

Globalization and Social Transformation: Indian Experience

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Globalization is a mega trend which significantly shapes contemporary economy and society .Numerous definitions emphasize different dimensions of globalization. Globalization is the most commonly understood as a unitary process inclusive of many sub-processes (such as increased economic interdependence ,increased cultural influence ,rapid advances of information technology ,and novel governance and geopolitical challenges)that are increasingly binding people and the biosphere more tightly into one global system. Globalisation in India came through economic reforms With Liberalisation ,Privatisation ,Globalisation Model ,we started increasingly integrating into the world economy , made many changes in the economy and have come a long way after LPG model. Our country yielded many significant benefits But the growth in GDP ,FDI , foreign exchange reserves and billionaires has in no way assisted in improving the quality of life of the people .The globalization has resulted into more inequalities across and within nations ,marginalization of weaker sections ,eroded national culture ,volatility of financial market and loss of policy autonomy in decision making .This paper focuses on the concept of globalization ; how globalization came in India through economic reforms ; changes made in our economy ;and impact of globalization on our society.

[Key words: Globalisation, Development, Society, Poverty, Inequality]

Globalization is a mega trend which significantly shapes contemporary economy and society. Globalization is a complex phenomenon with multiple effects, which makes it hard to define. Numerous definitions emphasize economic dimensions of globalization. Removing "artificial" barriers to flow of goods, services and factors of production on the world market (as the consequence of modern development of transport and communication means) is seen as a crucial channel of international integration.

There are also definitions that emphasize other relevant dimensions of globalization –social, geographic, psychological. Globalization is understood as a social process in which geographic obstacles to social and cultural arrangements lose importance and where people are becoming increasingly aware that they lose importance (Waters 1995, p.3). Another definition of globalization, as intensification of worldwide social relations which link distant localities in such a way that local happenings are shaped by events occurring many miles away and vice versa, is well known (Giddens, 1990, p. 64).

Globalization is also defined as compression of the world and intensification of consciousness of the world as a whole (Robertson, 1992, p. 8).

Hyerglobalism comprehends globalization as a unique, lawful and progressive process of unification of world economy. Transformationists (Giddens, Scholte, Castells, Walerstein)view the process of globalization as uneven and uncertain in terms of results, whereby insist on its multidimensionality. Skeptics challenge effects, ubiquity and sustainability of globalization.

Globalization is the most commonly understood as a unitary process inclusive of many sub-processes (such as increased economic interdependence ,increased cultural influence ,rapid advances of information technology ,and novel governance and geopolitical challenges)that are increasingly binding people and the biosphere more tightly into one global system. The rationale for globalization is that free flows of trade, finance and information will produce best outcomes for growth and human welfare.

Review of literature; Theorisation on globalisation

Globalisation has a long history. Marx and Engels (1848) were among the first writers to treat the international economy as a dynamic category, in which both states and regions were affected by international trends. Some of the approaches to globalization are analyzed to see their applicability in the Indian context.

World-systems theory shares with several other approaches to globalization a critique of capitalism as an expansionary system that has come to encompass the entire world over the past 500 years. For Wallerstein (1974) the entire globe is operating within the frame work of a singular social division of labor called the capitalistic world economy.

Sklair (2000, 2002) in the 'theory of the global system', involves the idea of the Transnational Capitalist Class as a new class that brings together several social groups who see their own interests in an expanding global capitalist system: the executives of transnational corporations; 'globalizing bureaucrats, politicians, and professionals', and 'consumerist elites' in the media and the commercial sector .

Robinson (2003, 2004) has advanced a related theory of global capitalism involving three planks: transnational production, transnational capitalists and a transnational state. Like Sklair, Robinson analyzes the rise of a TCC as the class group that manages the globalized circuits

Castells' approach has been closely associated with the notion of globalization as representing a new 'age of information' Castells and others have referred to as the 'new economy' which is: (1) informational, knowledge-based; (2) global, in that production is organized on a global scale; and (3) networked, in that productivity is generated through global networks of interaction.

