

Quest for a Better World with India's Echo to Ameliorate Globalization

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Abstract

Ideological frameworks play an important role in ensuring sustainability and stability of any system. Globalization has been a guiding force in world history as well as international relations. Though it always existed, yet its pervasive presence in lives of people and nations that led to blurring down of time-space distinctions can be attributed to neo-liberalism with rampant advances in technology. Globalization was a boon as well as bane; however, its complete rollback seems unworkable as a policy proposition. The paper highlights how there is a need to rework on contours of global governance issues within the context of challenges of Globalization 4.0, digitalization by giving primacy to India's echo for 'human centric' concerns at the heart of global system.

Keywords: Globalization, Neo-liberalism, De-globalisation, Populism, Human Welfare.

Introduction

Globalization is the process of increasing interdependence of the world's cultures, economies, population, cross border trade for goods and services, flows of investment, technology, information, and people. Its essential to point out that Globalization has been rapid as well as uneven system in terms of various aspects for the world in the last few decades in different areas such as financial, cultural, social, trade, and political. There are types of phenomena that often deliberated when globalization is discussed, most important of which is from economic realms.

First wave of globalization (19th century-1914) has been traced with rise of Great Britain and emergence of innovations like the steam engine, industrial weaving machine, it signaled the era of the First Industrial Revolution. The end of second world war, technological advances in cold war, rise of world wide web, development of contours of global economy have been seen as Second and third wave of globalization.

With the end of Cold War, Globalization driven by neo liberal perspectives became the hegemonic phenomenon in world history. Rise of digital products, e-commerce, digital services, 3D printing, artificial intelligence, internet of things, are main forces of the apparatus of Globalization 4.0. (Vanham, 2019)

Globalization, Neo Liberalism & Technology

Globalization has impacted different areas of the world. Researchers, scholars, and theorists have described this concept and its impact differently. The hyper-globalist approach has described it in terms of a new saga. The logic has been underpinned by the neo-liberal agenda which perceives globalization as a force to facilitate working of open market. The study of Hameed *et al.* (2021) suggested that neo-liberalism implies meeting the needs of the market, promoting technological growth through education, and knowledge, job training, activities for growing revenue.

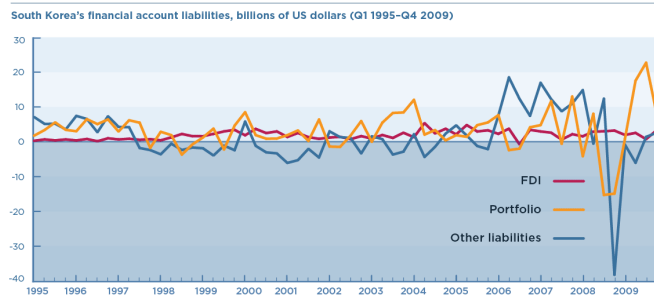
Neo-liberalism stands on the assumption that economic aspects benefit from globalization. On the other hand,

Marxists & neo-Marxist argue that globalization is promoting inequality amongst countries. Along with this, it is also argued that globalization created an imbalance in the local economy and developing countries are suffering discrimination due to this. Neo-Marxist approach also opine that that the misbalance is coming from the dependency patterns which have transformed politics, culture, economy, and other related disciplines. The sceptical approach does not perceive globalization as a novel process rather says that trade existed worldwide even before.

The transformational perspective argues that it impacts people's satisfaction, emotional wellbeing, happiness, and health (Mazzucato *et al.* 2017). It explains the inconsistency of the division of labour worldwide. Worker mobility has reduced the financial crisis, recession and slow recovery made things worse. US, UK, European countries' economies are boosting and getting full-fledged benefits of globalization (Pinkuset *al.* 2021). On top of that, digitalization makes it easier to join the marketplaces. Small to big size organizations now can participate in the global trade and start up new businesses.

Globalization and Economy

As a result of financial globalization, countries can be susceptible to crises from sudden stops in capital inflows

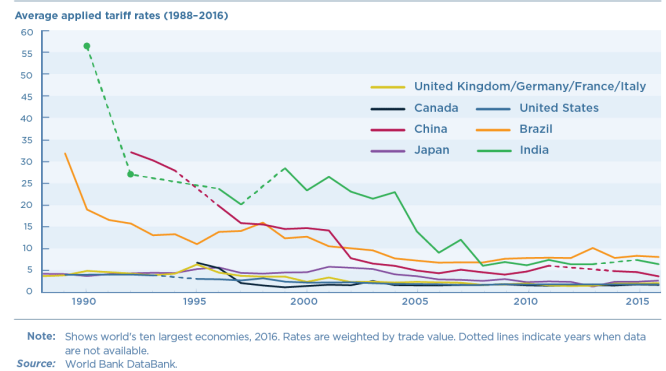


Source: IMF Data Warehouse.

Figure 1: Financial Condition due to Globalization

Globalization encourages countries to produce their best items and specialized items with home-grown resources. This concept makes production more promising, efficient for economic growth. It can lower the prices of goods and services and make them more affordable for lower-income households (PIIE, 2021). Technological advancement and digitalization have created opportunities for companies to reach more customers, wider markets and get higher returns.

