



GLOBALIZATION: ISSUES AND CONCERNS

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Abstract

The term globalization reflects interconnectedness and interdependence across the world. Politically speaking, globalization has led to newer understandings of the ideas of the state, sovereignty and citizenship. Economically, the world has turned into a singular market place, and a financial capital for all people world over. Socially, the world has interdependent in various aspects of human life. We can say that globalization is the new buzzword that has come to dominate the world since the 90s of the last century. The existing study of globalization inevitably poses a preliminary challenge to all those who are interested in locating and addressing various facts--- economic, political and social that have created a new type conception of domestic and international order. Against this backdrop, this paper tries to explore different dimension of globalization and how globalization faces different types of challenges in the fast-changing world.

Keywords: Globalization, Social, Political, Cultural, Discrimination, Challenges.

Introduction

The term globalization reflects interconnectedness and interdependence across the world. Politically speaking, globalization has led to newer understandings of the ideas of the state, sovereignty and citizenship. Economically, the world has turned into a singular market place, and a financial capital for all people world over. Socially, the world has interdependent in various aspects of human life. We can say that globalization is the new buzzword that has come to dominate the world since the 90s of the last century. The existing study of globalization inevitably poses a preliminary challenge to all those who are interested in locating and addressing various facts--- economic, political and social that have create a new type conception of domestic and international order. Globalisation also is a process of structural adjustment increasingly emerging as a kind of inevitable process that challenges the importance of the authority and welfare functions of the state the complex implications of which are far-reaching to the developing countries.

Dr. C. Rangarajan, on “globalisation: concept and concerns” explores that globalization has become an expression of common usage. It connotes different things to different people. Broadly speaking, the term ‘globalisation’ means integration of economies and societies through cross- country flow of information ideas, technologies, goods, services, capital, finance and the people. The essence of globalization is broad spectrum is connectivity in all aspects of human life. Cross border integration can have several dimensions such as cultural, social, political and economic.

Though there is no agreed definition regarding globalization, it is defined by different people in different ways in different discipline of studies. It is a complex phenomenon and a process by which the world becomes ‘global village’. Globalization affects different aspects such economic, political, social religious one’s of any country. However, a few definitions are worth viewing. Stephen Gill defines globalization as the reduction in the transaction’s costs and goods, thus of factors of production and goods.

Guy Brainbant conceded the view that the process of globalization not only include opening up of world trade development of advanced means of communications, internationalization of financial market, growing importance of multidimensional corporations, population migrations and more generally increasing mobility of persons, goods, capital data and ideas but also of infectious diseases and pollution. David Held observes that transactional networks and relations have developed virtually across all areas of human activity, goods, capital, people knowledge, communication and weapons, pollutants, fashions and beliefs rapidly more across territorial boundaries.

C.T Kurien also observes that globalization is concept used as short form to convey a wide variety of process, possibilities and positions. He talks about marvelous technological innovations such as email and flights that connect this earth and people into a ‘global village’. Further he observes that globalization has removed ideological polarization. He concludes that it is a concept of meaning, the implications of which, cannot be taken for granted and that one cannot define one’s response to it until the concept is adequately specified.



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There are three school of thought on globalization such as hyper globalist, skeptical and transformational. Celebrated scholar, David Held et. al “(1999) analyzed the various perspectives that explain the central mechanisms of globalization, and classified them broadly into three school of thought along with three broad theses—hyper globalist, skeptical ad transformational thesis.

The hyper globalist thesis threats globalization as a novel phenomenon. Hyper globalist viewed the increased spread, depth, transactions are rendering nation state as redundant business units, making the word ‘borderless’. This does not imply the nation states will physically disappear or that political borders will cease to exist.

It simply means that states will be reduced in their authority and will become institutions that do little more than facilitate these ‘borderless’ exchanges of the economy, and also of culture, society and positions.

However, the new institutions at the global and local level will be created for such exchanges, and will move to a decline in the primacy of nation state as the institution from where all social and political life is directed.

