

Globalization: A Human Right Perspective

Digvijay Nath Pandey

Associate Professor in Political Science H.R.Post Graduate College Khalilabad Sant Kabir Nagar India

Abstract

Globalization, as a concept is both highly fashionable and highly contested over the past few decades, Enormous academic literature has developed on the subject. Globalization in the literary sense, is international integration. It denotes global interdependence and mounted slogans like “Death of the Distance” and “End of Geography” Globalization removes barriers to free trade and investment. No market is supposed to be reserved exclusively for anybody. Now a days UN, World Bank, IMF and WTO are regulating the terms of exchange. Broadly, Globalization can be described as a process by which the people of would are unified into a single society and function together. This process is a combination of economic, technological, socio-cultural and political forces. In simple words it is the process in which a common consciousness of human society is possible on a global scale. Ultimately Globalization is the spread and intensification of economic, social, political and cultural relations across national borders.

International institutions such as WTO, World Bank and IMF are contributing to political globalization which is stretching of political relations across space and time. The extension of political power and political activity across the boundaries of modern nation-states through organization like EU, NAFTA, ASEAN, AU etc. and non governmental organization (NGOS) working in field of global human rights such as Amnesty International etc. play pivotal roles in the new system of global governance.

Neo-liberal policies towards globalization have has many negative consequences with regard to increased ecological degradation, persistent global poverty, worst working condition, cultural violence, widened arbitrary and economic inequalities between elites and people living below poverty line (BPL).

KEYWORDS: Globalization, human rights, neo liberal policies, ecological degradation.

With the end of the cold war, academic interest shifted back to the role of external or global economic factors, under the broad banner of globalization. It is far from easy to gather together the wide variety of meanings attached to the term globalization at one leve it appears simple. Globalization in about the universal process or set of processes which generate a multiplicity of linkages and interconnections which transcend the states and societies which mack up the modem world system, It involves a dramatic increase in density and depth of economic, ecological and societal interdependence, with density referring to the increased number, range and scope of cross border transaction and depth to the degree to which that interdependence affect and in effected by, the ways in which societies are organized domestically.

In reality much of the muddle and inconclusiveness of the debates on globalization stem from the ambiguity of the concept. Globalization is sometimes presented as a causal theory, certain sorts of global processes are held to cause certain kinds of outcome, sometimes it is a collection of concepts, mapping how the changing

global system is to be understood and sometimes it is understood as a particular kind of discourse or ideology often associated with NEO liberalism.

The cold war separated the two models. The end of socialism also marketed end of cold war and victory of capitalism. Horrors of war and the needs for peaceful coexistence have been recognized. Until capitalism grows old and gives way to new forces of production, the non-capitalist path of development has become a blind alley. Globalization removes barriers to free trade and investment. No market is supposed to be reserved exclusively for anybody. Impelled by the old United States practice of vigorously reacting to situations with a view to safe grinding their own interest, and their dream of conquering the entire world, with a view to civilizing it in their own way UNO, World Bank, IMF and WTO are regulating the terms of exchange.

Knowledge of science, technology and management is advancing at a faster pace than ever before. Assembly lines and computers have intensified the pace of work. Inventions in the field of transport and communications have made it easy to interact far and wide. Travelling has gained supersonic speed. Messages travel faster than local time. Information technology is raising the expectations of young men and women beyond hitherto known limits.

Advancement in bio-sciences and medical technology have risen the life expectancy. These have also brought population explosion in the underdeveloped countries. Aspirations are mounting and expectations are changing.

The ecological cost of economic development is spreading risks all round. A liberalized world is opening up and getting restructured into a global village. National economies are getting re-organized and integrated into broader regions like EU, OECD, ASEAN, SAARC, and beyond. The new economic order is generating a different kind of socio-cultural environment. People are learning to choose one of the available alternatives by dispassionately calculating cost benefits, and the stakes. Incidence of migration in search of greener pastures is going up. Goods, services and persons are being moved across long distances. Globalization is extending mental horizons. People are required to interact with one another on a broader scale of living. They learn to come to terms with complex interdependence are emerging, Globalization has become a vehicle to spread out capitalism all around. Although globalization and market liberalization have made some progress in terms of economic growth in certain countries; it has also had many negative impact in developing societies.

