Studies on Globalization are nothing new. Globalization is a force that rides on the back of earlier waves of global exploitation, including European colonization spanning the previous 500 years. A new kind of globalization began to emerge in the years following World War II with the emergence of General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the World Bank.

The earlier strategy of globalization is to demolish national economic barriers, empowering financial institutions and transnational companies as never before. However, it has never been effective. In the very beginning, globalization made people believe that it will bring welfare and benefit to the entire humanity with free ‘exchange’ of people, goods and services without making any discrimination. But in true sense the globalization we are witnessing in the twentieth century and in the beginning of the twenty-first century shows that the only thing which has been globalizing is “market” and the free circulation of capital. This rapid pace of globalization has been done in the name of ‘financial globalization’. The whole process therefore, hits forcefully to the Third world countries and among them the condition of the women is becoming worse than ever.

Another underlying observation of the present is that the situation of women who are always considered as second citizen in every country including Thailand and they occupied the space of more than 50 percent of the world’s poor, then it is hard to imagine their present situation and impact of globalization on them. Instead of providing solution to gender inequality, globalization sharpens the division between the two sexes. The contradictory effects of globalization have been both empowerment and disempowerment for women. Globalization has entrenched gendered hierarchies in the labor force as well as increased the percentages of women living below the poverty line. Despite representing nearly 50 percent of the labour force Thai women are still not acknowledged for their contribution in the national income and discriminated in the labour market.
This Thesis is divided into five chapters. All the chapters have different aspects in one way or the other but closely linked by one common aspect, that is, globalization and its impact on women and their position in the market.

Chapter I of the thesis has focused on overview of globalization and its impact on women in every field especially women’s work force thereby introducing the problem at hand, along with the theoretical insight. This chapter was examined the role of globalization and its impact on the developing countries, its contribution and criticism and especially its impact on women in general and Thai women in particular.

Chapter II examines the overall picture of globalization and Southeast Asian as most developing in every field. It further study impact of Asian economic crisis in the process of globalization on women and also the status of women and their work force in existing economy in Southeast Asia.

Chapter III discuss the role of Thai women especially the field of economy in traditional Thai society and their challenges and problems in society and advantages they posses before the impact of globalization. This chapter has specifically focus on the comparative study of the role of Thai women and their work force before and after globalization.

Chapter IV analyse and look into the overall impact of globalization on women work force in Thailand and the contribution of women in Thailand’s growing economy with the analysis of data and sources. It also further examined the variations of work force of men and women in various sectors and the reason of why less number of women participate in the higher level posts of the hierarchical structure of work force.

In Chapter V, finally sum up the ideas which have been discussed in the previous chapters, while also providing probable suggestions and recommendations for enhancing and improving the status of women in general and particularly for Thai women in this era of globalization.

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