

Globalization, Pushing Towards a Diseased Pakistan: The Voice of Youth

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Abstract

The present study aims at analyzing the level of awareness of Pakistani youth about the globalization and its impacts, finding out the nature of impact of globalization in Pakistan, discovering the areas in which globalization is diseasing Pakistan the most, finding out the possible reasons for negative impacts and their possible solutions, and suggesting some policy implication for making the situation better. It is a quantitative study in which sample is approached via convenient sampling. Survey method is used in which information is gathered through a questionnaire comprising of both open and closed-ended questions. The sample consists of 25 young citizens of Pakistan with age range of 18-30 years and educational level from 14 to 18 years. The major findings of the study revealed that besides the positive impacts of globalization, it has many negative points which have lead Pakistan towards diseases. These negative impacts include increased human trafficking and poverty and corruption in the leadership of the country which is destroying the self-esteem of its people. The study puts forth the suggestion that once we realize the possible hazards of globalization, we should make ourselves alert and define our reservations on both individual and state level.

Key Words: Globalization, Globalization and Pakistan, Negative Impacts of Globalization

Introduction

Globalization is a complex and a controversial term which has been defined in several different ways. The term can imply different meanings for different people in different situations across the world. Some focus on the economic aspect of it, thus emphasizing the outlook of global economy, while others consider the cultural aspects globalization, and how it affects different aspects of culture. Some also focus on the political side of the phenomenon, yet others associate globalization with the advancement of technology, specifically in terms of transportation and communication. Globalization is all that. However, even a cursory examination of all the sectors and institutions would show that this quite a vague term, and that a wide variety of opinions and thoughts can come under this umbrella (Khan).

No country, rich or poor, has escaped the impact of neoliberal structural adjustments in the age of globalization, including Pakistan's dilemmas of development. With reference to the technocratic development, the ruling class has been complying with the conditionality of International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank (WB) loans. The implementation of Structural Adjustment Programs (SAPs) was supposed to be the upcoming step which had to be followed in the process of planning for development, since long. Most probably they didn't have any other choice, as the country had become highly dependent on foreign aid and economic assistance. By 1980 Pakistan had become the 10th largest recipient of the World Bank/IMF loans. Since, the country had once again become the front line state in the Islamic

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jihād² supported by America, against Soviet communists, and the US and its allied provided direct economic aid to Pakistan for that matter (Gardezi, 2004).

Zafar (2012) says that the policy of the government is to make Pakistan a private sector-driven economy where the government only regulates the affairs. But in Pakistan, the privatization has always been a very controversial thing. It, accompanying mass retrenchment has clearly shown that it is not human development-oriented. It may cut costs but will make the things more badly. Situation has proved the capitalist system is the major force behind increased hunger, wars, unemployment, economic loot and the widespread of the “klashnekoff culture³”. He also argues that Nonetheless, globalization has become a painful thing, instead of controversial, with reference to the developing world. It increased the economic interdependence around the globe. Problem is that the rich countries want access to the markets, resources, and labor forces of the poor countries at the lowest possible price.

“Privatization is nothing more than mercantilism – the opportunity for ruling elite and their cronies to gain control of the public purse, a dominant social theme, making the realization of elite command-and-control goals even more achievable”, says Zafar,(2012).

Pakistan has the potential to develop and become a modern Muslim welfare state without getting any debt or aid because it has abundant natural and human resources. But due to the puppet regimes and face democracy, the potential of people and their desire and struggle to build a strong and real democratic society have always been underestimated and obstructed. Now in Pakistan, faced with neo-liberal policies it is necessary to generate mechanisms of intervention and regulation to stabilize the market prices, set quotas, control imports, monitor dumping and plan and create proper reserves for difficult times at the time of over production (Zafar 2012).

Zulfiqar (2010), argues that the shifts in labor arrangements as a result of contemporary economic, social and spatial restructuring. Globalization has indeed led to the re-organization of intimate relations i.e. re-organization of relations among people, dynamics of intra and inter households, power dynamics, access to and control over resources, decision making, domestic labor, and the responsibilities of monetary contributions. She says that Globalization has undoubtedly brought more women into the economic sphere both in formal and informal sectors and to a large extent has increased their visibility as a massively important stakeholder, but whether it has actually made women equal beneficiaries of the process has to be understood in an in-depth analysis of the layers of complexities around women’s participation in socio-economic spheres and empowerment. This economic and social exposure of women due to globalization seems to have transformed the gendered division of labor, stereotypical organization gender and intimate relations, power relations, and thus it has affected the entire social fabric of societies. Moreover, globalization has also facilitated a shift from the conventional viewpoint of women presence and role confined only in the household i.e. the concept of “Chadar and Chaar Divari”⁴ for women while the public sphere as predominantly for men. She argues that although value and opportunities are available at different stages of the chain but that does not really have positive implications for women’s employment and empowerment as compared to that of men. The apparent relation between women’s economic participation and development is obvious, but a deeper look exposes the kinds of exploitation women are subjected to by certain kinds of economic contribution. A number of women serve in these worldwide production chains, but the wages are extremely low, and the working hours are inhumanely large. Moreover, these working

