

Globalization and Human Rights : Progress and Setbacks

Outline

1- Introduction

Thesis statement: Globalization and human rights have complex relation. Globalization can be a force for progress in human rights or human rights can suffer setbacks due to globalization. Various strategies can be implemented to bring balance between both.

2- Progress in Human Rights through Globalization

2.1- Poverty reduction through economic growth and jobs creation

→ China's economic reforms

2.2- Exposure to different cultures, breaking stereotypes and fostering tolerance

→ K-Pop Music, films and dramas

2.3- International Pressure for human rights reforms.

→ Gaza - Israel war /

2.4- Advancements in research and Healthcare centers

⇒ Global fight for AIDS (2002), and research for COVID-19 vaccination

2.5- Diffusion of knowledge and Education

2.6- International cooperation on climate change

⇒ COP-28

2.7- Promotion of innovation and modernization by technology transfer

3- Setbacks in human rights through globalisation

3.1- Unemployment in developed countries due to outsourcing of manufacturing jobs to countries with lower wages

3.2- Promotion of homogenized global culture leading to loss of local traditions

3.3- Widening gap between rich and poor

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3.4- Surveillance and privacy violations

⇒ 2019 ⇒ Data sharing of millions of people from Cambridge Analytica

3.5- Exploitation of environmental standards

3.6- Labor exploitation

8- Strategies for balancing human rights and globalization

- Conclusion

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The Essay

"Globalization has the potential to be a powerful force for good, but only if we ensure that human rights are protected and respected."

(Ban-Ki-Moon)

The interconnectedness of economies, cultures and societies by a phenomenon, known as globalization, has woven a complex tapestry across the globe. Globalization has a complex relationship with human rights where it has brought progress and human rights also suffered set-backs due to this phenomenon. On one hand, it has facilitated individuals and nations by poverty reduction, diffusion of knowledge and education, putting pressure to enact reforms, increased cooperation on climate change. On the other hand, nations have suffered due to globalization. By implementing strategies such as sustainable development that considers social and environmental responsibility, fostering cultural

exchange rather than dominance and safer agreements for labour, a balance could be ingrained in between globalization and human rights.

Firstly, globalization has progressed human right by reduction in poverty. People migrate from developing countries to developed for jobs. Because developed countries have devised policies that are beneficial for under-developed or developing countries. It also fosters specialization where countries focus on producing goods and services most efficiently. This leads to lower production costs and ultimately, more affordable goods for consumers worldwide. This affordability improves living standard of people in both developing and under-developed countries. China's economic reforms has lifted almost 700 million people out of poverty since 1990.

Further, globalisation provides an opportunity for exchange of cultures. This breaks stereotypes and fosters tolerance among nations. Students, visitors, workers travel in different countries and exchange of cultures, values, traditions, music, foods and so on takes place. K-pop music, dramas and films across Asia and around the world are prime examples of globalization.

Similarly, it has amplified the ability of international actors to exert pressure on governments to enact reforms for human rights. The widespread coverage of conflicts by media has raised awareness and sparked outrage, leading to public pressure on governments and international organizations to act. UN has played a major role in this regard. For example, in case of Gaza-Israel conflict, boycotts, sanctions, and divestments have gained global support. Further, protests by people worldwide for humanitarian

aid to Gaza. International court of Justice has ordered Israel to halt its military operations in Gaza. In this way, international community has provided support and aid to other countries too.

Moreover, globalization has also caused advancements in the field of research and in healthcare sector. When a new disease or virus outbreaks at in any part of world, researches are done at international level. For example, global fight for AIDS in 2002. Similarly, vaccination making for COVID-19 and its usage all over the world. With international cooperation and technology usage, there are outcomes of health problems worldwide.

Globalization has also facilitated the diffusion of knowledge and education. It is possible via online education platforms where exchange of knowledge takes place.

The internet, communication networks and online platforms have made it easier to share information and educational resources across borders. Students can have access to online courses, research papers, e-books, from around the world. Similarly, students, researchers and professionals can directly learn from each other in different countries, fostering cross-pollination of ideas.

Furthermore, globalization gathers international communities at a single platform to talk on environmental and climate changes. COP-28 is prime example of international cooperation ~~over~~ on climate change. Initiatives are taken for controlling emissions of green house gases, global temperature, pollution and policies are devised for betterment. Globalization has lead international cooperation for global action on climate change.

In addition, globalization has created a global network for modernization and innovation. ~~The~~ By ~~the~~ using technology, companies operate globally, bringing expertise and best practices to different countries. This technology usage and transfer leads to advancements in various fields in developing countries. Similarly, Technology transfer has lead to local innovations and a more diversified global technological landscape.

Along with progress by globalization, in human rights have suffered setbacks by globalization.

Firstly, it is a major cause of unemployment in developed countries. Because companies outsource manufacturing jobs to countries where wages are comparatively lower. Locals are not able to find jobs in their own countries. Moreover, globalization exposes domestic industries to increased competition from cheaper imports produced abroad.

This competition can lead to factory closures and job losses in job developed countries. For example, offshoring to countries like China, with significantly lower ~~labor~~ labour costs, has led to a decline in American textile manufacturing jobs. This had a significant impact on countries that relied heavily on jobs.

Likewise, promotion of homogenized culture by globalization leads to the loss of local traditions and culture. Similarly, it can lead towards the dominance of western culture through media, consumer goods and popular culture. As people when exposed to those cultures adopt the elements of those cultures, which leads towards the dilution of country's local tradition. For example, McDonald's expansion over worldwide has posed a serious threat to the preservation of local culinary arts.

Similarly, globalization has widened the gap between rich and poor. Because it has exacerbated the existing inequalities because wealthy individuals and cooperations have greater resources and connections to capitalize on new opportunities. Further, Job market shifts, Trade agreements and unequal opportunities have widened the gap, with the wealthiest 1% holding an increasingly large share of global wealth.

Moreover, globalization has played a role in the rise of surveillance and privacy violation. It has facilitated the free-flow of data across borders. Companies can collect and store data on users from anywhere in the world. CIA, in American has collected data of citizens under the pretext of 9/11 and can misuse it against any citizen. In addition, their are in surveillance 24/7.

Similarly, personal data of millions of people from Cambridge Analytica was misused in 2019. A personality quiz app harvested data from millions of people, mostly Facebook users, without their consent. This data was allegedly used to target voters with political messaging during voting. This led to anxiety and sense of vulnerability among people.

In addition, globalization has led towards environmental standards exploitation, with cooperations prioritizing profits over sustainability. Chinese textile industry is a major contributor in water pollution. Other countries are degrading environment by deforestation, land grabbing, pollution, carbon emissions due to weak regulatory policies. It may pose a serious threat to global climate in coming days.

To avoid setbacks, strategies should be devised to balance relation

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between globalization and human rights.

These strategies should focus on sustainable development. It includes the promotion of practices that meets the needs of present and responsible resource management, equitable access to resources and healthcare across all communities. Further, labour rights should be protected globally by establishing international labor standards for fair wages, working condition and freedom of association for unions. Moreover, strong environmental policies should be regulated. These factors would contribute in maintaining balance between globalization and human rights.

In a nutshell, globalization has profound impact on human rights, with both progress and setbacks. While it has lifted millions of people out of poverty and promoted cultural exchange, it has also ~~lead~~ led to labor exploitation,

environmental degradation and erosion of local traditions. To maintain a balance between globalization and human rights, strategies must be implemented. To avoid setbacks in human rights this balance is necessary.