and values, occupation, decision making process, education etc. Through interview, and Focus Groups, the researcher examined the following structural sectors and found slowly and gradually new type of society is creating in Peri-Urban area of Kathmandu by globalization.

1. **The Marriage**

The participants agreed that they follow traditional rites and rituals. The researcher doesn't found any change in marriage institution. The traditional norms and values don't effected by globalization. They follow typical traditional norms and values in the processes of marriage. However, the majority of the younger generation are influenced by globalization. They are affected by globalization and enjoying with modern technology like mobile phone and internet. Due to the access of economic opportunities youth are getting inter-caste marriage which is still not allowed in Newar community.

During Focus Groups, an old Newar aggressively said that globalization doesn't affected traditional norms and Values but younger generation are being affected by globalization. They don't care about continuation of their education. They are always busy in Facebook and game – the participant does not know the name of games and the researcher help by giving the few names of games - like PUBG, Clash of Clans, Clash Royal, Free Fire etc. An educated youth Newar said that locating nearby most globalized city, Tokha does not affected by globalization. He added that majority of Newar people of Tokha are practicing traditional rituals in marriage institution but exceptional cases could be found.

2. **The Family**

During the Focus Groups, a social worker of Newar community says that contact with Non-Newar people, few members of young generations unknowingly don't want to continue traditional rites and rituals but they can't express their views with their parents. A youth participant said - having inter-caste marriage -, so, they are ready to continue their traditional norms and values. However, new generation is being settled in separate places, however occasionally they used to come at their home. A school teacher – as a key informant – says that younger generation are more affected by globalization which leads to change their traditional rules and regulations.

3. **Economy**

There are about 1200 Newar Households in Tokha village of Kathmandu. Their main occupation is agriculture, and trade is another important source of income. The researcher took Focus Groups among Newar people. The majority of participants say that since long time the main occupation of Tokha Newar is agriculture. They said that Tokha Newars do not lose their agricultural land as we see or heard in other places where Newar are also losing their land slowly and gradually. They are in their own way where globalization does not affect their traditional occupation. During Focus Groups, chairperson of Newa Guthi says that coming two or three

generation could not be affected by globalization in economic institution of Newar of Tokha. An educated women says that Newar are associated with agriculture and trade since long ago; so they are still followed the tradition. During Focus Groups, She adds that globalization does not affect the structural situation however next generation could be affected by globalization.

4. **Caste/Ethnicity**

In this study area various caste/ethnic groups such as Brahmin, Chhetri, Newar, Tamang, Magar etc. are found. However, the majority of people are Newar. Tokha is not far from core of kingdom of Nepal, where we could not see any effect of globalization. A key informant expresses that both Hindu and Buddhist followers are living here harmoniously. He further adds that 'however, if we talk about caste organization there is social hierarchy in this community. The researcher assumed that the situation is changing but it does not happen. However, the situation is not changing but caste hierarchy is still in practice. During Focus Groups, majority of participants argued that untouchability is still in practice in Newar community in Tokha. Situating nearby most globalized kathmandu city, the structural changes could not be seen in Newar community of Tokha village of Kathmandu.

Discussion and Conclusion

Tokha is not far from core of kingdom of Nepal, where we could not see any effect of globalization. Contact and married with Non-Newar people few members of young generations unknowingly don't want to continue traditional rites and rituals but they can't express their views with their parents. However, new generation is being settled in separate places, occasionally they used to come to their home. Majority of participants said that Tokha Newar do not lose their agricultural land as we see or heard in other places where Newar are also losing their land slowly and gradually. They are in their own way where globalization does not affect their traditional occupation. During Focus Groups, an educated Newar says that coming two or three generation globalization could not affect in social institutions of Newars of Tokha. A key informant – master degree holders in English subject - expresses that both Hindu and Buddhist followers are living here harmoniously. He further adds that 'However, if we talk about caste organization there is social hierarchy in this community. The researcher assumed that the situation is changing but it does not see such phenomenon. However, the situation is not changing but caste hierarchy is still in practice. We can say that the Sceptics views on globalization come to true in Tokha village, however this village is not far from most globalized city of Nepal. The literatures on globalization show that all developed and underdeveloped society are affecting by globalization. However, the Tokha village may become exception. So, we can conclude that the overall findings show that the effect of globalization could not be observed very slowly in Newar community of Tokha.

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