Major economies dropped tariff rates and kept them low



Note: Shows world's ten largest economies, 2016. Rates are weighted by trade value. Dotted lines indicate years when data are not available.
Source: World Bank DataBank.

Figure 2: Major Economic Dropped Tariff Rates

The paper of Held *et al.* (2007) explained that global ethics needs to be built on the premise of "duty of care" beyond borders. What makes this important when one notes that there are concerns about disequilibrium in ecosystems, from disruptions to global warming, climate change, which is endangering the lives of human beings. Neo-liberalism held that global issues like extreme poverty, inequality as traditional conditions that would be solved when market-led global modernization comes. It argued that economic globalization establishes a more stable and peaceful world because of enduring interdependence & trickle down of benefits with operation of markets.

The working of market forces was contested as in this dimension, Globalization was found to have supranational implications. Placing national constraints on domestic division of powers, gains limited to few, rise of detached economic-political elites, were factors highlighted in various arguments of de-globalisation in the ideas concerning populism. It was pointed out that a reboot is mandatory to enlist people's concerns in global and domestic policy agenda.

Globalism works in tandem with the network of connections for multi-continental distance. The backlash against failings of outcomes of working of globalisation led to the onus towards change. It was pointed that global governance architecture requires modification and popular demand that taking back the control from global forces was seen necessary (Weforum, 2021). It was pointed out that ray of hope to restore the sovereignty of the world does not come with closing off the economies with nationalist politics and protectionism, rather a new social compact is necessary. Further, it must be also understood that globalism has become thicker than before (Higgott and Richard, 2018).

Misplaced Agenda of Neglect of Values in Economic Gains Stride

Neo-liberalism existed even before the cold war. However, in the post-cold war era, the idea that there must be increase in individual freedom in the economic sphere, with withdrawal of state intervention, was prominently noticed. Though globalization has much more to it, yet one cannot ignore the paramountcy of neo-liberalism within its sphere. Further, various policy measures of neo-liberalism like privatization disinvestment, have been complex as well for several nation states. Globalization changed the terrain of International Relations (IR). Further, because of increased inter-relationships, deepening of ties, concepts in IR like power, security etc., are seen in multidimensional perspective.

The realist perspective gave primary to states. The idea of national interest was seen in unilinear manner where military security meant safe borders. However, there are different stakeholders for states agenda now. The study and action arena of IR cannot be limited to militarily endeavor only. Globalization did retain the sphere of influence of state; however, market operated at a level above in this bargain. The blatant working of market forces led to more vulnerability for the common masses. It is here where globalization has been seen to have caused major conflicts, where too much focus on quantitative economic gains, led to ignorance of human values in its working. It has been pointed out that it's not only about trans-border contacts, but that diffusion of powers, porous borders made the common people feel alienated in this realm. With respect to conflictual side of IR as realism maintains, even in economic globalization, the rise of competition states competing for markets & profits cannot be ignored.

Globalization has given an important context to post-cold war IR. It may have led to one sided gains, yet that does not mean the idea that one calls for ending it. As a framework to understand IR, globalization did point towards follies in assumptions of realism. However, one needs to dwell deeper here as lack of comers towards normative ideas has been a significant backlash cause for popular needs with reference to IR. Constructionist perspective has highlighted how ideas and norms are important for agenda setting in IR. New framework of an 'engaged theory of globalization' has been called for to comprehension of global challenges.

Populism & the Ideological Challenges for Globalization

Populism as an approach seeks to appeal to the people premised upon the feeling of neglect. The authorities in power are often dubbed as anti-masses or elitist.

(Agustino, 2021) It is interesting to note that this similar concern about neglect of people issues has been pointed out for international relations as well. This is important to note as no longer International Relations exist in an isolated framework, what is global has an impact on households too.

Cambridge Dictionary defines populism with the focus on the idea that the former gets support by delivering to people their concerns. It is interesting to note that from Eastern Europe to United States of America, populism used the economic and international prism to assert the notion of justice at home. Further, one must note that populism is not new too; it existed in Athenian and Roman times as well. Like any political concept, populism is contested as well. As an attempt is made to imagine the alternative to populism, it must be based on correction in mistakes of the past. A folly of the past has been neglect of a dialogue in a communication tenor that people relate with. Herein too, reforming Globalization and future global governance narrative that caters to domestic polity, strike a similar chord.

New Framework: India's call for Human Centric Globalisation

The work of Sivertsson *et al.* (2021) illustrated globalization and its heterogeneous impact on the different operational areas. Industrial and societal changes demand an advanced level of process and flow of information. The dynamics of globalization also account to explain the role of structural adjustment, policies, financial liberalization for growth and stability, the effect of FDI, behaviours of MNEs, innovation (Gupta and SatyaDev, 2012). We all know that clarion call for Globalization 4.0 has been done and it is suggested that it is better to perceive the situation from a realist or optimist rather than a pessimist's point of view (Weforum, 2021).

