The Effects of Globalisation on the Environment in Developing Countries

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“Globalisation” is widely viewed as one of the most dominant topics in today’s world as its appearance in the news media is increasing in frequency. Since the definition of “globalisation” varies among researchers, it is of huge importance to clarify how the term is used in general. Kopp (2020) wrote:” globalization is the spread of products, technology, information, and jobs across national borders and cultures. In economic terms, it describes an interdependence of nations around the globe fostered through free trade.” This definition is intended to capture numerous major effects that globalisation has on developing countries, which are, as suggested by Surbhi S (2020):” the countries with low industrialization and low human development index.” An aspect, which is closely associated with and faces the consequences of globalisation, is the environment. This essay will take into consideration the positives and negatives that globalisation has on the environment in developing countries.

   One of the disadvantages that globalisation brings to the environment in developing countries is a significant decrease in the number of trees. Globalisation has stimulated the national growth especially in developing countries as it causes them to develop their economy, and a useful way of it is to take advantage of lands that have not been used for economic and developing purposes. In some developing countries like Vietnam and Brazil, the environment has been severely affected in consequence of the reduction of forest areas for the construction of buildings, skyscrapers, and making use of wood. According to“Báo động đỏ nạn chặt phá rừng ở Việt Nam” (2018), 155,68 ha of forest areas were destroyed just in the first 9 months in 2017 and the similar case also occurred in Brazil where Amazon rainforest’s area suffered the loss of a million square kilometres in 1978 by virtue of industrial activities. (Butler, 2020). Such a massive number of trees have been cut down every year results in not only the decrease in life’s quality when calamitous disasters occur with increasing frequency like erosion and floods, but also the disappearance of some endangered species in these countries.

   Another drawback that globalisation brings to the environment in developing countries is the prodigious decrease in air quality. It can not be denied that globalisation has given rise to the conspicuous consumption of non-renewable energy with a view to improving life’s quality and expectancy (Pettinger, 2019). Unfortunately, some of which brought a huge number of unwanted consequences, particularly, the developing countries where people’s awareness of the paramount importance of the environment is not very high. For example, in 2010, in the vicinity of 1.2 million premature deaths in China have been attributed to outdoor air pollution (Wong, 2013), and this was also the case in Vietnam 2016, where it has attributed to the deaths from respiratory diseases of more than 60,000 people (“More than 60 000 deaths in Viet Nam each year linked to air pollution,” 2018). Additionally, liberalization of trade and the reduction of barriers to free trade resulted from globalisation have resulted in the burgeoning demand for a sufficient number of products and services all over the world, especially in developing countries. As a result, it has correspondingly galvanized businesses and industries in these nations to increase their production in order to maximise commercial opportunities in the global market, and the sustainability of manufacturing and the intense use of natural resources over a period of time have placed undue strain on the environment in the form of air pollution. This is evident in the situation in which burning coals and the emission of carbon dioxide are occurring. By way of illustration, Yirka (2016), pointed out that “China's consumption of coal has dramatically increased over the past decade and a half, growing from 1.36 billion tons consumed in 2000 to 4.24 tons consumed in 2013 as the country has made huge strides in internal development.”

Apart from being apprehended the obvious culprit behind a number of environmental issues in developing countries, globalisation is, however, believed to have a wide range of beneficial influences on the environment in these countries. One of them is the fact it establishes the interrelationship between countries all over the world, including developed and developing countries, which provides the opportunity for them to assist one another and together solve the global problems, particularly, those related to the environment. This is certainly true in the case of when the environment ministries of Vietnam and Korea have reached an agreement called MOU in 2000, in which these 2 countries will be in cooperation with each other in preserving the environment according to each period (Le, 2018). Moreover, it is indisputable that developing countries are able to manage to gain access to technological advances and development in other countries given the discernible effects of globalisation, which consequently enables them to adopt and enact more practical solutions to overcome the environmental problems that arise. This is exemplified by the model of Vinfast’s electric motorbike in Vietnam made with the support of technology from Bosch and the supply of batteries from LG Chem ( Vinfast.n.d, n.p). This can also be seen in the case of Indonesia when the country shifted the way its produce and consume energy by manufacturing electric vehicles with the major investment of 2 billion dollars from the Toyota group (Huu, 2020). With the adoption of new technology from developed and technological advanced countries due to the impacts of globalisation, developing countries are gradually adopting effective methods for conservating the environment.

In conclusion, globalisation has exerted not only favourable but also adverse impacts on the environment in developing countries. Notwithstanding some advantageous facets of globalisation has on those countries, it remains the case that its environmental problems tend to be perpetuated and can spiral out of control if there are not any restrictions on its rapid pace. After all, it all comes down to the global cooperation of countries that will arrive at some more optimal solutions to come to grips with the problems related to the environment.

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