

INEVITABILITY OF GLOBALISATION: DOMESTIC AND GLOBAL RESPONSE

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INTRODUCTION

Globalisation which is the integration of economies through extension of the markets across communication and technological advances necessitates policy changes. Although people across all nations have endorsed globalisation, yet outcomes have been different for people belonging to different nations. So the phenomenon has been instrumental in encouraging heated debates in the contemporary world.

The opponents to globalisation highlight the irreparable impact caused by this phenomenon and accuse globalisation for rising inequalities, poverty, environmental damage and increased incidences of human rights violations. This group of people advocated to replace the neo-liberal market principles by economic protectionism and stood for reverting back to localism. They have time and again, mobilised the people through their activities and programmes to sabotage the growth and proliferation of MNCs.

The supporters of globalisation glorify the phenomenon and boast its achievements. According to them in the foreseeable future, All nations across the globe would reap the benefits of globalisation and the world economy would steadily move towards equitable growth, efficiency with spread and adoption of Western liberal values, standards and way of life.

It is believed by the opponents of globalization that the phenomenon has widened the gap between the rich and the poor and is responsible for impoverishment of the poor. It is believed that deterioration of people in developing countries is temporary and exists only in relative terms. Their position has improved in absolute terms and will continue to improve further that would become visible and improve standards of living, better health facilities, improved technology and access to facilities and establishment of democracy. The advocates of globalisation argue that this phenomenon As motivated nations across the globe to invest efforts and money for improving upon their Human Development Index (HDI) For which they are taking up welfare programmes and framing policies that could alleviate people from poverty, malnourishment, illiteracy, stagnation and have access to health and educational facilities.

With endorsing of the liberal values and principles, democracy is gradually being accepted as the way of government and principles driven by democratic norms, quick dissemination of information, spread of rational approach and culture is taking place. The caste, class, linguistic and sex based minorities are now being protected and cared for. Media and world wide web has not only facilitated quick, easy and cost-effective interaction with people but actually has empowered people with ideas, innovations and information empowering them to relieve themselves from oppression and exploitation. Further, internationalisation of the rule and law and insistence on human rights has made better the prospects of establishing a peaceful, cohesive, just and fair world order.

In the present times when the nation-states are interdependent, the probability of entering a war becomes bleak and nation-states across the globe are benefiting themselves with the never ending exchange of ideas through various means including the popular culture that is instilling the values of tolerance, acceptance and accommodation among people of the societies and with background other than their native one. Thus, the process has enabled the setting of the environment that gives space to new identities and gives them freedom to grow and flourish.

There have been various theories of various authors, economists regarding the Inevitability of Globalisation. Some critique the process of globalisation whereas the others are proponents of globalisation.

VIEWS OF THOMAS FRIEDMAN:

Thomas Friedman was known as a author, columnist and proponent of Globalisation and in his work 'The World is Flat: A brief History of the twenty-first century' he mentions that globalization has an equalising and levelling tendency for all those who have competence and wish to connect, collaborate and expand their horizons. It is with globalization that people across the globe can have access to updated technology, information and are equally enabled to effectively utilise the same to enter and make place in the global competition. He is of the opinion that the present phase of globalisation is the globalisation of individuals where the internet connectivity and communication and the fibre optics have brought the world together in order to grow together if not globalized fully and is being availed by everyone all over the world be it in under-developed, developing or developed nations for their prosperity and better growth.

VIEWS OF VANDANA SHIVA:

He was an Eco-feminist who was one of the critics of globalisation who has drawn attention towards the constant role played by globalization and polarisation. He refuted the assertion of Friedman that 'The World is Flat' as false as it was based on the analysis of ground realities. Vandana shiva says

that the world has become an increasingly insecure place for millions of the people who are facing the challenges of environmental disasters, ecological imbalance, socio-economic insecurity and are constantly engaged and haunted by fear of disease, hunger, victimization, exploitation, death and destruction. On the other hand proponents of globalization are glorifying the phenomenon to hide the true impact of globalisation on the larger population especially of those living in the lesser developed parts of the world. So, Vandana Shiva asserts that the corporate and WTO led globalization is forcing India to lose out on the humanitarian aspects of life as well because it has dismantled the democratically designed patent laws, creating a monopoly on seeds and medicines, pushing the farmers who are in huge debt to suicide especially the sweat shops in developing countries and increasing vulnerabilities of the vulnerable. There is a significant increase in the figures of women and children being trafficked for various illegal activities, the number of infected with infectious diseases and the number of people who have lost their homes and livelihood in the name of development and modernisation.

