Impact of Globalization on Indian Society
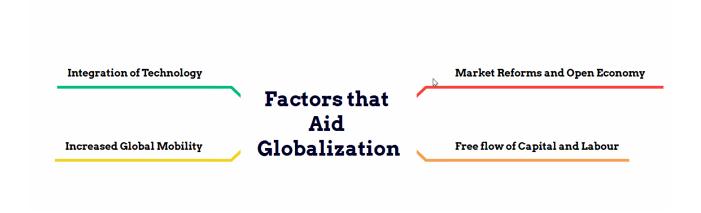
Globalization is a term used to describe how trade and technology have made the world into a **more connected and interdependent place**. It is the process of **interaction and integration** among people, companies, and governments worldwide. Globalization involves the free flow of information, ideas, technologies, goods, services, capital, finance, and people.

Integration of Technology	**Factors that Aid Globalization**	Market Reforms and Open Economy
Increased Global Mobility		Free flow of Capital and Labour

Factors Leading to Globalization

1. **Open Economy**
    a. Since the reform of 1991, India's economy has become more open due to Liberalization and Privatization. This has resulted in increased interaction with global economies.

    b. Stakes of global financial institutions, like IMF and ADB, and the multilateral trade in the Indian economy.

2. **Technological Factors**
    The increasing influx of technology has led to infusion of new skills and job transformation. ICT-enabled communication has lead to increasing consumer choices and expanding economies and interaction. Examples:
    a. *Emergence of Pop Culture and Mass media*
    b. *Globalized e-Commerce, such as Amazon and Ali Baba.*

3. **Enhanced Global Mobility:**

   Improved transport and increased air travel have facilitated the global movement of people and goods. Further, the easing visa regimes and demand of skilled workers, especially in the service sector-based economy.

4. **Flow of Capital:**

   All over the world, there is a general reduction in a general reduction in capital barriers, making it easier for capital to flow between different economies. Liberal FDI regime, increasing ease of convertibility, and remittance system have led to a smoother to and fro movement of capital.

Globalization and Its impacts on Indian Society

Mind map on Impacts of Globalization

Impact of Globalization on Media:

Media globalization is directly related to technological advancement and economic resources. As a result of this, there is greater access to news, music, movies, and videos from around the world. It has both visible and invisible impacts.

Visible impacts:

- Increased presence of *foreign media houses* in India.
    - Eg: Al Jajira and CNN

- Increasing solidarity with global issues, leading to the *development of a global identity*.
    - LGBTQ+ movement and Pride Parade are becoming visible in India.
    - Women's movements, such as #MeToo.

- India emerging as a market of *global media culture.*
    - Hollywood movies are being covered in Indian media.
    - India-centric characters are being designed. Eg: Pavitra Prabhakar, an Indian born Spiderman.

- Behavioral changes, such as use of *common slang and dressing patterns* in our everyday lifestyle.

Invisible Impacts:

Such impacts are psychological in nature.

- Altering consumption pattern.
- Acceptance of dating culture.
- Aggressive behavior and Gun culture.

Impact on Tribals

As per the census of 2011, Tribal people constitute 8.6% of the nation's total population. India is home to over 104 million Tribal people. Tribal life is dictated by the forest and access to it. Forest rights in India are the biggest piece of legislation that governs the ways of the tribes. Despite the constitutional and statutory protection, tribals lead a hard life.

Increasing globalization and new state perceptions of utilization of resources are diametrically opposed to the Tribal world view of resource exploitation and this has impacted the tribal life in many ways.

Positive Impacts:

- ***Increased Accessibility:*** Globalization has led to increased interaction and integration of the tribal community with the mainland. This is leading to increased access to
    - To healthcare, both primary and secondary
    - Nearby educational institutes.

- ***Increasing income opportunities:*** Globalization has led to increased employment in industries, and market integration, leading to improved income and livelihoods. Further, tourism has emerged as a significant area of Tribal income. Tribal products are reaching to new masses and in the hands of new consumers.
    - ***TRIFED led marketing*** making it easier for tribal artisans to sell their goods.
    - Increased demand for forest and organic food products, such as ***Organic Honey***.

- ***Promoting Indigenous Culture:*** It has facilitated the recognition and promotion of indigenous cultures, traditions, and arts on a global platform:
    - Tribal Festivals are celebrated and given media coverage, within India and outside India as well. Eg: The Great Hornbill Festival.

