Globalization and Gender Disparities: A Social, Economic and Political Perspective for South Asian Countries

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Abstract:

Panel data from 2000 to 2016 will be used in this study to assess the influence of globalization on gender inequality in South Asian countries. As a proxy for gender differences, the Gender Inequality Index (GII) is utilised; for globalizations, social, political, and economic globalizations indices are also employed. The Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich created these three-dimensional indicators, while UNDP created an index of gender inequality. In order to determine if a fixed effect or random effect model should be used, the Hausman specification test is used. In this experiment, the results indicated that random effects should be used instead of fixed effects. There is a negative and significant correlation between the independent variables, like social globalizations, Human development indexes, and the gender inequality index. While

Economic globalizations, political globalizations, and the Gender Inequality Index have a positive but substantial correlation. Several theoretical and empirical research support the findings of this one. Gender inequality in South Asia is a major problem, and this report recommends strategies to assist alleviate the problem. Gender equality is a key component of the strategies aimed at enhancing the region's growth through globalizations elevation.

Keywords: Globalization, Gender Inequality Index, South Asia

Introduction:

"Gender inequality or **Gender stratification** refers to the hierarchy, ranking men and a woman differently in terms of power; social status, wealth and other resources or in other words it is unequal distribution of wealth, power, social status, opportunities and other privileges according to the gender".[1]

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA, 2009), Defines Gender Equality as **"Equality between men and women exists when both sexes are able to share equally in the distribution of power and influence; have equal opportunities for financial independence through work or through setting up businesses; enjoy equal access to education and the opportunity to develop personal ambitions, interests and talents; share responsibility for the home and children and are completely free from coercion, intimidation and gender-based violence both at work and at home."

The Gender inequality also known as Gender- Gap according to American Oxford Dictionary (2009) and is defined as "discrepancy in opportunities, status, attitudes, etc. between men and women." The economic aspect of Gender inequality issue has gained intense worldwide attention. However the world's attention is stronger towards developing countries, where the female are far

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[1] Sociology by John J. Macionis(eleventh edition)

behind than the men in achieving education, health, political, social and job opportunities, compared to developed countries (World Bank, 2012).Edward (2010) explained that gender inequality has contrary effects on all the factors of socio economic development and no evidences have ever showed that gender equality and economic efficiency trade-off present. In spite of the fact that governments and other institutions now view gender inequality as a key macroeconomic determinant, it is not generally recognized as having a significant impact on economic growth. By lowering physical capital accumulation, human capital accumulation, and institutional quality, Ferrant (2011) explained how gender disparity impedes socio-economic growth in numerous ways (Swamy, Knack, Lee and Azfar 2000). We don't know how gender equality affects the economy, but if we take the unequal distribution of earnings and income, it changes the investment in human capital and so affects growth by changing the aggregate demand. Health and educational disparities have a long-term impact on economic growth (by affecting improved human capital and lowered fertilities and positive externalities, improved life expectancy). Corruption is reduced when more women participate in the workforce, according to a new study. Female capital per worker is higher than male capital per worker (Swamy, Knack, Lee and Azfar 2000). Word "Globalization" originally appeared in the American Dictionary in 1961 (Scholte, 2002) and has since spread across a wide range of fields. In the 1980s, however, it became more often used as a phrase due to technical advancements that made cross-border economic integration simpler (IMF, 2008). Economic "globalisation" is a historical process, the product of human ingenuity and technical advancement, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF). An economic term that describes how products, services, and capital are moving across borders more and more frequently. Labor migration and technology transfer are two further examples of cross-border migrations. In

addition, globalizations has a wider range of cultural, political, and environmental impacts" (IMF, 2008).

The globalizations level is quantified using the KOF index. Since its inception in 2006, the KOF Economic Institute has developed and used the KOF index (Dreher 2006). Later that year, the KOF index was modified (Dreher, Gaston &Martens 2008). The overall index encompasses the economic, political, and social components of globalisation (Dreher et al, 2010). The score gives a combined 36 percent weight to economic globalizations, 37 percent to social globalizations, and 27 percent to political globalizations (detailed discussed in variables).

