

Social Justice, Globalization and Fate of Marginal Communities of India: Some Observations

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ABSTRACT

"First globalization" is a phrase used by economists to describe the world's first major period of globalization of trade and finance, which took place between 1870 and 1914. The "second globalization" began in 1944 and ended in 1971. This led to the third ERA of globalization, which began in 1989 and continues today. Globalization has benefitted western countries like US, France, UK, Germany and Asian countries namely Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Thailand, and China. All over the world it has given mixed benefits to the people. For the educated, skilled, urbanites it has given many benefits. The people who are placed in the upper strata of society are chief beneficiaries of globalization. On the other hand the disadvantaged sections of Indian society comprising of SCs, STs, minorities, poor, unskilled labors are the losers of benefits of globalization. The present paper examines the impact of globalization on marginal communities of India.

KEYWORDS: Globalization, Liberalization, privatization, State Intervention, Social Justice,

INTRODUCTION

Many International bodies and advanced countries have advocated and embraced LPG on many grounds. The countries having very good literacy rate, skilled manpower and countries having R& D culture have benefitted by the globalization and also by liberalization and privatization. However, developing countries coming in Asia, Latin America, African continents have suffered. Even in Asia, Japan, China, South Korea, Hong Kong are gainers of this process. All the three processes have made different impact on labour class, educated people, youths, women, marginal communities. Let us examine the meaning of social justice first

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the present paper are :

- to examine the meaning of social justice and globalization
- to assess the impact of globalization on marginal communities of India
- to estimate the impact of globalization on labour class, marginal farmers, global inequality

ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

The term social justice is really complex one. Different scholars have used different parameters to define social justice.

MEANING OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

Britannica in its social justice, in contemporary politics, social science, and political philosophy considers fair treatment and conferring equitable status to all individuals and social groups within a state or society as social justice. In Western as well as in older Asian cultures, the concept of social justice has often referred to the process of ensuring that individuals fulfill their societal roles and receive what was their due from society. Social justice is justice in which maximum importance is given to achieve distribution of wealth, opportunities, and privileges within a society.

Daniel Thomas Mollenkamp (2022) writes Social justice refers to a fair and equitable division of resources, opportunities, and privileges in society. He laid emphasis on distribution of resources. In the book, Social Justice, Criminal Justice, Cyndy Caravelis and Matthew Robinson cite a definition penned by Toowoomba Catholic Education in 2006. It says that social justice is “promoting a just society by challenging injustice and valuing diversity.”

Shijun Li and Bing Wang In their 2020 article, “Is social justice the superior economic growth model? Comparative analysis on G20 countries,” say that social justice is “an aggregated fairness of authorized values...” This includes “income, well-being, opportunity, freedom, liberty, rights, and needs.” According to Michael Reisch, The term refers to “social policies and other rights-based initiatives that protect vulnerable and disadvantaged groups of national or global society from oppression, discrimination, and exclusion, or that support them materially.” In an article in the International Review of Psychiatry, Dinesh Bhugra (2016) point out the aims of social justice in these words. “Social justice is aimed at promoting a society which is just and equitable, valuing diversity, providing equal opportunities to all its members, irrespective of their disability, ethnicity, gender, age, sexual orientation or religion, and ensuring fair allocation of resources and support for their human rights.”

In an article about the Teaching of social justice, David Robinson cites this definition from South Africa’s Revised National Curriculum Statement (RNCS): “In simple terms, social justice refers to one’s responsibility to care for others [for] the common good of society. A true social justice gives opportunities for every citizen to come up in life and use societal resources. In ideal society effort will be made to grant social justice to its members. However, achieving full social justice can be considered myth. There are so many impediments to achieve complete social justice even with meticulous planning and state intervention.

MEANING OF GLOBALIZATION

In order to explore the intricate relationship between globalization and its impact of marginalized communities we have to understand the meaning of it. S. K. Mishra and V. K. Puri in their Book Indian Economy write : globalization means integrating the economy of a country with the world economy”. Even Datt & Sundram in their Indian Economy writes: “Globalization is a more romantic word indicating the desire to integrate nation states within the overall framework of the WTO (World Trade Organization). Lastly, Uma Kapila defines the process in different terms. She in her “Understanding Problems of Indian Economy” writes : “Globalization is a process which draws

countries out of their insulation and makes them join the rest of the world in its march towards a new world order.”

