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IASBABA

[GLOBALIZATION & ISSUES-GS 1]

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Globalization: Process, Effects and Issues

Note- This document will help more in Essay and Mains

Indian economy had experienced major policy changes in early 1990s. The new economic reform, popularly known as, *Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization* (LPG model) aimed at making the Indian economy as fastest growing economy and globally competitive. The series of reforms undertaken with respect to industrial sector, trade as well as financial sector aimed at making the economy more efficient. With the onset of reforms to liberalize the Indian economy in July of 1991, a new chapter has dawned for India and her billion plus population.

This era of reforms has also ushered in a remarkable change in the Indian mindset, as it deviates from the traditional values held since Independence in 1947, such as self-reliance and socialistic policies of economic development, which mainly due to the inward looking restrictive form of governance, resulted in the isolation, overall backwardness and inefficiency of the economy, amongst a host of other problems. This, despite the fact that India has always had the potential to be on the fast track to prosperity.

Globalization has many meanings depending on the context. Though the precise definition of globalization is still unavailable a few definitions are worth viewing

Guy Brainbant: says that the process of globalization not only includes opening up of world trade, development of advanced means of communication, internationalization of financial markets, growing importance of MNCs, population migrations and more generally increased mobility of persons, goods, capital, data and ideas but also infections, diseases and pollution.

The term globalization refers to the integration of economies of the world through uninhibited trade and financial flows, as also through mutual exchange of technology and knowledge. Ideally, it also contains free inter-country movement of labor.

In context to India, this implies opening up the economy to foreign investment by providing facilities to foreign companies to invest in different fields of economic activity in India, removing constraints and obstacles to the entry of MNCs in India, allowing Indian companies to enter into foreign collaborations and also encouraging them to set up joint ventures abroad; carrying out massive import liberalization programs by switching over from quantitative restrictions to tariffs and import duties, therefore globalization has been identified with the policy reforms of 1991 in India.

Globalisation can be seen as a positive, negative or even marginal process. And regardless of whether it works for good or ill, globalisation's exact meaning will continue to be the subject of debate among those who oppose, support or simply observe it.

Few Definitions

The aim of globalisation is to secure socio- economic integration and development of all the people of the world through a free flow of goods, services, information, knowledge and people across all boundaries.
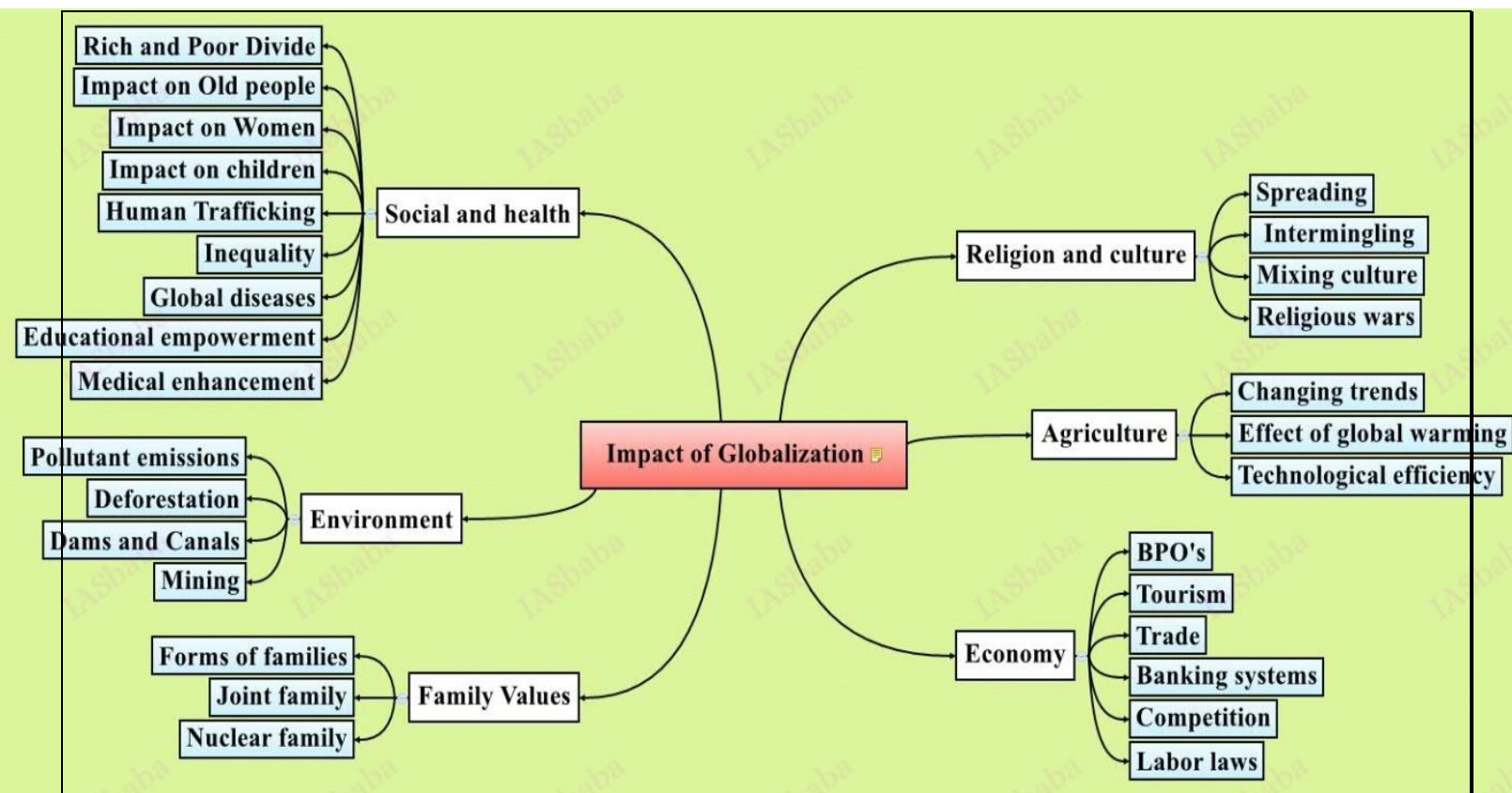
Globalisation is seen as a conscious and active process of expanding business and trade across the borders of all the states. It stands for expanding cross-border facilities and economic linkages. This is to be done with a view to secure an integration of economic interests and activities of the people living in all parts of the world. The objective of making the world a truly inter-related, inter-dependent, developed global village governs the on-going process of globalisation.

Globalisation is the concept of securing real social economic, political and cultural transformation of the world into a real global community. It is considered to be the essential means for securing sustainable development of all the people of the world.

"Globalisation represents the desire to move from national to a global sphere of economic and political activity". It seeks to transform the existing international economic system into a unified system of global economics. In the existing system, national economies are the major players. In the new system, the globalized economic and political activity will ensure sustainable development for the whole world.