The skeptical thesis is reflected opposite view by the hyper globalist thesis. Contesting the claims of novelty of recent globalization, the skeptics viewed that trade investment and labor flows the change a heightened level of internalization. Therefore, it implies that far from making nation states redundant, globalization is dependent on the nation state as well as the regulatory powers of governments. It is to be noted that hyper-globalist and skeptics both views agree that increasingly inequality as a result of globalization.

Transformational thesis tries to take middle ground. It supports of that the globalization as a force with massive force of transformational potential, shaking –up societies, economies, institutions of governance world over. However, transformational thesis does not make any certain claims regarding the future direction of globalization, unlike both the hyper globalist and skeptics schools of thoughts. Keeping the view of inequality, transformational thesis detects that it exists in developing as well as developed nations and takes places it squarely within these entities. So, the pockets of prosperity and deprivation exist both within developed and developing nation across the world.

The framework of three these have subsequently debated. They are most definitely not the final definition in contemporary globalization. However, it is useful, multidisciplinary framework that amidst in thinking further about globalization, even if we are to content some of these ideas. In reality, globalization creates a new types experiences by which necessary aspects of socio, economic, political and cultural of human lives will be reoriented and redefined by these three schools of thoughts.

Historical perspective of globalization

Globalisation has its long history though it is a process, reflecting different aspects in given time and space. Paul James and M. B. Steger while the world was in usage since at least the 1930s, it was only from the 1990s onwards that it emerged in popular usage, acquiring the status of a buzzword. In the 1930s, globalization made its reflection towards in the field of education. In the 1950s globalization creates its space interconnectedness for human kinds across the world.

It is noteworthy that globalization with reference to history start with asking whether the term denotes a new phenomenon, or it is merely a new name for far older processes. Duncan Bell has classified writings on the provenance and historicity of globalization into four categories, which he posits--- following David Held—as four theses. The first thesis is novelty thesis, focusing on globalization is a completely new phenomenon, with no precedent in the past. The second is thesis of return. This thesis says that globalization is nothing new, that the ‘new’ world order is simply a return to the system that existed prior to the First world war. The third thesis is continuity thesis which reflects that globalization in neither novel, nor something that the world has returned to. These types of social, economic, political and cultural aspects have characterized human history and shaped it and, in that sense, the processes are continuation of the older trends. The four thesis is the transformationalist thesis focuses contemporary globalization is a historic shift in the world order, it is not unprecedented. Globalization has continued throughout the existence of human societies in one form or another.

Political dimensions of globalisation

The political aspects of globalization deals with question relating to states and related concepts such as sovereignty, and citizenships, though not limited to these alone. Globalization entails inter-connectedness, focusing on ‘borderless’ existence of territory. Globalisation has challenged by the death of nation state. The authority wielded by the states had declined considerably



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owing to the alternative channels of connectedness, and their contribution to shaping the world with their politicized had declined too. This development challenged the very basis on which states came to exist—Westphalia sovereignty.

To the question of citizenship, it is said that citizenship or membership of a particular political community, comes with perks, safeguards and duties from that community. The introduction of the concepts of cosmopolitanism, and cosmopolitan citizenship, attempted to fashion a new criterion for membership. Other issues became pertinent, such as who could become a global citizen in the true sense of the term.

Globalization is borderless flows of ideas, goods, services and culture etc. Many scholars conceded the view that globalization threats to nation state ---global capitalism, environmental danger, identity politics, and post-nuclear geo-politics. These threats impact the nation state, not similarly, but in varying ways and to different extents.

With regard to citizenship, Richard Falk (1999) argues that the changing of the state in response to globalization, the rise of identity politics, and along with, backlash politics, has opened up space for questioning water-tight allegiance to a single state but to a broader notion of global community or humanity. A third issue is that with increased economic flows, labour mobility, albeit mostly of transitional elite, has led to the development of the notion of ‘global citizen’. However, same as is the case with the state, the notion of citizenship has not disappeared. Alternative conceptualizations have been added but the essence of citizenship remains, especially in national setting.