² War fought by Muslims for the sake of Allah

³ The culture of weapons and violence

⁴ A cultural notion in Pakistan, where women are supposed to be within the four walls of home, and veil

women are also prone to health and environmental risks, but their contribution still remains greatly invisible, unrewarded and unrecognized.

Anwar (2002), says that inept and corrupt leadership is one part of the problem that Pakistan is facing; the temptation and pressures of globalization is the other factor that has had its adverse effects on Pakistan where globalization like a “World Wide Web” has the third world countries tangled in its trap. Pakistan was a priority target for various reasons one of which was its Islamic identity. He says that Benazir Bhutto, in order to hold on to power surrendered to the deals offered by British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to mess up Pakistan’s education system. By this some of the Diploma Mills requested entry in Pakistan to offer degrees bearing foreign names granted as a trade with money, making an illusion that the scholar got the degree after studying in a foreign Institute. This phenomenon has also commercialized the education system making it a business rather than following the traditions of honor and integrity. Thus the ruining of Pakistan’s education system occurred after Margaret Thatcher & Ronald Reagan introduced Globalization sowing the seeds of world domination and planning the control of Energy Resources of the world. They are the ones who taught Pakistani leaders to become rich over-night, following their footsteps; and this has destroyed the education system in Pakistan. After this, the next dilemma happened in Pakistan was the “Policy Plans,” introduced by the brains from Harvard or RAND, which had no purpose except hurting and destabilizing Pakistan in the Science and Technology education sector. The last nail in the coffin of Education was hammered by Musharraf government, after dividing the education system into two categories; one for the elites and brilliants under Higher Education Commission (HEC), and the other, probably the “Lower education” (with no name), under a military person who neither had any idea about the Lower Education, nor about how to correspond with HEC, or in the popular proverbial sense, “where the left hand did not know what the right hand was doing,” and with no regards for the traditional and comparatively sensible approach called the “Bottoms – Up approach.”

Husain (2002) argues that the incidence of poverty in Pakistan has increased during the decade of 1990’s. He says that the economic growth rate has declined from the historical level of six percent to four percent and with population growth rate of around two and a half percent or more, the per capita incomes increase rate has been insignificant.

The poor performance on economic growth is accompanied by rising income inequality and higher rates of open unemployment. The estimated ratio of overall unemployment is above ten percent and that of underemployment is even higher. He says that in an era of advancing globalization, technological revolution and the financial integration of the 1990s has not given any major benefit to Pakistan. The foreign direct investment flows for Pakistan have continued to be invisible in relation to the size of its economy and spurt in information technology has yet just touched the cream of Pakistan. Conversely, we people have increased our external debt burden to a level that is beyond our full servicing capacity. This transmission at the first level takes place through international trade, international capital flows, international labor flows and technological change particularly in information technology (IT) and telecommunications, (Husain, 2002).

Chuang (2006), argues that contrary to the west the general assumption for prostitution is volunteerism, South Asian women are forced or deceived to indulge in prostitution. Women and sometimes children as well, they are trapped into the sex trade by giving them and sometimes their parents, the offers of studying or working abroad. Children are smuggled to the countries that are comparatively rich. A number of runaway children are also prone to such crimes. In other cases the parents are deceived into thinking that that their children will be working in domestic labor in a foreign country with a good pay. Young women often below the age of eighteen tired of living in poverty agree to become sex workers not for fun or any liking but to earn something in order to live and get by. Such

women and children are trafficked from smaller and poor countries to rich and wealthier countries. For instance 40,000 thousand pornographic photos of children mostly from South East Asia are available online. Most often, the migrants below eighteen become a victim of such trafficking networks.

