

GLOBALIZATION: ITS ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES

By globalization we mean the economic model that has come to dominate global policy making since the end of Second World War. This includes the neo-liberal economic policies of free trade, financial and capital market liberalization, deregulation and privatization.

Globalization is the process by which different societies, cultures, and regional economies integrate through a worldwide network of political ideas through transportation, communication and trade. Generally, globalization has affected many nations in various ways: economically, politically and socially. It is a term that refers to the fast integration and interdependence of various nations which shapes the world affairs on a global level. Globalization has affected the products people consume, the environment, culture, security and idea exchange between different countries. There are many factors that lead to the speedy globalization trends. This acceleration in globalization can be attributed to an increase in free-trade activities, emerging technologies or the worldwide acceptance of markets.

Globalization has affected cultures and economies on matters dealing with environmental destruction and availability of the already limited resources. Globalization has had diverse implications for environmental issues such as pollution, deforestation, water resources, climate change and others. The rampant environmental problems have become the subject of international efforts because the effects are felt globally. The negative impacts of globalization focus on the destruction of the environment that is export-oriented. On the other hand, the positive impacts are the multinational companies' research into technology that is eco-friendly and an increase in environmental awareness.

A major impact of globalization on the environment is that, there is an improvement on the use of resources and the awareness of environment degradation.

Unfortunately, the negative impacts of globalization have outweighed the positive effects. On a global level natural resources are being overused. This is because there has been a rise in demand and ecosystem removal, as a result of population growth. About half of the indigenous forests that covered the earth in the past have been depleted. Deforestation is on the increase year by year. Moreover, over-fishing is also becoming a global problem. A study by the United Nations reveals that commercial species of fish have been over-exploited.

Globalization has also affected negatively the environment through global warming. This is as a result of greenhouse gas emissions caused by rapid industrialization in the developing world, and a heavy dependence on fossil fuels.

Globalization has been a scientific debate concerning structural change in the earth's ecology. There has been linkage between environmental decay, trade and support, government and globalization. Activities that are required for industry and trade use a lot of energy resources. The misuse of these resources causes air pollution, acid rain or global warming.

Globalization affects education in that, the direction and objectives that education had previously, has to change. The idea that education is a public service has to be abandoned. It has been replaced with the idea that education is at the service of economies; that is as a personal investment. International organizations have increasingly become involved with the educational sector. Recently, the World Trade Organizations and the World Bank have proposed the privatization of this sector. These policies aim at adapting the contents of education globally to the needs of employment. They also aim at creating an education system that is efficient and profitable.

There has been a massive spread in education at all levels. The consequences of schools that are widely available are as a result of the globalization process. The different forces that affect globalization have tremendously affected the operations of educators. Moreover, it has affected the experience associated with formal and informal sector. Many policies that affect the educational sector are directed towards markets.

Globalization has made education look like a private affair, and no longer public. This marketization process has led to privatization of the educational sector in a number of nations.

Globalization has affected the nature of the agencies that people go to school. There have been numerous changes in educational technologies. Distance learning has grown tremendously, and there is more use of internet and other computer forms. This advancement in technologies allows people from different nations to participate in the same programs; student contact can be across far distances.

Various educational systems have undergone a transition in response to the impacts of technology and globalization. It is vital to note, that global initiatives have affected the roles of universities in the economy, community colleges, decentralization and the curricular.

With all these in mind, globalization seems to affect education by transforming the teaching and learning processes. In order to meet the existing challenges presented by globalization, individuals should be prepared to work in a changing environment, with constant networking.

Globalization has affected human health and development in a number of ways; some positive while others are negative. The liberalization of trade in agricultural products leads to economic benefits in poorer countries that are short term. This will then improve the human health depending on the equitability of the allocation of these benefits. Globalization has reshaped the social arena that nations get involved in prevention of disease or improvisation of health. Health problems have crossed over national boundaries. It is due to cooperation on a global level that such issues may be affected.

The impact of globalization on health is in various forms. With globalization, harmful products can bring disastrous implications worldwide. There is an increase in the free trade of foods, drugs, medicine and other forms of substances that pose damages to health. Moreover, with efficiency in cross-border communications, the health sector has remained to be a

benefit in the use of e-mail and internet. Information and knowledge dealing with health matters are free, which facilitates telemedicine and telehealth.

Globalization can be used for advancements in health. The increased cooperation between countries is very effective in the event of arresting the spread of diseases that are communicable in nature. On the other hand, by harmonizing food and drug standards and regulations, developing nations end up benefitting in health issues. Some discussions focusing on globalization effects on health have pointed out the fear that, the increase in migration of people from poorer countries into developed nations creates a complex issue in healthcare systems.

It is possible to conclude that globalization is a serious issue that affects many nations. Researchers should analyze these impacts carefully so as to prevent the negative impacts. It is essential to note that the force behind globalization cannot be stopped. It is therefore essential that all nations create forms of globalization that are environmentally and socially sustainable. These forms should be more beneficial to all humanity and reduce costs. Indirect impacts of globalization on health operate through the national economy. Direct affecting of globalization on health is on health systems, as well as, policies of multilateral trade signings and agreements.