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## Globalisation and Education

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### Abstract

Globalization gives more value to knowledge society. Even, many scholars and leaders across the globe strongly believe that 21<sup>st</sup> century is the century of knowledge. A person having adequate knowledge is duly recognized and respected irrespective of his/her caste, color, creed, language, culture, and religion. Thus globalization brings education to the front lines. Education is expected to be the major tool for incorporation in to the 'knowledge society' and the technological economy. The significance of education is being realized as more people achieve higher levels of education. The educational institutions are in the process of producing competent students to cope up with the flow of globalization. The economic, political, legal and socio-cultural aspects of education have been highly influenced due to globalization. So here this study will represent objectives of globalization of education and impacts of globalization on Indian education.

**Keywords:** Globalization, Education, knowledge society, culture, and religion

### Introduction

Globalization is a process of global economic, political and cultural integration and unification. It is a phenomenon that transforms local markets, policies and systems into international markets and policies and systems. Globalization involves the integration of economies and societies through cross country flows of information, ideas, technologies, goods, services, capital, finance and people.

Globalization refers to the relaxation in the political barriers across the globe to facilitate the trade and effective interaction in various spheres among nations. Globalization is said to bring people of all nations close together, especially through a common medium like the economy or the Internet.

Today, the driving force behind globalization is the World Trade Organization (WTO), which was established in 1995. The WTO is the successor to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) established in the wake of the Second World War. The WTO's agreements have been ratified in all members' parliaments. The WTO's objective is to ensure smooth, free, air and predictable flow of trade.

### Objective of globalization

The objective of globalization is to create a more interconnected and integrated world economy, where goods, services, capital, and even ideas can flow more freely across borders. The goal is to increase economic growth, improve living standards, and reduce poverty by increasing the efficiency of the global market.

Some of the specific objectives of globalization include:

**Increasing international trade:** The primary goal of globalization is to promote trade between countries by reducing barriers to trade, such as tariffs and regulations.

**Attracting foreign investment:** Globalization seeks to attract foreign investment to countries that have the potential to grow their economies, create jobs, and improve living standards.

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**Facilitating the movement of labor:** Globalization aims to enable the movement of skilled labor across borders, thereby increasing the efficiency of the global labor market.

**Promoting technology transfer:** Globalization promotes the transfer of technology and knowledge across borders, which can help countries develop new industries and improve existing ones.

**Encouraging cultural exchange:** Globalization can encourage cultural exchange by allowing people from different countries to share ideas, art, and music, thereby increasing mutual understanding and tolerance.

Overall, the objective of globalization is to create a more connected, prosperous, and peaceful world. However, globalization has also been associated with some negative consequences, such as widening income inequality, environmental degradation, and cultural homogenization, which need to be addressed and mitigated.

### Impact of Globalization on Indian Education

Globalization has increased the demand for higher education in different conventional and non-conventional courses. India has the third largest education system in the world, next only to China and United States. During Independence there were only 500 colleges and 20 universities with the enrolment of less than a million students. As on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010 there are 544 universities and University - level institutions including 42 Central Universities, 261 State universities and 130 Deemed Universities. In addition, there are 31,324 colleges including 3,432 Women colleges. Though, there has been a consistent growth in enrolment in higher education over the last few years but, this is not enough when compared to other countries. The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) for higher education (the number of students between the ages of 18 and 24 who go for higher education) in India is about 12.9 % and it is very low as compared to the world average of 26 percent, 57.7 % for the developed countries, and 13 percent for developing countries. To make the Indian youths globally competent, the significance of education was very much realized by the government of India. As a result, government has set a target to achieve the GER of 30 % by the year 2020. India has set a target of achieving Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education of 32% by 2022 in comparison with global average of 36.7%.

**Enrolment expansion:** In the context of globalization, because of the workers need to compete for the few good jobs globalization creates, the demand for educational expansion has increased. Parents realize education as an asset in modern society and invest, to the extent of their financial means, in schooling for their children. As a result, enrolment are rising, even in the developing country like India, the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) has already exceeded to cent percent. Similarly, flow of students to secondary and higher education is also constantly increasing. The expanded access is also contributing to a sizable reduction in the gap between girls and boys.

