



GLOBALIZATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS

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Abstract

This paper throws light on globalization and human rights. Human rights have become internal part of process of globalization in many ways. In India think on human rights importance carefully India is also one of the sensitive about human rights as compared to most leading development countries. This paper attempt to study about the concept of globalization and impact of globalization on human rights. Globalization in 20th century emerged with the linking of nations and people around the world through transportation.

Keywords: Globalization, Human Rights, Trade organization, Liberalization.

The term Globalization is widely accepted and multidimensional phenomenon.. It means that the world is brought together and woven into one capitalist political economy operating under a neo liberal market ideology. It is nothing but exchange and interactions occur at all levels of governance and among non-state actors, creating a more interdependent world. Economic globalization has been accompanied by a marked increase in the influence of international financial markets and transnational institutions, including corporations, in determining national policies and priorities. We can say that information and communication technology is playing a very important role in today's era. Globalization has created powerful non state actors that may violate human rights in ways that were not contemplated during the development of the modern human rights movement.

Globalization and Human Rights

One of the most significant aspect globalization is the global consensus on human rights. Human rights have become integral part of process of globalization in many ways. The western countries are increasingly using their view of human rights concept as yardstick to judge development countries and to deal with economic and trade relation to extend development assistance. At the same time globalization intensifies impoverishment by increasing the poverty, insecurity, fragmentation of society and thus violates human rights and human share a common ground namely yearning for recognition and respect that connects them. There are two kinds of views regarding the impact of globalization on human rights one view is that. Globalization has accepted now human rights. Generally trade theory predicts general welfare from globalization. Many feel that through market economy and liberalized trade can lead to improve in the standard of living of people. It is also believed that for political freedom, economic freedom is also essential. With the help of economic power it is possible to deal effectively with the violators of human rights. The other view is that economical and technological transformation of globalization may lead to a situation in which main threat to human rights will not be from the state but from multinational corporations, multi-lateral inter governmental organizations, transnational criminal or organized terrorists. Globalization is increasing the disparity between nations and reducing national governments ability to protect their citizen. According to a report by UN University on Globalization of Human Rights Globalization moves money people and ideas around the world with astonishing speed. Important decisions concerning the development of the global company are made in international

forums where the most powerful countries make decisions that are good for themselves but not necessarily in the public interest .

The authors of Global Issues states that globalization resulted in the violation of the fundamental right to work. In 1995, the ILO announced that one third of the world*s willing to work population was either unemployed or underemployed. Globalization has also resulted in informalization of labor. Only 8% of the labor force in India is in the formal economy while 90% work in the informal economy with no legal protection or security and are subject to ruthless exploitation. Many companies, including TNCs (transnational companies) got rid of their unionized labor force and moved their operations to low wage and depressed areas to avail themselves of the large supply of unorganized and unprotected , mainly female labor. Mathews George Chunakara describes the state of workers in developing countries after globalization as a race to the bottom, and the bottom means slave like conditions. He explains this by the search of transnational companies for cheap labor in order to maximize their profits, so the governments of developing cheaper labor. International Statistics (Global Issues, poverty Facts and Stats) shows that: Half the world –nearly three billion people –live less than two dollars a day.

-The wealthiest nation on earth has the widest gap between rich and poor of any industrialized nation.

–The top fifth of the world*s people in the richest countries enjoy 82% of the expanding export trade and 68% of foreign direct investment – while the bottom fifth, barely more than 1%

-In 1960 , the 20% of the world*s people in the richest countries had 30 times the income of the poorest 20% and in 1997 ,74 times.

-A few hundred millionaires now own as much wealth as the world*s poorest 2.5 billion people .

-The combined wealth of the world*s 200 richest people hit 1 trillion in 1999; the combined incomes of the 582 million people living in the 43 least developed countries is \$ 146 billion.

Impact of globalization on human rights

One view is that globalization enhances human rights, leading to economic benefits and consequent political freedoms. The positive contributions of globalization have even led to the proposal ;that it be accepted as a new human right , In general, trade theory predicts a significant increase in global welfare stemming

from globalization, indirectly enhancing the attainment of economic conditions necessary for economic and social rights, Many thus believe that market mechanisms and liberalized trade will lead to an improvement in the living standards of all people. Some also posit that free trade and economic freedom are necessary condition of political freedom, or at least contribute to the rule of law that is an essential component of human rights.

Members of the world Trade Organization when negotiating and implementing international, rules on trade liberalization, should bear in mind their concurrent obligations to promote and protect human rights, mindful of the commitment made in the Vienna Declaration 1993 that human rights are the first responsibility of governments, While the WTO agreements provide a legal framework for the economic aspects of the liberalization of trade, the norms and standards of human rights balance this by offering a legal framework for trade liberalization*s social and ethical dimensions.

The human rights violations resulting from globalization are failures of governance. Human rights law is capable of monitoring and regulating foreign investment. Respect for human rights requires governments to protect, promote and fulfill obligations. The right to development process can provide a framework focused on the implementation of a rights- based approach to development. The right to development is versatile and promotes global responsibility for globalization .The declaration on the Right to Development requires states to guarantee rights in a manner applicable to globalization. In order to be universal and remain relevant , human rights law must protect those marginalized by the exigencies of globalization by empowering local peoples. Development strategy consists of liberal trading regimes with a reduced role for the state. Despite the new challenges arising from the globalization process and , the state remains the only full subject of international law responsible under human rights law. It is the state, acting individually or collectively, that ultimately controls international relations.

The origin of human rights may be found both in Greek philosophy and the various world religions. In the Age of Enlightenment the concept of human rights emerged as an explicit category . Man and women came to be seen as an

Anonymous Individual, endowed by nature with certain inalienable fundamental rights that could be invoked against a government and should be safeguarded by it. Human rights were henceforth seen as elementary preconditions for an existence working of human dignity. Origin of the idea of human rights in India though the Rigveda contemplates the bedrock of human rights in its earliest meaning, with the coming of the later Vedic Age and the society being divided on the basis of Varna* was evidence of the mere mockery of the earlier concept of human rights. In medieval period Emperor Akbar took certain measures for the protection of the rights of the citizens.

Conclusion

Globalization facilitates international exchanges that overcome the confines of a single nation or a civilization, allowing participation in a global community. In this globalized era, the clash for

human rights has become difficult and challenging. One of it is that we face as a community of nations is to understand better the emerging socio-economic forces and forms of globalization. Human rights can balance forces of globalization within a just international legal framework. Human rights are what reason requires and conscience command.

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