Chapter 1

Identifiable Challenges as Global Complexities:
Globalization, Gender Violence, and Statelessness

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ABSTRACT

Discourses on globalization and violence often fall short on understanding the gender aspects of different forms of violence. This is particularly the case for stateless women and girls, faced with the existing institutionalized systems of social and legal protection which do not account for them, making them almost invisible. Subsequently, this contribution claims that the assessment of vulnerability, and likely responses, are linked to power and identity at the global levels. Furthermore, such responses are shaped by the structure of agency and associated power structures in society. Unequal power structures are likely to lead to unequal patterns of neglect, or perverse responses that protect entrenched interests aligned with existing structures of identity or influence. In this way, the "vulnerability of stateless identity" can itself be a source of heightened anxiety and fear.

INTRODUCTION

Globalization is shaping the interaction among nations, economies and people (Scholte, 2005) and remains a predominantly male discourse (Adam, 2002). It affects differently men and women as workers, carers, consumers, re/producers and loan/aid recipients. The distinction between economic globalization and social globalization is one way to make a distinction between the development paradigm which is growth-oriented and the human-centred development paradigm (Aguilar and Lacsamana, 2004) which in turn widen the divide between men and women. Within such paradigms, both positive and negative aspects of globalization are easily recognisable. Globalization is increasing the contacts between people

across national boundaries in economy, in technology, in culture and in governance (Scholte, 2005). At the same time, it is also fragmenting production processes, labor markets, political entities and societies, often alienating individuals from the job market (Sassen, 1998). Women are more likely to experience "in and out of work" poverty, aggressive cuts in welfare benefits and public sector employment and services, than men. When women become financially dependent are often more likely to become more vulnerable to violence (Towers & Walby, 2012).

The negative, disruptive, marginalizing aspects of globalization (Appadurai, 2000) overshadow the positive ones. More specifically, economic globalization is seen in the expansion of capitalism globally in the forms of spread of multi-national corporations and financial institutions, information technology, and consumerism (Harcourt & Escobar, 2005). Social globalization, on the other hand, focuses on human development and people centred development (Aguilar & Lacsamana, 2004). The needs for a new development paradigm have been recognized with the expansion of globalization and its negative impact has been observed with larger income distribution gap between the rich and the poor within the same country as well as between rich countries and poor countries. What has been less recognised is the link between violence against women and globalization (Manjoo & Nadj, 2017). In such context, it is not feasible to talk about women's right to a life free of all forms of violence, without acknowledging that there is interdependence between violence and root causes, such as poverty and inequality in wealth, underdevelopment, the rural/urban divide, race, indigenous status, age, sexual orientation discrimination and gender identity and so on (Gurunge et al., 2010). When highlighting the need to a deeper understanding of the causes and consequences of gender-based violence in a globalised society, intersectionality thus becomes a really useful tool in this endeavour (Cannon & Buttell, 2015). In other words, individuals' experiences are shaped by the ways in which their social identities intersect with each other and with interacting systems of oppression (Dobash & Dobash, 1979; Connell & Messerschmidt, 2005). However, it is worth highlighting here that the relationship between gender-based violence, ethnicity, and poverty is neither clear nor uncontested (Coomaraswamy, 2017). The collective action frame that characterizes violence as cutting across boundaries of ethnicity and income risks minimizing differential experiences of, and potential vulnerabilities to, violence (Guruge et al., 2010). These issues deserve closer attention, yet there may be risks around using such analyses to further marginalize already vulnerable groups (Peroni and Timmer, 2013). The picture around race and ethnicity that emerges from empirical data is not always consistent (Guruge et al., 2010), and findings can be complicated by the different terminology used to describe Indigenous, black, and minority ethnic groups or even migrant groups. While there may also be correlations between severity and culturally specific forms of violence, the increased vulnerability to violence of minority ethnic women is likely related to poverty and income (Alhabib et al., 2010). Minority ethnic families in late capitalist societies are likely to be poorer than white families and this may be a key factor in explaining the increased likelihood of violence (McCloskey, 2006). Indeed, violence often takes place within a context of poverty and underemployment, cultural isolation, under education and language barriers, all issues exacerbated when women are stateless as enjoyment of rights is further limited (Sahar, 2017). However, in relation to globalization, there are related questions to be explored around the relationship between gender-based violence and employment (Sassen, 1996). While income is one measure of socioeconomic status, household income does not provide an accurate measure of women's access to that income. Employment, however, may be one inroad into exploring the potential protection that socioeconomic status can provide. Also, the social networks that can develop in employment could lessen isolation and thus women's vulnerability to violence. However, it is difficult for stateless women to find employment because they lack documentations such as birth certificates and

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