

**Globalization its Impact on Delayed Marriage,  
Fertility and Women Empowerment in  
India a Sociological Study  
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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17583451>

**ABSTRACT:**

This sociological study investigates the repercussions of globalization on marriage, fertility, and women's empowerment in India, relying on a thorough analysis of existing secondary data. Employing a mixed-methods approach, the research synthesizes insights from scholarly articles, reports, and statistical data to examine the multifaceted effects of globalization on these interconnected facets of societal life. The study explores shifting marriage patterns and fertility rates in the context of economic Globalization, while also scrutinizing the nuanced impact on women's empowerment, encompassing access to education, participation in the workforce, and evolving gender roles. this research aims to offer a comprehensive understanding of the sociological transformations occurring in India, contributing valuable insights to the broader discourse on the consequences of globalization on marriage, fertility, and women's empowerment.

**KEYWORDS:**

Globalization, Delayed Marriage, Fertility and Women Empowerment.

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**INTRODUCTION:**

The purpose of this essay is to examine how globalization affects delayed marriage, women's education, women's empowerment, and fertility. Marriage patterns around the world are changing dramatically. Through its relationship to marital fertility, it has played an essential role in influencing the rate of population expansion. Changes in marriage patterns have historically played an important influence in European demographic transitions (Van de Walle, 1972). This is vividly demonstrated by the experiences of several least wealthy nations where there has been a recent slowdown in population increase (Das et al., 1998). Future trends in demographic transition are determined by changes in the age of marriage and the percentage of women who stay married, which are closely tied to fertility in civilizations where marriage is the primary means of reproduc-

tion. A complicated personal phenomena such as marriage can be examined from several angles and at various degrees of close family and social relationships. India is not an exception when it comes to social class, education level, occupation, religion, ethnic group, family history, etc. The aforementioned criteria significantly influence the age at which a person marries. If suitable mates are not available, marriages are postponed. It is quite challenging to pinpoint the causes behind delayed marriages, nevertheless.

Globalization is a strong force that is significantly "reshaping the surrounding social order" in this period of fast alterations that characterize the post-liberal era. Families and the globe are at the core of this transformation." In actuality, the family is evolving as a result of globalization, and family decision-making is altering as a result of it.

In the wake of profound global transformations, this sociological study investigates the intricate nexus between globalization and key dimensions of societal dynamics in India—namely, marriage, fertility, and women's empowerment. As India becomes increasingly integrated into the globalized world, the traditional socio-cultural landscape undergoes significant shifts. This study, grounded in an extensive analysis of secondary data, aims to unravel the nuanced and interconnected impacts of globalization on these critical aspects of Indian society.

Globalization, characterized by increased economic, cultural, and technological interconnectedness, has far-reaching implications for social structures. The juxtaposition of traditional values and global influences prompts an examination of evolving marriage patterns and fertility rates. Concurrently, the study explores the transformative journey of women in the context of globalization—analyzing their empowerment through shifts in educational attainment, workforce participation, and societal roles.

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

Present research work is based upon secondary data in form of articles, news clippings, books and NFHS reports of India

## **DEFINITION OF GLOBALIZATION:**

Globalization is the process of increasing interdependence between the world's economies, cultures, and populations. It's caused by the flow of goods and services, technology, investment, people, and information across borders

- Sustained economic growth, as measured by gross national product, is the path to human progress;
- Free markets i.e., markets that are free from government intervention, generally result in the most efficient and socially optimal allocation of resources;
- Economic globalization, is achieved by removing barriers to the free flow of goods and money anywhere in the world, which in turn fosters competition, creates jobs, increases economic efficiencies, lowers consumer prices, increases consumer's choice and is generally beneficial to everyone by increasing overall economic growth;
- Privatization, which transfers functions and assets from government to the private sector, improves efficiency.

### **GLOBALIZATION AND DELAYED MARRIAGE:**

Globalization can affect modern marriages in a number of ways. For example, globalized economies can provide more opportunities for one or both partners to travel for work, which can lead to more time apart and stress on the relationship.

### **IMPACT OF GLOBALIZATION ON MARRIAGE:**

1. Redefine marriage and family – Example– live in relation. single parent family,
2. Influence family structure and marriage norms.
3. Lead to a commercialization of marriage migration.
4. Make people more materialistic.
5. Make marriages optional.