"Globalisation is both an active process of corporate expansion across borders and a structure of cross border facilities and economic linkages that has been steadily growing and changing." —Edward S. Herman

"Globalisation is the process whereby social relations acquire relatively distance-less and borderless qualities." —Baylis and Smith

A mind map titled "Impact of Globalization" with the following branches:

- **Social and health**: Rich and Poor Divide, Impact on Old people, Impact on Women, Impact on children, Human Trafficking, Inequality, Global diseases, Educational empowerment, Medical enhancement
- **Environment**: Pollutant emissions, Deforestation, Dams and Canals, Mining
- **Family Values**: Forms of families, Joint family, Nuclear family
- **Religion and culture**: Spreading, Intermingling, Mixing culture, Religious wars
- **Agriculture**: Changing trends, Effect of global warming, Technological efficiency
- **Economy**: BPO's, Tourism, Trade, Banking systems, Competition, Labor laws

Advent of New Economic Policy -

After suffering a huge financial and economic crisis Dr. Man Mohan Singh brought a new policy which is known as Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization Policy (LPG Policy) also known as New Economic Policy, 1991 as it was a measure to come out of the crisis that was going on at that time.

The following measures were taken to liberalize and globalize the economy:

1. Devaluation: To solve the balance of payment problem Indian currency were devaluated by 18 to 19%.
2. Disinvestment: To make the LPG model smooth many of the public sectors were sold to the private sector.
3. Allowing Foreign Direct Investment (FDI): FDI was allowed in a wide range of sectors such as Insurance and defense industries etc
4. NRI Scheme: The facilities which were available to foreign investors were also given to NRI's.

The New Economic Policy (NEP-1991) introduced changes in the areas of trade policies, monetary & financial policies, fiscal & budgetary policies, and pricing & institutional reforms.

The salient features of NEP-1991 are (i) liberalization (internal and external), (ii) extending privatization, (iii) redirecting scarce Public Sector Resources to Areas where the private sector is unlikely to enter, (iv) globalization of economy, and (v) market friendly state.

Consequences of Globalization:

The implications of globalization for a national economy are many. Globalisation has intensified interdependence and competition between economies in the world market. This is reflected in Interdependence in regard to trading in goods and services and in movement of capital. As a result, domestic, economic developments are not determined entirely by domestic policies and market conditions. Rather, they are influenced by both domestic and international policies and economic conditions. It is thus clear that a globalising economy, while formulating and evaluating its domestic policy cannot afford to ignore the possible actions and reactions of policies and developments in the rest of the world. This constrained the policy option available to the government which implies loss of policy autonomy to some extent, in decision-making at the national level.

Now for Further analysis we take up Impact of Globalization on various sector of Indian Economy.

• **Impact of Globalization on Agricultural Sector:**

Agricultural Sector is the mainstay of the rural Indian economy around which socio-economic privileges and deprivations revolve and any change in its structure is likely to have a corresponding impact on the existing pattern of Social equity.

General consequences of globalization on Indian agriculture-

With the operationalization of the provisions of the World Trade Organization, the process of globalization commenced in the major parts of the world. There has always been an air of confusion among the members and non-members of the WTO in assessing the pros and cons of globalization on the health of their economy. The sector which has created the highest number of deliberations in the WTO as well as views and counterviews has been the agriculture, an area of utmost concern for the developed and the developing world alike. India is no exception to it. Better say it has been among few countries in the world spear-heading the campaign against the biased provisions of the WTO concerning agriculture.

Following are some positive consequences of globalization on Indian agriculture.

Positive Consequences

1) Availability of modern Agro- technologies

2) Rise in production and productivity

3) Growth of National Income

4) New areas employment

While exporting agricultural products it is necessary to classify the products, its standardization and processing, packing etc. Therefore, after LPG the agro allied industries has created employment in various sector like packing, exporting, standardizing, processing, transportation and cold storage etc. The industries depending on agriculture are stored and it made an increase in employments. Agriculture is the biggest unorganized sector of the Indian economy accounting for more than 90% share in the total unorganized labour force.

5) Agriculture as a prime moving force

The growth of agricultural sector in India has correspondent relation with industrial growth and national income in India. It is assumed that 1% increase in the agricultural growth leads to 0.5% increase in the industrial output and 0.7% increase in the national income in India. Especially after LPG the agricultural sector in India is developing rapidly. As a result, the government of India announced agriculture as the prime moving force of the Indian economy in 2002.

6) Rise in the share in trade

Because of the conditions of WTO all of the countries get the same opportunities, so there is an increase in the export of agricultural products. According to data provided by World Bank, India's share in exports (goods and services) rose from 0.54%in 1990 to 0.67% within five years after globalization took place i.e. up to 1999. Indian exports rose by 103% during the same period.

7) Growth of Agro exports

8) Reduction in poverty

It is also true that globalization is commonly characterized as increasing the gap between the rich and the poor, but it is a matter of looking at poverty in relative terms. India's prior concern is to remove poverty, which is worse than death, and if India makes efforts, globalization can be a key to get rid of it. Moreover, the percentage of people below the poverty line has been decreasing progressively, from 36 percent in 1993-94 to 21.9 percent in 2011-12.

These are some positive consequences of globalization on Indian agriculture. But as far as a developing country like India is concerned the negative consequences are proved as more effective. These are as follows.

Negative Consequences

1) Vicious debt trap and farmers suicides

2) Migration of labours

3) Lower income of rural farmers

4) Lessening international competitiveness

In India 60% of population depend on agriculture. This pressure on agriculture is increasing day by day because of the increasing population. Because of marginal land holding the production cost of Indian farmers is higher as well as the quality and standardization of agro produce is much neglected. Along with this, the curtailment in subsidies and grants has weakened the agricultural sector. On the contrary before the reduction in grants by WTO, developed countries had distributed grants on large scale. They had grown the amount of the grants on large scales in agriculture during 1988-1994. So they have not to face many difficulties if there is a reduction in grants. On this background the farmers are not in a position to compete international market.

5) Abnormal hike in Fertilizers and Pesticide prices

Immediately after globalization Indian rupee was devaluate by 25% and Indian crops became very cheap and attractive in the global market, which led Indian farmer for export and encouraged them to shift from growing a mixture of traditional crops to export oriented 'cash crops' like chilli, cotton and tobacco. These need far more inputs of pesticides, fertilizers and water than the traditional crops require. It automatically increased Fertilizer and pesticide prices by 300%.

6) Electricity tariffs have also been increased

Pre liberalization, subsidized electricity policy helped farmers to keep the costs of production low. The electricity costs increased dramatically when farmers turned to the cultivation of cash crops, which needed more water, hence, more water pumps were needed and there was higher consumption of electricity.

7) Fall in agricultural employment

In 1951, agriculture provided employment to 72 per cent of the population and contributed 59 per cent of the gross domestic product. However, by 2001 the population depending upon agriculture came to 58 per cent whereas the share of agriculture in the GDP went down drastically to 24 per cent and further to 22 per cent in 2006-07. And this has even come down to below 18% in present time. This has resulted in a lowering the per capita income of the farmers and increasing the rural indebtedness.