    - Indigenous artwork is crossing borders. Eg: Indian PM gifted a tribal shawl to delegates at G20.

Amazon to sell tribal products from Trifed on global marketplace

- ***Other Positive impacts:***
    - Access to Information and communication infrastructure.
        Internet connectivity and mobile infra.
    - Improved advocacy and support for tribal rights.
    - Solidarity at global level.

Negative Impacts of Globalization on Tribes:

- ***Forest Resource Exploitation:*** Globalization has led to the increased extraction of natural resources from tribal territories.
    - Vedanta's mining in Andhra and Odisha.

- **Prioritizing wealth over tribal interest:**
    - Economic development projects benefiting external investors while disregarding the well-being and rights of tribal communities.
    - The implementation of the Forest Rights Act has been flimsy.
    - ***BALCO land in Chhattisgarh,*** originally belonging to tribes, was sold to private entities at throwaway prices of ***20rs per acre.***

- **Changes in Social Life:** The ethos of globalization has not only impacted the socio-economic conditions of tribal people but their cultural status also.
    - Loss of indigenous tribal identity.
    - Reduced interest in tribal music and culture.
    - Displacement from their ancestral land.
    - increasing crime rates.

It is visible that tribals have benefited less and negatively affected more due to globalization and modernization. The impetus is on the government to maintain the balance between ancient culture and modern practices and do the necessary.

Impact on Environment

Globalization has a huge impact on the environment both in positive and negative ways. Globalization helped to increase the major environmental damage that we are facing.

Negative impacts of Globalization on environment:

- **Carbon Emissions:**
  Globalized trade increases carbon emissions from shipping, air travel, and long-distance transportation of goods.
  - E.g., importing **goods from distant countries** to meet consumer demands leads to increased emissions from transportation.

- **Deforestation and Habitat Loss:**
  Global demand for commodities like timber, soy, and palm oil drives deforestation and habitat loss in regions with rich biodiversity.
  - E.g., the expansion of **palm oil plantations in Southeast Asia** has led to extensive deforestation and the loss of critical ecosystems.

- **Pollution and Waste**
  The export of electronic waste from developed to developing countries for recycling often leads to improper disposal and pollution.
  - India itself is the **3rd biggest producer of e-waste**, most of which gets dumped into the oceans.

- **Overconsumption of Resources:**
  Globalization and increased trade have fueled a culture of consumerism, leading to higher resource consumption.

- **Loss of Cultural Diversity:**
  Globalization can lead to the **homogenization of culture**s, eroding traditional practices and knowledge that are **often environmentally sustainable**.

However, despite the obvious negatives, Globalization is also helping nations in sustainable development. Therefore, there are some positive aspects of globalization on the environment:

Globalization will work better for Planet Earth than its alternative

- **Role in Resource Distribution:**
  - The materials and resources are not evenly distributed globally.
  - Globalization allows for the efficient sourcing and trading of resources from areas with abundant supply to areas with high demand.
    - E.g., Lithium, sourced from Australia and Chile, is made available globally and used in EV.

- **Technological Innovation:**
  - Globalization promotes the exchange of knowledge, ideas, and technological advancements across borders.
    - E.g., Sharing of R&D in renewable energy *technologies like solar panels* and wind turbines has *accelerated their deploymen*t and reduced costs globally.

- **Access to Financing:**
  - Globalization allows for cross-border financial flows, making it easier for countries to access the necessary capital and investment for decarbonization projects.
    - E.g., the *global carbon credit trading* mechanism

- **Scalability and Economies of Scale:**
  - Globalization enables the establishment of global supply chains, allowing for large-scale manufacturing and distribution of renewable energy technologies.
    - E.g., Tesla company's Giga factory for the manufacture of EV batteries in China, Australia and the USA

- **Knowledge Sharing and Policy Alignment:**
  - Globalization facilitates the sharing of best practices, expertise, and policy frameworks among countries.
    - India itself has shown the way using formation of ISA and CDRI.

Global warming is the most important concern for every country. Renewable energy is touted to be the solution for tackling challenges of Global warming and Globalization can help in making such energy accessible to all.