### **CAUSES FOR DELAYED MARRIAGE**

**Women's education and marriage:** Premchand D(2009) used census data from various Indian states for the years 1981, 1991, and 2001 to demonstrate the mean age of marriage for women and how much education they had received at the time. He demonstrated that, in 1981, girls were marrying at the age of 18.3, even though the overall rate of Indian literacy was only 29.8%. The age at which females marry climbed to 20.2% in 2001, while the percentage of the overall literacy rate increased to 54%. This suggested that the number of years of education has led to a change in the marriageable age. Kerala and Maharashtra have greater percentages of literacy, 67.5% and 87.9%, respectively. According to the 2015–16 NFHS–4, 44.7% of women without formal education get married before becoming 18 years old. Marriage ages and rates are lowered by Education: Numerous explanations have been put out to account for this influence. It has been noted that many view marriage and being a student as mutually exclusive, which is consistent with the widespread belief that people should engage in specific activities by a specific age (Raymo, 1998; 2003). Therefore, school-age girls' marriage rates may decrease as

enrollment in schools rises. Furthermore, marrying while still a student will come with a large opportunity cost in settings where female education correlates with labor force participation. According to Thornton, Axinn, and Teachman (1995), women may choose to put off marriage due to the increased opportunity cost associated with obstacles to reaching their professional and educational aspirations.

**Women's Empowerment and Independence:** The government's infrastructural projects demonstrated its significant commitment to women and girls. The lives of women and girls were immediately enhanced by the construction of new health facilities, restrooms in schools, and improved access to electricity and water in remote areas. When combined, these expenditures enhanced the built environment that facilitates women's economic empowerment. In a patriarchal Indian society, the majority of millennial women mothers were either not allowed to work or chose to be unemployed. However, as a result of globalization, both parents of millennial educated girls supported their children. This was primarily the outcome because the parents, who were part of the new upper middle class family and the direct beneficiaries of globalization, could afford to support their children's aspirations.

**Career First, Marriage Second:** It's commonly observed that modern women would rather focus more on their careers and career paths than marriage; as a result, marriage age is often postponed till the late 20s or mid-30s. Due to protracted delays, some of them even skip getting married and continue to be single. Women put off getting married because they fear leading an idealized life (Hina Saleem et al., 2015).

**Economic element:** Associated with social standing, the economic element is one of the main reasons for late marriages. These days, social standing is very important, and people prefer not to get married unless they have "commodity income" (Schultz, 1974).

**Late Marriage:** Age for Women lead to rush for having kids, leads to infertility & leads complications arising to childbirth: Woman in their thirties have to rush into having babies, without having spent much quality time with their spouses. Hina Saleem(2015) cited that common cause of infertility was Problems related to Ovulation. They also saw a rise in infertility amongst men. Complications also arise during childbirth for a woman in her 30's than for a woman in her mid 20's or late 20's.

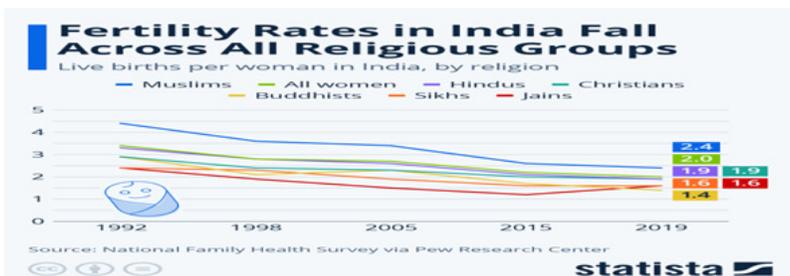
**Difficulty in Making changes:** Making changes with another person later in life can be quite challenging for an empowered woman who has been autonomous and accustomed to making her own decisions for a long time (A Banerjee, 2020)

## GLOBALIZATION AND FERTILITY:

Globalization has affected population dynamics in several ways. The rapid spread of public health and contraceptive technology has improved life expectancy and lowered fertility in most parts of the world.

India has become the biggest country in the world this year, but conversely, its fertility rates have been in a steep decline for years. In reality, the reversal of population growth that manifested itself in China this year has already begun in India as well.

The number of children born per woman in India had dropped to 2.0 by 2019. To maintain a stable population, 2.1 births per woman are necessary. Birth rates have been declining across all religious groups, making rates more similar in the process, reporting by Pew Research Center shows. Muslim women have traditionally given birth to more children than other women in India, but the gap between Hindu and Muslim birth rates in the country as been narrowing from one third to one quarter higher birth rates among the latter population. While life expectancy in India is still growing rather quickly, the population can continue to increase, but if this factor slows down in the future, population decline will start. India is expected to remain the biggest country in the world throughout this century, but could pass the title on to Nigeria beyond that.



