

Mock 3 - July 2024

Title = Navigating the Dual Impact of Globalization on Human Rights

Essay Outline

Introduction

1. Definition of Globalization

- 1.1 Explanation of the term
- 1.2 Historical context + relevance

2. Definition of Human Rights

3. Importance of this Topic

- 3.1 Implication for policy making
- 3.2 Relevance in increasingly globalized world

4. Thesis Statement

Progress of Human Rights Due to Globalization

1. Economic Development and Poverty Reduction

- 1.1 Increased foreign investment and job creation in developing countries

2. Spread of Democratic Values

- 2.1 Role of enhanced communication technology
- 2.2 E.g. The Arab Spring

3. Improvement in Global Health Standard

- 3.1 Greater access to medical knowledge and technology
- 3.2 Global Health Initiatives

Setbacks Due to Globalization

1. Exploitation of Labour

- 1.1 Poor working conditions and low wages
- 1.2 Rise of sweatshops in developing nations

2. Environmental Degradation

2.1 Deforestation in the Amazon

2.2 Rapid industrialization leading to agricultural harm

3. Cultural Homogenization and Loss of Identity

3.1 Dominance of Western culture and erosion of local traditions

Solutions To Balance Progress and Setbacks

1. Strengthening International Regulations

1.1 Enforcement of fair labour standards

2. Promoting Sustainable Development

2.1 Integrating environmental protection with economic growth

2.2 Increased collaboration with stakeholders

3. Preserving Cultural Diversity

3.1 Encouraging cultural exchange while protecting local identities

Conclusion

1. Restate Thesis

2. Summary of Main Ideas

2.1 Recap of progress made

2.2 Recap of setbacks incurred

2.3 Recap of potential solutions

3. Final Thoughts

3.1 Greater need for global cooperation

3.2 Call to action

British politician Lord Robertson once said: "Globalization will make our societies more creative and prosperous, but also more vulnerable". Robertson was acutely ~~highlighting~~ highlighting the dual nature of globalization, a term defined by the Oxford Dictionary as "the action, process, or fact of making global" or "the process by which businesses or other organizations develop international influence or start operating on an international scale". In the past decades, globalization has dramatically transformed our world as we know it, interconnecting and making interdependent businesses, cultures, and societies. The term's origins can be traced back to the 1800s, yet began to be commonly used in the 1980s. Since then, the influence and rising trends of globalization have become incredibly ~~per~~ pervasive across all sectors of society. The term 'human rights' refers to the fundamental rights and freedoms inherent to all human beings. They cover a broad array of areas, including civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights. Understanding the impact of globalization on human rights is incredibly crucial, as this influence guides policy making and advocacy. This analysis further serves to highlight the dual nature of globalization; to understand that this process does not translate into ~~an~~ a uniform impact across all members of society. Globalization's potential to promote and hinder human rights warrants a closer look at the full implications of its impact. While globalization has brought progress in the realm of human rights through economic development, democratization, and health improvements, ~~it~~ it has also produced setbacks

Such as labor exploitation, environmental damage, and Cultural homogenization.

To begin with, a key progress produced due to globalization is the economic development and poverty reduction occurring in developing countries. This is mainly through increased foreign investment and job creation, producing an influx of foreign capital which has spurred industrial growth, enhanced infrastructure, generated employment opportunities, and overall better living standards. China and India serve as prime examples of this transformation. Over the past few decades, these countries experienced substantial economic growth due to globalization. According to the World Bank, China reduced its extreme poverty rate from 88% in 1981 to less than 1% in 2015. Similarly, India's poverty rate declined from 45% in 1994 to 21.9% in 2011. Foreign direct investment has fueled their industries, creating millions of jobs and thereby lifting millions out of poverty. These statistics showcase the positive impact globalization has had on ~~the~~ human rights, as increased economic developments widens access to fundamental rights of education, healthcare, and other essential services. The integration of developing countries into the global economy has also facilitated the transfer of ~~the~~ technology and knowledge, further driving economic growth and poverty alleviation. China and India's examples highlight how globalization can be harnessed to powerfully produce access to

fundamental human rights.

A second key progress produced by globalization is the spread of democratic values worldwide. This has been primarily achieved through the enhancement of communication technologies - the proliferation of the internet, social media, and other digital platforms has facilitated the rapid dissemination of information. This dissemination has enabled people to access and share ideas about democracy and human rights at a much higher rate. The Arab Spring serves as a prime example of how these technologies, promoted by globalization, can produce impactful human rights movements. In these uprisings across the Middle East and North Africa in the early 2010s, social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter were instrumental in organizing protests, raising awareness, and mobilizing support for democratic reforms. These platforms allowed activists to bypass state-controlled media, giving a voice to those demanding political change. According to data from Freedom House, the number of electoral democracies increased from 76 in 1990 to 116 in 2020. This growth indicates a broader acceptance and implementation of democratic principles, partly driven by the interconnectedness fostered by globalization. Enhanced communications technologies have empowered individuals, fostered civic engagement, and provided a platform for collective action, contributing to the global trend towards democratization.

A third example of human rights progress induced by globalization is significant improvements in global health standards. This has been facilitated by greater access to medical knowledge, technology, and pharmaceuticals. The interconnectedness brought about by globalization allows for the swift exchange of medical research and advancements, allowing health innovations to impact on a global scale. One of the most notable examples of this is the global fight against HIV/AIDS. Initiatives such as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria have mobilized international resources to combat this epidemic. These efforts have led to a dramatic decrease in HIV-related death and new infections worldwide. According to the World Health ~~Org~~ Organization, global HIV infections have declined by 39% since their peak in 1997. Access to treatments such as antiretroviral therapy has expanded, a ~~test~~ testament to the power of global collaboration in reducing medical crises. Additionally, globalization has facilitated the distribution of essential medicines and vaccines, contributing to the eradication and control of diseases such as polio and smallpox. The WHO reports significant strides in reducing child mortality rates and improving maternal health due to better healthcare access facilitated by global partnerships. Overall, globalization has played a crucial role in elevating global health standards and combating infectious diseases, showcasing the benefits of international cooperation and shared knowledge.

