

Topic : Globalization: Opportunities and Threats for Pakistan

Outline

1- Introduction

Understanding globalization;
Historical Context and
Evolution;
Characteristics
Opportunities and Threats for
Pakistan

Thesis Statement:

Pakistan; a diverse country
with a youth bulge; globalization
as an opportunity

2- Globalization and Pakistan: Opportunities for Life time

a) Utilization of geo-strategic
location to build long
term partnerships

Case in Point : CPEC as a
game changer

b) Financial partnerships and
interdependence to establish
regional financial order

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Case in Point 1: Marshall Plan (1948)
and European recovery

Case in Point 2: SCO, ECO, SAARC as
Pakistan's allies

c) Utilization of youth bulge in the
field of information technology

Cases in Point: 1- Fourth largest freelancing
nation (PITB)

2- \$2.75 billion → I.T industry's net
worth

d) Projection of the soft power
through mass media

Case in Point: Global soft power
Index 2024 → 81

Case Study: South Korea, Türkiye

e) Cultural propaganda to promote
tourism

Case in Point: Global Tourism
Index 2024 → 101

3- Globalization and Pakistan:

Threats to consider

a) Dollarization of economy and
loss of financial autonomy

Cases in Point:

1- Petrodollar Agreement

2- Structural Adjustment Programmes

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b) Excessive ~~brain drain~~ as the sword of damocles

Case in Point : 3.725 million left country over past five years; over 172000 left in the first quarter of the 2025 (**Source: The Express Tribune**)

c) Loss of precious human lives by using ~~illegal migration route~~

Case in Point : 8,938 people died in 2024 (**International Organization for Migration**)

d) Social streaming websites ~~and the persisting challenges to the indigenous culture~~

Case in Point : Game of Thrones, Squid Games, Alice in Borderland; (Sheer violence and obscenity)

e) Environmental degradation due to increased global trade

Case in Point : 1- Pakistan's CO₂ emissions → 0.5% of total global emissions (**Global Carbon Atlas**)

UNICEF → 33 million people affected from floods 2022; half were children.

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4- Globalization and manifestation of benefits

a) Intelligent use of the mass media

b) Positive use of geo-strategic location

5- Conclusion

Opportunities outweigh the threats : a ray of hope for Pakistan

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"There are no passengers on the spaceship earth; we are all crew"

Marshall McLuhan

The above mentioned quote refers to the empathetic nature of the human beings. The sole purpose of the human beings on the earth is to provide assistance to each other and the other people around them for the betterment of the planet. The process of globalization also refers to the interconnectedness of the people, cultures, and the societies through the technology, exchange of the ideas, goods, and services at the global level. According to the British sociologist **Martin Albrow**: "All those processes by which people of the world are incorporated into a single world society; is known as globalization". The ancient philosophers like Aristotle have declared the human being as a social animal. The process of globalization is basically an inherent instinct of the human beings. As soon as the human beings, started the

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use of language to convey its their
 ideas through the social process of
 communication; they learnt the art
 of diplomacy as well. The first instance
 of globalization in the ancient ~~modern~~ world
 was experienced when the historical
 Silk route - a route which connects
 China, Central Asia and the
 Mediterranean; was used to exchange
 goods, services, and the ideas during
 50 B.C.E to 250 C.E. In the modern
 times, globalization is not limited
 to certain fields but it has widened
 its scope. It includes a wide range of
 network consisting of the information,
 communication, socio-economic circles,
 which connects the cultures and
 societies into a single world through
 peaceful co-existence and mutual
 assistance. It is qualitative in nature
 and is measured by the Gross
 Domestic Product, trade, and foreign
 investment index. Pakistan is a highly
 diverse country with a lot of
 potential and youth bulge. Owing to
 its collectivist culture, Pakistan can

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prove to be a greatest beneficiary of the globalization. However, the internal and external factors along with rapid influence of the developed nations may prove to be a threat to Pakistan.

The first and foremost opportunity in relation to globalization, is the geo-strategic location of Pakistan. Pakistan has Afghanistan in its northwest, China in its northeast, Iran in its southwest, and Oman as its maritime neighbour. The **350 km long Wakhan Corridor** between landlocked Afghanistan and Pakistan is a road to the Central Asian Republic States (CARS). The **Gwadar Port** established and revamped under **China Pakistan Economic Corridor** is situated at the shores of Arabian sea and is considered as a gateway to Persian gulf. If utilized properly, Pakistan can appear as a great actor in terms of geo-strategic politics and long-term financial partnerships may be established due to the concept of globalization.

In addition to this, globalization may help Pakistan to build financial partnerships on the inter-dependence model. The doctrine of mutual growth is already tried and tested in the Marshall Plan of America. The plan aimed to rebuild war torn areas of western and ~~northern~~ ^{Northern Europe} Europe through the series of aids, loans, connectivity and technology sharing. The \$13 Billion plan helped the countries like France, Italy, and Germany to become financially stable. Soon, these countries became the important ^{members} ~~precursors~~ of the global financial order. Pakistan can use the platforms of Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Economic Cooperation Organization, and South East Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) to create its own ^{regional} economic order.