Impact on Education

Globalization and education then c*ome to affect one another through mutual goals* of preparing young people for successful futures during which their nations will grow increasingly connected. As education serves as a ***foundation to global stability,*** the development of ***multicultural awareness from an early age*** may integrate ideologies sourced from various societies in order to ***arrive at well-balanced conclusions*** regarding issues that surround the world as a whole.

Positive impacts:

- **Use of technology has addressed the problem of 4A'Q (awareness, accessability, availability, affordability).**
- **Created competition which has led to positive revival of education system.**

- Globalization breaks the **boundaries of space and time.** This has lead to increased access to avenues of learning:
    - ***MIT OpenCourseWare,*** Stanford, and IITs offering free MOOC.

- Developing a holistic understanding of society with **refined pedagogy and improved curriculum.**

- Further, in a Globalized world, i*nterdisciplinary research approaches* are seen as critical to achieving a more comprehensive understanding the complex reality currently facing the world.
- Creation of new employment and skills, leading to an economy based around education system.

- Mobility of students across borders is leading to increased understanding of cultures and developing a Global identity.
    - This is closer to Indian vision of ***Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam.***

- Globalization encourages e*xplorations, experimentation to push the frontiers* of the potential of information technologies and communications for more effective learning.
    - During the Covid crisis, ***software like Zoom were massively enhanced***, so as to make education continuous, despite the stopping of economy.

- The inherent gender bias in the education is being recognized and stripped away, even though gradually.

- Globalized education has led to women's empowerment significantly. Women have gained certain opportunities for job options.

Negative Impacts:

- The **cost of education** has gone up significantly due to the influx of ICT.

- Existing divides in India, such as Rural-Urban divide and North-South divide are getting magnified:
  - During Covid, Rural Children did not have the same access to internet and suffered 2 years of poor schooling.

- The education system faces the challenge of diluting the country's **unique cultural heritage**.

- Globalization emphasized **standardized education systems**, which have not aligned with India's diverse cultural, linguistic, and regional contexts. This has resulted in increased marginalization and increased wedges in Indian society.

- Lack of value based education.

- Globalization => increased competition => survival of fittest => alienation of students from education system => education is no longer an end but a means to attain goals.

- Privatization of education and preference of English language and competitive screening has made the education system elitist.

Conclusion:

Globalization often emphasizes standardized education systems, which may not align with India's diverse cultural, linguistic, and regional contexts. The need is to dilute its negative impacts, making a broader system of education accessible to all.

Impact on Women

Globalization and education have impacted the lives of the women worldwide, including those in India. However, the impacts are skewed and therefore, we can see both the positive and the negative impacts on women.

Positive impacts:

- **Economic:**
  - Increased employment opportunities.
  - Improved opportunities in White Colored jobs.
  - Women have got access to multiple streams of raising credits.

- **Social**
  - increased social and life choices, from clothing to food lifestyle.
  - Enhanced self-confidence
  - Watered down the boundaries of patriarchy.
  - Participation in the decision-making process, even within the household.
  - The outmigration of men left women in charge of the household.

- **Health**
  - Awareness and access to healthcare choices including reproductive healthcare.
  - Decline in child mortality and child marriage, due to improved literacy.

Negative impacts:

- **Economic:**
  - *Feminization of agriculture* as Globalization and urbanization are happening parallelly, leaving women as a labor force in agriculture.
  - The divide between the economic choices of urban and rural women is rising.
  - *Dual-burden* of household and working place.

  - Loss of employment in the traditional sector, due to rise in mechanization:
    Handloom and food processing have undergone changes

- **Social**
  - Amplified gender disparities in terms of resources, time allocation, access to opportunities, and decision-making power, further exacerbating existing inequalities.
    Eg: Women in the household get less time on their smartphones.

  - Patriarchy has appeared in a new shape:
    Bank details of working women are kept with male members.

- Sexual objectification of women in advertising and poor working conditions in garment factories, leading to the *commodification of women.*

- Influx in pornographic content and therefore the rise of sexual crimes against women.

- **Gender Inequality in New Shape:**
  - Women do two thirds of the world's work, *receive ten percent of world's income* and *own one percent of the means of production*.

  - 96% of female workers are in the unorganized sector.

  - Exposed to more and more risks that cause health hazards and are forced to endure greater levels of physical and mental stress.

  - With rising opportunities, women are more exposed to sexual harassment at the workplace.