The proliferation of international of international political institutions of governance, regional organizations and supranational organizations, such as the European union, are also discussed under the ambit of global politics. This would not have been possible in the absence of a global sensibility.

Economic dimension

Economic dimension of globalization refers to transactions of goods, services, finances and labour across state borders. Under economic globalization, the entire world is seen as a single economic market. An important example of this singular market is the multidimensional corporation companies (MNC) that have their entire production process located but in one place, but distributed across different parts of the world. This type of economic globalization entails with free market economy world over.

During the 16th and 17th centuries, a form of capitalism called mercantilism was favoured across Europe. In simple terms, this meant that traders from Europe could sell their products in other parts of the world, but their monarchs would protect them from similar competition in exchange. Mercantilism was subsequently supplanted by industrial capitalism, supported by liberal philosophies and economics.

However, after the second world war, the world bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) was established. The aims of these institutions were to provide aid for development projects and loans to countries that wished to reconstruct their economies. In the 1970s, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) was established to regulate increased global trade as a result of the creation of a large number of newly independent states in the aftermath of decolonization. In 1994, the successor to GATT, the World Trade Organization (WTO) was formed. The objective of the WTO was to ensure that rules of free trade were equally applicable to all member states.

Social dimension

Globalization impacts the contours of society as well. Globalization, particularly economic globalization, has impacted stratification of society across the world into social classes. The division of society into various social classes, such as the upper class, middle class and lower class, was used earlier to understand domestic societies alone. In the era of globalization, social changes have taken place in terms of gender and race. Along both criteria, globalization has offered opportunities to create global solidarities, disseminate information and debate issues, push for global advocacy, All from the perspective of intersectional. However, long standing inequalities along these lines have not disappeared. Gendered division of labor and unequal pay have taken on a global dimension and various types of violence against women continue even in an age of information. Marginalized groups are still existing in every society, depriving from denial of rights is the real picture of world over.

Cultural dimension

Critics of globalization believe it to be the same as westernization. The cultural hegemony also results in uniformity and standardization. This standardization is often described as McDonaldization---a reference to the fast food chain company which



promises the availability of exactly the same type of items on their menu in outlets all across the world, Opposing this kind of standardization is throwback to hyper-nationalism and an attempt to retrieve past cultures, real or invented.

The rebuttal to this simplistic understanding of the erosion of diversity and cultures comes from several works, one of the prominent ones being that of Jan Nederveen Pieterse (1995). He conceded the view that this worry is misplaced since it treats culture as static. Globalization exchange dissemination of information as well as cultural perspectives world ver. Local influences are also important in shaping modern cultures. It is noteworthy that cultural exchange creates hybrid cultures.

Arjun Appadurai (1990) points that culture in global economy are complicated and dynamic and the links them to economy and politics. Global cultural exchange flows can be mediated through ethnoscapes, mediascapes, technoscapes etc.

Conclusion

Globalization is all about rounded off with ascertain those changes of these dimensions like social, political, economic, cultural etc. Economic globalization is synonymous us with free market economic, liberalization, free flow of people and movement across the borders. It has many degrees of manifestations of the world such as business, marketing and trade as well as socially and culturally.

The term globalization refers to the integration of local and international economies into a globally unified political, economic and cultural order, and is not a singular phenomenon, but a term to deserve the forces that transform an inclusiveness and independence of economies and countries across the world.

There are so many shortcomings of globalization like bringing bout greater disparity, inequality, and an ever-increasing gap between the rich and the poor nations. Jagdish Bhagwati, celebrated economist in his book “in Defense of Globalisation” is of the opinion that properly regulated globalization is the most powerful force for social good I the world. Further he conceded the view that globalization lads to greater general prosperity in an undeveloped nation, it can reduce child labour, increase literacy and enhance the economic and social empowerment of women.

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