Effects of Globalization on Family Relationship: A Case Study of Lucknow City

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Abstract

Globalization is a process of interaction and integration among the people, companies and government of different nations. As the companies move from home country to foreign country for trade, people associated with the companies also move to the foreign country, with many multinationals moving in Lucknow is becoming a hub of globalization in North Eastern India. But, at the same time with higher studies and an open outlook parents are sending their children out of their home town for jobs and better future . This leaves the elderly and vulnerable people back home with many problems likewise globalization , media , internet , television and social media has brought openness to the people and the present generation does not have a single hitch in moving beyond relationships and families . This paper tries to examine the effects of globalization on family relationships in Lucknow City.

Keywords: Globalization, Family, Migration, Hybrid Multicultural identity, Internet, Marriage, Vulnerable People

Introduction

Globalization is a process of interaction and integration among the people, companies and government of different nations. The process of globalization is driven by international trade and international investment. The increasing use of Information and technology has flamed the process of globalization. Globalization effects the environment, culture, political system, economic development, prosperity and physical human well being of the societies around the world. This make the world more interconnected today.

As the companies move from home country to foreign country for trade, people associated with the companies also move to the foreign country. They carry their traditions, cultures, languages, customs and thoughts with them. When they stay in the foreign country for a longer period of time there are influences that affect the culture, traditions and beliefs of either side. These influences the individuals and the society in large. There is adoption of not only trade markets but also the adoption of cultures, traditions, languages, beliefs and more important the thoughts.

On 6th December 2013, Anjli Doshi Gandhi[1], deputy director general of Malaysia's Ministry of Women, Family and Community, said at a forum on, 'How Globalization Impacts the Family' - "We now live in a borderless world where developments in the external environment can immediately impact the personal lives of families. The big challenge today is how to sustain and maintain a healthy family institution, although globalization brings advantages towards families, it creates risks and conflicts as well."

Amartya Sen[2], the Noble laurite says, "Global interaction, rather than insulated isolation, has been the basis of economic progress in the world. Trade along with migration, communication and dissemination of scientific and technical knowledge has helped to break the dominance of rampant poverty and the pervasiveness of 'nasty, brutish and short lives' that characterized the world. And yet, despite all progress, life is severely nasty, brutish and short for a large part of the world population, the great rewards of globalized trade have come to some, but not to others."

Family

1. Family can be defined as 'a group of individuals living under one roof and usually under one head'. Family is the vital primary group of all forms of human groups. The word 'family' has been derived from Roman term 'famulus' which means 'servant'. Various sociologists have defined family in different ways -

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2. According to MacIver[3], 'family is a group defined by a sex relationship sufficiently precise and enduring to provide for the procreation and upbringing of children.'

3. Parker and Anderson defines family as a 'Socially organized unit of people related to each other by kinship, marital and legal ties.

4. For Arnold and Green, it is an institutionalized social group charged with duty of population replacement.

5. American Bureau of Census defined 'family as a group of two or more persons related by blood, marriage or adoptions and residing together.' Such persons are considered as members of one family.

6. Burgess and Locke "Family is a group of persons united by the ties of marriage, blood or adoption; consisting of a single household, interacting and inter-communicating with each other in their respective social roles of husband and wife, mother and father, son and daughter, brother and sister creating a common culture."

7. Nimkoff, "Family is a more or less durable association of husband and wife with or without children, or of a man or woman alone, with children."

8. Davis, "Family is a group of persons whose relations to one another are based upon consanguinity and who are, therefore, kin to another."

9. Sumner and Keller, "Family is a miniature social organization, including at least two generations, and is characteristically formed upon the blood bond."

10. Clare, "Family is a system of relationships existing between parents and children."

11. Eliott and Merrill, Family is "the biological social unit composed of husband, wife and children."

Family being a primary social group came into existence in order to satisfy the need for protection, sexual urge and economic desires. It is not of a sudden origin but evolved from times and passed through certain stages. Mating relationship, form of marriage, system of nomenclature, common habitation, economic provision to satisfy needs, emotional basis, universality, limited in size, influential group and as an instrument of social regulation are considered as salient features of family.