Giddens defines time-space distancing as 'the intensification of worldwide social relations which link distant localities in such a way that local happenings are shaped by events occurring many miles away and vice versa' –

social relations are 'lifted out' from local contexts of interaction and restructured across time and space (1990: 64). Harvey also makes reference to Marx's characterization of capitalist expansion as the 'annihilation of time through space'.

Scholars such as Levitt (2001), Smith and Guarnizo (1998), and Portes and his colleagues (1999) point to the novel character of transnational links in the era of globalization. Transnational ties among recent immigrants are more intense than those of their historical counterparts due to the speed and relatively inexpensive character of travel and communications and that the impact of these ties is increased by the global and national context in which they occur (Levitt 2001, Portes 1995; Portes et al. 1999).

Another set of theoretical approaches to globalization refers to the process in terms of modernities and postmodernities. In his 1992 study, *Globalization: Social Theory and Global Culture*, Robertson provided perhaps the most widely accepted definition of globalization among scholars: 'Globalization as a concept refers both to the compression of the world and the intensification of consciousness of the world as a whole . . . both concrete global interdependence and consciousness of the global whole in the twentieth century' (Robertson 1992: 8).

Cultural theories of globalization have focused on such phenomena as globalization and religion, nations and ethnicity, global consumerism, global communications and the globalization of tourism. Appadurai's thesis (1996) on the 'global cultural economy' refers to what he sees as the 'central problem of today's global interactions', the tension between cultural homogenization and cultural heterogenization (1990: 296).

Oommen (1998) talks of cultural impact of globalization and the "Birth of a New World Society". According to him, the consequences of globalisation could be discerned through four interrelated processes - homogenization, pluralization, traditionalisation and hybridization.

Against this background, this paper has made an attempt to study the concept of globalization; how globalization came in India through economic reforms; changes made in our economy; and social transformation in our country. Macro-level quantitative and qualitative analysis is used in order to understand the trends. Secondary data on different important indicators is collected from Economic Survey 2012-13, NFHS (National Family Health Survey -3) and UNDP Human Development Report 2013.

Globalisation in India through economic reforms

Introduction of economic reforms in India initiated process of structural adjustments in order to correct distortions and weaknesses of economic policies. Globalisation came in India through these economic reforms.

After independence, we adopted a development strategy of 'self-reliance and planned growth' in which state had to play a major role. But with this strategy, Indian economy remained almost a marginalized one. The state-owned industries and agencies bred the worst form of inefficiency, and stifled

economic growth, leading to what was derisively referred to in economic circles as “the Hindu rate of growth.” C. Rajagopalachari called the regulation-ridden economic policy “the license-permit-quota Raj.” Fiscal deficits (difference between the total expenditure and total receipt minus loans) was 5.4 percent of GDP in 1981-82 which rose up to 8.4 percent in 1990-91. In 1990-91, amount of interest liabilities rose further to 36.4 percent of total government expenditure. Government was in debt trap.

Government emphasized self-sufficiency and imposed strict controls on imports and exports. Foreign trade shrunk imports falling by 19.4% & exports by 1.5%. Rupee depreciated by 26.7% vis-à-vis US dollars. Private sector did not develop due to excessive controls. In the late 1980s, however, India relied on foreign borrowing to finance development plans to a greater extent than before. Deficit of balance of payments (total imports exceed total exports) had been rising continuously since 1980-81. In 1980-81 BOP current account was adverse to the tune of 2,214 crore and in 1990-91 it rose to Rs. 17,367 crore. When the price of oil rose sharply in August 1990, the nation faced a balance of payments crisis. , it deepened the BoP crises. As India used to receive huge amount of remittances from Gulf countries in foreign exchange. In 1986-87, Forex reserves were Rs. 8,151 crore declined sharply to Rs. 6,252 crore in 1989-90. In 1990-91, it fell to such a low level that these were not enough to pay for a import bill of even 10 days.

Confidence of the international financial institutions was badly shaken. The country was on the verge of bankruptcy. We had to send gold physically to finance the necessary foreign exchange transactions. India asked for \$ 1.8 billion bailout loan from IMF and in turn demanded economic reforms. Battling the economic crises of 90's the GOI initiated a series of economic reforms, to structure the economy and improve the BOP position . These came to be known as New Economic Policy (Liberalisation, Privatisation, and Globalisation Model).