  - Rise in commercial Surrogacy has made India the [unofficial surrogacy hub of the world. Read this article in Times of India on Surrogacy](#)

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LIFESTYLE

Commercialization of surrogacy in India: The effects of globalisation

January 24, 2023, 8:51 PM IST / Dr Tapan Panda and Sonal Muluk in Voices, Lifestyle, TOI

Globalization provides opportunities and challenges for women in India, with the need to address patriarchal mindsets and rising crimes against women to ensure equal opportunities and empowerment.

Impact on Elderly

As a result of globalization, the elderly often face unique challenges and opportunities. Understanding these effects is crucial for ensuring the well-being and inclusivity of the elderly population in the globalized era.

Positive impacts:

- *Healthcare:*
  - Globalisation has decreased costs and increased access to new health care technology.
  - Average life expectancy and treatment facilities have become more accessible.

- **Communication and Social Relations:**
  - The rapid growth in communication technologies has made the world a small place. Elderly can easily connect with their relatives and kids, using a video call, even if the children are not staying with them physically.

  - The rising trend of making the elderly a part of social media life is making them involved more and more in the lives of their children.

- *Earning:*
  - 18 million India living outside send money to their parents at Home to improve their quality of life.
  - Increasing income levels means that people can invest in pension plans and healthcare plans for elderly members.

Negative Impacts:

- *Increasing Nuclear Families and Impact:*
  The cumulative implications of globalization, industrialization and urbanization have imparted irreversible change to the structure of families in India:
  - Migration patterns resulting from globalization may separate elderly individuals from their families
  - Fallouts of disintegration of joint families such as separation from grand kids.
  - Unclear roles in a fast-changing world
  - The problem is aggravated when parents are economically dependent on children.

- *Increasing Generation divide:*
  - Changing socio-cultural aspects are making them hard to adjust to new social realities, such as dating culture and social media.
  - Erosion of traditional customs and rituals that are meaningful to the elderly, such as ***touching feet of elderly in the morning***.

- ***Isolation and Rejection***
  - ○ With improved education, rapid technological changes and modernization have rendered their knowledge obsolete. This is leading to a sense of rejection.
    - Eg: The traditional handloom business, run through generations, are suddenly obsolete.

Conclusion: Even though the rapidly changing technology is the story of Globalization, elders have formal, technical and tacit skills which they've accumulated through long service. They can also help younger ones find pathways into secure and well-paid work through mentoring and job sharing. Thus globalization and India both needs to be attentive to the needs of elderly in changing world.

Impact on Indian Middle Class:

KOF BULLETIN · WORLD ECONOMY

Globalisation and Its Impact on the Middle Class

A new study shows that globalisation has diminished the income share of the middle class. <mark>Even the poorer parts of the population saw their income shares decline</mark>, while the shares of high incomes has risen. This effect is driven by developments in transition and developing countries.

Positive impacts:

- **Economic:**
  - Employment opportunities have seen a rise due to growth of the service-based economy.
  - Average income levels have gone up leading to higher pay scales.
- Improved standard of living, even in the Indian tier 3 and tier 4 towns.

- **Social:**
  - ○ Middle-income countries have seen a migration to western countries due to demand of skilled workforce and education-based employment.
  - ○ Rise in urbanization leading to erosion of rural and traditional lifestyle. India's urban population is set to rise to 40% as per UNDESA by 2050.

- Rural middle class has got access to White Goods. This is also leading to rural inequalities, giving birth the phenomenon of *'Two Indias'.*
- The traditional taboos of Inter caste and inter religion marriages have been broken more often than the pre-PLG era.

- ***Political***
  - Rise of a cosmopolitan culture in Indian middle class, where they are connecting themselves to the global movements and happenings.
  - The middle class is politically more aware, but it has failed to rise as a pressure group in policy making and decision making.

Negative Impacts:

- New Indian middle class is detached from Indian roots, hence rising problem about old age people. There is a spurt in the **Old Age homes.**

- Changing family structure due to increased economic activities has taken a toll on the way families are raised. Not only nuclear families are rising, but there is a new style of parenting *called i-Pad parenting*.

- Even though middle class is learning to discard caste inequality, but **class inequality** is still prevailing but also rising.

- Middle class is showing the **highest rise in consumer culture**, such as electronic gadgets.

Extra Read: A year of discontent for the middle castes | Mint (livemint.com)