

## Topic 1 : Deglobalization and Its Implications in 21st Century

Deglobalization, undoubtedly, is the opposite phenomenon of globalization, and it has many implications in 21st century. It refers to the decreasing rate of globalization in the world. Different countries of the world are affected differently due to this phenomenon. For example, third world countries are more suffering in comparison to first world countries. Therefore, deglobalization, in larger sense, is a curse for the development of the world. In case of Pakistan, being a developing country, de-globalization can trigger more socio-economic and political crises. According to Philippine academician, Walden F. Bello in his book 'deglobelization' states that "deglobelization is the product of various factors such as the rise of nationalism, increasing selection of populist leaders in various countries, and capital outflow from developed countries." Moreover, it has further intensified the North-South divide. That is why, deglobalization is a dangerous phenomenon and it has various implications, such as death of democratic ideals; hostility among nations and prospects of a global war; rise in terrorism across globe; application of protectionism

by industrialized nations; and intensification of socio-economic crises. Besides, the curse has few advantages for limited number of developed countries, but it is also of short-term nature and lacks benefit in the long run. Hence, deglobalization, in fact, is a menace for future of the world. Therefore, it is the need of hour that world community especially the United Nations (UN) must change its direction from harsh policies of deglobalization, as it poses dangerous implementation not only for the future of planet but also for its inhabitants as well.

## Topic 2: Artificial Intelligence : Its Merits And Demerits .

Artificial intelligence, in fact, has both advantages and disadvantages. Man began his journey from hunting and gathering towards industrialization and computerization. Modern era is the age of artificial intelligence things such as visual perception, speech recognition, decision making, and translation between languages. Artificial intelligence (AI) is a blessing in this regard. According to Mark Zuckerberg, "AI is a boon bestowed upon us and it will positively affect over lives in multiple ways." Moreover, some of the benefits of AI include upgradation in the field of health and education; transforming the transportation industry; increasing yield of agricultural products and evolving the entertainment industry. On the contrary, another tech innovator, Elon Musk argues, "AI will undermine our freedom and security and be detrimental to the survival of the human race in the not so distant future." Similarly, some of the demerits of AI include invasion of privacy and exploitation of information; loss of certain jobs; fear of overpowering human beings; and acceleration of hacking and terrorism.

Hence, it cannot be said exactly that AI has more merits or demerits. However, it depends upon the professional AI users that for which goal this technology is to be used in future. For instance, if it is used for bringing more comfort and luxury to human life, then it is good. Otherwise, AI will have severe repercussions in the long-run if it is adopted to control and replace human being.

### Topic 3 : Urbanization and Its Hazards

Urbanization is the process of expansion in the continuous growth of an urban area, and this phenomenon has serious hazards not only on common man's life but also on the planet as well. Though it has some advantages like job opportunities, better health facilities, and access to quality education. On other hand, it has resulted in many hazards. In case of Pakistan, the country is rapidly urbanizing in South Asian countries. Pakistan, by 2025, half of the population will be living in cities. (Urbanisation in Pakistan, UNDP, 2019). This is alarming situation in terms of urban sprawl. Some of the main hazards of urbanization include contribution to global warming; overpopulation and sectarianism; Unemployment and increasing crime rates; Survival of the fittest, and lack of natural environment. In addition to this, the natural ecosystem of the planet is diminishing; on other hand, air pollution and pandemics are on rise. Urban areas already have 55 percent (%) of the world population, and that figure is expected to grow to 68% by 2050 (Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary General). Therefore, an irregular and uncontrolled

growth of urban areas lead to urban sprawl and other socio-economic crises. These are, undoubtedly, some measures through which the hazards of urbanization can be countered, such as long-term vision and policies, implementation of proper urban planning and town management, adoption of environmental friendly policies, and promotion of sustainable development. Furthermore, rural areas need to be developed technologically, and it will ease pressure on cities; resultantly, less people will migrate from rural to urban areas. Therefore, despite having some reasons of increasing urbanization, it is the need of hour that hazards of urbanization shall be countered through the mentioned suggestions. Hence, the issue of hazards of urbanization must be taken into matter of proper consideration.

## Topic 4 : Accountability Reduces Corruption

There is no denying the fact that accountability reduces corruption, and this leads to peace, stability, and prosperity. In fact, those countries of the world have made development where there is rule of law and strict accountability mechanism. For instance, Denmark, Norway, Finland, Sweden, Netherland and Germany have topped rule of law index (World Justice Project report, Rule of law index, 2022). In case of Pakistan, despite Seventy Five (75) years of independence, corruption is still prevalent due to lack of accountability. Pakistan rank 140<sup>th</sup> position out of 180 countries in the list of least corrupt nation (Transparency International report, corruption perception Index, 2022 December). This report represents the dismal picture of excessive corruption and weak accountability mechanism in the country. However, there are various ways through which accountability reduces corruption, such as imposition of strict penalty over malpractices; an open public embarrassment; implementation of accountability across the board; strengthening ~~the~~ institution to ~~enhance~~ enhance transparency and efficiency; and total implementation of rule of law effectively. Moreover,

Reduction in corruption has many prospects which include socio-economic prosperity, efficient public service delivery, lower crime rates, and so on. Therefore, it is high time that proper policies be made in this regard, so that, undoubtedly, accountability mechanism reduces corruption. Hence, corruption cannot be eradicated completely, but as a matter of fact, it can be reduced to a ~~min~~ minimum level through strict and fair implementation of accountability mechanism. Henceforth, accountability reduces corruption which ensures overall peace, stability, and prosperity.