Globalization and gender equality relation have been studied though the course of time. Study showed that in long term globalization is considered to reduce gender inequality through the institutional change (Potrafke & Ursprung, 2012).Gender equality can be achieved through the globalization as the globalization with its associated forces i.e. Trade openness, ICT has proved to create more opportunities for women and made the access easier for females. Therefore globalization is being considered as a potential factor that can participate in achieving gender equality (World Bank, 2012).Globalizing the economies and production process across the nations has positively affected, in reducing the gender inequality and occupational segregations, especially in the developing countries (Meyer, 2003).A study conducted by IMF has shown that increasing integration of trade, economies and ICT has reduced inequality particularly in the developing countries (IMF, 2007).

Gender disparity is at its worst in the Middle East and North Africa, where there is a 40 percent disparity, according to the 2017 Gender Gap Report. In the context of South Asian nations A total of seven countries are ranked in the top 50: Bangladesh (47), Maldives (106), India (108), Sri

Lanka (109), Nepal (111), Bhutan (124), and Pakistan (143). In 2017, Bangladesh remained at the top of the rankings, while Maldives rose from 115th to 106th, India fell from 87th to 108th, Sri Lanka fell from 100th to 109th, Nepal rose from 110th to 111st, Bhutan fell from 120th to 124th, and Pakistan remained in the 143rd position. The sub index of Economic Opportunity and Participation shows significant progress for Bangladesh. In particular, the country has made significant progress toward gender equality in the legislative, executive, and managerial ranks, as well as in professional and technical positions. However, the gender disparity in healthy life expectancy has narrowed marginally. In the Maldives, the gender gap has narrowed, with an increase in predicted earnings and in the sub index of Political Empowerment. Furthermore, it has eliminated the gender gap in educational attainment. Gender disparities in political empowerment, healthy life expectancy, and basic literacy have become wider in India since 1991. While there are still significant gender gaps in India's primary and secondary school enrollments, the country has narrowed the gender gap in tertiary school enrollments to nearly zero. The pay disparity between men and women in Sri Lanka has become wider in recent years. Despite a worsening of the gender disparity in ministerial posts, the gender gap in tertiary education enrollment has been closed for the first time and progress has been achieved in women's projected earned income share. Professional and technical employees, anticipated earnings, healthy life expectancy, and basic literacy have all shown a widening gender difference in Bhutan, which is somewhat countered by a notable gain in parity for lawmakers, senior officials, and managers in the country. Pakistan has maintained its position as the worst country in the region and the worst in the world. It has narrowed the gender gap in elementary literacy and increased the share of working-age women in the labor force. Gender inequality in Afghanistan ranks 154th out of 159 countries, according to the report (UNDP, 2016).

Through many studies globalization has been proved as an active actor to reduce gender inequality. Theoretical link has been showed between the globalization and gender inequality across the south Asian region. However no study has showed the link between the Gender inequality and globalization, through empirical evidence, across the South Asian Region (Siegmann, 2006). Purpose of this study is to investigate the relationship between the Gender Inequality and Globalization (overall index, economic globalization, social globalization and political globalization) across the South Asian Region, empirically, using panel data from 2000 to 2016.This study will scaffold a framework that would describe that either globalization could be beneficial for plummeting gender inequality in the region or not? This study will portray that "how globalization is affecting the gender inequality in the South Asian region?" Different scholars have identified the relation of gender inequality and globalization. Some have work on specifically for one country; fewer have worked for cross-country analysis. No author has specifically worked for the South Asia region. Purpose of this study is to investigate the relationship between the Gender Inequality and Globalization across the South Asian Region, empirically. This study will recommend policies to reduce the gender inequality in the south Asia and help to cope with its severe condition in gender inequality.

The Objectives of the research:

Following is the objective for the research work.

"To investigate the impact of globalization on gender inequality in South Asia Region"

Literature Review:

Gender inequality is central to societies as Kitch (2011) has covered the 300 years of the history tracing the roots of gender inequality and race and described in her book that gender inequality has been in the societies since centuries however the race is a new concept.

