
HUMAN RIGHTS AND GLOBALIZATION -A CRITIQUE

Dr. Mukta Soni

*Asst. Prof. in Political Science, J.C.D.A.V. College, Dasuya, Hoshiarpur, Punjab,
India*

Abstract

Since the Universal Declaration of human Rights in 1948, many countries of the world, whether in the north or the south succeeded in enhancing the implementation of human rights, particularly in the economic ,social and culture fields simply through policies of subsidizing food ,housing and services such as health care, transportation ,sanitation ,culture and education . Many countries, particularly in the third world made considerable achievement in the field of the rights to work simply by taking decisions to protect local industries from competition and thus creating job opportunities for their population .However, on the country contrary globalization agreements require government to abide by the global market mechanisms and to follow the advices and instructions of the international agencies such as WHO, IMF and the world bank.

Keywords: - *Universal Declaration of human Rights, Globalization agreements*

Globalization, without doubt, is the most controversial concept of the current times that has evoked a worldwide debate over its meaning as well as practice .A general question arises: Would globalization enhance the implementation of human rights as stated in the University Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 and the subsequent United Nations agreements, particularly the convents of civil and political rights in 1966 , covenant on economic ,social and culture rights in 1966 and the declaration on the right to development in 1986 ?

The answer to this question in not an easy task, mainly because the different and contradictory meanings attached to the term globalization.

If globalization is conceived as turning the whole world into one global village in which all people are increasingly interconnected and all the barriers are removed , so that the world witnesses a new state of fast and free flow of people ,capital ,goods and ideas then the world would be witnessing unprecedented enjoyment of human rights everywhere because globalization is bringing prosperity to all corners of the global together with the spread of the highly cherished values of democracy , freedom and justice.

On the other hand if globalization is conceived as turning the world into a global market for goods and services dominated and steered by the powerful gigantic transnational corporations and governed by the rule of profit then all the human rights of the people in the world, particularly in the south (developing countries) would be seriously threatened. The impact of globalization as becomes in economic sphere has not left social and political sphere untouched .In economic sphere as there is greater emphasis on privatization and opening of economy for foreign capital ,in political sphere too, the first world`s institutions and standards are projected as model. Indi vidualism is re emphasized in recognition of not only a form of individual`s freedom of creating wealth and poverty but also as living a life of dignity that involves availability of basic necessities of life like food, water and shelter

.Freedom from want, fear and insecurity is the basic condition to be human .As the globalization sets in , the reality more sharply than before.

Literature on globalization, in general, by both the so called advocates and opponents of globalization is abundant. The critics of globalization lay much more emphasis on its impact on human rights, particularly of the poor people of the developing countries. Their analysis and conclusions are usually based on the fact and figure drawn from international reports and statistics to prove that human rights have been adversely affected of human rights to one or other aspect of globalization, such as relating to poverty in developing countries to debt or relating unemployment to privatization, or relating health deteriorating to the monopoly of medicine patents. Further, they enumerate the aspects of deteriorations in human rights, such as rising poverty and unemployment, the maltreatment of downtrodden and women in sociality rampant child labor illiteracy, high dropout children from school, corruption, non transparent bureaucracy and unaccountable police force all have come to stand out in the light of fruit of globalization in form of acquired and manifested riches of a section of society that has benefited from the opening of economy and privatization .

The advocates of globalization do not deny the fact that in some regions basis human rights are not respected during the past decade but they explain this by the resistance of some countries and peoples to globalization and they claim that globalization must have winners and losers .The loser`s resistance to globalization is attributed to their state of stagnation and rigidity or to their traditional culture or even the nature of their religions which is anti-democratic anti -modernization So both advocates and critics of globalization agree on the fact that human rights are in some way or the other adversely affected by globalization particularly in the developing world. But they differ in their explanation of this fact and hence in their prescription for the remedies .While the advocates prescribe more absorption of peoples and countries in the global system, the critics of globalization prescribes opposition resistance to the hegemony of transnational corporations and the injustice inherent in the globalization process. Who are rights to answer this question? We need to examine the underlying basis assumptions of both the human rights agreements and the globalization agreements, particularly the economic ,which to my mind are contradictory as for as human rights are concerned.

The underlying basis assumption upon which all UN human rights agreements were based government responsibility while globalization basis underlying assumption has been from the very beginning the government`s relief from any responsibility regarding human rights .All human rights agreement were discussed ,negotiated and signed by government and all the declarations were addressed to government who were held responsible for either their implementation or violations .Government were asked to take whatever political ,economic ,social culture and legislative measures to enhance the implementation of human rights in their Countries .All human rights annual reports on the states of human rights in countries of the world published by UN , human rights societies or some countries such as USA held governments responsible for violation of human rights .Governments were assumed to be policy and decision makers for all economic, political and social domain in their countries.

Since the Universal Declaration of human Rights in 1948, many countries of the world, whether in the north or the south succeeded in enhancing the implementation of human rights, particularly in the economic ,social and culture fields simply through policies of

subsidizing food ,housing and services such as health care, transportation ,sanitation ,culture and education . Many countries, particularly in the third world made considerable achievement in the field of the rights to work simply by taking decisions to protect local industries from competition and thus creating job opportunities for their population .However, on the country contrary globalization agreements require government to abide by the global market mechanisms and to follow the advices and instructions of the international agencies such as WHO, IMF and the world bank. So government has to be decision takers rather than decision makers particularly in the economic sphere and they have to make all necessary adjustments and destructuralization in their societal systems. A welfare society involves the concept of social justice wherein the marginalized sections of social and the working class get protection from the state. For the it is pertinent that welfare measures of the state as a matter of policy and strong labor laws for the protection of the working class are in place .Any deviation from such a policy world place these sections in a state of vulnerability of exploitation at the hands of big business. States must meet the challenges of striking the fine balance between the economic interests of the people and forces of globalization.

In this kind of situation the government find themselves in very paradoxical situation .If they try to abide by UN Human rights agreements which they singed, they would be violating the globalization agreement., which they also singed and they would be criticized or even penalized for this violation (by cutting the aids offered to them by international institutions) ,and they try to abide by globalization agreement ,they would be necessarily violating the human rights agreement and would be criticized for that in the human rights and the UN statistics on human development would show them lagging behind in human development programmes.

Hence good government globalization is a reality. One cannot escape its forces .And there is no denying the fact globalization has let to marginalization a large number of already vulnerable sections of society .The challenges before the state is not how to fight globalization but how to manage it with good governance .Government, particularly of the development countries .have been persuaded and even pressured to sacrifice human rights for the sake of globalization.

While human rights have been universalized and internationalized, it is the state that remains the chief authority to implement them. Globalization presents the development world with an opportunity to exploit it by making the good governance a focused affair .Hence building an ethical and sustainable from of globalization is not exclusively a human rights matter, but it must include the recognition of share responsible is shared by all us , individuals , corporation ,state international finance institution and the United Nations. Over sixty years ago, the drafters of the Universal Declaration of human Rights stressed the link between respect for human rights and freedom, justice and peace in the world, and called for just international and social order. What is emerging is the need for globalization as an economic process to be subject to moral and ethical consideration and to respect international legal standards and principals. Only then a desired alignment between framework of international human rights law and that of globalization can be advanced.



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