Study Area

Lucknow is the capital of the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh[4] and is also the administrative headquarters of the eponymous District and Division. It is the largest city in Uttar Pradesh,[5,6,7,8] the eleventh most populous city and the twelfth most populous urban agglomeration of India. Lucknow has always been known as a multicultural city that flourished as a North Indian cultural and artistic hub, and the seat of power of Nawabs in the 18th and 19th centuries. It continues to be an important centre of governance, administration,education, commerce, aerospace, finance, pharmaceuticals, technology, design, culture, tourism, music and poetry[9].

This study has been conducted in major areas of Lucknow city which includes –Aashiyana, Aishbabh , Basmandi, Chowk, Cantt, Hazratganj, Central Lucknow, Charbagh, Chinhat, Dubagga, Deva Road, Eldeco, Faizabad Road , G.B Marg, Ganesh Ganj, Gole Market, Mahanagar, Gomti Nagar, Indira Nagar, Husainganj , Lucknow Industrial Area ,Jopling Road , Kanpur Road, Krishna Nagar, Mohan Lal Ganj, Sarojani Nagar and vrindavan Colony .

Problems

There are many problems that arise due to impact of globalization on the families especially in Indian setup.

First major impact is development of bicultural identity or hybrid identity which means that, though the basic part of one's identity is rooted in local culture but due to the impact of globalization they develop an identity that gives them belonging to the worldwide culture.This includes awareness and participating in various events, practices , styles and information that are the part of global culture. Media, television, internet and social media play an important role in same. As traditional cultural practices and beliefs change, a hybrid multicultural identity develops elements of native, local and global culture.

The second problem that arises is identity confusion. Though people in India and especially in Lucknow city adopt to hybrid multicultural identities at first, but later on they find it difficult to adapt to the rapid changes that take place in the global culture. Thus at time they feel isolated and excluded from both their local culture and global culture –truly belonging to neither. This also further leads to identity confusion. Third problem that has arisen due to globalization is widening gap between the different segments of the society. On one hand there are children who live their life on and off the malls and have a confused identity and on the other hand there is a segment of people who are growing their children on purely a traditional Indian culture.

Fourth problem that arise due to globalization is spread of emerging adulthood. Pressure of higher studies and then search for a good job is leading towards late marriage and subsequently late parenthood. The increasing lifestyle pattern has also led to working females. Youth are forced to develop control over their own lives which includes marriage and parenthood. Young people are now having longer period for identity exploration in love and work before they commit themselves to long term choices. By experiencing different love relationships, different educational possibilities, and different jobs they learn more about themselves and clarify their preferences and abilities.

The fifth problem arises at family and lifestyle level, changes are extensive. Television along with social media is one of the most dominant gateways that has impacted the families in India and especially in Lucknow city. People today, are facing resource and infrastructure constraints which has led to emergence of social and health issues. Fragmentation of the traditional family network is leading to an erosion of the available support with in the immediate and extended family.

The sixth major problem has arisen from migration of younger and especially male population

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from rural area to urban areas. This has resulted in elderly and especially females behind to fend themselves at a time when family support is very crucial. This also leads to more and more females joining the workforce leaving the elderly and aged people behind to take care of themselves.

The seventh major problem is arising from the new pattern of nuclear family system that is becoming a norm of modern lifestyle and changing professional and personal expectations. These are impacting relationships of marriage and commitment. Divorce rates are rising and so the rate of single people and single parenthood.

Factors that Impact Families Because of Globalization

On the basis of the above study we have identified five major factors that have impacted families because of globalization in India and especially in the study area Lucknow.

1. Migration
2. Value & lifestyle
3. Marriage & children
4. The Family unit
5. Internet, Social media & its addiction

Significance of the study

According to Darling & Turkki, 2009[10], "Countries will have to find creative ways to deal with population growth, mobility, aging, diversity, and worldwide health problems, as these issues will remain in constant flux". Aspects of globalization have numerous influences on family relationships. Today's families live in a world that is complex, interconnected, and continuously evolving. Continuous changes are evident in the economy, environment, technology, and migration shifts. Therefore it is important to promote a global consciousness about families that involves personal and public concern about the effects of globalization on family relationships (Darling & Turkki, 2009)

Thus at this point of time this study is very significant. Lucknow city has taken a swift modern turn in past 10 years. With opening up of various mall, societies, clubs & resorts, hukka bars in Lucknow is taking a different trend. On one hand due to multinational companies coming and opening their offices in Lucknow, we can witness a confluence of societies, cast, creed, religions and traditions. But at the same time the original population of Lucknow has migrated to different metros of India or abroad. This has left elderly population back home. This study brings forward the major factors that have impacted the families because of globalization in Lucknow city .