The term globalization firstly used in the American English dictionary in 1961 according to Scholte (2002) and started entering into different disciplines. Different scholars have identified the relation of gender inequality and globalization.

Many scholars have investigated that how globalization is affecting the gender inequality. Some have work on specifically for one country; fewer have worked for cross-country analysis. No author has specifically worked for the South Asia region. This study has done for the 56 countries for the year of 1970-1990 but what's happening to the new trends of globalization and inequality, for this a latest quantitative analysis is required. DerHoevenn& Gunter (2004) have studied the impact of globalization on wages and taxes, poverty, inequality, insecurity, child labour, gender, and migration by reviewing the literature from 120 sources(from 1985 to2002). But this study was the review of the literature and the study of theories but no empirical results have been found through it.Enriqueta, Maria, Silvana & Natalia (2006) have found that in the second era of globalization (1975-2000) different combinations of has resulted in lowering the gender gap. This study had conducted for the South Asia, East Asia and Latin America and researchers have used the GINI and Theil Indices to measure the decrease in wage inequality. Gender disparity in urban China was examined by Shu, Zhu, and Zhang (2007), who found that economic globalizations has had a significant impact on the nature of work and the roles of men and women in urban China. The researchers employed three City Level variables on the Gender Gap in Income, FDI per Capita, growth rate of FDI, and opening up to overseas investment early on in the process of their research. The study also looked at the gender difference between the high-paying foreign-invested

enterprises and the lower-paying export-oriented manufacturing industries. – Also, the study found that economic globalizations had had a role in the late 1990s occupational segregation. Nonetheless, the findings may be applied to the whole South Asian region, not only China. According to Mills (2009), there have been several research that show a connection between globalizations and increased gender disparity.

Human development, gender development, and poverty in developing countries were studied by Sapkota (2011), using panel data from 1997 to 2009 for 124 developing countries. Indexes such as HPI-1 were used by the Sapkota. According to the results, globalizations has improved the HD, GD, and reduced poverty in countries around the world.

Economic and social globalizations has a positive effect on social institutions that reduce female subjugation and promote gender equality, according to Potrafke & Ursprung (2012). For 120 developing countries, SIGI and the KOF index of globalizations were used to gather data for this study. Gender wage gaps were reduced by globalizations, according to Rasekhi and Hosseinmardi (2012), who used panel data from 21 developing countries for the period from 2000 to 2007. According to Murray (2013), the effects of globalizations on gender inequality and society in South Asia, with a particular focus on Pakistan. In his chapter, he emphasised the effects of globalizations on gender, global expectations, and the relational approach to examining the gendered role of individuals.

Empirical globalizations literature was studied by Potrafke (2015). There are more than 100 studies that use the KOF index because of its correlation with numerous variables. The evidence shows that globalizations has boosted economic growth, promoted gender equality, and improved human rights. Inequality within the country was worsened as a result, however It was discovered by

Ferrant (2015) that the technique of cross-country and panel regressions hinders economic growth and human development. For 109 developing countries, steady state per capita income and human development levels have been estimated.

Based on the time series from 1980 to 2014 for the Gender Inequality Index (GII), the social, political and economic globalizations of Pakistan was found to be linked to Gender inequality. Johnson's Co-integration technique was used to examine the impact of social, economic, and political globalizations on Pakistan's gender inequality index and found a negative and significant relationship between economic globalizations, social globalizations, and gender inequality index, while a negative but insignificant relationship was found between political globalizations and gender inequality index.