This massive trafficking has resulted in the formation of an ever expanding international enterprise of criminals. One of the major reasons for the increased sex trafficking victims is undoubtedly the effects of globalization which has served to create a massive demand for sex traders and ensured ways to provide ways for the transits of the victims of human and sex trafficking. The threat of sex trafficking can be better understood and solved in a better and easy way if the sex trafficking networks are studied, researched, identified and analyzed on international level. The problem is not local or regional, but global. So the attempts for dismantling the networks of sex trafficking must be made on the global level. On one side, the global markets contribute towards the increased sex trafficking. While on the other hand, advancement in technology such as telecommunication, airplanes, and internet allow such criminals to make a more efficient and broader network that operates from international level down to regional and local level; where international culprits can collide effectively with local criminal groups to successfully facilitate sex trafficking (Chuang, 2006).

Due to the increasing social, cultural, economic and political issues in Pakistan, the need of the hour is to identify the factors behind the rapid increase of problems, and to define and implement some viable solutions to overcome the hazards of globalization. The present study thus aims at making the issues of globalization realized by making the readers aware about it. The study also aims at making the voices and opinions of Pakistani youth, heard.

Methodology

Globalization is pushing Pakistan towards social diseases

Hypothesis

“The negative impacts of Globalization outweigh the Positive ones”.

Objectives

1. To analyze the level of awareness among Pakistani youth about globalization and its impacts.
2. To find out if the overall impact of globalization is negative or positive in Pakistan.
3. To discover the areas in which globalization is diseasing Pakistan the most.
4. To find out the possible reasons for negative impacts and their possible solutions.
5. To suggest policy implications to make the situation better.

Operational Definitions

1. Globalization: In the present study, globalization refers to the process of international integration and interference.
2. Social diseases: In the present study, social diseases refer to the issues being faced by the Pakistani society. These include increased poverty, unemployment, brain drain, human trafficking, etc.

Research Design

The type of research is both Quantitative.

Sample

The sample comprises twenty five male and female young citizens of Pakistan, having fourteen to eighteen years of formal education. Their age range is from twenty five to thirty years. The selected participants were employed earning from 15,000 to 25,000 rupees per

month⁵. The area of study is Rawalpindi and Islamabad, and non-probability convenient sampling technique⁶ was used to select the sample. In the sample, equitable participation of both genders was assured.

Instrument

A questionnaire comprising fifty questions was designed after extensive review of literature and expert consultation. The questionnaire contained both open and close-ended questions.

Procedure

In the present study, the sample was approached via convenient sampling technique. Informed consent was taken of the participants before administering the survey, and the respondents were assured that their personal information and identities would remain confidential and will be used for the purpose of research only.

Results and Discussion

The results shows that majority of the respondents agreed that Pakistan is suffering from the negative impacts of globalization due to “economic misbalance, clear division between the first and third world countries, lack of awareness and misuse of technology. So we can say that all the respondents were aware about globalization and its issues.

Results depicted that most of the respondents agreed that the worst impact of globalization in Pakistan is increased poverty. People also agreed that gender discrimination is also increased by globalization. Two of the respondents did not respond to the question i.e. they were unaware of it but majority of them knew what globalization is all about.

It also shows that majority of the respondents agreed that the foreign policies and Structural Adjustment Programs are badly affecting our country. Ten out of twenty five respondents were unaware about the response but most of the people had some view about the issue.

Respondents agreed that globalization has caused increase in poverty. The reason reported for that is increased class difference and the fact that poor people are getting poorer and rich are getting richer. Six out of twenty five respondents showed no response but majority of the respondents were aware about globalization and its issues. This link between increased poverty and Globalization has also been proved by Husain (2002).

The study findings also have a clear depiction that most of the people agreed that globalization is promoting discriminatory practices in Pakistan. It means that they were aware of the gender discriminatory situation in Pakistan and the phenomenon of globalization as well. Ten out of twenty five respondents showed no response but majority of the people know what globalization is all about.

People agreed that globalization is promoting the existing social structure of gender discrimination due to the fact that people forget the difference between modernization and vulgarity. Six out of twenty five respondents did not responded but majority of the respondents were aware about globalization and its issues.

Respondents also agreed to the statement that globalization has increased the rate of sexual crimes in Pakistan. This shows that all the respondents were aware about globalization and its impacts.

⁵ The study gives the perceptions of middle class youth, with little work experience.

⁶ Convenient sampling technique was used as the researcher could not access the database of entire youth population in Islamabad

Majority of the respondents agreed that globalization is playing a key role in increased human trafficking from Pakistan. Two of the respondents were unaware, but majority of them were aware about globalization and its issues.

In view of most of the people globalization has no adverse effects. A few of them said our country is lagging behind in worldwide competition.

