

The Essay

In 2020, when the world was suffering from the adverse impacts of COVID-19, it was globalization that enabled researchers and scientists to share relevant data with other scientists and the governments across the globe. It was due to the ~~global efforts and combined policies that mankind was able to produce vaccinations to combat the deadly COVID-19 disease.~~ All of this could happen because all these people were virtually connected via multiple mediums. Although nations were in strict lockdowns, scientists, researchers and policy makers were connected to each other via internet and modern technology that reduces distances and bring everyone together on the same page. Globalization has been a great blessing to mankind as it has reduced distances, enabled effective communication, encourages smooth trade and commerce, allows humans to learn each other's cultures and ~~most of all it brings mankind together in crisis.~~ However, such interconnectedness also leads to inequalities, spread of harmful diseases, trade wars, cybercrimes, terrorism and even conventional wars. Therefore, it is important to make the ^{most} positive use of globalization and enjoy all its benefits.

Globalization has multiple advantages, effective communication being one of them. The facility of internet services has connected people across the globe. It allows people to connect with their loved ones, call, text and video call over long distances and have a glimpse of those who live far away. Internet facility such as Starlink by Elon Musk is a perfect example of how wireless and affordable internet is available to even those who reside in remote areas. This facility has also enabled remote learning in far-flung areas where regular schools are not present and students have no means to get educated. Internet facility connects these people to the developed world and therefore, remote learning becomes accessible for all. Globalization has also enabled individuals to share their daily lives across multiple social media platforms where such as Instagram, YouTube and Snapchat which has also led to emergence of global online communities. Globalization also enables global collaboration in times of crisis such as provision of humanitarian aid to war-torn countries. Similarly, another major example is how mankind collaborated to combat COVID-19.

Rising globalization has also allowed various countries to share their culture with other countries. One such example is student exchange programmes such as UGRAD, Erasmus,

chevening and several other platforms that allow young students both undergraduates and graduates to travel to foreign countries to study, explore, learn about their history, culture, landscape, food, norms and traditions. Similarly, global networks and organisations such as Google, Meta, Microsoft etc now launch global events in which people across the globe can participate. Another example is the recent COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan in which top leaders of multiple countries sat together to reach consensus on how to limit carbon emissions, limit global warming to below 2°C till the end of 21st century and to form a climate fund in an attempt to unite both developed and underdeveloped countries to work together to save the planet from rising global warming. On the other hand, media platforms such as Netflix, Amazon Prime etc. have given access to almost everyone to explore all kinds of cultures in the form of movies, seasons, podcasts etc.

Globalization has also greatly reduced the travel distances and have^s connected continents and countries unlike anything in the past. Modern aeroplanes and airlines enable customers to have comfortable journeys across long distances in lesser time. Similarly, modern and fast bullet trains have greatly reduced travel time. One such example is the newest

bullet train that connects Makkah and Madinah in Saudi Arabia. This facility enables pilgrims especially old people to comfortably travel across cities. Moreover, interconnectedness between countries also enable affordable, comfortable and tariff-free travelling. One perfect example is Schengen visas for the European union countries, which allows residents of these countries to travel across multiple countries on a single visa. It is affordable, convenient and makes travelling even more fun. In short, modern technology & and vehicles not only shorten distances but also save time, effort and money.

Globalization has also lead to convenient trade and commerce across the globe. Large business and brands have now global reach, they operate in multiple countries and easily operate and control functions from the parent/home country. One great example is that of Coca Cola Içecek (a turkish MNC) that currently operates in thirteen countries including Pakistan. All its functions including salaries of employees is easily transferred from turkey to other countries. Similarly, several small businesses are now utilizing platforms such as Instagram and Facebook to run their small online businesses and reach out to potential customers. On the other hand, with the rise in global trade,

Competition between businesses has also increased due to which businesses resort to economies of scale and hence the prices of several goods and commodities go down. Similarly, customers now have access to diverse product ranges catering to all classes. Websites such as Amazon, Alibaba, Aliexpress, Temu etc. provide good quality products at cheaper rates to their customers and easily transport products to multiple countries. Moreover, presence of International banking platforms such as SWIFT and Google pay make the overall process seamless for both the business and the customer.