With Liberalisation ,Privatisation ,Globalisation Model ,we started increasingly integrating into the world economy , made many changes in the economy and have come a long way after LPG model. Capital account liberalization, interest rate set by the market and flexible exchange regimes created the framework for liberalization .Industries previously closed to opened to FDI ,state properties were privatized , procedures were simplified ,and incentives and concession (for corporate) were introduced . The world witnessed the dismantling of state regulation, liberalization of export –import laws, delicensing, flexible laws including labour laws, corporate tax reductions, increased subsidies to corporate, hegemonic control of employers in hiring, firing outsourcing and so on.

Social Transformation in India

Irrespective of how it is interpreted in the contemporary social and economic theory, globalization undoubtedly produces large effects on contemporary economic and social trends. They manifest themselves in the field

of foreign trade, international investment and international finance. Interdependence and integration of world economy put significant challenges in front of the existing economic models in the world economic system

In case of Indian economy, we have ascended a higher growth path; poverty has been reduced; the external sector is more than comfortable; industrial growth has been restored; and all this has been achieved with financial stability in the country as shown in Table 1.1. The rapid growth of the economy made India an attractive destination for capital inflows. High volumes of FDI took place in electronics and hardware, automobiles, pharmaceuticals, cement, metallurgical and other manufacturing industries.

The strong foreign demand for our services especially in software has helped services front to grow hence a substantial contributor to India's balance of payment. The rise in the service sector's share in GDP marks a structural shift in the Indian economy and takes it closer to the fundamentals of a developed economy as shown in Table 1.2. Our health services along with super specialty hospitals are attracting patients from across the world and constitute a significant segment of India's services sector.

Earlier, Indian industry has lived long under the shelter of high tariff walls and all kinds of restriction on imports .But, now they have improved their competition strength .They are taking benefits of liberal imports regime and restructure their business strategies. Indian companies have entered into foreign collaborations and set up joint ventures abroad. The trends of mergers and acquisitions in India have changed over the years. There has been several multi-billion dollar acquisitions by Indian companies wanting to build global scale and compete in the global markets .India, being a cost effective and labor intensive economy, has benefited immensely from outsourcing of work from developed countries, and a strong manufacturing and export oriented industrial framework.

Increase in the number of standards applied globally, e.g. copyright law and patents, formation and development of a set of universal values is also the outcome of globalization as shown in Table 1.10 .Billions of dollars in assets and currencies is exchanged daily around the globe by electronic means at virtually no cost .Stocks, bonds and other investments can be managed with online banking at our convenience, independent of a financial intermediary like a stock broker.

Consumer society

Now, we have greater access to an array of goods and services never seen before in human history :From German cars to Colombian coffee, From Chinese lights to Egyptian cotton , from South Arabia dry fruit to Kiwi fruit; from Korean electronics to Malaysian furniture; Irani carpets to Japanese pen ;from English son-in-law to Scottish daughter-in-law ;from American music to Mexican Heroine in Bollywood and from Australian Chocolates Indian software .Economic reforms in India in pursuit of globalization have made the country a consumer society.

Greater international cultural exchanges, spreading of multiculturalism and better individual access to cultural diversity ,(export of Hollywood and Bollywood)are the impact of globalization .spread of food such as pizza ,Chinese and Indian food are adapted to local taste .Worldwide Fads and Pop Culture such as Pokemon, Sudoku ,Numa Numa ,Origami ,You tube ,My space and many others are accessible to all. Global brands such as coca cola, Nike and Sony serve as common reference to consumers all over the world. One can see an emerging middle class with Americanized tastes and preferences in our country.

Rapid advances in ICTs are dramatically affecting economic and social activities, as well as the acquisition, creation, dissemination, and use of knowledge. The use of ICTs is reducing transaction costs and lowering the barriers of time and space, allowing the mass production of customized goods and services. Whole concept of online marketing has gained a definite dimension with the added techniques like Pay per Click, Search Engine Optimization, press Releases, Web Banners, Link Campaign, Viral Marketing, and Blogs etc.