VIEWS OF JOSEPH STIGLITZ:

Another staunch critic of globalisation and free market economy was given by Joseph Stiglitz, who was the winner of 2001 Nobel Prize in Economics and he condemned Friedman's idea of a flat world. He states that Globalization is a mismanaged phenomenon that serves the objectives of the developed economies and Third World nations whose people have been the worst hit and made worse due to globalization. Due to Globalization, inequalities have been widened and the introduction of new technology and FDI in the developing countries. In his work 'Globalisation and its discontents' he states that "Globalisation is a reality and is integrating the economies of the world but all people of all nations are not equally being benefited by this process. All people are not able to plug in and play, the people from the lesser developed parts are unable to keep in pace with the affluent nations. The policies framed by the global governance institutions are biased and are in favour of those who have monopoly over power and control decisions. This results in impoverishing the poor but also ignoring the concern for saving the planet, environment and its resources and serving the people who have monopoly power".

Joseph Stiglitz stated in his follow-up work in 2007, titled, 'Making Globalization Work', and continued his stand on globalization for increasing economic inequalities and socio-economic injustices in the Third World but he was also optimistic about the thought that redefine globalization can be beneficial for the disadvantaged. He mentions, "Open, democratic processes can limit the monopoly and the power of special interest groups. It can help in bringing back the ethics back into business and even the Corporate governance can recognize the rights not only of shareholders but of others who are troubled by the actions of corporations. An engaged and educated citizenry can understand how to make globalization work, or at least work better, and can demand that their political leaders shape globalization accordingly".

VIEWS OF JAGDISH BHAGWATI:

Jagdish Bhagwati was a former special adviser to the UN on Globalization and his most known work, 'In defense of Globalization' has given a balanced view on Globalization and his views fall in between those given by Thomas Friedman and Joseph Stiglitz. He argues that the contemporary phase of globalization is driven by the technological advances but without the affirmative policies of the state, the phenomenon cannot bring positive results. He also states that the movement has downsides as well but they are being exaggerated. He asserts that many of the opposing views are at their core, anti-capitalist, anti-corporate, and Anti-American and this drives most of the anti-global rhetoric in the Western World. He believed that Stiglitz's critique was less about globalization and more about the International Monetary Fund and its policies.

Offering solutions to the problems arisen due to the discontent of globalization, he suggests implementing fair, accountable, transparent, democratic International governance and appropriate policies would do the needful. Despite being an economist who supports laissez-faire capitalist systems he was equally committed towards social justice and was a staunch critic of large companies that erect barriers to protect their dominance. He believed that NGOs can continue to play a vigilant role in this regard and act as watchdogs and protect its people. The effects of globalization on poverty in the developing world, child labour, women's rights, national cultures, working conditions can be addressed through policies by effective policies of the global governance institutions.

VIEWS OF AMARTYA SEN:

Amartya Sen was an economist Awarded with the Nobel Prize who said that globalization "has enriched the world scientifically and culturally, benefited many people economically as well". He states that the issue of globalization and the protests world-wide against this phenomenon states that globalization can neither be rejected outright nor accepted without serious criticism. Also, globalization is an evolutionary and historical process that unfolded tremendous opportunities in the past as it does in the present.

In his article, "how to judge globalism" he states that globalization is not global westernization. It is not a new phenomena nor a creation of the West. Like the wide unfolding of the internet today, science, mathematics technology and biotechnology have been a global phenomena since time immemorial both in the East and the West. The technological advances of 1000 A.D. that altered the world included paper and printing press, magnetic compass, gunpowder, the iron-chain suspension bridge etc. used extensively even a millennium ago. All this was spread across the countries of the world and even the European continent through the phenomena of globalization.

Globalization is not a curse, but a blessing for the countries that have embraced it. The main issue affecting adversely is staggering inequalities between and within countries. But the large benefits that globalization offers makes it imperative that there is a fairness in sharing the potential and possible benefits globalization offers. The main contention of globalization is that there is inequity in the institutional arrangements in the globalized scenario. So, the benefits that globalization offers is shared unequally and poor do not get a fair share and opportunity. The national and transnational institutions are reformed. The features of positive globalization are democracy, equity and efficiency that should be globalized. Globalization requires a reasoned defence and reform so that the benefits of globalization are spread fairly across the world.

CONCLUSION:

According to my observations of the nature of globalization and its current impact on human life as well as analyzing the facts all across the globe it can be observed that globalization is a process that could not be halted, backward and marginalized, but intensified in recent years, because it is the inevitable trajectory of development in the human society. It is a part of our lives now. We are globalized in every aspect of our lives as it is a natural process which cannot be forgotten. The issues like climate change and diseases. For example, Covid-19 which is one of the recent challenges to mankind requires efforts at the global level and this is an example of globalised world economies. We cannot rule out the possibility of being interdependent with other nations for every nation's welfare and betterment. There are positive and negative sides to every process which has been mentioned above but to disagree that Globalisation is Inevitable is not rightly justified as it has been entrenched, intensified and proven to be Inevitable in today's time.

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