Scope of the study

The present study attempts to examine the impact of globalization on the families of Lucknow city. It examines how far the globalization helped the family in raising the incomes levels of the families and it effect the values and family lifestyle in Lucknow city. The present study is from the standpoint impact of globalization in Lucknow city.

Research Methodology

The information required for the study has been collected by the primary data collection. A multistage random sampling method has been

followed. Average and percentage analysis was carried out to draw meaningful interpretation of the results. Garret ranking technique was used to find the reasons for taking up the training and micro financing activity. **Graphical representation** has been used display the observed variables. We have also used **SPSS** techniques to study the impact of globalization on Families in Lucknow City.

Time Period of Study
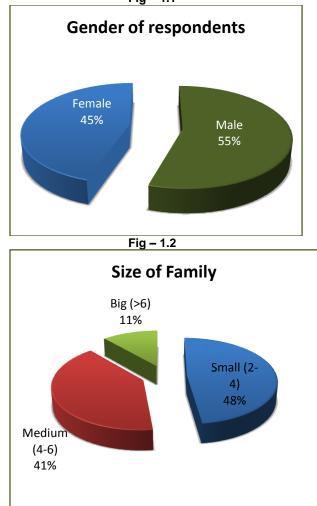
January 2017 – June 2017

Sampling

Stratified random sampling

Primary data

Primary data was collected by interacting with the population of Lucknow city . A total number of 1589 respondents were surveyed for the study in Lucknow City.

Gender

There were 873 male and 716 female respondents in the survey.

Table – 1.1

Male	Female
873	716

Fig – 1.1

Fig – 1.2

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Size of Family

Table – 1.2

Big (>6)	Medium (4-6)	Small (2-4)
764	643	182

There were a total of 764 big families which has more than 6 members in the family, 643 medium size families which had 4-6 members in the family and 182 small families which ad 2-4 members in the family.
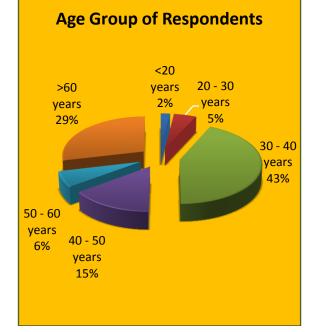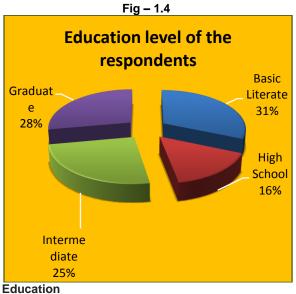
Age Group

Most of the respondents belonged in the age group of 30 – 40 years numbered to 687, followed by 456 respondents of > 60 year category which shows a large number of elderly population in Lucknow city . There were 234 respondents of 40 – 50 year category followed by 102 respondent in the category of 50 – 60 years. There were 32 respondents in <20 year category and 78 respondents in between 20 – 30 years.

Table – 1.3

<20 years	20-30 years	30 - 40 years	40 – 50 years	50 – 60 years	>60years
32	78	687	234	102	456

Fig – 1.3

Age Group of Respondents

Fig – 1.4

Education level of the respondents

Education

Table – 1.4

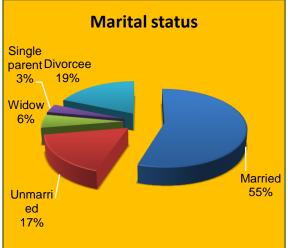| Basic Literate	High School	Intermediate	Graduate	Post Graduate
345	172	274	306	492

492 respondents were Post Graduate, 306 respondents were Graduate, 274 respondents were intermediate, 172 respondents were High School and 345 respondents were basic literate .

Marital Status

Table – 1.5

Married	Unmarried	Widow	Single Parent	Divorcee
876	274	88	56	295

Out of the total respondents studied 876 respondents were married, 295 were divorcee, 274 were unmarried, 88 were widow and 56 respondents were single parent.