Free migration allows individuals to find employment in jurisdiction where there is labour shortage. Even more important, Indians in all walks of life have found a new level of self confidence. Within the last ten years, India has achieved some remarkable transformation successes; economic, technological, and developmental transformation. Appadurai's cultural flows, in terms of ethnoscaples, mediascaples, financescaples, technoscaples and ideoscaples, are happening in India. This is erasing diversities of our culture and economic entity and transforming our thought systems .Social transformation is happening because the economic reform measures have affected the lifestyle of the Indians. Even institutions like marriage, family and age-old traditions and customs are under threat. The area of conflicts (cultural and within culture) is in the family also .Grandparents and parents are more strongly rooted in tradition; fear changes, and experience some kind of "culture shock". Children are assimilating new patterns more easily and act as guides in this era of technology .A young person is forced to choose between global and local (national, religious) value systems. In a speech in 1999 Sakakibara warned about the dangerous consequences of allowing the economic system to dictate social relations.

Hunger for money

In his 1998 book 'The Crisis of global Capitalism : Open society Endangered' Soros defined market fundamentalism as a mindset which holds that ;" All social activities and human interactions should be looked at as transactional ,contract-based relationships and valued in terms of a single common denominator ,money . Activities should be reflected, as far as possible, by nothing more intensive than the invisible hand of profit maximizing. " .Globalization has led to a commercial culture, even a way of life , in which everything is valued on the bottom line of money .Not only is everything

potential for sale but this is seen as the natural and only path to greater prosperity and progress .

Cost of the crisis borne by those who haven't shared in the benefits

In spite of wiping tears, Globalization has resulted into more inequalities across and within nations, marginalization of weaker sections, eroded national culture, volatility of financial market and loss of policy autonomy in decision making. Now the economies are more vulnerable to economic problems as the problem of a country travels to other countries. A slowdown in the US has influenced almost all economies worldwide which have an eventual cascading impact of Indian economy. Our economy has integrated enough with the global markets to feel the impact of the crisis, not only in our stock market but also through its liquidity and wealth effects, on our real economy.

The report, entitled World of Work Report 2008: Income inequalities in the age of financial globalization, produced by the ILO's International Institute for Labour Studies also notes that a major share of the cost of the financial and economic crisis is borne by hundreds of millions of people who haven't shared in the benefits of recent growth. (Loss to small investors, resources shifts from tax-payers to renters, more loans for house-construction, less profits as countries protects their savings). The report says that as global employment rose, the income gap between richer and poorer households widened significantly at the same time. Compared with earlier expansionary periods, workers obtained a smaller share of the fruits of economic growth

World of Work Report 2013 Repairing the economic and social fabric indicates that five years after the global financial crisis, the global employment situation remains uneven .At the global level, the number of unemployed people will continue to increase. The incidence of long-term unemployment (the share of unemployed persons out of work for 12 months or more) has increased in 60 per cent of the advanced and developing economies .Labour force participation rates decreased between 2007 and 2012 in more than half of the countries analyzed.

Volatile capital & flows have aggravated instability in the real economy of our country. There has been disconnection between the financial sector and the real economy. The lives of the educated and the rich had been enriched by globalization. But the benefits had not yet reached the majority, and new risks had cropped up for the losers the socially deprived and the rural poor. Western perceptions, which dominated the globe media, were not aligned with local perspectives; they encouraged consumerism in the midst of extreme poverty and posed a threat to cultural and linguistic diversity. Thus, the economic reforms in India accelerated flows and connectedness of people, goods, technology, information and capital. At the same time, globalisation has intensified exclusion, marginalisation and disconnections among different class of people, regions and city and countryside. In our country, the most important policy challenge is to consolidate recent progress in reducing poverty and inequality

and to provide a social protection & poor to the floating group that lies just above the poverty line.

Food Deprivation

Despite near double digit growth for more than a decade and a half, available estimates suggest that more than One –third of the Indian population live in sub-human poverty, according to World Bank estimates, nearly 42 percent as absolutely poor by international standard. Despite the country having attained self-sufficiency in food production, there is still hunger in the country and that malnutrition is so widespread .More than three-fourth of population has a daily purchasing power of less than Rs. 20 a day, food deprivation in the countryside has not decreased. The percentage of underweight children in India is much larger than in sub-Saharan Africa and has not changed much in the last decade or so. We are still far from redeeming the pledge of Pt. Nehru which he took on the eve of Independence.