**Free education:** Article 26 of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, declares that basic education shall be free and compulsory. Most of the countries across the world provide free elementary education to the children. India is

one of the 135 countries in the world to provide universal elementary education after the enactment of RTE Act 2009. At present, two global policies, *Education for All* and the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, call for the provision of universal education throughout the world and gender parity in the provisions of all levels of education by 2015. In India the enactment of RTE Act 2009 serves the purpose of *Education for All*, disparity on the basis of gender, religion and locality are still to be removed.

**Quality Education:** Quality is defined as an educational content that enables students to obtain the knowledge they require for the construction of an equitable social and economic world. Quality education has been the major concern of globalization. The institutions providing quality education and producing capable human capital are globally recognized. Unfortunately, India has to travel a long journey to provide education of international standard. At elementary and secondary level most of the government run institutions are struggling to enhance the quality of education. Even, many of the private institutions are functioning directionless without realizing the aims of education. Similarly, higher education of the country is also at the crossroad. As per the world ranking of the universities, the performance of Indian Universities is not up to the level of satisfaction. Thus, institutions are to rethink about the aims and objectives of education highlighting the need and significance of education at global level.

### Education as a commodity

One of the key features of globalization is that it inclines much towards economic dimensions. The world is seen under the lens of trade and economy. As a result, every tangible and intangible thing is being measured in the scale of commerce and economy. Like property, buildings, vehicles, and other items, knowledge and education is also considered as a commodity. When knowledge is a commodity, then schools and universities are market places, where education is sold and purchased. Rich people pay handsome amount for the education of their children, whereas the people belong to poor socio-economic background have to rely on the government and various agencies of education. In case of higher education, the curricula have been designed according to the growing needs of the market. The students need to pay high fees for the courses which are more demand at national and global level.

### Diversified Courses and Programs

In the age of globalization, the nature's of works have been increased rapidly and thus, people have the advantage to choose the right course and programme as per their interest and ability as well as the demand of the hour. The rapid expansion of higher education has taken place through the creation of programmes that address market and social needs in flexible ways and prepare individuals for multiple types of jobs at the same time diversification has meant the emergence of universities, colleges, technical and vocational institutes with very different levels of academic emphasis, quality and recognition. Diversification benefits society because there is a greater distribution of knowledge and this knowledge becomes increasingly accessible to all.

### **Competition**

Competition among the people is as old as the existence of human civilization. But, globalization has increased the level of competition not only among the people, but also among the institutions. The aim of every student is to achieve success with excellence. In globalized era, only those people are valued across the world, who perform better than others, by showing their talent and capability. Though, competition often caused harm to the society and individual, but it is also fact that competition stimulates the people to march towards the goal with more zeal and energy. Even the educational institutions realize the significance of competition and deliberate perpetually to improve the quality of education. As quality assurance becomes an essential principle in the schools, colleges, and universities, concern is shown for improving the standard of education. The accreditation of institutions by various national and international agencies develops a spirit of competition among the institutions and that ultimately reinforces the institutions to care for increasing ranking in their quality.

### **Privatization**

Because of commercialization, educational sector has been more commonly described not as a service sector but as an education industry. The free market philosophy has already entered educational sphere in a big way. Consensus is still to be built among the scholars, authorities, and educationists regarding the entry of private bodies in the field of education. But, the government of India is keen to see the private sector in education as it minimizes the financial burden of the government. During last few years, there is mushrooming growth of private institutions from primary to tertiary education level. Unfortunately, most of the private bodies are coming to education only for profit-making motive. Thus, they are reluctant to establish institutions in the backward regions. Due to high fees, the enrolment of students is confined to elite class. USA, UK and many European countries have already succeeded in privatization of education.

### **Entry of foreign universities**

It is believed that the Indian institutions do not match the standard of foreign universities and as a result Indian students go to other countries for higher education. The government has already taken initiatives by inviting foreign universities to establish their branches in India. The Foreign Educational Institutions (Entry and Regulation) Bill, 2010 that is pending in the houses of the parliament will be more fruitful in this regard.

### **Expansion of women's education**

Increased competition in product markets and the need for more highly educated labor tends to expand women's educational opportunities in countries in North Africa and the Middle East. Globalization has also raised the rate of return to women's education.

### **Worldwide distribution of research outputs**

Globalization has resulted in the global distribution of research outputs by publishing it in internet or international journals for an instant discussion and debate on research findings.