SOCIAL JUSTICE IN THE CONTEXT OF GLOBALIZATION: HOW GLOBALIZATION DENIES SOCIAL JUSTICE TO MARGINAL GROUPS-SOME OBSERVATIONS

1. Globalization and its associative processes namely privatization makes poor poorer : Hence it is against social justice: On account of globalization poor have suffered all over the world. Globalization generally favours the skilled and literates. Poor people lacking these qualities fail to take part in globalization process. They remain outside of the domain of globalization. It is against social justice. No doubt globalization has positive impact on GDP and national income. However, income generated through globalization will be concentrated in the hands of rich and affluent class. On account of globalization, the difference between the rich and poor increased all over the world.

2. State fails to address the problem of inequality arising out of globalization: It is the responsibility of state to tackle the problem of social inequality through public policies like progressive taxation and income redistribution. Unfortunately state cannot manage these roles as globalization generally weakens the state and its agencies. In some countries TNCs and MNCs operate their business as per international laws. They sometimes ignores the laws, rules regulations framed by the state to protect the interest of labors and others disadvantaged sections namely children and women.

3. Globalization is against empowerment of marginal communities: Increased use of social media and IT tools, which are inspired by the new value system, has led to an increase in the commercialization and objectification of women. In some countries even children are forced to work in industrial and informal sector. It may lead to commodification of women. Post reform period has witnessed a drastic increase in child labor because due to LPG policy the role of public sector was reduced. Therefore, the corporate is working for profit motive only. Some industries have employed a large number of children and exploit them in many ways.

4. Globalization may work against labour class: Due to globalization the number of contract workers comes down in organized sector that was in the private entrepreneurs. The concept of permanent job disappears. It exploits migrant workers. In countries like India globalization has driven weaker castes into the unorganized sector where they must do menial work since they lack the appropriate skills. People who were once untouchable, for instance, now work as manual scavengers.

5. Globalization and marginal farmers: Marginalized farmers are paying a large price as a result of globalization. LPG has forced them to purchase costly agricultural inputs namely HYV of seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and agricultural implements. Green revolution that has started in mid sixties too helped the rich farmers and ignored the small farmers. In the same way the process of globalization too has helped only the large scale farmers. Because of globalization and privatization agricultural land became too costly. Now small farmers are selling their lands to the rich and joining the ranks of landless labors.

6. Globalization leads to social exclusion, therefore may work against social justice: In China and India, the people excluded are worse off than the people who are included in globalization. Over time, the benefits of globalization are expected to spread in poorer countries, although as everywhere income distribution will remain unequal because people have different abilities and motivation. Nonetheless, poor people in poor countries are excluded from global markets because of limitations due to where they

live. People in poorer countries are often kept poor and excluded them from the benefits of education and healthcare, and from the benefits of markets.

7. Globalization leads to concentration of wealth in the hands of few- Hence it is against social justice: The world's financial capital is ever more integrated, and wealth is ever more centralized in the hands of financial elites and corporate institutions. According to scholars because of globalization wealth is highly concentrated in a few countries and regions. Even within a country it favours the rich industrialists. No doubt, gulf between rich and poor is increasing because of globalization. It has made the West richer than the rest of the world (Arye L Hillman, 2008). Scholars correlate increasing global inequality with globalization. The World Bank—a prominent player in articulating globalization is aware of this implication. It has acknowledged that globalization has left billions of people behind.

5. Globalization affects the poor and unskilled. Hence against social justice: Globalization increased the incomes of highly skilled people everywhere. The unskilled and semi-skilled cannot participate in the process of globalization. It can help data scientists, computer operators, software engineers and people who can operate robots and complicated machines. Unskilled workers have to fight with skilled workers. The gulf between skilled and unskilled workers will increase. Certainly, the relative positions of the poor and unskilled have deteriorated in both rich and poor countries. Even skilled labors in rich countries are not safe. On account of outsourcing they too are facing the problem of job insecurity. In globalization everything is in the state of flux. Globalization expands opportunities for people who have the abilities and motivation and pushes the unskilled to the periphery of the society.

6. Globalization is against human rights: In an age of globalization and privatization the recognition of human dignity and the struggle to protect human rights has become even more complex and challenging. It is violating the rights of child, labourers, poor farmers and women. All most all marginal communities have paid large price. Globalization can make the state very weak. Hence, state loses the power to defend the rights of vulnerable groups. It will become puppet in the hand of huge MNCs and TNCs. The country wishing to attract FDI from MNCs and TNCs will dance according to the whims of fancies of international dawns (MNCs).

8. Globalization leads to involuntary displacement-Affected millions of Indigenous people living in forest: Neelmani Jaysawal and Sudeshna Saha in their article Marginalization of Tribal communities due to globalization (July 2014, Research Gate) writes : The Globalization has various dimensions which sometimes affect tribal communities positively and sometimes negatively. Since the emergence of liberalization, privatization and globalization (LPG), the areas inhabited by tribal population have been subject to various protests due to involuntary displacement. Due to neoliberal economy, the arena of development has turned into uni-polar. In the name of up gradation of lifestyle of poor indigenous tribal people, the market forces have created wealth for their interests at the cost of livelihood and security of these tribes in the areas.