Disparities among different sectors

The growth in the agricultural sector, where much of the poverty is concentrated, has declined somewhat in the last decade .Agriculture exports have increased only in absolute terms ,rate of growth per annum has declined in the post reform era .Debt is a reflection of a negative economy ,a losing economy . More than 1, 00,000 farmers have committed suicide over the last decade or so. Agriculture has become uneconomic for small and marginal farmers in spite of provision of subsidies. As we all know that all the sectors of the economy are linked to each other and growth in one sector leads to growth in other sectors. If this link is not maintained, it shows that certain serious distortions have taken place in the economy. But we find Service-sector driven growth, only by external influence. Agriculture contributes less than 20% but over 60% people are dependent on agriculture and allied activities. The share of manufacturing remains almost constant at 16-17%.

Corporates have become the controllers and regulators of markets, reducing the role of the state to that of a mere facilitators .The globalization of production and the increased dependence on export oriented economic growth forced us to create SEZs. The profit running public sector is being privatized .The private drive is handing over people’s assets to foreign and domestic private capital .And permitting unbridled loot of Indian resources. How can trade contribute to ‘Green Growth’?

India’s share in global patenting

India’s share in global patenting is small as shown in Table 1.8; therefore, despite having a strong R&D infrastructure, India is weak on turning its research into profitable applications. The World Bank Study titled ‘Unleashing India’s Innovation’ (2007) observed that India had increasingly become a top global innovator in high–tech products and services. Yet the country is underperforming in terms of its innovation potential. India spends less than 0.9 per cent of its GDP in the area of R&D, which covers basic research, applied research, and experimental development.

Replacement of people

Not the interest of nations, Not the interest of people, but the interest of the market itself, reified, has become the focus of attention. Mineral rich usually forested land is acquired mostly from the farmers by the corporates for the SEZs. There are numerous instances, be it Nandigram in the East, Raigad in the West, Kakinada in the South and Haryana in the North, of agitation by farmers at land earmarked for such projects. The data shows that in India SEZs are acquiring large tracts of agriculture lands in the state like Haryana (29221.08ha), Gujarat (25092.09ha), Tami Nadu (16569.96ha) and Maharashtra (43142.96ha) where agriculture is more advanced. It is leading to large scale displacement of people dependent on agriculture. It is resulting in swelling the ranks of reserve army of labor. Moreover, SEZs endangers food security. These zones are transferring poverty from rural to urban areas and adding the potential for social disruption and conflicts. Since industries in these zones are export-oriented, the emphasis is on minimizing production costs so that prices are competitive. It is the workers, especially women, who bear the brunt of tight competition in the global market.

High Unemployment

Many traditional livelihoods that have high employment potentials like handlooms and other home based non-agro enterprises that are women-dominated have become unviable. Wage differentials, job vulnerability, and unpaid work burden for women has increased, while their social safety nets have been eroded. Unequal access for women to schooling, land, credit facilities, alternate employment, skill training, and technology has led to the crowding of women in the lowly paid jobs of most sectors.

Globalization has put a premium on skills and higher levels of education, which are often out of reach of women in the unorganised sector. This over representation of women in the unorganised sector provides women inferior employment status. Absence of toilets, drinking water and inadequacies of clean cooking fuels adversely impacts women. Till date, 92 percent of rural domestic energy comes from unprocessed bio fuels (firewood, cropwaste, cattle dung) which leads to many ailments. Inaccessibility of health centres and poverty prevent them from getting timely medical aid.

Evidence suggests that employment growth in the formal sector declined. Regular employment opportunities growing far too slowly compared to the no. of job-seekers, more and more people are being pushed into the unorganised sector, marked by long hours of work with negligible earnings, lack of any social security or labour protection and extensive use of child labour. In the midst of the country's mesmerizing growth rate and global profile, still there exist a large chunk of rural underprivileged poor failed to get their due share from the institutional finance.