### **Online distance education**

Globalization resulted in an enhanced demand for technical qualification from reputed international institutions for in service professionals. This resulted in the emergence of online distance education.

### **Indian students studying in foreign universities**

Many of the Indian students are passionate to get education in foreign countries. The increasing number of students in foreign countries may be, due to poor quality education in India or any other reasons, there is a growing trend among the students of our country to study in foreign countries particularly in USA, UK and Australia. The Indian education system is not able to mobilize funds from its students at home. By some accounts, Indian students, whose fees are paid by their parents, have become a net subsidizer of British higher education; the largest number of foreign students in the US come from India that is up to 80000 and there are even an estimated 5,000 Indian medical students in China. Many of the best students go abroad. Globalization has made education an extraordinary business opportunity with a great impact on employment.

According to a study, there had been a steady annual rise of Indians travelling overseas for a degree. More than 53000 Indians went abroad in 2000 and at the end of 2010, the number increased to 1.9 lakh. While the US has been steady in the top slot of having most number of Indian students, UK has been a close second. Masters programmers in business and management; engineering, mathematics, computer sciences, law, hotel management are the popular field opted by most of the Indians. However aspirant learners are also showing deep interest in studying various courses in Australia. Across the globe, the UK attracts the second largest destination of international students and since 2009, about 17% Indian students have been visiting there annually, after all, Indians comprise the second largest group of international students in the UK. Indian students are now also exploring other countries such as Sweden, Italy and Ireland, where education is considerably cheaper and part-time jobs are easier to secure.

### **Vocational Education**

Globalization has increased the demand of skilled and professional manpower for more efficiency in different fields of work. The demographic dividend "accounts for India having world's youngest work force with a median age of 25 years. In 2004-05, the total employment in the country was estimated at 459.1 million out of which 56.8% of workforce belonged to self-employment, 28.9% to casual labor, and 14.3% to regular wages. About 8% of the total work force in India is employed in the organized sector, while the remaining 92% are in the non-formal sector. To reap the benefits of "demographic dividend," the Eleventh Five Year plan had favored the creation of a comprehensive National Skill Development Mission. As a result, a "Coordinated Action on Skill Development" with three-tier institutional structure consisting of (i) PMs National Council on Skill Development (ii) National Skill Development Coordination Board (NSDCB), (iii) National Skill Development Coordination (NSDC) was created in early 2008. Whereas, Prime Ministers National Council on Skill Development has spelt out policy advice, and direction

in the form of “Core Principles” and has given a vision to create 500 million skilled people by 2022 through skill systems (which must have high degree of inclusivity), NSDCB has taken upon itself the task of coordinating the skill development efforts of a large number of Central Ministers /Department s and States. The NSDC has geared itself for preparing comprehensive action plans and activities which would promote PPP models of financing skills development. Various Committees and Commission s including National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986 have advocated to impart vocational education for the adolescent s. However India has to travel a long journey to provide vocational education of substantial quality for the students as per the need of the Globalization.

#### **Other impacts of globalization on Indian education systems are:**

- Decentralization of education.
- Multicultural Education.
- New generation educational institutions.
- Increased demand for tertiary education.
- Standardization of education.
- Widening the educational divide.

#### **Conclusion**

We are at the threshold of 21<sup>st</sup> century, where every country of the world has been influenced by globalization. The question arises here that Is globalization indispensable? In fact, now a day’s globalization has been a serious debate across the world. Some argues that sometimes globalization comes with exploitation where richer countries take advantage of the poor countries, by creating a large gap between them. However, no country can abstain itself from globalization, particularly in such a period where the whole world has converted in to a village. It is fact that globalization has become important in development of education system in a country. No country, at present, can claim that globalization has nothing to do with its growth and development of education as well as in other areas. If the whole world is a village, then how can a country grow aloof from this global village? Globalization has played an important role in making our lives much more comfortable by educating us. Expansion of enrollment, free elementary education, quality education, diversified courses and programs, reading of Indian students in foreign countries, vocational education, online distance education, multi-cultural education, women’s education all are possible under the impact of globalization. Knowingly or unknowingly, we are all under the impact of Globalization, and more importantly it has helped in bringing international peace and justice to mankind.

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