According to the World Bank, development projects every year involuntarily displace one million people in the developing countries from their land and homes (World Bank, 1994). In India alone, between 1951 and 1990 around 21.3 million persons were displaced by development projects. Among this number 8.54 million (40 per cent) were tribal or indigenous people and only 2.12 million (24.8 per cent) were resettled (Government of India, 2002: 458). Therefore, there has been created a major rift between the elites and grass root tribal people. The regions inhabited by tribal people are facing wrath of not only economic exploitation but environmental degradation due to excessive extraction of resources. The process of effective rehabilitation for Project affected persons has been in dillydallying phase of

implementation. The reform process has affected the indigenous communities of India, particularly their culture, languages and style of life. Not just tribes, even some of the villages have submerged owing to developmental activities initiated by the state. Construction of reservoirs, roads, railways, mining were undertaken just to satisfy the demands of MNCs and TNCs. We all know that resettlement process and quality of settlement and rehabilitation process. It cannot erase the pain created by involuntary displacement from the original place of habitation. Tribes now are working as migrant labors in nearby towns and cities. They even don't know that their rights were affected and violated.

According to Seshali Pradhan (2015), the gains of globalization have so far accrued to those who already have education and skill advantage, easier market access and possession of assets for use as collateral to access credit. For the tribes, globalization is associated with rising prices, loss of job security, and lack of health care and tribal development programmes. Globalization may also weaken the constitutional protections, in terms of education and job reservations given to tribes

9. Globalization has affected large section of farming community: small Scale farmers and marginal farmers emerged as another victim of Globalization. Agricultural sector is being ignored by the Government of India. The acute increase in farmer's suicides reflects this fact. Globalization is also posing a threat to agriculture in developing and underdeveloped countries of the world. As with the WTO trading provisions, the agricultural commodities market of poor and developing countries will be flooded with farm goods from countries at a rate much lower than that of indigenous farm products leading to a death-blow to many farmers. LPG has compelled the farming community to purchase costly agricultural inputs manufactured by MNCs. The labour intensive farming turned into capital intensive. The banks generally extend helping hand to big landlords. The small farmers still borrowing money from private money lenders to manage their agricultural activities. The farmers exporting their commodities to other countries have improved their status. On the other hand farmers growing indigenous crops not getting remunerative prices for their products. Commodification land and commercialization agriculture has affected the destiny of farming community. Unemployment is steadily increasing in agricultural sector because of adoption of capital intensive methods in the place of labour intensive methods.

10. Globalization destroys reservation: Soon after our political emancipation the state followed to positive discrimination policy to help SCs, STs, Women, OBCs and other disadvantaged sections of Indian society. This mechanism of reservation policy in fact helped the marginal communities to improve their literacy rates and educational status. It has paid richer dividends to marginal communities. Until 1990 it has continued without any major disturbances. However since 1990s, India witnessed three major processes namely Globalization, liberalization and privatization. They in fact are killing the reservation system declared Former Secretary to the AP State SC and ST Commission R. Subba Rao said openly. (March 20, 2016). Now because of LPG, the marginal communities are working in private sector which does not provide secured jobs to them.

Globalization has affected the youth and their rights: The adoption of capital intensive technology has affected job creation. Unemployment is on the rise. Adoption technologies, the practice of outsourcing and automation worked against the interest of youth. It has resulted in the high rate of unemployment in India which is becoming the biggest challenge for Indian Economy and the Government today. Small Industries in the pre-globalization period played dominating role in providing job opportunities. Because of LPG many small scale industries are shut down. Now MNCs and TNCs are dominating the productions and distribution of services.

CONCLUSION

Globalization and social justice are closely intertwined concepts that have been the subject of extensive debate and discussion. Globalization and its associative processes liberalization and privatization have given mixed benefits to the nation states. Globalization is generally interpreted in the light of culture, profitability, efficiency, free flow of capital, technology, commodities and labour. Some scholars examine the process in the light of social welfare, social justice and vulnerable sections. Globalization enhances efficiency and economic growth and expands the domain of personal contact and communication. Nonetheless, globalization has also evoked discontent because of claimed social injustice. The relation between globalization and social justice therefore merits attention. Globalization has the potential to both advance and hinder social justice depending on how it is managed and its impacts are addressed. Need of the hour is to minimize the negative impact of globalization on social justice.

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