

Topic:

# Globalization and Human Rights: Progress and Setbacks

## Outline

1. Introduction.

2. A brief overview on how globalization and human rights are interconnected

3. Progress in Human Rights due because of Globalization:

3a) Globalization has increased international cooperation and established human rights institutes

— (Role of United Nations and Amnesty International)

3b) Economic growth and poverty reduction has achieved through globalization)

— (China's globalization-driven poverty reduction strategies have lifted millions of immigrants from poverty)

3c) Globalization has spread human rights principles and values across the globe.

— (International Labor Organization (ILO) participated in reduction of child labour rates worldwide)



3d) Globalization has empowered women and gave them their due rights.

- (Global feminist movements)

3e) Globalization has given human access to advanced international education.

- (International Scholarships)

3f) Globalization hold governments accountable and transparent for citizens.

- (Role of Oxfam International and International Court of Justice (ICJ)).

#### 4. Setbacks in Human rights because of globalization:

4a) Suppression of local culture and cultural homogenization due to globalization.

- (local languages are being replaced by globalized culture in Africa)

4b) Concentration of power in Corporations and international institutes

- (Environmental degradation in Amazon because of concentration of power in international corporations).



4c) Globalization has exacerbated income inequalities and disparities.

while  
-(wage stagnation in US, in 1970 to seeking cheap labor from other countries)

4d) Globalization has increased hatred and violated human rights.

-(Increase in discrimination against LGBTQ rights and rise of islamophobia)

4e) Globalization has led to digital divide, impacting human rights.

-(Language barriers, illiteracy, affordability gaps hindering humans to participate in human digital economy).

4f) Globalization has contributed to environmental degradation, violating human basic right to safe environment.

In their industrial race;  
-(Bangladesh, India, Pakistan contributing highest to Global warming according to World Air Quality report 2023)

## 5) Analysis and Recommendations

## 6) Conclusion



Triangle Shirtwaist factory, Owned by Max Blanck and Issac Harris, employed mostly young immigrant women who worked hard for long hours in hazardous conditions for very low wages. The workers were subjected to physical and verbal abuse, and were denied basic rights such as fair compensation and safe working conditions. One day, a fire broke out in the factory, killing more than 100 workers and injuring about 150 innocent lives. This tragedy sparked globally through massive outcry and protests, led by labor unions, socialist and progressives. The public pressure led to investigations and eventually significant reforms in labor laws were ensured. In the context of globalization, this tragedy can be seen as an example of how exploitation of human rights can be challenged and changed through collective global action. So, it is to be considered that globalization is contributing in poverty reduction and spreading human rights



norms and values. Moreover, through international cooperation, globalization has established human rights institutes and played role in reducing gender-based violence. However, it also poses setbacks i.e; cultural homogenization, concentration of power, income inequalities and spreading hate. Globalization and human rights are deeply interconnected. Where globalization has contributed in providing human rights it has also resulted in significant challenges and setbacks to human rights that need to be addressed.

Globalization and human rights are intricately linked, with both positive and negative consequences. As the world becomes increasingly interconnected, human rights are impacted in various ways. Globalization has facilitated spread of human rights through various international cooperation and NGOs. Global awareness and advocacy, economic development and poverty reduction, cross-country migration for education and employment are significant achievements of globalization in favour of human rights.



However, globalization has led to exploitation of workers, particularly in developing countries. It has created income inequality and discrimination. Moreover, globalization has led to cultural erosion. Addressing these challenges requires a concerted effort to regulate, empower and balance economic growth with human rights in relation with globalization.



Globalization has increased international cooperation and established human rights institutes. These institutes work tirelessly to promote and protect human rights. United Nations (UN) and Amnesty International are significant examples. United Nations (UN) promotes human rights through various bodies, such as the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and Human Rights Council, while, Amnesty International (AI) is a global movement of people fighting for human rights with a participation of 150 countries. For instance, In 2020, Brazil's indigenous people seek help from Amnesty International to raise their voices about the judicial disputes on their right to their land. Hence, globalization has increased international cooperation and established human rights institutes to ensure welfare of humans from entire world.



Moreover, Globalization has facilitated Economic growth, reduced poverty and directly contributed to the realization of economic and social rights. It has lifted millions out of poverty in India as well as in China. Between 1990 and 2022, China reduced poverty from 6.5% to 18%, lifting 100 million people out of poverty globally. China has done this by opening doors of employment and job for all people from entire world. For instance, China has created over 150 million jobs between 1990 to 2022. People from all over the world seek this opportunity and



lifted themselves from poverty. In this way,  
Economic growth and poverty reduction has  
achieved through globalization.



Globalization has played a significant role in universalization of human principles and values. It has promoted a shared understanding of universal human values, culture of respect, tolerance, peace and human rights protection. For instance, International Labor Organization (ILO) participated to reduce child labor rates from entire world. It also highlighted the basic right of education for children from age 5-12 years. Likewise, people moving across borders have brought their cultural and human right principles and practices influencing their host countries. Hence, globalization has played a vital role in universalization of human principles and values.

Furthermore, globalization has empowered women and gave them their due rights. It has led to the creation of new job opportunities for women in international companies. Likewise, the spread of technology has enabled women to



Connect with each other globally, access information and mobilize for their rights.

