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Globalization and Environment: Unmasking the Linkages Using Sociological Imagination

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ABSTRACT: Globalization—defined in the online course Global Business as the increased flow of goods, services, capital, people, and ideas across international boundaries—has brought many changes in its wake. While globalization can impact society both positively and negatively, its effect on the environment is primarily negative. Here's a breakdown of how globalization impacts society and the environment and what business leaders can do to reduce negative consequences. The world has become more connected than ever before through the increase in technological advancements and economic integrations. Advanced economies are formed as domestic businesses transform into international ones and further contribute to the spread of technology around the world. There are several benefits of globalization, such as increased international trade and cooperation and less international aggression. Social globalization—the sharing of ideas and information between countries—has led to innovation in the medical, technological, and environmental preservation industries. Additionally, globalization has improved the quality of life in several developing nations. This includes implementing efficient transportation systems and ensuring accessibility to services such as education and healthcare. However, globalization can also have negative effects on society, such as increased income inequality and substandard working conditions in developing countries that produce goods for wealthier nations. Income inequality is directly related to globalization as it further increases the gap between more advanced and developing areas of a nation. As a result, it can also increase the risk of societal violence. Along with its societal effects, globalization has a lasting impact on the environment—and typically not a positive one.

KEYWORDS: globalization, environment, sociological, imagination, linkages, economic, healthcare, society

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Increased Transport of Goods

One of the primary results of globalization is that it opens businesses up to new markets in which they can sell goods and source labor, raw materials, and components.[1,2]

Both of these realities mean finished products travel farther now than ever before—potentially halfway around the globe. In the past, products were more likely to be produced, sold, and consumed more locally. This increased transport of goods can impact the environment in several ways, including:

- Increased emissions: The farther a product travels, the more fuel is consumed, and a greater level of greenhouse gas emissions is produced. According to a report by the International Transport Forum, CO₂ emissions from transport will

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increase 16 percent by 2050. These emissions contribute to pollution, climate change, and ocean acidification around the world and have been shown to significantly impact biodiversity.

- **Habitat destruction:** Transportation—especially when land-based—requires infrastructure like roads and bridges. The development of such infrastructure can lead to issues including habitat loss and pollution. The more ships that travel by sea, the greater the chances for major oil spills or leaks that damage the delicate marine environment.[3,4]
- **Invasive species:** Every shipping container and vessel presents an opportunity for a living organism—from plants to animals to fungus—to hitch a ride to a new location where it can become invasive and grow without checks and balances that might be present in its natural environment.

2. Economic Specialization

One oft-overlooked side effect of globalization is that it allows nations and geographical regions to focus on their economic strengths, content in knowing they can turn to trading partners for goods they don't produce themselves. This economic specialization often boosts productivity and efficiency.

Unfortunately, overspecialization can threaten forest health and lead to serious environmental issues, often in the form of habitat loss, deforestation, or natural resource overuse. A few examples include:[5,6]

- **Illegal deforestation in Brazil** due to an increase in the country's cattle ranching operations, which requires significant land for grazing
- **Overfishing in coastal areas** that include Southeast Asia, which has significantly contributed to reduced fish populations and oceanic pollution
- **Overdependence on cash crops**, such as coffee, cacao, and various fruits, which has contributed to habitat loss, especially in tropical climates

It's worth considering that globalization has allowed some nations to specialize in producing various energy commodities, such as oil, natural gas, and timber. Nations that depend on energy sales to fund a large portion of their national budgets, along with those that note "energy security" as a priority, are more likely to take intervening actions in the market in the form of subsidies or laws that make transitioning to renewable energy more difficult.

The main byproduct of these energy sources comes in the form of greenhouse gas emissions, which significantly contribute to global warming and climate change.[7,8]

3. Decreased Biodiversity

Increased greenhouse gas emissions, ocean acidification, deforestation (and other forms of habitat loss or destruction), climate change, and the introduction of invasive species all work to reduce biodiversity around the globe.