While globalization has produced opportunities, it has also incurred setbacks to the progress of human rights, notably the rise in labor exploitation. Multinational corporations often seek to maximize profit by outsourcing labor to developing countries where regulations are lax and labor is cheap. This has resulted in poor working conditions and low wages for millions of workers. Sweatshops in Bangladesh and other developing nations are stark examples of this exploitation. Workers in these factories are surrounded by unsafe conditions, and endure grueling hours for meager pay. A key example is the collapse of the Rana Plaza Factory in 2013, which killed over 1,100 workers in Bangladesh and highlighted the dire conditions many of these workers face. According to reports by the International Labor Organization (ILO), about 25 million people are trapped in forced labor worldwide, with many of them in supply chains serving global markets. Despite international efforts, progress in improving labor conditions has been slow. While globalization has facilitated increased trade amongst countries, the pressure to produce goods cheaply and quickly often leads to neglect of worker safety. These workers are being denied basic human rights, such as right to safety, education, and liberty. Addressing the systemic exploitation produced by globalization requires stronger international labor standards and enforcement mechanisms, targeted at ensuring economic gain does not come at the ~~cost~~ cost of human dignity and well-being.

A second setback to human rights is the significant environmental degradation. Globalization has driven rapid industrialization worldwide, and the pursuit of economic growth often prioritizes short-term gains over sustainable practices, resulting in extensive environmental harm. A key and alarming example of this is the deforestation in the Amazon rainforest, occurring due to increased cattle ranching and soy cultivation. This deforestation not only destroys biodiversity but also contributes significantly to global carbon emissions, exacerbating climate change. According to the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), the Amazon has lost approximately 17% of its forest cover in the last 50 years, with deforestation rates accelerating in recent years. Industrial activities associated with globalization, such as mining, manufacturing, and large-scale infrastructure projects, have led to air and water pollution, soil degradation, and habitat destruction. These environmental impacts pose severe threats to ecosystems and human health, undermining the long-term sustainability of economic growth. Environmental degradation poses a key threat to basic human rights, as it adversely affects food, air, and clean water. The UNEP's data indicates that air pollution alone causes an estimated 7 million premature deaths annually, highlighting the urgent need for comprehensive environmental policies. A stricter enforcement of ~~environmental~~ environmental regulations is required to ensure that globalization's economic progress does not come at

the expense of human rights and health.

A third setback produced by globalization is the increasing cultural homogenization which ~~has~~ has caused an erosion in local traditions and identities.

The dominance of Western culture, propelled by the global reach of Western media, has significantly influenced indigenous and local cultures worldwide. This cultural imperialism often leads to the assimilation of Western values, lifestyles, and consumer habits at the expense of traditional customs and practices. The pervasive influence of Western media is a prime example of this. Globalization has proliferated the presence of Hollywood movies, American television shows, and Western music as a dominating force of global entertainment, shaping cultural preferences and perception of communities worldwide.

Indigenous cultures, with their unique languages, rituals, and art forms thereby struggle to survive in this environment. According to UNESCO, out of the approximately 7000 languages spoken globally, nearly half are at risk of disappearing by the end of the century, largely due to the encroachment of dominant languages such as English. Additionally, research indicates that globalization has led to a decrease in cultural diversity, with traditional practices and local art forms increasingly overshadowed by globalized culture. This erosion represents a significant threat to the fundamental human rights of expression and religion, warranting a need for policies that protect and promote cultural diversity.

Balancing the progress and setbacks of globalization requires comprehensive solutions focused on strengthening international regulations, promoting sustainable development, and preserving cultural diversity. Firstly, the implementation and enforcement of fair ~~labor~~ labor standards are crucial. The UN and ILO play pivotal roles in setting global standards to protect workers' rights. These organizations help ensure safe working conditions, fair wages, and the eradication of forced labor. Compliance reports and impact assessments reveal the effectiveness of such regulations, and should be strictly monitored. Secondly, promoting sustainable development is essential for integrating environmental protection with economic growth. The UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) provides a comprehensive framework to address global challenges such as poverty, inequality, and climate change. Progress reports should be adopted, to show adherence to advancement in areas such as renewable energy adoption and sustainable agriculture practices. These measures will ensure human health and fundamental rights are not compromised. Lastly, preserving cultural diversity is vital in maintaining the richness of global heritage. Initiatives such as UNESCO's efforts to safeguard intangible cultural heritage can help to encourage cultural exchange while also protecting local identities. These initiatives are integral to preserving the human right to freedom of expression. These solutions underscore the need for international cooperation and proactive policies to ensure that globalizations fosters equitable, sustainable, and

culturally rich societies.

To conclude, globalization has brought both significant progress and notable setbacks in the realm of human rights, necessitating a holistic approach to address these issues effectively. The progress facilitated by globalization is evident in areas such as economic development, democratization, and global health improvements. ~~Increased foreign investment~~ However, these benefits come with considerable challenges, including labor exploitation, environmental degradation, and cultural homogenization. To mitigate these setbacks, comprehensive solutions are required. These would include strengthening international labor regulations, promoting sustainable development using UN frameworks, and preserving cultural diversity through UNESCO initiatives. Global cooperation and ethical policies are crucial to ensuring that globalization promotes human rights universally. Policymakers, corporations, and individuals must all contribute towards creating a balanced and just global society for all.