The cross-border movement has grown immensely in the area of trade; however, it was lamented that this growth was not well distributed. An example to be noted here is how technological skill biases, rising inequality, changes in immigration policies worked to disadvantage for lower-skilled workers (IISS, 2021). On the other side, one cannot ignore the gains too. The book of Steger *et al.* (2019) suggested that digitalisation outcome of globalisation is an actual gain in both volume and frequency of usages.

The context of Global Politics in contemporary times demands a deeper engagement and understanding of Globalization. When we look at nature of global conflicts like climate change, pandemics, disruption, looming challenges of industry 4.0 etc, isolation is not a wise strategy. Traditional mechanisms of globalization indeed have been questioned, but need of the hour is to channelize efforts to ensure future narrative

of globalization garners benefits. Issues of global governance have cross-border impacts and threats defy territorial norms, within 'a more integrated world are forcing nations to come together, even as elements of traditional globalization lose traction'. (Ninan, 2021)

India has presented a novel idea to cater to challenges mounted by the pandemic. Time and time, when lack of idealistic narrative to drive global governance has been noted, and within this milieu India's call for and a "new type of human-centric globalization" (Raj, 2020), to enhance the effectiveness of global multilateral system is worth pondering over. The idea that context of Global Politics, namely globalization, should work for people over profits, shall be useful with respect to factoring in individual concerns in international relations arena. India has been consistently urging nations at several international forums to rethink and reimagining the paradigm of international relations. Along with highlighting the need for reforming and empowering international organizations to work a strategy to deal with pandemics, there has been candid assertion by India calling for giving primacy to people's interest 'rather than balance the competing individual interests of a few'. (Roche, 2020)

Even in bilateral relations, India while giving importance to cherishing democracy, plurality and transparency, in its diplomatic avenues, it has called upon its partners to conceptualize how the partnership can play an important role in economic revival with disruption caused by pandemic and in developing a human-centered and humanity-centered globalization. (PM Modi Addresses India-EU Summit, Calls For Human-Centric Globalisation Amid Covid-19 Pandemic, 2020)

Globalization - the process of interdependence & integration of ideas, goods, services, people, led to new challenges and opportunities for global realms. Though Globalization existed in the past also with the exchange of goods and services via the silk route, looking at the unprecedented level of scale and reach in the contemporary phase driven by neo-liberal ideas, it was indeed an aspect that led to new Contours in Global realms. The neoliberal perspective in international relations gave primacy to relative gains, the importance of non-state actors, as against the statist realist paradigm. The edifice of Globalization built on networks and interconnected paraphernalia of global trade, finance, markets, led to contested outcomes. At one point, it opened avenues of an open borderless world while at the other side there were criticisms of democratic deficit in various processes concerning Globalization. The world polity witnessed the rise of populism which drew its strength from the absence of people's centred agenda and accusations of elitist biases, in Globalization. Time and

again, world leaders also affirmed the market-oriented agenda of Globalization that placed human welfare at the back burner, as one of the issues that must be addressed. The paper attempted to present the argument that owing to changes in context, where the idea of security demands a people-centric approach namely factoring in health, economic, ecology as inputs & national interest is multidimensional, its imperative that neo-liberalism which was a driving force of Globalization project also, needs to be reformed. Focus on profits over people led to huge challenges both at the national and international levels.

Dealing with any crisis at a time when global governance is witnessing heated debates between Globalization and De-globalisation- requires multidimensional strategy and multidisciplinary understanding of the problem, which underlines the important idea that the market agenda needs an informed paradigm for it to succeed. No doubt, globalization and the associated norm of globalism were always contested- as it did give gains yet one cannot overlook the losses in the trade-off. At one point, if the world witnessed the benefits of rampant flow of goods, services, trade, electronic capital, amongst others, then one cannot overlook the losses like new security threats whose impact cut across all borders. Yet one cannot miss out on the advantages offered by interdependence to only mitigate any crisis but also to appreciate the idea of other alternatives offered. This requires that the neoliberal perspective that underpins the web of global realms must be pondered over in an innovative fashion that balances human concerns and economic development.

Conclusion

Globalization or the process of interaction and integration led to new challenges as well as opportunities for global and national realms. Globalization has always existed in human civilization but however under present day circumstances owing to its rapid reach of its impact and huge scale of its operational dimensions, it has had both positive and negative responses. With rise of new technologies like artificial intelligence, robotics, are pointing towards rise of new phase of Globalization 4.0 or latest stage of globalization. Merits and demerits of Globalization with rise of new choices, global trade and investment apparatus juxtaposed with issues of equity, inclusivity, and sustainability have always been argued. However no one can deny that technology did shrink time and space and even in times of covid 19 pandemic, it was a driving force to sustain governance mechanisms. Globalization 4.0 is in preliminary stage only, wherein looking towards isolation is not wise option. The need of the hour for nation states across the globe is to deliberate and work towards building up frameworks

for national and multinational action & co-operation that perceives the industry models, education, workforce issues, and ecology with a holistic approach. India's call for human centric approach towards globalization is indeed a worthy way to factor in global governance for a sustainable future of the planet.

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