

TOPIC OF THE WEEK

JULY'19 (25 to 31 Jul)

Globalization- an international proliferation

As the world is getting more and more connected, will humans be uni-cultural in the near future? To this vital question once Balaji Viswanathan, CEO of Invento Robotics replied that the homogenizing forces are as strong as the heterogenizing forces. In short, in the globally connected world, we might not be as homogenized as we assume to be. Globalization or interconnections are also giving a voice to people from various cultures. In the past, you would have had to rely on the equivalent of The New York Times or the BBC to develop your opinions and those would be the majority opinions - highly slanted towards one culture. Now, you have the option of getting a lot more diverse voices heard as the major filters [publishing houses and newspaper editors] are getting replaced by more democratic forms. We are not getting uni-cultural. We are getting multi-cultural and slowly grasping the diversity of human culture.

Internet, media, international business and embassies, these are just a few examples of Globalization and there are more, so what is Globalization? Globalization is a process of interconnection between the whole globe

which started in the 1960s. This process helped in the developing of the world on many parameters, economically, politically and socially. Economic wise, globalization helped in moving capitals, made trade and global investments between countries easier. Socially, what is right to be done here is not right there, people became more aware of the cultural differences and diversity around the world. Global Village is a related concept. The author is a Canadian media theorist Herbert Marshall McLuhan, who in the sixties called it the phenomenon of “shrinking” Earth thanks to electronic media (those days especially TV and radio, now especially the Internet). He wanted to suggest that, among other things, thanks to modern media, news travels instantly around the whole world, just as the information had earlier spread by word of mouth through a small village.

India was one of the prime nations which gained immensely post the introduction & implementation of globalization. The rise of foreign investment in the retail, corporate and scientific sectors is very much evident in the nation. With the opening of SEZs or Special Economic Zones, the availability of new jobs has been quite effective. Furthermore, Export Processing Zones or

EPZs are also established employing thousands of people. Another factor is cheap labor in India. This has motivated big firms in the west to outsource work to companies present in this region. All these factors are causing more employment.

The growing interconnectivity among people across the world is nurturing the realization that we are all part of a global community. This nascent sense of interdependence, commitment to shared universal values, and solidarity among peoples across the world can be channeled to build enlightened and democratic global governance in the interests of all. The global market economy has demonstrated great productive capacity. Wisely managed, it can deliver unprecedented material progress, generate more productive and better jobs for all, and contribute significantly to reducing world poverty. Gradually there is a world power that is being created instead of compartmentalized power sectors. Politics is merging and decisions that are being taken are actually beneficial for people all over the world. This is simply a romanticized view of what is actually happening.

Globalization brings a culture of pluralism, meaning religions “with overlapping but distinctive ethics and

interests” interact with one another. In political areas, globalization has built global political forums that integrate cultural, ethnic, and religious differences—ideologies that were once perceived as dividing the world—through a large number of international organizations such as the United Nations (UN) and the World Health Organization (WHO), as well as regional organizations like the European Union (EU), the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), or the African Union (AU). When discussing issues such as international peace and security, health issues, poverty, and the environment, these organizations generally share many of the same basic commitments as religious traditions—mainly peace, human dignity, and human equality, as well as conflict resolution in which they actively engage in negotiation, mediation, and diplomacy. Like a snowball rolling down a steep mountain, globalization seems to be gathering more and more momentum. And the question frequently asked about globalization is not whether it will continue, but at what pace. A disparate set of factors will dictate the future direction of globalization, but one important entity—sovereign governments—should not be overlooked. They still have the power to erect significant obstacles to

globalization, ranging from tariffs to immigration restrictions to military hostilities. Nearly a century ago, the global economy operated in a very open environment, with goods, services, and people able to move across borders with little if any difficulty. That openness began to wither away with the onset of World War I in 1914, and recovering what was lost is a process that is still underway. Along the process, governments recognized the importance of international cooperation and coordination, which led to the emergence of numerous international organizations and financial institutions (among which the IMF and the World Bank, in 1944).

Indeed, the lessons included avoiding fragmentation and the breakdown of cooperation among nations. The world is still made up of nation states and a global marketplace. We need to get the right rules in place so the global system is more resilient, more beneficial, and more legitimate. International institutions have a difficult but indispensable role in helping to bring more of globalization's benefits to more people throughout the world. By helping to break down barriers—ranging from the regulatory to the cultural—more countries can be integrated into the global economy, and more people can seize more of the benefits of globalization.

For reference:-

- <https://www.forbes.com/sites/quora/2017/08/28/is-globalization-creating-a-single-world-culture/#414d85423bd3>
- https://www.economicsonline.co.uk/Global_economics/Globalisation_introduction.html
- <https://www.imf.org/external/np/exr/ib/2008/053008.htm>
- <https://www.coe.int/en/web/compass/globalisation>
- <https://www.e-ir.info/2014/07/16/religion-and-globalization-new-possibilities-furthering-challenges/>

Additional Readings:-

- <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/jul/18/the-guardian-view-on-lawns-and-verges-go-wild>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/jul/21/the-guardian-view-on-housing-inequality-the-young-are-paying>
- <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/smoking-e-cigarettes-is-more-injurious-to-health/article28658584.ece>
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