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GLOBALIZATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS: PROGRESS AND SETBACKS

OUTLINE

I. Introduction:

1.1. Hook

1.2. Background / General information

1.3. Thesis statement: Globalization and Human Rights are two closely linked concepts. A widely acclaimed view exists where globalization has improved human rights standards but the darker side where it has led to an increase in human rights ^{violation,} _{across} the globe, exists.

2. Main Body:

2.1. PROGRESS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIA GLOBALIZATION

2.1.1. Increased Awareness

- globalization, through social media, has unveiled the human right abuses from remote areas of the world.

2.1.2. International Standards

- globalization has advanced the standards of HR by developing the legal frameworks such as UDHR and UN treaties.

2.1.3. Economic Development.

- globalization has paved way for industrialization around the globe which has improved living conditions and access to basic human rights.

2.1.4. Advocacy and Pressure

- NGOs keep a check on communities where human rights are violated and as a result makes the concerned departments revive their abusive HR policies.

2.1.5. Legal Reforms

- globalization has led countries to align their legal reforms with international human right standards.

2.2. SETBACKS TO HUMAN RIGHTS DUE TO GLOBALIZATION.

2.2.1. Economic Inequality

- globalization has created a tough job market where unemployment and exploitation of labour force is at its peak.

2.2.2. Labour Exploitation

- Poor working conditions, low wages and child labour speaks in volumes how globalization has effected human rights.

2.2.3. Cultural Erosion

- Indigenous culture is on the verge of extinction as globalization has erased the ~~the~~ cultural boundaries.

2.2.4. Sovereignty Issues

- International organizations make countries accept certain human right laws that do not align with their national interests.

2.2.5. Environmental Degradation

- Rapid globalization leads to rapid industrialization which in turn leads to rapid degradation of environmental assets; leading to ~~the~~ ~~of~~ poor living conditions!

3. Conclusion :

The Essay

Globalization, a highly acclaimed concept has a darker shadow attached to its name. On one hand it is appreciated for bringing the world closer by erasing the boundaries and on the other its adverse effects are on the front. Globalization, no doubt, has many advantages but the human right violation at its hands is not negligible. Human rights and globalization are two inter-linked concepts which cast a shadow on each other. The positive impacts of globalization on human rights are many. As it has made the world come closer through internet and transportation, human right violation, anywhere in the world can be reported within minutes. This has prevented the human right abuse to a greater extent. In the same manner, economic prosperity has also been raised due to this phenomenon. But, its negative aspects cannot be forgotten or ignored. Where, it creates awareness about violation and abuse of human rights at the same time it is the cause of creating such violation. With globalization comes

industrialization and this brings with itself, exploitation of labour, poor working conditions and child labour. With economic disparity, globalization is also responsible for cultural erosion. Indigenous people lose their identity as they see their language, customs and culture being wiped off of the earth's surface at the hands of globalization. Turning the world into a huge global village has both merits and demerits as far as human rights are concerned. It has a huge impact on the condition of people's rights around the globe.

The first and foremost progress made by globalization towards human rights is the increased awareness about fundamental rights of humankind. Earth has shrunken to a size of small village due to globalization and as a result any such violation of human rights cannot be gone unnoticed. Through internet and social media, globalization has increased awareness about human rights abuses worldwide. The ongoing human rights violation in Gaza at the hands of Israel is a trending topic on all social media and electronic media platforms. Similar cases of human right abuse and violation in Rohingya and Indian occupied Kashmir

are seen in headlines. Globalization has helped in locating human right abuse anywhere in the world.

Secondly, globalization has advanced the standard of human rights by developing legal frameworks such as Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and other such UN Treaties. It has helped in the establishment of international human right standards. In UDHR, fundamental human rights have been mentioned that are widely accepted in the world. This document has served as a framework for many other such human right laws. Globalization has helped in familiarizing the world with it.