An overview of Indian agricultural sector indicates that globalization did not yield the desired results in India. It has marginally contributing in minimizing poverty, and removing social inequalities. The desired objectives of this process have not been achieved in India. As far agricultural sector is concerned we have seen mixed results in the country. It is clear with the study that agriculture plays key role in the economy. Agriculture employees 60% of Indian population, yet it contribution varies only from 15 to 20% of the GDP. After adoption globalization in 1991 Indian agriculture growth rate increase but at present the economic condition of the farmers is not satisfactory because input cost is high and output cost is low. Cut off of subsidies are hindering growth of agricultural sector.

In the words of Gamani Corea, former Secretary- General, UNCTAD, *"Globalization instead of being an equalizing process, has only widened the gap between the two in terms of monopoly in science and technology, flow of capital, access to natural resources, communication and nuclear armament"*

- **Impact of Globalization on Industrial Sector:**

Effects of Globalization on Indian Industry started when the government opened the country's markets to foreign investments in the early 1990s. Globalization of the Indian Industry took place in its various sectors such as steel, pharmaceutical, petroleum, chemical, textile, cement, retail, and BPO.

The benefits of the effects of globalization in the Indian Industry are that many foreign companies set up industries in India, especially in the pharmaceutical, BPO, petroleum, manufacturing, and chemical sectors and this helped to provide employment to many people in the country. This helped reduce the level of unemployment and poverty in the country. Also the benefit of the Effects of Globalization on Indian Industry are that the foreign companies brought in highly advanced technology with them and this helped to make the Indian Industry more technologically advanced.

The negative Effects of Globalization on Indian Industry are that with the coming of technology the number of labor required decreased and this resulted in many people being removed from their jobs. This happened mainly in the pharmaceutical, chemical, manufacturing, and cement industries.

Remember

- Ease of Doing Business increasing
- Tourism industry growth
- MNCs coming in various sectors
- Rapid Urbanization→More Infrastructural need

- Indian Companies investing abroad in Oil Exploration, Joint Ventures and vice versa
- Special Economic Zones

• **Impact on Financial Sector:**

Reforms of the financial sector constitute the most important component of India's programme towards economic liberalization. The recent economic liberalization measures have opened the door to foreign competitors to enter into our domestic market. Innovation has become a must for survival. Financial intermediaries have come out of their traditional approach and they are ready to assume more credit risks. As a consequence, many innovations have taken place in the global financial sectors which have its own impact on the domestic sector also. The emergences of various financial institutions and regulatory bodies have transformed the financial services sector from being a conservative industry to a very dynamic one.

In this process this sector is facing a number of challenges. In this changed context, the financial services industry in India has to play a very positive and dynamic role in the years to come by offering many innovative products to suit the varied requirements of the millions of prospective investors spread throughout the country.

Remember

- More confidence in India since 2008 Economic Crisis
- More accountable and regulated framework, example SEBI control
- Competition in Banking Sectors increased- More services to consumers
- More streamlined online banking services

Note- Economic aspects will be covered in detail under LPG Module of Economy

• **Advantages of Globalization:**
  1. There is an International market for companies and for consumers there is a wider range of products to choose from.
  2. Increase in flow of investments from developed countries to developing countries, which can be used for economic reconstruction.
  3. Greater and faster flow of information between countries and greater cultural interaction has helped to overcome cultural barriers.
  4. Technological development has resulted in reverse brain drain in developing countries.

- **Demerits of Globalization (Challenges):**
  1. The outsourcing of jobs to developing countries has resulted in loss of jobs in developed countries.
  2. There is a greater threat of spread of communicable diseases.
  3. There is an underlying threat of multinational corporations with immense power ruling the globe.
  4. For smaller developing nations at the receiving end, it could indirectly lead to a subtle form of colonization.
  5. The number of rural landless families increased from 35 % in 1987 to 45 % in 1999, further to 55% in 2005. The farmers are dying of starvation or suicide.

Note: Remember the trend and range more than actual facts.

Cultural Impact of Globalization

Language:	
Positive impact:	**Negative impact:**
Many people in India became bilingual or multilingual than before.	Some languages have become extinct. Of the 380 languages spoken in India, 96% are endangered.
Prominence of English as a language increased and importance of many regional languages decreased.	Traditional knowledge that is expressed in the languages that are becoming extinct is getting unutilized.
Increased knowledge of English has led to emigration in search of better jobs and life standards.	Many patents are filed internationally which is already mentioned in our traditional literature.

Music, Dance and Entertainment:	
Positive impact:	**Negative impact.**
a. Many foreign musical instruments flooded Indian market.	a. The penetration of global pop music has marginalized the traditional Indian music.
b. Foreign movies became widely available in Indian markets.	b. There is an increase in tendency of playing western songs and pop music during marriage functions, birthday celebrations, engagements etc.
c. Indian classical music has gained worldwide recognition	
d. Fusing western music with Indian traditional music is encouraged among musicians	c. Many Folk and tribal music is nearing extinction though the Government is taking steps to preserve it.
e. Many foreigners are learning Indian dance forms	d. One can see in India that inhibitions have been diluted because of the advent of media and the medium of entertainment. This has also naturally had some effect on the old cultural values with the focus now being on consumerism and success.
f. like Bharatanatyam while many Indians are getting attracted to foreign dance forms like salsa, hip-hop etc.	

Food and Dress	
Positive impact	**Negative impact:**
a. Many dresses of foreign brands are available in Indian local markets. Dressing style, costumes, etc of Indians changed due to globalization b. Male and female dresses distinction is getting blurred. c. Food and dress habits are internationalized Pizzas, burgers, Chinese foods, and other western foods have become quite popular. d. Fusion of Indo western clothing is the latest trend. Ex: wearing western jeans and Indian pyjama or kurtha. e. A distinct change in life-styles with rapid adaptation to worldwide trends.	a. Our traditional food and dress habits are getting changed generation after generation. b. Due to intake of western and fast foods there is a threat of non-communicable diseases like obesity, hyper tension, cardio vascular diseases etc.

Education:	
Positive impact	**Negative impact**
a. Foreign universities tie up with Indian universities increased. b. Literacy rate has increased c. Scientific and technological innovations have made life comfortable, pleasant and enjoyable. d. Extension of internet facilities to rural e. areas and thus increasing awareness in rural youth. f. Increased access to better and qualitative education. g. The choices for the children increased as there are many streams in education to pursue. h. Extensive use of information communication technology.	a. Education became commercialized, it is seen as a profitable enterprise now. b. Pressure on children increased by parents, teachers, peers to get succeed in education which is essential to compete in this globalized world c. Education is measured in the number of degrees a person holds rather than the useful knowledge he gained.

Globalization unleashed a new social force which broke the traditional social interaction patterns and in its place new social relationships were established. The major social impacts can be summarized as follows.

1. The free flow of Information both general and commercial.
2. Globalization has through greater exposure liberalized our attitudes, reduced our biases and predispositions about people, situations and communities worldwide.
3. The advent of Information, Communication Technologies (ICT), Nations have built greater awareness of themselves and the other countries and cultures of the world.
4. One can see in India that inhibitions have been diluted because of the advent of media and the medium of entertainment. This has also naturally had some effect on the old cultural values with the focus now being on consumerism and success.
5. The experience in India is of relevance because of the greater cultural diversity between states and the economic divide between the urban and rural areas of India.
6. There has been a tremendous increase in consumerism, for goods and services whether necessary or perceived. A distinct change in life-styles with rapid adaptation to worldwide trends.