According to the World Wildlife Fund's recent Living Planet Report, the population sizes of all organisms—including mammals, birds, fish, amphibians, and reptiles—have decreased 68 percent since 1970. Latin America and Africa—two rapidly developing regions important to global trade—have seen disproportionate levels of biodiversity loss, especially among environmentally sensitive fish, reptiles, and amphibians.

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While this decrease in biodiversity has many causes, it's widely believed that the issues listed above have contributed in part.[9,10]

4. Increased Awareness

While many of globalization's environmental effects have been negative, its increase has heightened environmental awareness worldwide.

Greater connectivity and higher rates of international travel have made it easier than ever for individuals to see the effects of deforestation, habitat loss, and climate change on the environment. This, in turn, has contributed to new laws, regulations, and processes that limit negative effects.[11,12]

II.DISCUSSION

Globalization has allowed society to enjoy many benefits, including increased global cooperation, reduced risk of global conflict, and lower prices for goods and commodities. Unfortunately, it's also led to serious negative effects on the environment. Because it isn't feasible for globalization to end or reverse, it's likely the situation will worsen until nations, governing bodies, and other organizations are compelled to implement laws and regulations that limit negative effects. Businesses and industries that operate globally have an incentive to take whatever voluntary actions they can to reduce the potential for negative consequences. Doing so can not only give an organization greater control over its initiatives,[13,14] but also be a powerful marketing and communication tool. Investing in renewable energy and packaging, embracing responsible land-use management, and shifting goods production to be closer to the end customer are all viable options businesses can and should consider. The challenge lies in balancing a desire to embrace corporate social responsibility with the need to turn a profit and run a successful business.[15]

"Where globalization means, as it so often does, that the rich and powerful now have new means to further enrich and empower themselves at the cost of the power and weaker, we have a responsibility to protest in the name of universal freedom." - - By Nelson Mandela. Globalization refers to how the world has become more connected economically, politically, socially and culturally over time. Through globalization Trade, ideas, people, technology, disease, services were shared across the world. The standard of living changed; countries became interdependent. The financial status of the developing and under-developing countries increased. The developed countries brought a new era into the lives of people. After World War -I, World War II, The Great Depression, and ending the regime of the Nazi. The United Nations, NATO, International Monetary Fund, World Bank, and other global organisations. These organisations were formed to help to bring peace, stability and economic prosperity to the world. By the globalization IMF, WB helped in cross-border transactions in goods and services, to keep the flow of capital in the international market which helps in the growing economy of the nation, the interdependency of the countries worldwide.[16,17] Globalization is not reversible we need to learn how we change its negative impact and implement them to make our world a happy and prosperous place to live eliminating all environmental, national security and humankind issues. Through this Article, I would like to throw the light on the environmental issue of Globalization.

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III.RESULTS

Globalization - Act of globalizing "; from the noun "global "meaning "About or involving the whole world ", "worldwide "; "universal "(Oxford English Dictionary).[18]

According to the WHO Globalization can be defined as" the increased interconnectedness and interdependence of peoples and countries. It is generally understood to include two interrelated elements: the opening of international borders to increasingly fast flows of goods, services, finance, people, and ideas; and the changes in institutions and policies at national and international levels that facilitate or promote such flows[1]."People are trading goods as long as they have been around. In the 1st century trading of luxury products started from China to the European continent-Rome. They travelled for thousands of miles along the silk road. Trade stopped being regional or local but now it was global. Silk was the most luxurious good, later species were added to the intercontinental trade between Asia and Europe.Many middlemen were involved to get the goods to their destination. Silk Roads were dominated by the two great emperors, most of the time trade was interrupted by the local enemies of Rome or China. Silk Road eventually closed because of the fall of the emperors they were blamed for the closure. But later during the medieval period - (The Mongols) the route was started again. It kept on rising and falling as per the need of the nation[2]. 7th-15th Century- Islam was the new religion spreading in all the direction, the founder of Islam the Prophet Mohammed, was famously a merchant. Muslim traders dominated the Mediterranean and Indian Ocean trade.[19,20] The spices were traded the chief among them were the Cloves, nutmeg, and mace along with silk, they also remained as a luxury product.