As globalization provides a way to connect people from different regions. The extraordinary youth bulge of Pakistan where 65% of the country's population is under the age of 30;

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can provide an opportunity in the field of information technology. Pakistan ranks **fourth** in the world of freelancing, according to the report of **Punjab Information Technology Board**. The German website **Statistica** quotes the net worth of the Pakistan's information technology's industry at about **\$ 2.75 billion** for the year 2025. These statistics are actually the indicators to achieve **\$1 billion** economy till the year **2035**.

Similarly, Pakistan can use the power of mass media for the projection of its soft power. A country's image is responsible to represent the nation at global level. Generally, the soft image is achieved through the leadership, quality of human resources, history, sports, and entertainment industry. In the recent years, Turkey and South Korea have effectively used their cards to project their positive image through their entertainment industry. Pakistan which ranks **81st** on

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Global Soft Power Index of 2024;

can portray its positive image through all these tools mentioned above.

Lastly, Pakistan is a country with a lot of diverse culture which is collectivist in nature. The country can use the interconnected world for the promotion of its tourism industry.

Pakistan ranks 101st in the Global Tourism Index of 2024. The unique cultures of Kailash tribes of Gilgit Baltistan ^{Chitral, KPK} is now recognized worldwide and people from all around the world have started visiting the Kailash valley to explore its beautiful culture. ^{Similarly,} The Shindoor Polo ground is the highest polo ground in the world and is the home to Shindoor Polo Festival. If employed well, the globalization cannot only be a factor behind the cultural propaganda but ^{can} also boost the tourism industry of the country.

Though globalization holds significant opportunities for Pakistan but the same phenomenon have some

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threats as well for the country. The developing countries like Pakistan have recognized globalization as westernization. Especially, after the Petrodollar Agreement between America and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; Pakistan have experienced the constant devaluation of currency. The loans from International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank, and other developed countries in exchange of compliance with Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPS) have deprived Pakistan from its financial autonomy. The heavy taxation, privatization of the national institutions, decreasing subsidies, and downsizing of the government departments may lead the country towards a political turmoil.

Since globalization lead ^{the world} towards the exchange of ~~for~~ brain power; Pakistan ^{Pakistan has become} have become an active victim of brain drain. The growing poverty and unemployment have attracted the youth of the country towards the better income opportunities in the developed countries. According to the report of The

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Express Tribune, about **3.275** million people have moved abroad from Pakistan over the past ~~few~~ **five** years. Over **172000** citizens left the country in just the first quarter of **2025**. If not managed properly, the excessive brain drain can deprive the country from its finest brains.

Another threat of globalization lies in the loss of precious lives in the desire of reaching the developed countries in an illegal manner. As developed countries have strict immigration policies, many people who remained unable to secure visa through legal channels, These people generally resort to employ illegal means of migration.

There are many human smuggling groups in Pakistan which smuggle the innocent citizens through the dangerous "donkey route" of migration. According to

International Organization for Migration, about **8,938** people died while using the "donkey route" which makes the year 2024 as the most deadliest year. The human smuggling groups

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in Mandi Bahauddin, Gujrat, Gujranwala, Lahore, and Sialkot have become the national curse to ^{facilitate} ~~prevent~~ human smuggling.

As globalization intermingles the cultures and the societies, Pakistan may suffer from the loss of cultural norms. The western entertainment industry have started bombarded the minds of the youngsters with the evils of drugs, homosexuality, and violence. The online streaming websites like Netflix, Amazon Prime, Disney+, Hulu, etc have become the mouthpieces of western cultures. The web-series like Squid Games, Alice in Wonderland, Game of Thrones, etc promote violence and obscenity. Moreover, it is predicted that the over half of the current 7000 global languages, nearly half of the languages will die over the next century. So, Pakistan is on the verge of losing its culture, language, and religious identity due to the globalization.

Last but not the least,

globalization has emerged as a severe threat to the deteriorating environmental conditions in Pakistan.

Pakistan is a developing country which started the process of industrialization in the late 1970s. According to **Global Carbon Atlas**

Pakistan produces only 0.5% of the total global carbon emissions. However, the consequences faced by Pakistan are much more severe.

The United Nations Children's Fund revealed that about 33 million

people were affected by the ^{floods of} 2022; half of which were children. The melting

glaciers, intense weathers, floods and disturbed ecosystem are the outcomes of excessive trade boosted by the globalization.

Although, globalization has posed severe threats to ^{Pakistan} globalization. However both opportunities and threats of globalization can be materialized intelligently to convert them into proven blessings.

As, mass media and world trade are two important pillars of the globalization; Pakistan can

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use these two sectors to build its own legacy around the world. The proper representation of indigenous culture through web-Series, films, and dramas can send a positive image to the global world. Additionally, the effective use of material resources and geo-strategic location cannot only boost the local trade but also the global trade also.

To sum up, globalization is a process which have its opportunities and threats for Pakistan. Pakistan has the strong allies ~~with~~ like China, USA, and gulf nations. These countries have strong economies and can help Pakistan in ~~to~~ utilizing its resources in a best possible way. As, Pakistan is a wealthy country in terms of natural resources like gold, copper, and oil; the country can make a lot of progress through the support of the its allies. The financial stability will lead the country towards eternal prosperity. In this

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way, Pakistan can achieve a lot of benefits through the interconnected model of globalization.