

# Globalization and Human Rights: Progress and Setbacks

## Outline:

### A: Introduction:

- a) Concept of globalization and its significance
- b) Overview of human rights in global context
- c) Thesis statement: Globalization has rendered great services to uplift and advocate human rights. It has also facilitated the advancement of human rights. However, it has caused severe setbacks to the progress of human rights by posing new challenges of discriminated growth and boasting inequalities. Hence, globalization is both a boon and a bane for human rights.

### B: Globalization and Progress of Human Rights:

- 1- Globalization entails the spread of human rights norms.
  - a) Global networks have shifted human rights from individual to global horizon.
  - b) Global institutions advocate the progress of human rights [i.e. indicators of World Trade Organization, IMF and WB etc.]
- 2- Globalization has increased the access of humans to free communication which is a significant mean of upholding human rights.

a) Internet is a mean of spreading awareness about human rights.

b) Global telecommunication has boosted the propagation of human rights worldwide.

3. Globalization has ensured the progress of human rights by opening trade across the world.

a) Freedom of individuals in trade and global trade

b) Laissez-faire economics and human rights in the global world.

4. Globalization has strengthened the marginalized humans i-e women and transgenders by creating new opportunities for them.

a) Women are empowered due to the global awareness of female rights.

b) Vulnerable communities are protected and endorsed by globalization.

5. Globalization has activated sustainable growth in the world which protects human rights in the long run.

a) The progress of human rights is directly dependent on growth.

b) Globalization has increased the access of humans to better education, healthcare and living facilities.

## C: Setbacks to Human Rights due to Globalization:

1) Globalization has raised the gap between rich and poor.

a) Economic disparity raised by globalization is a threat to human rights.

b) Increased inequality among nations has harmed the grant of human rights.

2) Globalization has initiated violence and disregarded human rights.

a) The global tendencies of expansion are responsible for negatively impacting the human rights [Israel-Gaza war]

b) The global facilities are not inclusive, rather biased.

3) Globalization has increased the insecurities of human.

a) Global advancements have caused loss of jobs and increased corruption which neglect human rights.

b) The exploitation of humans is increased due to globalization.

4) Globalization has disrupted human rights by causing loss of cultural identity.

a) global imposition of 'western ideals' on all humans.

b) Increasing significance of the English language has resulted in the extinction of other languages.

5) Globalization has made this world unsafe for humans.

a) Increasing environmental hazards are risking the existence of humans.

b) Climate change is depriving human of their right to live peacefully.

## Essay

Pascal Lamy, French businessman, proclaims, "Globalization is incredibly efficient but also so far incredibly unjust." It implies that the historical phenomenon of globalization has generated considerable progress of human rights in the world particularly in America and European nations. On the other hand, some experts are of the view that globalization is not fruitful for developing countries, it is worsening the integrity of humans by escalating poverty and inequality. The progress of human rights initiated by globalization is evident in individual-based economy practices, free-markets, recognition of all genders, promotion of equal rights for all and above all, the global checks on human rights. Also, the incredible advancement of globalization has provided a sustainable living environment to humans. Regrettably, the positive implications of globalization on human rights is marred by the setbacks to human rights. The negative effects of globalization on human rights include increased inequalities, economic disparity, low cost of labor, severe climate shift, loss of cultural identity, and wars. Hence, globalization has impacted human rights in both positive and negative ways.

The progress of human rights is evident due to the globalization. It is so because the global forums entails the spread of human rights through global forums and networks. Globalization seeks to ~~enhance~~ enhance awareness of local and human rights issues. The Human Rights Charter of United Nations provides the fundamental human right to all humans universally. The international organizations, like UNO, grants basic freedoms and liberties to all humans regardless of any cultural, regional, lingual or religious discrimination. Hence, globalization has promoted human rights by spreading them universally through mighty global institutions.

The progress of human rights is dependent on globalization as it ensures good governance. The basic living conditions of human beings cannot be uplifted there is good governance. The indicators of good governance laid down by international institutions, including International Monetary Fund, World Bank and United States Organization, are guarantee of the progress of human rights. The indicators of good governance makes the state responsible, responsive, transparent, accountable and active which ensures the progress of human rights. Therefore, the governance indicators set by global organizations promotes the progress of human rights.