Widening disparities

Over the years the constitution of GDP has changed but not the country, not the people. It is quite obvious that India's recent economic growth has not

trickled down to the bottom. The majority of the population are in a miserable condition today, lacking basic health, education and training opportunities. They have virtually no place in this corporate led modern economy as consumers. Their space as small producers has also shrunk. Notwithstanding, there is rampant unemployment and persistent poverty particularly in Bihar, Jharkhand, M.P., Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, and U.P. Obviously, the country's growth has not been inclusive.

No other decade since independence had witnessed such a drastic increase in inequality. Villages go without sanitation and drinkable water, but selected areas of cities might pride themselves with world class luxury apartments and glittering malls. The rich has access to water to fill their swimming pool, while poor do not have access to drinking water. Out of every 100 children that are admitted at the primary level only seven pass out. Such an average has not changed much in the entire high growth phase. With tax-GDP ratios declining and the proportion of fiscal deficit to GDP also brought down and kept deliberately low at a level acceptable to the IMF, the State is forced to cut back on its investment and welfare expenditures. In India the development of the shrinking world due to time-space compression has led to new social divisions between those who have access to ICT and those marginalised from them.

Medium Human Development Group

HDI 2012 rank for India 0.554 with an overall global ranking of 136 (out of the 187 countries). India's life expectancy at birth increased to 65.8 years, mean years of schooling increased to 4.4 years and expected years of schooling increased to 10.7 years. India moved ahead economically, while Bangladesh and Sri Lanka (South-Asian countries) moved ahead in social indicators as shown in Table 1.4. Sri Lanka (92) is in the high human development group whereas India (136) in the medium human development group as shown in Table 1.5.

Indian literacy rate grew to 74.04% in 2011, but this level is well below the world average literacy rate of 84%, and India currently has the largest illiterate population. Moreover, there is a wide gender disparity in the literacy rate in India: effective literacy rates (age 7 and above) in 2011 were 82.14% for men and 65.46% for women. (gap of 16.6%). Dr. Amartya Sen says, "... education is also an unfulfilled promise here, but in health there is not even a promise. We want to press it."

Development v/s happiness

People are the real wealth of nations. Development is thus about expanding the choices people have to lead lives that they value. New global system see happiness and justice as by products and have been reduced to individuals concerns or objectives. We must give priority to happiness and the term happiness reflects the creation of enabling conditions where people are able to pursue well-being in sustainable ways (URA2009). Growth may well be a necessary condition for reducing poverty. But it cannot be the only

barometer of development as it led to accumulation of wealth. Back in 1827, Sismondi wrote, "...the man enlightened enough to imagine a structure that does not yet exist, to see the future when we have already so much trouble to see the present."

Gross National Happiness at its core comprises a set of values that promote collective happiness the end value of any development strategy. It measures the quality of a country in more holistic way than Gross National Product and believes that the beneficial development of human society takes place when material and spiritual development occur side by side to complement and reinforce each-other. In Dee Hock's words: We are at the very point in time when a 400-year-old age is dying and another is struggling to be born...a shifting of culture, science, society, and institutions enormously greater than the world has ever experienced. Ahead, the possibility of the regeneration of individuality, liberty, community, and ethics such as the world has never known, and a harmony with nature, with one another, and with the divine intelligence such as the world has never dreamed."

For development to be meaningful it should be capable of wiping off the tears of the poor. Social equality and rights could be enjoyed by all. It is essential to alleviate poverty and inequalities for a sustainable, secure and a strong economy. It calls for long term action to put the economy on a more balanced track, including economic, labour and social policies to boost employment and improve incomes and income distribution. The efforts to promote sustainable development at home have to be balanced with her gains from trade under the WTO regime. We want Independence, of course, Nehruji wrote in 'Glimpses' But we want something more. We want to clear out all the stagnant pools and let in clean fresh water everywhere. We must sweep away the dirt and the poverty and mystery from our country". Nehruji said, "...The ambition of the greatest man of our generation has been to wipe every tear from every eye ... But as long as there are tears and suffering, so long our task will not be over..."

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