Impact (analysis) of Globalization on India- With Reference to The Tribal Communities

- Globalization is a "process of trans-nationalization of production and capital, and standardization of consumer tastes and their legitimization with the help of international institutions like World Bank, IMF and WTO and therefore obviously the process is a move towards a borderless regime of free trade and transactions based on competition".
- Land and forest are exploited in the name of development that fundamentally altered the tribal way of life. Due to rapid growth prospects in terms of monetary benefits land has become a saleable private property. It is also seen that the region which is traditionally inhabited by the tribes now inhabited by non-tribals which resulted into tribals becoming a minority in their own region. The benefits of large scale expansion of industries and infrastructure, never reaches these tribals and what they get in return is nothing but peanuts in the name of benefit
- In case of employment, it is seen that the employment opportunities are being denied to them or they are employed on considerably lower wages by violating settled labour norms,

hence overall so-called development of Tribal region had deleterious effect on Tribal population however ironically Tribal people themselves seen as hindrance to the development and their traditional socio-economic and cultural systems are blamed.

o Tribals always represented by media as backward, ignorant, and superstitious. Hence, the emphasis has been on introducing alien cultural values and alien institutions with an idea that it would help them to take advantages of fruits of development however this approach resulted into gross failure and soon it was understood that development would be more effective if it is in conformity with traditional values and cultural norms of Tribals.

o In order to initiate the eco-socio friendly projects, it is inevitable to include Tribals in them because without their inclusion conservationary approach of industrial projects would not succeed. Considering the government approach since 1947 it can be concluded that in the name of development Government arbitrarily have been acquiring lands without considering the fate of people who displaced due to various development projects. It is estimated that owing to construction of over 1500 major irrigation development projects since independence, over 16 million people were displaced from their villages, of which about 40 per cent belong to tribal population.

The government and the planners are aware of

o The eroding resource base and socio-cultural heritage of tribal population through a combination of development interventions, commercial interest, and lack of effective legal protection to tribal and,

o The disruption of life and environment of tribal population owing to unimaginative, insensitive package of relief. Still the development process continued unmindful of displacement. There is no reliable and complete information on the number of Tribals displaced in the country since independence. The estimates range between 5 and 7 million - mostly by the dams, followed by mines and industries - or approximately one in every ten Tribals has been displaced by different developments projects.

o The impact of globalization is harshest on tribal population perhaps more than any other because these communities have no voice and are therefore easily swept aside by the invisible hands of the market and its operators. The process of globalization has made disastrous changes in the lives of indigenous people across the world, though the degree of exploitation and marginalization vary from state to state and tribal group to group. The removal of import restrictions has seen the market flooded with imported agrarian produce. Which has literally crushed local agricultural market hence also affected the rural population including tribal population whose livelihood depend upon agriculture and allied activities.

Effects of Globalization on Indian Women

o It's true that we are in the midst of a great revolution in the history of women. We see the evidence everywhere; the voice of women is increasingly heard in Parliament, courts and in the streets. While women in the West had to fight for over a century to get some of their basic rights, like the right to vote, the Constitution of India gave women equal rights with men from the beginning. Unfortunately, women in the country are mostly unaware of their rights because of illiteracy and the oppressive tradition. Names like Kalpana Chawla: The Indian born, who fought her way up into NASA and was the first women in space, and Indira Gandhi: The Iron Woman of India was the Prime Minister of the Nation, Beauty Queens like Aishwarya Rai and Susmita Sen, and Mother Teresa are not really a representative of the condition of millions of Indian women.

o The Constitution of India guarantees equality of sexes and in fact grants special favors to women. These can be found in three articles (Article 14, Article 15 (3) and Articles 15 (A)(e). All these are fundamental rights. Therefore, a woman can go to the court if one is subjected to any discrimination. The most important issues stand as those pertaining to marriage, children, abortion, crimes against women, and inheritance. Crimes like rape, kidnapping, eve teasing and indecent exposure can be grouped as crimes against women.

o India, a country where women are becoming more prominent yet with increasing numbers, women are fighting long-standing prejudices. Women still faces enormous pressure to conform to social mores - conforming to traditional roles within families poses as much of a barrier to businesswomen in India as the still-too-thick glass ceiling at companies. Though women have made great strides in the corporate world in the last three decades, women from all income classes are still too often discouraged by family members from having careers that infringe too much on family life.

Changing role in work

o Globalization has undermined the traditional role of women in homemaking, farming, livestock, animal husbandry, handicrafts, handlooms etc and resulted in a relatively better environment for women. Women have more jobs, become more active in avenues generally reserved for men, have played a more prominent role in society and not just restricted to the household. It has affected both the quantity and the quality of work available to the majority of women in India.

Changing role in Family, Marriage, Caste

o Globalisation has posed a major challenge to the institution of patriarchy in India. As women take up jobs and achieve social mobility, they have also begun to stand up for their rights. As nuclear families have become more common, it has become easier for women to

assertively claim their rights and ask for equality in an environment not stuck in ancient mores. Marrying within the same caste has become less important, and women have in many cases reserved the right to marry whoever they choose irrespective of caste. As countries come closer, and boundaries disappear in the globalised world, women in India are inspired by women the world over to fight for their rights. Of course, there are some notable exceptions to the above generalisations. But, to a large extent, these changes have received a great push from the new era of globalisation.

Positive Effects of Globalization:

- Globalization has opened up broader communication lines and brought more companies as well as different worldwide organizations into India. This provides opportunities for not only working men, but also women, who are becoming a larger part of the workforce. With new jobs for women, there are opportunities for higher pay, which raises self-confidence and brings about independence. This, in turn, can promote equality between the sexes, something that Indian women have been struggling with their entire lives. Globalization has the power to uproot the traditional views towards women so they can take an equal stance in society.

- Women in the urban settings have become more independent and self-sufficient. The lower middle class is experiencing a shift in the way family relations worked. Traditionally women stayed at home taking care of domestic needs and children. Now most of the women are setting out of their private spaces to earn a living. Globalization has created certain needs based on capitalist sentiments. Advertising everyday reinforces new needs and creates a vicarious lust for more and more consumer good in the masses. This has resulted in families desiring more household income to be able to afford these items. Therefore, the women need to work and contribute to the household income to afford a certain lifestyle

- The Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) in India is a union of women laborers willing to work hard and seize any work opportunities they might get. Globalization has aided their opportunities in various ways. SEWA has established a Women's Cooperative Bank with 125,000 members, and through the aid of globalization, they have even reached the women in the rural areas of India. Markets in different areas can now be reached by Indian women who have a part in businesses, or by craft-making women who have licenses to export their goods. With more freedoms and opportunities, these women are raising their standard of living by generating more income.

- Technology that may seem out-dated to the United States is viewed as modern technology to India. With the aid of satellites and computers, SEWA has been able to reach more women to share self-help knowledge. Even the telephone is advancement

to many women in their business ventures. After one of the SEWA women took out a loan of four dollars to buy a telephone, her income was increased because she could reach more people.