Increased globalizations has resulted in an increase in gender equality, according to the World Bank. Gender roles and economic opportunities have become more accessible to women as a result of globalizations. According to this report, Globalization alone cannot eradicate gender inequality. Global Women's Forum used the Gender Gap Report to track and measure gender inequalities in the workplace and other settings. Health, education, the economy, and politics are all examined in the gender gap report in order to determine the extent to which men and women differ in these areas. International media frequently cites the Gender Gap Report, which is released every year. According to the Gender Gap Report (2017), which looked at statistics from across 144 countries, progress toward narrowing the gender divide is sluggish. The Gender Gap Report is produced by the World Economic Forum, Harvard University, and the University of California at Berkeley. Quantitative data, which includes national policies and international statistics and surveys from the ILO, World Economic Forum, UNESCO, CIA World Factbook, and IPU, is used in this study.. There were 144 countries included in the 2017 report on gender gaps. It is estimated that the gender

gap in South Asia is 34%; the Middle East and North Africa has a 40% gender gap, according to the 2017 Gender Gap report. For South Asian nations, Bangladesh (the top performer) sits at number 47, followed by Maldives (106th), India (98) and Sri Lanka (99) before Nepal (111th), Bhutan (124) and Pakistan (143rd). In 2017, Bangladesh remained at the top of the rankings, while Maldives rose from 115th to 106th, India fell from 87th to 108th, Sri Lanka fell from 100th to 109th, Nepal rose from 110th to 111st, Bhutan fell from 121st to 124th, and Pakistan held on to its second-worst position with a 143rd ranking. Is it possible that globalizations can help South Asia to overcome the gender inequality in the world's second-lowest-scoring region??

Theoretical Framework:

Trade theories such as the Ricardinan model allow countries to specialize their production in order to become more productive through international trade. According to Bussmann (2009), the macroeconomic viewpoint that economic globalizations and trade produces higher income for the state, enabling the government to get more money for public spending like investments in better education and health facilities, specialization is an important factor in the creation of jobs and an increase in accessibility for people. Dollar and Gatti (1999) found that increased income per capita has a positive effect on gender equality in education and health, and that gender inequality in education is a major drag on economic growth.. Education levels are expected to rise as a result of social globalizations, which includes tourism and information exchanges (Stark, 2004).

Diagram No 1: Theoretical Link
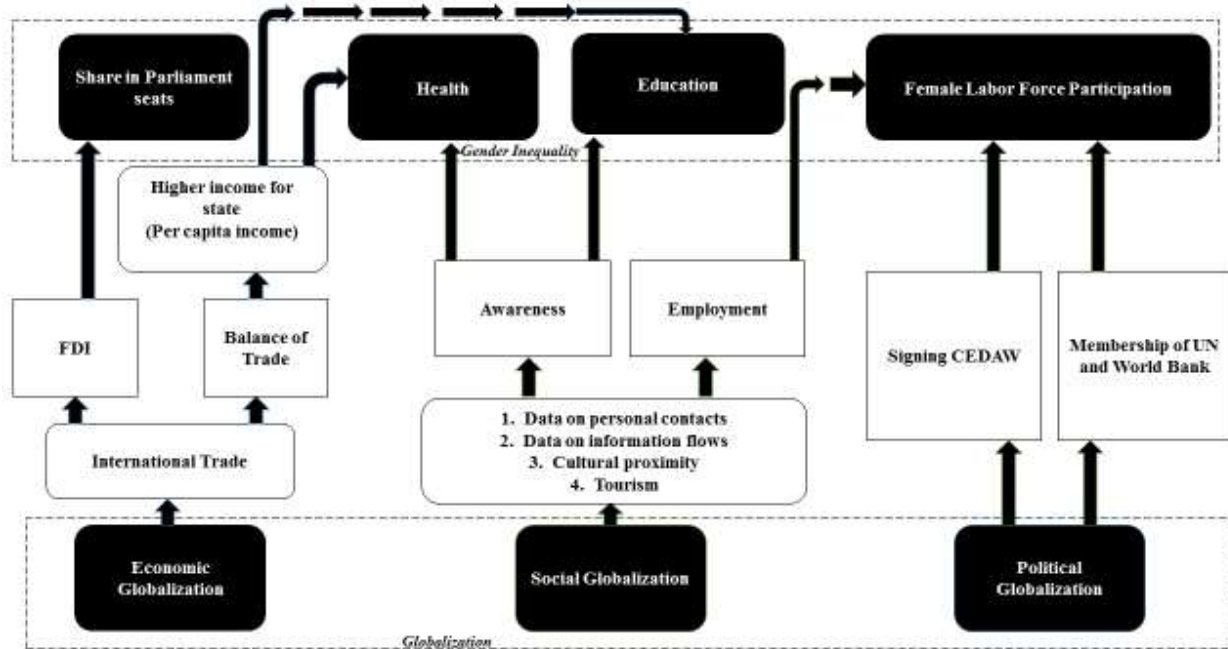
Source: inspiration from Feenstra (2003), Bussmann (2009), Dollar and Gatti (1999), Stark (2004) & Gray, Kittilson and Sandholtz (2006)