Richard Barnett of the Institute of Policy studies deserves globalization in terms of four increasing webs of global commercial activity; global cultural bazaar the global shopping mall; the financial network; the global work place. The global culture bazaar promotes the notion of Uniform cultural values and products across the world. This idea influenced billions of people shaping their goals and homogenizing their tastes and attitudes toward a desired fantasy life style. The unprecedented increase in global trade, the buying and selling of goods and services among countries has created a planetary super market. The cultural bazaar and shopping mall intersect through the vehicle of advertising. Media has become a powerful player in the globalization process. Media is used to impose the culture and power of the wealthy nations from the global north. Global financial market has created a new atmosphere to search for quick profit. The increasing mobility of jobs has created global work places and this has boosted international labour migration. In other words, the globalization and market-oriented economic reforms helped transnational companies shift their manufacturing Unit to developing countries. Because of this more people are crossing borders in search of jobs and in most conditions people are forced to work in inhuman

conditions for lower wages. All these proved the fact globalization is not a simple but a very complex set of process that operates in multiple levels-political, economic and cultural.

Nicaraguan Scholar Xabier Gorostiaga argues that in this era of globalization humanity is perceived and fundamentally one, with a common destiny that is the result of the technological revolution in information and communication and the awareness of the unsustainability of the current way of life.

In an article titled “the Human Right debate in an era of globalization Hegemony of Discours” Nikhil Aziz describes two kinds of globalization based on Richard Falk’s theory on the making of Global Citizenship. He argues that we can see globalization in different perspectives; Globalization from Above (GA) and Globalization from Below (GB). At the political level, GA manifests itself in its action of the western countries of the south to democratize. This translates as the adoption of a western style liberal democratic system of governance. They closely tie economic globalization from Above to the political aspect in that (1) the source of pressure for change is the same, and (2) close links are alleged between the ideologies of free markets and free societies.

Economic Globalization from above entail countries of the south to accept within the parameters of the dominant world capitalist system- the imposition of structural adjustment program, neo-liberal economic policies, including the wholesale liberalization of domestic economies, to allow unrestricted entry to transnational capital. On cultural level GA arises from the control of the global information and communication network by estern media corporation; and the spread of modern technologies of a consumerist culture and western cultural expressions as the global culture.

Globalization has substantially contributed to the intensification of debt, poverty and economic crisis in the developing world. The Structural Adjustment programs (SAP) designed and imposed by the global creditor institutions in a typical instrument to create a favorable atmosphere for globalization. Which ultimately attach developing countries? Today global corporations have replaced the Colonial powers.

In developing countries, global corporations are allowed to feast on natural resources, human resources, and national wealth.

They displace farmers from their land, workers from their job, and communities from their roots. They are responsible for the breaking up of communities and the destruction of the environment to serve the human and raw material requirements of global production for the global market. The! consequence is the collapse of food security, and the emergence of global environmental crises, which in the end may turn out to be even worse than colonization even the people of developed countries suffer from the profit-hungry rules of global corporations, Which virtually rule the world. Globalization and market-oriented economic reforms have been designed for the benefit of these groups. In reality, globalization mean the rule of global corporations. It means decision about lives are being made in corporate board rooms in U.S.A., Europe and Japan. National governments are becoming the implementers of orders received from the international actors. This has created a situation of powerlessness and suffering in developing countries which results in violation of right of millions of people.

The relation between globalization development and human right raises policy and legal questions. One such question is whether globalization of market oriented economic system is essential for development and protection of human rights. Human right has become an integral part of the process of globalization in many ways. The

western countries are increasingly using their view of human right concept as a yardstick to judge developing countries and to deal with economic and trade relations to extend development assistance. At the same time globalization, intensifies impoverishment by increasing the poverty, insecurity, fragmentation of society and thus violates human right and human dignity of millions of people.

It has long been accepted by the United Nations and in most international forums that developed countries should aid in the form of grant and loans to the developing countries. The General Assembly has by consensus resolutions, called for such development aid to reach 0.7 percent of the GNP of Developed countries, Actually less than half of that target has been attained, for example the United States gives only less than 0.2 percent, instead of 0.7 percent.

Globalization has its winners and losers. With the expansion of trade, market, foreign investment, developing countries have seen the gaps among themselves wider. The imperative to liberalize has demanded a shrinking of state involvement in national life, producing a wave of privatization, cutting jobs, slashing health, education and food subsidies, affecting the poor people in society, In many cases, liberalization has been accompanied by greater inequality and people are left trapped in utter poverty. Mean while in many industrialized countries unemployment has soared to levels not seen for many years and income disparity to levels not recorded since last century. Britain exit from European Union and President Donald Trump new policy on visa has reversed the global trend. A paper about the study in the Journal "Nature" said, "Millions of people die every year from diseases caused by exposure to outdoor air pollution as result of the production of goods in one region for consumption in another region."

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