Thirdly, economic development is one of the many progresses made by globalization in strengthening human rights. Global trade and foreign investment in developing nations leads to economic development. Good economy leads to eradication of poverty as many individuals come above the poverty line, resulting in better living conditions and easy access to basic human needs.

Fourthly, the increased awareness of human right violations leads to advocacy and pressurizing of the host country where such abuses are reported. The Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) launch

campaigns to counter human rights abuses like child labour, human trafficking, discrimination against women. These NGOs keep a check on communities and countries where violation of human rights is a norm and resultantly pressurizes the concerned to revise and change their abusive human rights policies. All this is achieved through globalization as it has made tracking such violations, easy.

Fifthly, globalization has made every country familiarised with the standard human rights. It has made every country to align their legal frameworks with standard human rights that are internationally recognized. Aligning the country's legal framework with that of international human rights standards helps in improving protection for various rights.

The progress made by globalization in terms of human rights spreads from the very awareness of any violations of the basic rights to presenting the countries standard legal frameworks to match their human rights laws with. This is the greatest achievement of this phenomenon of globalization. However its setbacks can not be ignored where human rights have been

compromised at the hands of globalization.

The first and foremost setback to human rights at the hands of globalization is the economic inequality. The wealth generated by globalization is centered which results in economic and social rights being affected badly. In this centralization of the wealth, the poor remains poor and rich becomes richer as the wealth is not circulated and does not reach to its required destinations. This creates poorer countries where the working and living conditions are below average, drastically affecting fundamental human rights.

The second setback globalization causes to human rights is the exploitation of labour force. Poor working conditions, low wages, child labours speaks at length how human rights are violated. Multi-national ~~countries~~ companies invest in under developed and developing nations and take advantage of weaker labour laws of the developing nations. For instance, in recent past, protests were held by Bangladeshi factory workers in the wake of lower wages that have not been revised in decades. Famous international companies such as H&M take buy fabric for these Bangladeshi

factories where the workers are paid minimum wages, and sell them at high prices. This is clear violation of human rights, caused by globalization.

The erosion of indigenous culture is one of the many ill-effects of globalization on human rights. Since, it is the phenomenon where boundaries are tend to be erased in order to bring the inhabitants of the earth

closer together, the distinguishing feature that differentiates everyone fades slowly and gradually. The spread of global culture undermines local traditions and cultural rights. This leads to the marginalization of the indigenous people.

The communities of Native Americans and Aboriginal Australians has nearly been wiped off from their respective native areas. Their Western culture has

taken place of the indigenous culture in many parts of the world. Globalization resulted in stripping the native people of their identity which is a clear violation of human rights.

Fourthly, globalization has made international organizations compel countries to accept certain human rights laws even if they go against the interests of her citizens. It has challenged the national integrity

and sovereignty of nations as international agreements and organizations pressurize countries to adopt policies that may not align with local human rights priorities.

Another setback is the environmental degradation. Globalization snatches away the basic human right to clean water, right to healthy environment and right to health from poor and under developed countries. Globalization brings with itself rapid industrialization. Industrialization means exploitation of natural environment which includes de-forestation and many others. Corrupting natural resources causes an increase in natural calamities such as floods, forest fires, increased temperatures, high chances of fatalities from heat strokes and many more. Globalization is evil in the name of good.

Globalization presents both opportunities and challenges for human rights. It has facilitated human rights and at the same time caused hurdles in the smooth path towards achieving human rights. Globalization has helped strengthened fundamental human rights by causing awareness around the globe, developing economic prosperity and advocating and pressurizing communities

where violation of human rights is prevalent. When counting its merits and progressive steps, its setbacks towards human rights cannot be ignored. Globalization has created cultural homogeneity which has made the initially different-cultures seem similar. This leads to loss of native people's identity. Along ^{with} this economic exploitation is at the peak. A middle ground must be achieved where the global community can work together towards harnessing the benefits of globalization and at the same time addressing its drawbacks. This approach can ultimately lead to a prosperous and equitable world.