Fig – 1.5

Marital status

Statics Used

To study the impact families because of globalization we have taken few Factors that impact families because of globalization –

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1. Migration
2. Value & lifestyle
3. Marriage & children
4. The Family unit
5. Internet, Social media & its addiction

We have taken Five Point Likert Scale as a base of the study of the Factors that impact families because of globalization. Mean for each variable has been calculated through SPSS to determine the status of each dimension of the factor that impact families because of globalization. For the purpose of describing each dimension within the priority circuit the value of mean can be taken as -

0 – 1 = NIL,

1 - 2 = low,

2 - 3 = Average,

3 – 4 = high,

4 – 5 = very high

With these figures as base we now start evaluation of factors impacting families because of globalization –

Table – 1.6

	N	Mean
Internet, Social media & its addiction	1589	4.81
Migration	1589	4.54
Value & lifestyle	1589	3.99
Marriage & children	1589	3.74
The Family unit	1589	3.72

As per the evaluation of factors impacting the families because of globalization in Lucknow city, the table 1.1 indicates that –

Internet, social media & its addiction has affected the families the most. Children, youth, middle age generation all are addicted to social media. Family time which used to happen in past where family used to sit together, talk and eat has stopped. Now even while having dinner together all the family members are looking at their cell phone reading messages or mails or working. The traditional good morning session where all the family members used to have tea together has also stopped. Now the mornings happen with opening the cell phone and looking for good morning messages.

Children are most badly segment that is affected by Internet, social media & its addiction. They are inclined towards games that they can play on internet whether it is on mobile, laptop or TV. Though the younger generation had got an option to study from internet through smart class or Bijuy's or through educom or other such methods but number of teenagers using such methods were very less in the study area.

Migration is another major factor that has impacted the families. Parents invest in their children through their studies and then later on children move out for higher studies and then to secure a good job. Later on children get married and settle elsewhere. Parents are left alone. Lucknow has a large number of population of older retired persons living alone in huge bungalows or flats waiting for their children to come back home on festivals. .

Value & Life Style also has been impacted by globalization. Internet, television, movies, social media all has changed the traditional family life style and values of the country. People today are more running towards materialistic things. Value system is failing. In general people can go to any level to earn money. Corruption is widely spread in our country across all departments.

Marriage & Children is a relatively little less impacted segment. This shows that despite of all adultery, extra marital affairs, one night stands, night outs and moving around, Indian families and specially families of Lucknow city have a little less impact on marriage & children. Children are the most important part of the family and still there is a bit fear and love around that stops parents from moving out of marriage. Though in our survey we had 19% divorcee and 3% single parents, still the number is significantly less. This is a good sign.

The Family Unit has always been an important part of Indian lifestyle. This reflected in our survey results as well. Though globalization has impacted values, life style, migration and other aspects but as a family unit the impact has been relatively less. This shows that the basic tradition and culture among the Indians remain same no matter how much globalization.

Conclusion

We can assess that the most important impact of globalization on families in India and especially in Lucknow city is that, human beings are on the whole are being ignored. Younger generation has become materialistic and self-centered and is running after money leaving the elderly and vulnerable alone.

Younger generation is not able to take care of elder people but also failing in bringing up the new generation who are left in the hands of maid to bring them up. Despite of increase in material wealth and living standards, life is becoming a daily struggle due to high competition. Family who earlier used to take care of its vulnerable members is no more in a position to serve. Advantage of family and its values as prevailing in India cannot be ignored. At the same time, acceptance or rejection of traditional values of hierarchy depends on the experiences shared by each family.

Family relationships are becoming complex and partners are frequently moving out of their relationships looking for something new. This may not have an impact in the present generation but will have an long term impact on future generations.

To conclude we can call Globalization as a slow spreading risk factor that has covered almost the entire country and especially Lucknow city with all its severity. With some positivity of having a generalized knowledge of the culture throughout the world and the happening and incidences globally, still the major negative impacts are quite alarming for our country and Lucknow city. Hence, we need to move very cautiously with the globalization process preserving our nation's pride and maintain our cultural prestige especially in Lucknow city.

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