Remember

- Prospects of higher and quality education have become feasible for those women who can afford them, economically and socially.
- Employment in technological and other advanced sectors, which have global bearing, has opened up for suitably qualified women.
- With changing attitude towards women, especially in the urban areas, women enjoy more egalitarian set of gender relationship.
- Augmentation of women's movements through exposures at the international level will help bring about major changes in the economic, social and political lives of women.
- Reduction in gender inequalities will have positive effect on women's empowerment in the socio-economic context.
- Attitudinal changes towards women's role in the family due to good education, benefits of family planning and health care, child care, good job opportunities etc. will surely help in the development of more confident and healthy women.
- Positive approach to economic and cultural migration will facilitate women to be exposed to better prospects at the international level.

FEW EXAMPLES:

✓ One of the SEWA women, Mauna Dave, has made tremendous advancements and is sharing her knowledge of the global world and economy with other Indian women so they can establish a better life for themselves. Dave attributes the skills she has obtained to SEWA since she had the opportunity to speak and listen to other women in this organization. This UNIFEM Social Responsibility Award recipient is the director of Kutchcraft, which is an association of 110 craftswomen's groups with over 6,000 employees. She helped organize the craftswomen into an empowered group that have obtained bargaining power to compete in the international market. Dave said that some of the most difficult challenges are to keep current on the global economy and the fast-paced changes in India itself. Globalization has helped her and other Indian women share ideas and network in the international markets (UNIFEM).

✓ The effect has a lot to do with liberalization. Globalization has given women a stronger voice. People are more vocal of women's rights. Women are more vocal. There has been a noticeable change in what women can do and what their opportunities are. The

government has done more advertising (TV and radio commercials) portraying women in leadership roles.

✓ Different non-profit organizations have been brought to India from around the globe. These organizations have given women the skills they need to advance, such as literacy and vocational skills. One organization, Indiacorps, has brought in a range of programs to help women help themselves. One program in Ahmedabad, India has taught poor women how to create different crafts to generate income. With this program, women are able to earn their own personal money and enable the children to attend school instead of having to work to make more money. The women also gain business skills that inform them about career opportunities.

✓ The women in rural settings have been influenced by globalization through media and through numerous intervention programs –non-profit organizations- that are constantly investing in women's issues in big way. These NGOs are creating awareness and proposing ways of change. The women are increasingly empowered and stronger than before. This change is not universal and does not happen in any particular pattern. Hence, we can observe pockets of changes due to efforts of a few. We need more such interventions and investments so that this work can continue.

✓ Media can be viewed as a positive aspect of globalization. Media has the opportunity to reach people, and convey a message to people all over the world. A magazine called Femina is the top women's magazine for Indian women. It was launched in 1959 and since it showcased its website in 1996, it has received much feedback from Indians all over the world.

Negative Effects of Globalization:

- Globalization has had negative implications for Indian women. Their plights are similar to those of women in other developing regions such as Africa and Asia. Globalization has made many international corporations richer by the billions. However, what most people are not aware of is that women in these developing countries are suffering enormously due to this expansion of corporate empires. According to estimates from World Development Indicators, "Women work two-thirds of the world's working hours, produce half of the world's food, but earn only ten percent of the world's income, and own less than one percent of the world's property.'.

- According to Vandana Shiva, and Indian economist and scholar, globalization along with the support of organizations such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, have created slave wages. These wages are not necessarily the result of "unjust" societies, but of the fact that global trade devalues the worth of people's lives and work. While globalization has brought jobs to rural, developing countries such as India where there was previously no employment, these jobs seem to be wolves in sheep's clothing.

The work available to women is almost always poorly paid, mentally and physically unhealthy, demeaning, or insecure.

- Women are suffering two fold. As women in developing countries move into the work force, their domestic responsibilities are not alleviated. Women work two full time jobs. One in a factory, where they are paid next to nothing, the second is in the home where they are paid nothing. According to Merlin A. Taber and Sushma Batra, editors of the book Social Strains of Globalization in India, development for poor women has meant the migration of men to cities, higher prices for commodities, poorer job opportunities. "The mixture of corporate capitalism and Western culture models is dissolving family and community social controls as witnessed by higher rates of family violence, rape, divorce, and family breakdown."

- One example of women's labor being exploited would be the Noida Export Processing Zone, These "zones" prefer to hire women because they are "more docile and more productive than men." In short, they are easier to control and less likely to retaliate against less than ideal working conditions, which are exactly what thousands of women encounter 12 hours a day. The zone is dangerous, hot, and unsanitary. Unnecessary body searches are routine. There are no maternity benefits and minimum wage is never enforced. Women who become pregnant or marry are immediately fired. Overtime is compulsory but women are paid lower rates than men. In order to avoid being fired, women turn to unsafe abortions performed by unqualified "doctors." In the zone, "respiratory problems, pelvic inflammatory disease, and sever cases of dehydration and anemia are common."

- Globalization has increased the number of low paid, part time and exploitative jobs for women. Increased prices due to open economy demand more cope up with changes from women. With increasing nuclear families, the older women's life has become pitiable, sometimes spending their later days in old age homes and isolation. The feminization of population has further aggravated this problem. Similarly, male migration from rural areas to urban centres has put the women under triple burden of home making, farming and job in rural sector. At the same time, migration of women for economic reasons has led to increased exploitation including sexual exploitation and trafficking.

Women's Contribution to the Economy:

Although most women in India work and contribute to the economy in one form or another, much of their work is not documented or accounted for in official statistics. Women plough fields and harvest crops while working on farms, women weave and make handicrafts while working in household industries, women sell food and gather wood while working in the informal sector. Additionally, women are traditionally responsible for the daily household chores (e.g., cooking, fetching water, and looking after children). Since Indian culture hinders women's access to jobs in stores, factories and the public sector, the informal sector is particularly important for women. There are estimates that over 90 percent of workingwomen are involved in the informal sector.

The informal sector includes jobs such as domestic servant, small trader, artisan, or field laborer on a family farm. Most of these jobs are unskilled and low paying and do not provide benefits to the worker. More importantly, however, cultural practices vary from region to region. Though it is a broad generalization, North India tends to be more patriarchal and feudal than South India. Women in northern India have more restrictions placed on their behavior, thereby restricting their access to work. Southern India tends to be more egalitarian, women have relatively more freedom, and women have a more prominent presence in society. Cultural restrictions however are changing, and women are freer to participate in the formal economy, though the shortage of jobs throughout the country contributes to low female employment. But in the recent years, conditions of working women in India have improved considerably. More and more women find themselves in positions of respect and prestige; more and more workplaces are now populated with women who work on equal terms as men. Working is no longer an adjustment, a mere necessity; but a means to self-worth and growth.

Women have now not only found their place in work places but are also voiving their part in governance. In recent years there have been explicit moves to increase women's political participation. Women have been given representation in the Panchayati Raj system as a sign of political empowerment. There are many elected women representatives at the village council level. At the central and state levels too women are progressively making a difference. Today we have woman as President of India and few women Chief Ministers in large states of India. The Women's reservation policy bill is slated to further strengthen political participation.

