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INDIA : The Impact of Globalization on Children and the Changing Faces of Rural Livelihoods

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Abstract :

The Impact of Globalization on Children During the early 90's, the Indian government accepted conditions set by the World Bank and its affiliates and adopted a set of economic reforms. Policies of liberalisation and privatisation were adopted as part of these reforms.

These reforms have affected India's children at two levels :

1) at the level of the impact of the reforms on livelihood and food security of the poor, especially rural agrarian communities. Heightened livelihood insecurity and cuts in food subsidies have forced many children out of school and into work to augment family income.
2) at the level of the impact of reforms on government spending on social sectors such as health and education. Commercialisation of health and education and decreased state investment in improving access and quality of these services has further deprived large numbers of marginalised children of the opportunity to improve their education and health status.

Impact On Livelihoods :

1. The last decade has registered the lowest rural employment growth rate since Independence and the overall employment growth in the 90's was about two-thirds to half of what it was in the 80's.
2. The last decade has witnessed the lowest growth rate in agriculture, which is the primary source of livelihood for over 60% of the Indian population. Government investment in agriculture declined from 11.6% of GDP in the 80's to 9.1% in the 90's.

   The Changing Faces of Rural Livelihoods : The rapid changes at the macro level that India witnessed since the early nineties has contributed to the instability of the livelihood systems of the poorer section of both rural and urban households.

Keywords : India, Globalization, Children, Rural, Livelihood.

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