Further explained that membership in international organizations is also important factor affecting gender. They described that UN and World Bank members countries (70 years of membership) are expected to have higher share of female labor force than the countries that have been of these international organization for only 12 years.

Data and Methodology:

Model Specification To investigate the relationship of globalization and gender inequality in South Asia, Gender inequality Index and KOF index of globalization are selected. Gender inequality Index is the dependent variable and KOF indices of globalization are the independent variables.

$$GII_{it} = \beta_0 + \beta_1{}^{Pol}GLOB_{it} + \beta_2{}^{Soc}GLOB_{it} + \beta_3{}^{Pol}GLOB_{it} + \beta_4 HDI_{it} + \mu_{it} \quad (1)$$

Where I represents the countries (i= 1, 2, 3, … , 8) and t represents year (t=2000, … , 2016)

Variables Descriptive Analysis:

In the above equation (1), the variables correspond to:

Table 1: Descriptive Analysis of Variables

Variable Label	Variables	Source
GII	Gender inequality index	UNDP
^{Eco}GLOB	Economic Globalization	Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich
^{Soc}GLOB	Social Globalization	Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich
^{Pol}GLOB	Political Globalization	Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich
HDI	Human Development Index	UNDP
μ	Normally distributed error term	

Variables:

The Gender Inequality Index and the KOF index of globalizations are used to examine the relationship between globalizations and gender inequality in South Asia. The dependent variable is the Gender Inequality Index, while the independent variable is the KOF Globalization Index. GII was developed by the United Nations Development Program in 2010 and the KOF index of globalizations was developed by the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich.

Indicators:

KOF index of globalization Measurement of globalizations is done using this method. Since its inception in 2006, the KOF Economic Institute has produced and utilized the KOF index (Dreher 2006). Later that year, the KOF index was modified (Dreher, Gaston &Martens 2008).

The process of building global networks through the movement of people, information and ideas, capital and goods is known as globalizations. Based on the ATK/FP (A. T. Kearny / Foreign Policy Globalization Index), the KOF globalizations index covers more countries and a longer time period than the ATK/FP. The overall score encompasses the economic, political, and social components of globalizations (Dreher et al, 2010). The following three indices make up the KOF index of globalizations: A- The KOF index of globalizations divides economic globalizations into two categories: 1) Actual Flows and 2) Restrictions. International Trade, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), Stocks, Portfolio Investment, and Income Payments to Foreigners are further subdivided into percentages of GDP (percent of GDP). Mean Tariff Rate, Taxes on International Trade (percentage of current revenue), and Capital Account Restrictions are further subdivided into three categories: Hidden Import Barriers and Mean Tariff Rate. Three major variables make up the B-Social Globalization Index: As a percentage of GDP, international remittances (per capita) and telecommunications traffic are all included in the data on personal contacts. 2- Internet users (per 1000 people), TV viewers (per 1000 people), and newspaper sales are all examples of data on information flows (percentage of GDP). also, and 3- Cultural proximity is measured by the number of McDonald's restaurants (per capita), the number of IKEA stores (per capita), and the amount of books traded in that area (percent of GDP) Index of Embassies in Country; International Organizations; U.N. Security Council Participation; and International Treaties; C-Political Globalization Index A total of 36 percent of the index's weight is attributed to economic globalizations, 37 percent to social globalizations, and 27 percent to political globalizations.