The visible faces of Women in Army, Navy and Air Force succinctly summarize their valuable presence and role in the present society.

The impact of globalization on women in agriculture:

"Agriculture and allied sectors contributes below 20 percent of India's GDP and accounts for more than 50 per cent of employment. Nearly 63 per cent of all economically active men are engaged in agriculture, compared to 78 per cent of women. In the three rice-growing states of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, women provide more than 2/3 of the inputs including transplanting, weeding, manuring and fertilizing, harvesting, threshing, winnowing, drying, stacking and carrying produce. In the tribal economy of Orissa, women spent 105.4 hours per year on shifting cultivation compared with 50.11 by the men. In the Himalayas, a research study found that where a pair of bullocks works 1,064 hours and a man for 1,212 hours a year, a woman works 3,485 hours a year on a one-hectare farm. A woman on an average works for 640 hours for agricultural operations like weeding, 384 hours for irrigation, 650 hours for transporting manure, 557 hours for sowing, 984 hours for threshing and harvesting."

Women's double burden - working long hours in the field as well as attending to household chores like cooking and collecting water and fuel for the day - is often taken for granted.

The impact of globalization on women in informal sectors:

The emergence of a global market, with its associated policies of privatization, "stabilization", and liberalization, has led to the setting up of smaller new industries with highly flexible organization and simple infrastructure in developing countries. Closely related to this "in formalization" of work is the feminization of work. Labor-intensive industries move to developing countries where women are the preferred labor force, because they can be hired at a low wage. Jobs become available for women, but only as unorganized laborers with no right to form unions or fight for their basic rights: the situation of women working in the garment industry is a case in point. Low-skilled jobs with low wages, long hours of work and lack of job security are typical of the feminization of labor in unorganized sectors. The state generally supports the management and ignores any violation of the labor laws.

It is clear that the women are being exploited, but they may not raise their voices - not even against the sexual harassment they may face in the work place.

Impact of Globalization on Children

Every child is a clear reflection of the environment in which he or she is being brought up. Home and school form the first learning centres along with the society and people at large with whom they interact on a daily basis. Both family and school are in turn influenced by the values, laws, customs and policies prevalent in the society. As latter are the first to get impacted by the globalisation so the effect trickles down to children via multiple sources.

To put things in perspective, India, as is the case with most of the other developing countries, has a comparative advantage in agriculture and allied sectors (on a relative basis to other sectors of the economy). Integration into international markets has led to volatility in the market prices of agricultural products. Trade liberalisation has contributed to an increase in exports, employment and wages in the agricultural sector. Increased earning opportunities have distorted the labour markets in the past, leading to a surge in demand for child labourers and thus child labour.

An alternate argument in favour of globalisation is that improvements in earnings opportunities can reduce child labour due to increased parental earnings. Increased parental earnings serve as a substitute for the child's income. Hence, globalisation can help parents in poor households stop child labour.

However, there is a caveat here. Globalisation has not resulted in intended gains in a country like India that is encumbered with pressing socio-economic challenges like poverty, illiteracy and income inequality. Regardless of the long-term benefits, short term challenges due to increased exposure to foreign competition, has inarguably turned globalisation into a bane than a boon, for majority of the poor households in India. This has certainly not helped the child labour situation in India.

Globalisation has also increased the ability of rich countries to influence policy in the world's poorer nations and increased child exploitation sharply. Poor nations are dependent on foreign markets for trade (exports) and this has led to policy being dictated by rich countries, directly or indirectly.

Try to write pointers under given headings on impact of globalisationo on Children (both positive and negative)

- **Education**
- **Life-style**
- **Modern Technology**

THINK!!

- Do a comparison on Urban vs Rural Children based on impact of globalization on both

Impact of Globalization on Older People

Globalization simply means interaction of nations and its people in the form of products, services, cultural aspects and knowledge. It has created a significant impact on the aging population of the world. According to the United Nations, all the people who are 65 years old and above, are termed as **Aged people**. The aging population has less value in the demographic dividends. But with new reforms and cutting edge technology, our bureaucracy and corporate world are on the verge of effectively solving the problems of the aged population.

Globalization brought new opportunities for procurement of medical facilities and medicines and increased competition among stakeholders. This is one of the major benefits to the old age as healthcare has become more efficient with increase in competition. The treatments are now available at doorstep for many ailments. The technological advancements have given shape to many devices which can help the aged people who are little aware gauge their own body condition. Average life expectancy and health has increased because of improvement in technology, medical facilities, and living standards.

Second thing is the emergence of internet during the early nineties. Due to internet, tasks such as online voting, e-banking, digital currency and shopping became possible. It was only due to internet that the problem of physical inability was solved. Knowledge sharing has helped elder people to form self-help groups related to particular problems. With the help of these groups it became possible to integrate and interact in a more mature way. Social media sites have solved the problem of loneliness for aged people.

Third thing is a pension sector. This sector has become more integrated due to globalization. Countries across the world have introduced pension reforms which have helped elder people. Due to nuclear families particularly in developing and developed countries, the problem of isolation and degrading respect has become stronger. Men specially aged one find themselves isolated which leads to various psychological problems. These problems give rise to various health hazards specially blood pressure and diabetes.

Dignity and self-respect is important for ageing population. Due to migration of families, the problem of dependence on younger ones has increased. This dependence has restricted ageing population to less resources and opportunities. However, globalization has helped them to procure this self-respect in the form of global audience. People can now interact in a more free way than they used to 20 years earlier. People are able to find opportunities which feed their need for self-respect.

On the positive note, the people now have become more economically prosperous because of better employment opportunities across the world; and due to this they are able to save more for their old age.

The cumulative implications of globalization, industrialization and urbanization have imparted irreversible change into the structure of families in India. With more and more nuclear families, young people leave their aged parents in faraway places in search of employment opportunities and better living standards. This has resulted in isolation, rejection and loneliness of aged persons leading to psychological distress; and the crimes against older people.

The result of disintegration of the joint families and ever increasing influence of modernization is that care of the elderly has emerged as an important issue in the country.

The problems of aged people can be solved if we can integrate resources, increase means of communication and finally impart social values in younger population. If we could prepare ourselves in advance for the possible problems related to aged population then we can certainly tackle the side effects of globalization on ageing population.

'Older people's poverty is still not a core concern in the social, economic and ethical debates of our time. Their right to development is routinely denied, with ageing seen as a minority interest or case for special pleading. Poverty and social exclusion remain the main stumbling blocks to the realisation of the human rights of older people worldwide.'

The globalization of aging will have dramatic effects on local, regional, and global economies. Most significantly, financial expenditures, labor supply, and total savings will be affected. Changes in the age structures of societies also affect total levels of labor force participation in society, because the likelihood that an individual will be in the labor force varies systematically by age. Concurrently, global population aging is projected to lead to lower proportions of the population in the labor force in highly industrialized nations, threatening both productivity and the ability to support an aging population.