Most of them agreed that globalization is causing unemployment and labor exploitation. Eight out of twenty five respondents responded that they were not aware of the issue but most of them knew what globalization is all about.

Thus the analysis shows that most respondents agreed that globalization has impacted our lifestyles positively by giving us improved technologies and luxuries of life.

Results also clearly depict that most of the people agreed that globalization is negatively affecting the leadership in Pakistan due to international pressure on them and increased temptations of luxuries.

Conclusion

The results indicate that the hypothesis, “The negative impacts of Globalization outweigh the Positive ones”, is proved to be true, as most of the findings show that Pakistani youth has realized the potential hazards of globalization, and now the stage has come to overpower these hazards and risks. Hence globalization has proved Pakistan diseased in human trafficking, increased poverty and the temptation for modern luxuries is causing corruption in the leadership of the country which is destroying the self-esteem of its people. Although Pakistanis have the potential to lead Pakistan towards its development but the misuse of human resource of our country is leading it towards globalization’s worst results. One of the main negative impacts that dominate the positive aspects of globalization is outsourcing. The others include weakened relationships due to more and more technological use, clear distinction between first and third world countries and the most importantly lack of awareness. Hence, if we have to follow the policies of other nations, then we should first consider our own needs and demands and should not blindly follow them. Instead of being dependent on the core countries we should make our own long term policies that are acceptable by the majority of population. Also we should not run towards modernization like westerners (who have different economic situation and resources than us) as we do not have enough money to follow their tempting and expensive pace of life.

The research would be beneficial only if influential people realize the issue and take steps to prevent our dear country from the consequences. Some policy implications of the study are that on individual level, we should adopt honesty and fairness in our daily life conduct. Moreover, we should not adopt anything as a fashion globally accepted, rather adaptation is preferably better. And on government level, the hazards of globalization should be realized, and some reservations should be imposed on external interference.

Limitations

1. The study is based on a limited number of respondents.
2. The study is limited to Rawalpindi and Islamabad.

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Annex A

Table 1

Response analysis of “why does Pakistan suffer from the negative impacts of globalization”

<i>S. No</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Responses</i>
1	2	Lack of awareness, over exposure, overt and covert resources involved in it.
2	1	Division between first and third world countries.
3	4	Low literacy rate and unawareness about the consequences of globalization.
4	3	Economic Aspect.
5	2	Division of first and third world countries.
6	4	Economic Aspect.
7	2	Weak family bonding, relationships are ignored due to technology.
8	2	More interaction with machines and less interaction with people.
9	1	Media, Internet, Community work.
10	2	Domination of western development models.
11	1	Lack of technology and education.
12	1	Education, knowledge, cultural differences and communication.

Table 2

Response analysis of “In which area, globalization has diseased Pakistan the most, and why?”

<i>S. No</i>	<i>Response options</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Reasons</i>
1	Sex crimes, prostitution and trafficking	12	It has increased lust in the general public
2	Education	3	People don't know how to utilize their knowledge
3	Poverty	6	Privatization, Poverty increased day by day, Subsistence economy replaced by market consumer economy, Unemployment, People are becoming poorer due to globalization policies
4	Gender Discrimination	4	Decreased participation of women in development, Globalization has increased gender discrimination in Pakistan

Table 3

Response analysis of “Globalization and modernization are interrelated, but why this modernization is not changing the ever, existing pre-occupied mindsets of people regarding gender discrimination in Pakistan”

<i>S. No</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Responses</i>
1	2	People don't understand the difference between modernization and vulgarity
2	1	Globalization policies are reinforcing them indirectly
3	4	Because Pakistanis don't want to change their mindsets
4	3	People are reluctant to adopt change
5	2	People forget their norms and values while encountering modernization
6	1	Gender differences seem to be decreasing but they are actually increasing in terms of increased competition between men and women.
7	3	Increased gaps within and between classes
8	4	Society don't accept women in workplace/ increased sexual harassment
9	2	Modernization is the third form of pre-occupied mindsets
10	3	No Response

Table 4

Response analysis of “How the temptation and pressure of globalization has caused corrupt leadership in Pakistan?”

<i>S. No</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Responses</i>
1	6	Leaders are becoming wealthier by exploiting national interests
2	4	Corruption has become a part of life due to increased temptation of luxuries
3	1	Because leaders want to enhance their living standard due to globalization
4	2	Leaders are not making the correct use of globalization
5	2	Pakistani leaders want to copy international leaders
6	1	No response
7	3	Pakistani leaders are answerable to international entities, they follow their standards
8	2	Bad political environment
9	4	No Response