15-18th Century- During this period Europe introduced potatoes, chocolate, coffee, and tomatoes to the world.The prices of the species fell. By the end of the 18th century, Great Britain has started to dominate the world through the establishment of the British Empire and their innovation like Steam Engine, Industrial weaving machines, etc.[21,22] The Era of the first industrial revolution started.The 1914 outbreak of World War- I Everything was destroyed war was replaced by trade, countries closed their borders, hundreds of thousands of civilians died as collateral damage. Monetary market breakdown. The global economy got affected. Another world war followed in 1939-1945. By the end of World War II, trade as a percentage of world GDP has fallen to 5%.In the 19th century Through the third industrial revolution world witnessed a huge change in the global market. To move barriers from trade and commerce introduced to the new technology which made communication easier and availability of a product, increase in demand of services, helped underdeveloped and developing country generating employment increased the financial growth of the country. As globalization has its pros and cons depending upon the type of situation of the country.[23,24]

Environmental Issue

It is noticed in most cases that developed countries use the developing countries and underdeveloped countries for their benefits for example, in these countries, the MNC's get cheap labour and availability of resources in abundance so they use them to increase the profit of their company this lead to affect the developed countries because they have skilled labour and which are available to them at the high price so they search for low price labour and make them skilled in the field.As through the globalization we get interdependent to each other so if the financial growth of one country gets affected the other face it as well Globalization has a huge impact on the environment both in positive and negative aspects. But globalization helped to increase the major environmental damage that we are facing. Today some of the national, international policies have been made to reduce the effects of globalization on the environment.[25,26]

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Increased greenhouse gas emission

Climate change is the main environmental problem it has connectivity through the greenhouse gas emission -excessive retention of solar energy in the atmosphere due to accumulation of certain gases, particularly the CO₂. The main source of CO₂ emission is the industrial production, transportation, and the deforestation but they are also considered as the source of development in the 20th century, and particularly in the recent times. Transportation through sea links also increases the chances of oil spills which affects the water bodies and the marine animals 1,000 large fish and small fish die because of sea pollution. The developed countries are the main players of global industrialization and the biggest polluter has the biggest share in the GHG emission example- the United States is responsible for around 20% of global GHG[3]. The Rapid development of the emerging countries over the years has also led to major emitters of GHG. The developing countries heartfully thanks to globalization often putting the environment at the cost of making a profit. The greatest example China whose quench for thirst for energy is unbeatable it opens a new coal-fired power plant every week though, coal is the cheapest and most abundant fossil fuel and the most polluting one. China is considered the world's largest emitter of CO₂ emissions. But it manages drastic renewable energy programs. Countries like India, the US, the UK, and some of the countries are trying to reach 100% renewable energy by 2030. [27,28]

Globalization encourages Deforestation.

Logging and burning of the trees reduce the volume of the CO₂ that plants convert into oxygen. Converting the rainforest/oxygen house into the farmland or to the concrete jungle for the production of the goods and fulfilling the demand in the market by one way or the other almost twice the size of Paris every day is converted into the farmland for the agricultural purpose especially in the developing countries. For instance, in Brazil a few years ago much of its agriculture was export-oriented. Brazilian soy exports to China rocketed from 15,000 to 6 million tonnes.

The poorest region is most affected by global warming. By 2060, drought could render 90 million hectares in sub-Saharan Africa sterile. Some 1.8 billion people could lack water in the next 70 years. Central Asia, northern China, and the Andes are, particularly at risk.