Regionalism: Causes, Forms and Issues

The general meaning of regionalism is the attachment to a particular region. The feeling of regionalism produces more allegiance and love for one's own region as compared to one's country. Regionalism can be defined as a multi-dimensional phenomenon in terms of its components like geographical, historic-cultural, economic, politico-administrative and psychic. It has both positive and negative dimension. In positive term regionalism embodies quest for self-identity and self-fulfillment on the part of the people of an area. In negative terms, regionalism reflects a psyche of relative deprivation on the part of people of an area not always viable in terms of rational economic analysis. It is also believed that deprivation is deliberately inflicted by the powers that leads to acuteness of feeling on those who carry the psyche of deprivation. The factor of geographical boundaries to which the people of an area usually relate their quest of a regional identity also differentiates in degree if not in kind.

Causes:

- Geographical factors: In India, some of its area is isolated from other regions because of the geographical condition. Due to this reason, the emotional unity among the people living in these regions and the people living in other parts of India could not be developed.

- Religious factors: Religious factors play great role in constituting the feeling of regionalism among people.

- Influence of caste: When the people of a particular caste get concentrated in a particular region of the country, there is possibility of the development of regionalism.

- Lack of means of communication: It has contributed to the development of regionalism in India.

- Lack of balanced progress or regional economic inequality: It has been seen that due to having sufficient resources, some areas of India has become more progressive in compare to other. The people inhabiting the backward areas automatically fill themselves with the feeling of Regionalism.

- Political factors: The impact of political factors in the development of regionalism cannot be ignored.

- Role of regional parties: It is seen that the regional political Parties preach and spread regionalism and instigate the regional feelings in order to strengthen their base and to realize their ambition of capturing power.

Under the given headings, jot down the points coming to your mind that explains the impact on regionalism

- Low rate of economic growth:
- Socio-economic and political organisation of states:
- Lower level of infrastructural facilities in backward states:
- Low level of social expenditure by states on education, health and sanitation:
- Political and administration failure:

THINK!

- "Son of the soil" Doctrine

Forms of Regionalism in India: The following are the main forms of regionalism in India or it has got manifested in the following forms:

- Demand or succession from Indian union: The demand for succession from the Indian Union is the worst form of regionalism.
- Demand of separate statehood: It is the second form of regionalism. In India, this demand was made for the first time for the formation of separate state Andhra Pradesh, which was accepted in 1953.
- Demand for full statehood: In India, Most of the Union Territories were not in favour of 14th amendment of the constitution. Therefore, as consequence, the Union territories of Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Tripura, Meghalaya and Goa were granted the status of full statehood. Telangana Movement started way back in 60's and led to the formation of 29th State of India.
- Inter-state disputes: Today, many states are making demands for the merger of territory of belonging to other states and for just division of river waters.
- Examples includes Khalistan movement, Bodoland demand in Assam, Attacks on North Indians by MNS in Maharashtra etc. are examples of growing regionalism

Impact of Regionalism on Politics

- The feeling of regionalism has produced the feeling of separatism among the people living in different parts of India.
- Regionalism has given birth to violent movements which are targeted against the non-local people. Physical harm, damaging the properties and shops is one of the major threads of such movements.
- The People living in the backward regions of India are demanding separate states. eg: creation of Jharkhand from Bihar and Telangana from Andhra Pradesh
- The people living in different states allege that center is not taking any special interest in the development of their state, and thus the discrimination is being made with them.
- Due to high feeling of regionalism, several regional political parties have come into existence and they give priority to regional interests over the national interests.
- The impact of politics of movements is increasing in India day by day. People living in different parts of India launch movements from time to time to attract the attention of the central government. For example: Theory of the sons of the soil: For example: Maharashtra for Maharastrians, Bengal for Bengalies etc.

Suggestions to minimize the effect of regionalism:

- Efforts for the balanced progress of different states, every state no matter how remotely located must get a fair share in India's development story.
- Activities of the separatists should be dealt with stringent measures.
- Establishment of Autonomous Commissions to settle Inter-state Disputes. This will make the whole adjudication process impartial and will give legitimacy to the process.
- Balanced Division of Powers between Centre and the States
- Right type of education, textbooks and school curriculum must be scrutinized to make sure that regional Chauvinist ideas are not promoted in the schools.
- Development of Secular Politics, states must be given sufficient autonomy to formulate and implement developmental plants which can be augmented with the national policies.
- Redress of the grievance of the Minorities, redressal should be genuine, timely and effective as minority feeling along with regional feelings can be a dangerous combination for the peace and development.

Communalism

Communalism, like most ideologies, is a school of thought shared by a specific group of people. Specifically, communalism is the shared belief within a particular culture that promotes religious and secular isolation from another group. In other words, communalism is a form of segregation, only it's a segregation that the group being segregated actually chooses. In theory, there are many different reasons a group could become communalist, but typically these groups resort to isolating themselves based on religion.

A communalist group believes that their loyalty should lie within the group that they're a part of above any other loyalty, like nationalism (or loyalty to a country), because their ideals and beliefs don't match those of other groups. Many communalist groups even believe that they're a nation of separate confederacies rather than part of the country in which their members actually reside.

Often, the trouble with communalism is that each group denies the fact that they have more commonalities with other groups than they have differences. This can result in groups becoming hostile to one another, which has given communalism negative connotations. But it's important to remember that it's not always the groups themselves that originally instituted the ideology of communalism. In India, for example, much of the communalism (and resulting inter-group conflict) between the Muslims, Sikhs, Hindus and Christians was initially promoted by the British.

It would be a grave error to conclude that the communal riots are collisions between fanatics over trivial religious issues. For ultimately these riots are only the products of a sustained, seething and continuous discontent within people. Riots are only its sharpest forms but communalism exists to a large extent even in normal times. For in our society a person from his birth is subjected in a conscious or unconscious manner to a daily recipe of hatred towards "the other community". This onslaught of ideology may be through apparently harmless jokes, through textbooks, through media or even through speeches of the politicians.

Many people confuse religious beliefs with communalism. They believe that whenever and wherever more than one religion exists, invariably, communal conflict takes place. This is a false view. One finds in the history of civilization, various religions coexisting peacefully for centuries. Even in India the same trend is witnessed. No doubt during Aurangzeb's rule as well as in the 14th century, there are reports of communal riots. But one does not find any generalised trend of communal riots. For instance, even Shivaji's fight against Aurangzeb was not a Hindu Muslim fight but a fight against expanding Central Authority. In fact, Shivaji had a number of Muslims in his Sena and even his first in commander was a Muslim.

Strategy/Corrective measures: The long-term remedy lies;

1. Firstly, in initiating the process of de-communalizing the people at all levels, say, by bringing home to them that communal assumptions are false, by explaining to them the socio-economic and political roots of communalism, and by telling them that what the communalists project as the problems are not the real problems and what they suggest as reme-dies are not the real remedies.

2. Secondly, communalization of the state and of the political elite in power has to be checked because it leads to inaction against communal violence and covert or overt political and ideological support to communalism by the state apparatuses, including the media under state control.

3. Thirdly, the communalization of civil soci-ety also needs to be checked because it leads to more communal riots and other forms of communal violence. People with communal ideas and ideologies pressurize the government to act in a manner which is always against the principle of secularism. The secular state, the secular party in power and the secular power elite many a time succumb to the pressures of these communal people. It is here that intellectuals, political parties and voluntary organizations can be most effective.