Gender Inequality Index: The Gender Inequality Index (GII) will be used to measure gender inequality. The index of gender inequity is a tool used to assess global gender disparities. The GII is a measure of disparity. In terms of reproductive health, the maternal mortality ratio, and

adolescent birth rates, it assesses gender disparities in human development. 3rd is economic status, which is measured by the percentage of female and male populations aged 15 and older who participate in the labor force, and 2nd is empowerment, which is measured by the percentage of female and male populations aged 25 and older who have at least some secondary education. Women and men's disparities in reproductive health, economic empowerment, and access to the labor market are all included in the World Development Report 2016's definition of gender disparity.

Data Source:

Gender inequality Index is dependent variables. Gender Inequality Index data is taken from UNDP Human Development Report for the time period of 2000 to 2016. Missing values are filled using interpolate and extrapolate techniques. The data series is given in Annexure 1.The KOF Index of Globalization, as defined in the previous section is the independent variable for this study. The Data for KOF index (for the time period of 2000 to 2016) is taken from KOF Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich. Few values were missing for a couple of countries. These missing Economic globalization values were filled using interpolate and extrapolate techniques. Human Development Index data is taken from UNDP Human Development Report for the time period of 2000 to 2016.

Statistical analysis:

Table 2: Statistical Analysis of Variable

Variables	Mean	Standard deviation	Minimum	Maximum
Gender inequality index	0.534573	0.141778	0.043	0.754
Economic Globalization	39.29779	9.753213	19.62131	62.89020
Social Globalization	30.34780	9.926004	7.222109	47.16537
Political Globalization	60.11030	25.77636	16.62907	92.52
Human Development Index	0.558551	0.096450	0.34	0.768

In the above table the statistical analysis is shown for each variable used in the model. For gender inequality index the mean is 0.534, standard deviation is 0.1417, the minimum value is 0.043(for Bhutan in the year 2000) and maximum value is 0.754(Afghanistan for the year of 2000). For Economic Globalization the mean is 39.29, standard deviation is 9.75, the minimum value is 19.62131311 (for Bangladesh in the year 2000) and maximum value is 62.89 (Bhutan for the year of 2013). For Social Globalization the mean is 30.34, standard deviation is 9.92, the minimum value is 7.22(for Afghanistan in the year 2002) and maximum value is 47.16(Maldivesfor the year of 2012). For Political Globalization the mean is 60.11, standard deviation is 27.77, the minimum value is 16.62 (for Bhutan in the year 2000) and maximum value is 92.52 (Indiafor the year of 2014).For Human Development Index the mean is 0.558, standard deviation is 0.09645, the minimum value is 0.34 (Afghanistan for the year of 2000) and maximum value is 0.768(Sri Lanka for the year of 2016). For Population growth the mean is 197655859.6, standard deviation is 383937170.8, the minimum value is 286000 (Maldives for the year of 2000) and maximum value is 1324171354 (India for the year of 2016).

Empirical Analysis:

For variables that change over time, we utilized fixed effect, random effect, and Hausman tests. When a fixed effect is employed to identify the link between a predictor and an article's outcomes, the qualities of each article might have an impact on the predictor. Because the individual's internal environment may impact a predictor or outcome variable, we need to account for this in our study design. Using this assumption, we may conclude that the article's error term is correlated with the predictor factors. Time-invariant features are removed from the model to provide a better picture

of the predictor's overall impact on the outcome variable. According to the FE model, a particular article's time invariant features are assumed to be unique and unrelated to the characteristics of any other articles. Because of this, the article's error term and constant should not be associated with the rest of the article. The fixed effect may not be appropriate if the error term and constant for each article are associated, and a proper model is required (random-effects). As a result, the Hausman test relies heavily on this..
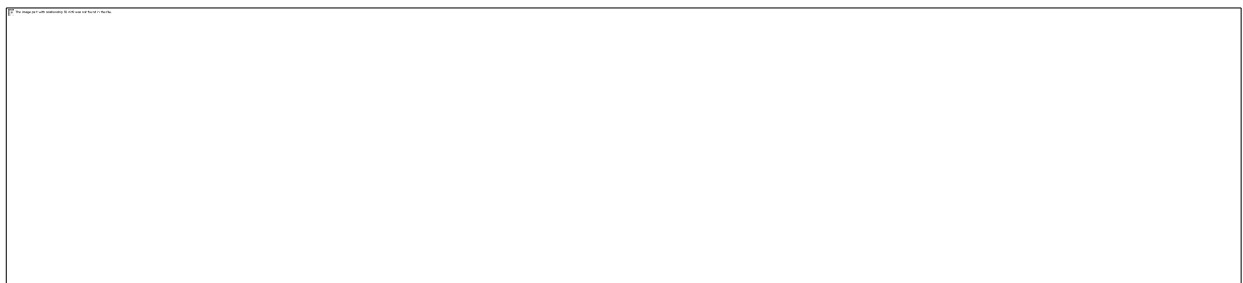
Hausman test (Fixed effect or random?)