Globalization has increased the access of humans to global networking which is significant in upholding human rights. According to the statistics, 5.35 billion people have access to internet out of the total 8 billion world's population. It implies that around 66% of the world's population is connected globally.

This access is significant in <sup>the</sup> development of human rights because it is a mean of spreading awareness about human right issues. For instance, internet played an important role in highlighting the violation of human rights in Iran when Mahsa Amiri died due to the violent arrest for infringing hijab rules. This human right issue sparked protests and fury not only in Iran but across the world. Resultantly, women became aware of their rights. Hence, internet and social media means powered by globalization are playing a crucial role in spreading awareness about human rights.

Global telecommunication has boosted the propagation of human rights across the world. The telecommunication mediums are utilized by humans all over the world to convey their problems and express their opinions. Global advancements have not left disabled humans behind as aiding devices are designed to help every human in communication. Therefore, freedom of expression, universal access to information and knowledge and right to information are basic human rights that are protected and upheld by globalization.

Globalization has ensured the progress of human rights by opening markets and trade for everyone regardless of any discrimination. It has facilitated human beings economically by providing them right to free trade. Additionally, it has created jobs across national and international borders. As a result of countless job arenas created by globalization are improving the conditions of human rights across the world. Globalization develops an inevitable

link between the international trading regime and enjoyment of human rights. Globalization is the harbinger of economic growth enhances the resources available for the promotion of human rights which expands national barriers and ensures greater protection. Thus, free trade has protected and promoted human rights.

Globalization has given trade liberty to humans acknowledging the basic rights of human beings. The global trade phenomenon is based on laissez-faire economics which ensures liberty of trade to all without any external interference. Laissez-faire reveals humans as it means no burden of taxes, ~~no~~ regulations and tariffs. It focuses on the protection of individual rights instead of regulating business on state's principles. Hence, globalization has uplifted the economic rights of human by the induction of free trade based on the principle of laissez-faire economy.

Globalization has empowered women by making them aware of their fundamental rights. Women are now economically and morally strong due to the global efforts of uplifting the neglected women. Global institutes, NGOs, and international forums have improved the lives of women worldwide, particularly the lives of those women in the developing world. Global institutions including International Monetary Fund and the World Bank demand a labor force of that must include women. Restilbantly, women are empowered. Moreover, globalization

has effected women education positively by increasing the female enrollment in education. Due to global spread of information, women are more free and independent as they were in the past. Hence, globalization has made prominent effects on women by empowering them and giving them an access to healthcare and education facilities.

Furthermore, globalization has endorsed the fundamental rights of vulnerable communities. The outcasts, transgenders and disabled are granted equal rights as enjoyed by other humans. In case of any violation of human rights, global forums are consulted to provide protection. Due to the globalization, transgenders are given their right of recognition and identity. The developing country, Pakistan, also enacted the Transgender Person, Act in 2018 which provides legal recognition to transgenders and prohibits discrimination and harassment. Therefore, global trends have supported marginalized people by giving them recognition and basic human rights.

Moreover, the tendencies of globalization are a boon for human rights as they have triggered development and stability in developing and under-developed countries. It allows humans to utilize global means, ideas, information, technologies and services to enhance progress of the country. The sustainable development in the context of globalization has helped in the progress of human rights by providing them better facilities and improved lifestyle. Therefore, the sustainable growth in economic, social and political context has removed the threats



to human rights.

Similarly, globalization has increased the access of humans to better education, healthcare and living facilities. Globalization has improved the quality of life through <sup>trade</sup> liberalization and marketing integration. The increased job opportunities provide people a chance to improve their living conditions and the access to right to education, healthcare is improved. Hence, globalization has improved the <sup>condition of</sup> human rights.

Despite of the uncountable benefits and services of globalization to human rights, there are numerous setbacks to human rights that have been haunting humans since the inception of globalization. It has increased the gap between the rich and the poor. According to the statistics, approximately 9.2% of the global population which equals 700 million people, live in extreme poverty. The evils of poverty and backwardness are still a great threats to human rights. Thus, globalization has escalated economic disparity and human rights are compromised.