4. Fourthly, the role of education, particularly emphasizing on value-oriented education both in schools and colleges/universities, is important in preventing communal feelings. Education based on traditional cultural ideologies can protect the young people from philosophies and ideologies of hate. Particularly harmful in the Indian context has been the role of the teaching of history. Communal interpretation of history, specially of the medieval period, forms the bedrock of communal ideology in India. Teaching of history along scientific lines in educational institutions has to be a basic element in any ideological struggle against communalism.

5. Fifthly, the media can also prove to be significant in preventing communal feelings. Communal press can be banned and legal action can be taken against communal writers.

6. Sixthly, the ideology that economic development, industrializa-tion, growth of capitalism and the growth of the working class would automatically weaken and ultimately eliminate communalism should not be overplayed. This economic reductionist approach of the left parties and organizations like naxalites only increases communal poison. It is not being suggested that modern economic development is not needed in our society

Steps needed to increase the efficiency of Police:

1. The police should be held fully responsible for the control of communal riots. If a concerned officer fails to check violence within 24 hours, he or she should be transferred or suspended.
2. Police should be given specialized training to handle communal riots. In some of the recent riots, more people were killed in police firing than in rioting.
3. Non-lethal rubber bullets and water cannons should be made available to the police.
4. In order to spare innocent lives, policemen with guns must be trained as marksmen. Preventive arrests should be made mandatory.
5. The intelligence machinery must be toned up, and competent and secular officers should be trained in intelligence gathering.
6. Absence of codified guidelines paralyses the administration.
7. There should be refresher training for the entire police force. Honest and impartial police officers must be encouraged to speak and share their experiences and to create peer pressure on the communal officers to act impartially.
8. The police force should also have representation from minority community and Dalits. Riot prevention calls for the screening of recruits for their secular credentials.

The Constitution of India, declares India to be a secular nation, the meaning of which through historical evolution, parliamentary debates and judicial pronouncements has come to mean that that The India State will protect all the religions equally and will take steps to protect and promote the various faiths that have made India their home.

Unlike the Western definition of Secularism which is a negative restriction on the State, in the sense that the Church/religion is completely separated from the activities, i.e., complete separation of the Sacred sphere and the political sphere, Indian constitution puts a positive obligation on the state to protect and promote all the religions of the country, irrespective of the place of origins.

THE WESTERN MODEL OF SECULARISM:

All secular states have one thing in common: they are neither theocratic nor do they establish a religion. However, in most commonly prevalent conceptions, inspired mainly by the American model, separation of religion and state is understood as mutual exclusion: the state will not intervene in the affairs of religion and, in the same manner, religion will not interfere in the affairs of the state. Each has a separate sphere of its own with independent jurisdiction. No policy of the state can have an exclusively religious rationale. No religious classification can be the basis of any public policy. If this happened there is illegitimate intrusion of religion in the state. Similarly, the state cannot aid any religious institution. It cannot give financial support to educational institutions run by religious communities. Nor can it hinder the activities of religious communities, as long as they are within the broad limits set by the law of the land. For example, if a religious institution forbids a woman from becoming a priest, then the state can do little about it. If a religious community excommunicates its dissenters, the state can only be a silent witness. If a particular religion forbids the entry of some of its members in the sanctum of its temple, then the state has no option but to let the matter rest exactly where it is. On this view, religion is a private matter, not a matter of state policy or law.

This common conception interprets freedom and equality in an individualist manner. Liberty is the liberty of individuals. Equality is equality between individuals. There is no scope for the idea that a community has the liberty to follow practices of its own choosing. There is little scope for community-based rights or minority rights. The history of western societies tells us why this is so. Except for the presence of the Jews, most western societies were marked by a great deal of religious homogeneity. Given this fact, they naturally focused on intrareligious domination. While strict separation of the state from the church is emphasized to realize among other things, individual freedom, issues of inter-religious (and therefore of minority rights) equality

are often neglected. Finally, this form of mainstream secularism has no place for the idea of state supported religious reform. This feature follows directly from its understanding that the separation of state from church/ religion entails a relationship of mutual exclusion.

THE INDIAN MODEL OF SECULARISM:

Sometimes it is said that Indian secularism is an imitation of wester n secularism. But a careful reading of our Constitution shows that this is not the case. Indian secularism is fundamentally different from Western secularism.

Indian secularism does not focus only on church-state separation and the idea of inter-religious equality is crucial to the Indian conception. Let us elaborate this further. What makes Indian secularism distinctive? For a start it arose in the context of deep religious diversity that predated the advent of Western modern ideas and nationalism. There was already a culture of inter-religious 'tolerance' in India. However, we must not forget that tolerance is compatible with religious domination. It may allow some space to everyone but such freedom is usually limited. Besides, tolerance allows you to put up with people whom you find deeply repugnant. This is a great virtue if a society is recovering from a major civil war but not in times of peace where people are struggling for equal dignity and respect.

The advent of western modernity brought to the fore hitherto neglected and marginalised notions of equality in Indian thought. It sharpened these ideas and helped us to focus on equality within the community. It also ushered ideas of inter-community equality to replace the notion of hierarchy. Thus Indian secularism took on a distinct form as a result of an interaction between what already existed in a society that had religious diversity and the ideas that came from the west. It resulted in equal focus on intra-religious and interreligious domination. Indian secularism equally opposed the oppression of dalits and women within Hinduism, the discrimination against women within Indian Islam or Christianity, and the possible threats that a majority community might pose to the rights of the minority religious communities. This is its first important difference from mainstream western secularism. Connected to it is the second difference. Indian secularism deals not only with religious freedom of individuals but also with religious freedom of minority communities. Within it, an individual has the right to profess the religion of his or her choice. Likewise, religious minorities also have a right to exist and to maintain their own culture and educational institutions.

A third difference is this. Since a secular state must be concerned equally with intra-religious domination, Indian secularism has made room for and is compatible with the idea of state-supported religious reform. Thus, the Indian constitution bans untouchability. The Indian state has enacted several laws abolishing child marriage and lifting the taboo on inter-caste marriage sanctioned by Hinduism. The question however that arises is: can a state initiate or even support religious reforms and yet be secular? Can a state claim to be secular and not maintain

separation of religion from state? The secular character of the Indian state is established by virtue of the fact that it is neither theocratic nor has it established any one or multiple religions. Beyond that it has adopted a very sophisticated policy in pursuit of religious equality. This allows it either to disengage with religion in American style, or engage with it if required. The Indian state may engage with religion negatively to oppose religious tyranny. This is reflected in such actions as the ban on untouchability. It may also choose a positive mode of engagement. Thus, the Indian Constitution grants all religious minorities the right to establish and maintain their own educational institutions which may receive assistance from the state. All these complex strategies can be adopted by the state to promote the values of peace, freedom and equality.

CONNECTING THE DOTS: Make pointers for these and revise them properly

- **Impact of globalization on unorganized sector**
- **Globalization and its impact on disabled people**
- **How regionalism can give rise to sub-nationalism?**
- **Impact of globalization on Indian Family System**
- **Impact of globalization on social sectors like Education and Health**