To choose between fixed effect model and random effect model we used Hasuman test. Hausman test has following hypothesis. After saving the estimates in Stata using command (estimate store fixed/random), we ran the test Hausman test to test the following hypothesis:

H_o: *estimate the random effect model* H_1: *estimate the fixed effect model*

Table No. 3: Hasuman Test Estimations

The value of chi-square statistic is 8.59, and its p-value is more than significant level of 0.05 (i.e. 0.0723). Based on this result, we cannot reject the null hypothesis, (use the random effect model). Therefore, we accept the Ho and random effect model is proper for regression. (Green, 2008, chapter 9).

Testing the Random effect Model:

After testing the fixed effect model, we tested the random effect model and following were the estimates.

Table 4: Random Effect Estimates

	Coefficient	Std. Error	z -value	P> z
EconomicGlobalization	0.0104706	0.001818	5.76	0
Social Globalization	-0.0107127	0.003187	-3.36	0.001
PoliticalGlobalization	0.0037501	0.001277	2.94	0.003
HDI	-0.4974572	0.271514	-1.83	0.067
Intercept	0.5006466	0.096584	5.18	0

Economic globalization, Social globalization, Political globalization and HDI are significant variables to explain the dependent variable as the p-values are less than 0.05 (i.e. 95%, we could also choose a 0.10 α level). Negative signs with Social globalization and HDI's coefficient showed that there is negative relationship between Gender inequality and these two variables (i.e. with the increase in social globalization and human development the Gender inequality will be decreased). Further the value of coefficient showed how much change will be occurred if independent variable change by 1%.

Results and conclusion:

Consequently, the Hausman test has concluded that the random effect model is appropriate for this research. HDI, economic globalization, social globalization, political globalization, and p-values less than 0.05 (i.e. 95 percent) are significant variables to explain the dependent variable. Gender inequality has a negative correlation with social globalization and the HDI's coefficient, according to the results of this study (i.e. with the increase in social globalization and human development the Gender inequality will be decreased). In addition, the coefficient's value indicated how much

change would occur if the independent variable changed by 1%. There is a negative and substantial correlation between the independent variables, such social globalization, Human development indexes, and the gender inequality index. While Economic globalisation, political globalization, and the Gender Inequality Index have a positive but substantial correlation. Several theoretical and empirical research support the findings of this one. Economic globalization and gender inequality have a positive and significant relationship, which indicates that the gender inequality will rise as a result of an increase in economic globalization. Economic globalization has increased inequality in industrialized countries while decreasing it in developing countries, as demonstrated by Mills (2009) using the theoretical model (Mills, 2009). Human development and social globalization have been shown to have a negative, but significant, relationship when it comes to gender inequality in the South Asian region, as many previous studies have argued. For example, Potrafke and Ursprung (2012). Gender inequality will rise as political globalization rises, according to a strong and significant correlation between the two variables. The findings of this study provide a framework for thinking about how globalization might help reduce gender inequality in South Asia. Using panel data for South Asian countries from 2000 to 2016, this study examined how economic, social, and political globalization affects gender inequality in the region. An empirical investigation into the connection between South Asian gender inequality and globalization was the goal of this study. For the sake of gender equality in South Asia, this study recommends policies that promote social globalization. Gender equality is a key component of the strategies aimed at enhancing the region's growth through globalization elevation.

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