Similarly, the progress of human rights due to globalization is unequal as multiple nations are striving to stay alive on the global horizon. Globalization has increased inequalities among nations. For instance, America and European nations are progressing by leaps and bounds but sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia are melting pots of human <sup>rights</sup> crises. Moreover, 90% poor people of the whole world live in these regions. Thus, human

rights are subjected to inequality among nations triggered by globalization.

Globalization has negatively impacted human rights as it has initiated lust of land and power. Globalization is a setback to human rights as it supports the slogan of want that says, the more one gets, the more one wants. The global trends of power, dominance and territory has initiated wars which are a direct attack on human rights. For instance, the territories of Kashmir and Gaza depict the violation of human rights in multiple ways. Hence, globalization is a setback to human rights as it initiates war and snatches the right to live, right to move, right to healthcare and right to hold property.

Globalization is a setback to human rights as it provides biased and partial services to mankind instead of promoting the universal progress of human rights. The people of American states and European nations are enjoying the fruits of globalization but African and Asian people are deprived of their basic human rights. Anita Roddick has rightly appointed out by saying, 'Globalization gives the freedom to rich and powerful nations to further exploit and further marginalize those at the bottom of the social ladder. Hence, globalization has created economic inequality due to biased progress of human rights.

Globalization has caused a huge setback to human rights as it has abolished thousands of jobs. The ease that comes with global technology and innovations have made humans corrupt. As a result, those who enjoy the fruits of globalization deprive others of their basic human rights. Globalization has empowered men and the huge influx of power in limited regions has made man corrupt as Lord Acton has rightly pointed out, "Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely." Hence, globalization has corrupted few and they are depriving others of their human rights.

Globalization is labelled as a setback to human rights because it is a medium of exploitation of human rights. For instance, globalization has been responsible for low wages, cheap labor, unjust distribution of resources etc. All these practices are a threat to the survival of humans. Moreover, the globalization is becoming out of control and it poses a serious threat to human rights. Hence, globalization is viewed as being responsible for exploitation of human rights.

The narrative of globalization is imperialistic as it poses the hegemony of 'western ideals' on all humans. This is a setback to human rights as developing countries are suffering the crises of identity and culture. The dominance of western attire, language, curriculum, games, currency, business etc depict the hegemony of few nations on all others. Thus, developing nations are becoming

vulnerable. Lord Roberston says that, "Globalization will make our societies more creative and prosperous, but also more vulnerable." Therefore, the western global hegemony has <sup>pushed</sup> made human rights in the <sup>materialistic</sup> background and exploitation is on rise.

Globalization has deprived humans of their lingual and cultural rights as western patterns are dominating in all domains. The excessive influence of globalization is a setback to humans. The cultural rights and lingual freedom of numerous nations <sup>are</sup> at risk. The giant of globalization is eating languages. At least 43% of the estimated 6000 languages spoken in the world are endangered. Thus, globalization has endangered the lingual rights of people.

Globalization is a setback to human rights as it has questioned the peaceful existence of human in a natural environment. The world is being transformed into an alien place as humans find it hard to adjust to its climatic conditions. The influx of industries, unchecked capitalism, economic freedom and free trade have risked the existence of human rights in the world. Thus, the right of life is deprived from humans due to the climatic change brought by globalization.

The uncontrollable innovations and practices are a huge threat to human rights as they have made man fragile and fragmented. The mental

peace of humans is disturbed. Climate changes are happening at a great pace. Languages are disappearing. Corruption is on surge. Economic disparity is increasing. All these happenings are a serious setbacks to human rights. The very existence of humans is under question due to the inequalities prompted by globalization.

It is concluded that, globalization with all its practices, mutual tendencies and innovations is a blessing to human rights as it has rendered great services to promote and protect human rights. It has been active in bringing the human crises to the limelight and solving them in no time. Moreover, it has increased the facilities of education, health and trade to all humans. However, the trend of globalization has left negative impacts on human rights. It has made humans insecure by snatching their inborn equality with others. It is also involved in victimizing the less developed regions by robbing the rights of people. Moreover, the technological ease of globalization has made the world a miserable place in which basic human rights are exploited and economic disparity is shockingly high. Therefore, globalization has effected the human rights in both positive and negative ways by protecting and threatening them respectively. It can be said that globalization is both a boom and a bane to human rights.