The National Family Health Survey 2015–16 (NFHS–4), the fourth in the NFHS series, provides information on Marriage and Fertility of population of India as follow

Marriage and Fertility	NFHS-4 (2015-16)		NFHS-3 (2005-06)	
	Urban	Rural	Total	Total
Women age 20-24 years Married before age 18 Years (%)	17.5	31.5	26.8	47.4
Men age 25-29 years Married age 21 Years (%)	14.1	24.4	20.3	32.3
Total fertility rate ( Child per women)	1.8	2.4	2.2	2.7
Women age 15-19 Years who were already mothers or pregnant at the time of survey (%)	5.0	9.2	7.9	16.0

The National Family Health Survey 2019-21 (NFHS-5), the fifth in the NFHS series, provides information on Marriage and Fertility of population of India as follow

Marriage and Fertility	NFHS-5 (2019-21)		NFHS-4 (2015-16)	
	Urban	Rural	Total	Total
Women age 20-24 years Married before age 18 Years (%)	14.7	27.0	23.3	26.8
Men age 25-29 years Married age 21 Years (%)	11.3	21.1	17.7	20.3
Total fertility rate ( Child per women)	1.6	2.1	2.0	2.2
Women age 15-19 Years who were already mothers or pregnant at the time of survey (%)	3.8	7.9	6.8	7.9

### NEED AND IMPORTANCE OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT:

There is inequality and vulnerability of women in all sphere of life. They need to be empowered in all walks of life. Without the active participation of women establishment of a new social order may not be a successful one because women constitute half of the population. Women should realize that they have constitutional rights to quality health care, economic security, and access to education and political power. Mahatma Gandhi firmly states that the status of women would not change merely by bringing legislations; it must be supported by change in the women's social circumstances and situations and also man's sexist attitude to women. Fertility rates, age at marriage, health and nutrition. are very low. Participation of women in political process at the grass root level enhances their social status and it helps to solve the local problems, particularly drinking water, health, education, child development, social security for aged, disabled and in grass root level planning .

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## GLOBALIZATION AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Globalization has had a significant impact on women's empowerment in India, bringing about changes in various aspects of their lives.

Here are key ways in which globalization has influenced women's empowerment in the Indian context:

**Economic Opportunities:** Globalization has led to the expansion of industries and service sectors, providing increased employment opportunities for women. Women have entered diverse fields, contributing to economic growth and gaining financial independence.

**Education and Skill Development:** Increased access to global markets has emphasized the importance of education and skill development. Women are pursuing higher education and acquiring skills that enable them to participate in a wide range of professions.

**Entrepreneurship:** Globalization has facilitated the growth of entrepreneurship, allowing women to establish and manage their businesses. Women entrepreneurs are contributing to economic development and challenging traditional gender roles.

**Access to Information:** Globalization has improved access to information and technology. Women are using technology to access information, connect with networks, and enhance their knowledge and skills.

**Changing Social Norms:** Exposure to global ideas and values has influenced societal norms. Attitudes towards women's roles in society are evolving, challenging traditional expectations and promoting gender equality.

**Health and Well-being:** Globalization has contributed to advancements in healthcare and awareness of women's health issues. Women have greater access to healthcare services, leading to improved well-being.

**Legal and Policy Reforms:** Globalization has influenced legal and policy frameworks, leading to reforms that address gender disparities. Legal provisions and policies promoting women's rights and empowerment have been introduced.

**Participation in Decision-Making:** Globalization has emphasized the importance of diversity and inclusivity. Women are increasingly participating in decision-making processes in various sectors, including politics and corporate leadership.

**Networking and Advocacy:** Globalization has facilitated networking and collaboration among women's organizations. Women are engaged in advocacy efforts to address gender-based issues and promote empowerment.

**Challenges and Inequalities:** While globalization has contributed

to women's empowerment, challenges and inequalities persist. Gender-based violence, unequal pay, and discriminatory practices continue to hinder full empowerment.

globalization in India has played a dual role in shaping women's empowerment. On one hand, it has opened up new opportunities and avenues for women, and on the other hand, it has highlighted and exacerbated existing challenges. Ongoing efforts are essential to address these challenges and ensure that the benefits of globalization are equitably distributed, fostering sustained and inclusive women's empowerment.

### **MAJOR FINDINGS:**

1. Economic opportunities and the pursuit of education and careers are major factors contributing to delayed marriage.
2. The study reveals a decline in fertility rates correlated with the delayed age of marriage.
3. Increased awareness of family planning methods and changing aspirations contribute to smaller family sizes.
4. Economic globalization has created job opportunities for women, leading to increased financial independence.
5. Educational advancements among women have positively correlated with changing gender roles and increased decision-making power.

### **SUGGESTIONS:**

1. Strengthen educational programs that promote awareness about family planning and reproductive health, emphasizing both men and women's roles.
2. Develop policies that enhance women's access to diverse employment opportunities and ensure gender-neutral workplace environments.
3. Encourage the private sector to implement family-friendly policies, such as flexible working hours and parental leave, to support work-life balance.
4. Improve healthcare infrastructure to provide comprehensive reproductive health services, including family planning counseling and accessible contraception methods.
5. Advocate for and implement legal reforms that promote gender equality, addressing issues such as domestic violence, dowry, and discriminatory practices.
6. Ensure the effective implementation of existing laws protecting women's rights.

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**Funding:**

This study was not funded by any grant.

**Conflict of interest:**

The Authors have no conflict of interest to declare that they are relevant to the content of this article.

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