Although, globalization has been a great blessing for the current generation, it can be a menace at times. While it enables seamless trade and transactions, it also increases competition, tariffs and even trade wars. Where individuals share their culture and lives, it can also diminish local norms, cultures and traditions.

Globalization has several disadvantages too. One of them is rising global competition at multiple fronts. One good example is the current trade war between China and United States of America. USA has placed tariffs on Chinese goods and products in an effort to discourage Chinese product makers and encourage local businesses. Similarly, USA has also placed new trade tariffs on Canada and Mexico.

with the same intent. Similarly, powerful countries like US, Britain, France etc. threaten weaker countries with sanctions and hold their policies as per their personal interests. Furthermore, rise in globalization has also led to rise in inequality and poverty (especially in the global south). Countries like Pakistan ^{export} good quality products at cheaper rates to rich countries who then sell these products for at least double the rate. ~~At the back end, the labour who manufacture these products suffer the most. Similarly, rich countries also exploit poor countries and take away their precious resources that further lead to inequality and rise in poverty in these already poor and underdeveloped countries.~~

With ~~rapid~~ rapid globalization, the crime rates across the globe has also increased. Full blown wars have become common. **Current war in between Russia - Ukraine is a true example.** Similarly, terrorism has also spread across continents. Terrorists (non-state actors) in countries like Afghanistan use its land as a safe haven and training facility to prepare themselves to attack on Pakistan. Moreover, with the development of latest technology, crimes like cybercrimes and banking frauds have also increased. Furthermore, money laundering and ~~corruption~~ is increasing as well because individuals have now access to other countries

~~and even islands where they can transfer black money without being caught.~~

Globalization also has had a negative impact on health of residents of multiple countries. With globalization, contagious diseases can now easily spread across continents and countries. **The spread of COVID-19 and monkey pox are prime examples.** Similarly, globalization has also negatively impacted the mental health in individuals especially children. When young youngsters and children have access to social media, they look at the glamorous lives of social media influencers, youTubers and bloggers. It creates competition, ~~leads to~~ lower self-esteem, depression, anxiety and children feel that they do not have enough. Furthermore, western media also confuse children and their idea of gender. Several cartoons depict multiple genders which confuse children from a very young age and creates ~~it~~ gender identity issues.

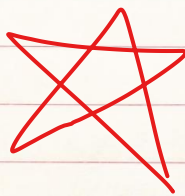
On one hand, globalization enabled sharing of multiple cultures but on the other hand, it is also diminishing local cultures and languages. Western cultures especially the American culture is dominating the lives of every youngster in the 21st century. Western culture has greatly influenced how people especially the younger generation speaks,

dresses up and the way they identify and behave in their surrounding environment. The newer generation is moving far away from local culture, norms and traditions. Children these days only want to wear western clothing items to look cool, get accepted and fit in with other people. Furthermore, multiple languages are becoming extinct now as English is prevailing over multiple countries and is used and understood as a common language.

Globalization has also enabled powerful countries to interfere and influence countries especially in their domestic matters. One such example is Regime change that is quite often observed in international affairs and politics. Similarly, countries indulge in proxy wars as well. They use land and resources of other countries to fight their personal war. One prime example is the cold war era where USA and Russia indulged in proxy war on multiple fronts including on the land of Korea, China, Vietnam etc. Similarly, another proxy war between Iran & Saudi Arabia was fought on fronts like Syria, Yemen, Iraq etc.

In a nutshell, globalization has been a blessing for the mankind. It has brought different nations and cultures together. It has

also made trade and business easier, travel safe for people and global collaborations just a few minutes away. In today world, people are thorough interconnected they can travel easily and connect with people residing in different continents. In today's world, globalization has enabled collaborations on multiple fronts, even in space. **Pakistan - china joint space collaboration** is an epic example of how two states share their knowledge, technology, expertise, learning and education to work with each other to explore the secrets of our universe.



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