For example, Globalization has facilitated the growth of feminist movements, allowing women to raise their voices to ensure their rights.

The Women's Suffrage movement in the late 19th and 20th centuries focused on women's legal rights, especially the right to vote. This illustrates, globalization has increased women independence and improved their social status. Thus, gave women their due rights.

Likewise, Globalization has given human access to advanced international education. It gave opportunities for online education to marginalized communities. Moreover, NGOs also ensured international scholarships to deserving and bright students across the globe. For instance, with the help of international organizations (NGOs), Higher Education Commission (HEC) have ensured the basic right of higher education in foreign countries and provided significant scholarships to bright intellectuals. Likewise, Rwanda



Education Board developed a human rights program that included training for teachers, development of human rights curriculum and establishment of school clubs, thus focusing on human rights.

In essence, globalization hold governments accountable and transparent for citizens. International corporations keep checks and balances on governments of various ~~their~~ countries to hold them accountable in conventions. Panels allow citizens to file complaints against their basic rights, right to information and freedom of speech. For example, The International court of Justice (ICJ), also known as world court, plays a crucial role in promoting rule of law and protecting human rights at the international levels. It also holds countries accountable and transparent relating to human rights of citizens. Thus, globalization contributes into a more peaceful world by ensuring human rights at international level.



While above paragraphs highlight the importance and role of globalization in ensuring human rights and rule of law, coming paragraphs will illustrate the setbacks and challenges of globalization to protect human rights.

Globalization has led to the suppression of local culture and it has increased cultural homogenization. It poses threats to local culture, language, tradition, and potentially erodes cultural diversity and human rights. For instance, local languages are being replaced by globalized culture in Africa. This illustrates that while citizens are obligated to adopt according to changing trends because of globalization, they have no more rights to live according to their own wills. Hence, globalization has posed notable threat to local culture and tried to maximize cultural homogenization.

Moreover, globalization



has led to the concentration of power in hands of corporations and international institutes. Because they have full authority to hold other countries accountable for their citizens right, they can use this authority according to their own interests. They can favour pressure groups instead of working according to rule of law. Other countries are answerable to them. They are not accountable to anybody. Environmental degradation in Amazon is a notable example. Concentration of power in international corporations favoured developed countries over developing countries while distributing Loss and damage funds in COP 27. Hence, globalization led to concentration of power in corporations and international institutes.

Likewise, Globalization has exacerbated income inequalities and workload disparities. It has led to the offshoring of jobs to low-wage



countries, displacing workers in high-wage countries and exacerbates income inequalities. For instance, In the USA, wages have stagnated for decades. In 1970, USA seek cheap labor from developing countries which leads to income inequalities and disparities. In This way, globalization is a threat to human rights as it is causing income inequalities.

In addition, globalization has increased hate and violated human rights by spreading bad narratives on social media and internet. As people are interconnected through social media platforms, they are hurting each other by posting discriminating and hate comments. For example, discrimination against LGBTQ<sup>+</sup> rights have been seen in previous years. Moreover, rise of islamophobia is also a yield of globalization which is posing a significant threat to rights of muslims. Hence, globalization has increased hate and it has contributed in violating human rights.



Similarly, globalization has led to digital divide and has impacted human rights. Globalization has imposed necessity for all communities to be connected through internet. However, many rural and remote communities in developing countries lack access to internet. This is hindering their ability to participate in the global digital economy. Moreover, language barriers, illiteracy, affordability gaps are also hindering humans to participate in digital economy as they live in remote areas. Thus, these examples illustrate how globalization violates human rights by creating digital divide and exacerbates social and economic inequalities.

Furthermore, Globalization has contributed to environmental degradation and violated basic human right to safe and secure environment. Global connection has led to increased industrial activity, resulting in air and pollution, harming human health and violating the right



to a safe environment. Moreover, increased carbon emissions contribute to climate change, which violates the right to life, health and inadequate standards of life.

In the race of industries, Bangladesh, India and Pakistan contributed highest to global warming and climate change, according to World Air Quality report 2023. Thus, in this way, industrial race through globalization has contributed to environmental degradation, while violating human basic rights to safe environment.

The analysis of globalization and human rights reveals a complex landscape of progress and setbacks. Where it has contributed to the progress of human rights it has also impacted human rights. To address these challenges a global action is needed. <sup>which should</sup> This includes, implementing inclusive and sustainable economic policies that <sup>will</sup> prioritize human right and the environment. Moreover, supporting marginalized communities in their struggles for rights and self-



determination will also be a wise step.

Furthermore, Enhancing International organization accountability is also required to prevent power concentration. Likewise, cultural

diversity and exchange programs should also be promoted to foster cross-cultural understanding and respect. By adopting these recommendations, countries can harness the benefits of globalization while mitigating its negative impacts on human rights, and ultimately creating a more just and equitable world for all.

Globalization and human rights are two facets of a same coin. On one hand, globalization has led to progress while on other hand, it also has negatively impacted human rights. Thus, ~~challenges~~ challenges need to be addressed. It is observed that globalization has lifted millions out of poverty, created new economic opportunities, and facilitated human empowerment while giving their due rights. However, it has also led to income inequality, digital divide,



environmental degradation and cultural homogenization, which have negatively impacted human rights. So, collective global attention is required to address these challenges and ensuring that globalization promotes human rights for all.