Global warming is also one of the causes of an increase in the number of natural disasters such as hurricanes, storms, floods, and earthquakes, melting of glaciers increasing the sea level. Parts of the coastal region are in the utmost danger. Due to the temperature rise the living species may disappear in the nearby time such as penguins, snow leopards, Dolphins, Whales, Polar Bear is declared as endangered species. It feels bad to know this beautiful creature has to pay for their life's just because of human activities and will leave an indelible marking of the world's ecosystem. [29]

Increase of fishing in the water bodies

Overfishing has emphasized the oceans of some fish species. Overfishing is done due to the rise in the global demand not just for consumption but for medicinal use also. Mediterranean bluefin tuna has met the same fate, delicacy in Japan is threatened with extinction from overfishing. In Denmark on Faroe Island, 1400 dolphins have been killed hunting of dolphins and whales have increased on this island earlier they use to hunt dolphins for their consumption but now illegal marketing has increased the hunting. According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), 22% of the world's mammals are threatened with extinction, as well as 24% of the world's snake species 31% of the world's amphibians, and 35% of the world's bird[4].

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Flora is also at great risk

The rising demand for exotic raw materials and farm products is affordable to consumers at a reasonable price in developed countries. Rising demand slowly decreases the availability of the plants. The demand for teak wood for the furniture and the other high quality of wood is on the list of the threatened species category. The increasing need for paper leading the way for deforestation, urbanization is also a reason which led to wiping out the flora and fauna from the earth's surface. Forest in Latin America and Sub-Saharan Africa are also being ravaged. As total damages to the ecosystem would result in an annual loss of USD 68 Billion to the world economy.[30]

IV.CONCLUSIONS

The World wildlife fund for nature (WWF) predicts that by 2030 if nothing changes the humanity will exhaust annually twice the resource produced by the planet every year. Globalization has a great effect on our lifestyle. It has made our life faster easy access to technology, improved innovation, and communication, it has also brought people of different cultures together. Apart from the cross border through which the countries developed, it led to a strong economic channel for the state. This also led to great concern for the environment because every good thing comes with some negative impact. Also due to globalization world came together which led to an increase in demand for the product as to fulfil those demands production needs to be done in a short period. The most impacted element was the natural resource because it takes time to form a natural resource. But in a short period, it gets consumed so the scarcity or we can say, some species have listed in the endangered species considered as rare consumption in huge demand has seriously impacted the ecological cycle.[30]

Earlier people use to consume those products which were available to them locally but globalization as brought people closer they share their culture, food, traditions. The demand for the product from the international border increased which led to an increase in transportation. The amount of fuel which is consumed for global transportation causes pollution and cause noise and air pollution, as well as to make a way for huge cargos with the shortest route has impacted the landscape of some continent. To avoid traffic in such route several other routes are constructed. Transportation also stressed the need for a non-renewable sources of energy i.e., gasoline. The gases released from the aircraft also led to the depletion of the ozone layer apart from the increasing greenhouse effect[5].

All the industrial wastage is either dumped in the ocean or the soil. That release harmful chemicals make the land infertile, Barren to grow crops or plants. The underwater organism gets killed the major example, is oil which is spilt from the leaking containers or the pipelines is harmful and which is very difficult to clean.

Recent scenario from September 2012

The Gulf of Mexico is covered with a tangle of pipes, wells, and other energy infrastructure, many of them are no longer used, as a result of generation of oil extraction from these unused pipelines, the oil spilt which was used by Talos, the former holder of which was on the offshore lease in the area. Coast Guard are asked to clean the spill but when the investigation was conducted and questioned Talos they stated that the spilt pipeline was not owed by them[6].

In July 2012, the oil tanker MV Wakashio reported to be carrying 4,000 metric tons of oil, ran aground on a coral reef on the island of Mauritius's south coast, 1000 metric tons of fuel leaked from the cracked vessel into the Indian ocean which led polluting surrounding beaches and lagoons. In another case, the huge diesel oil spill in Russia's Arctic north polluted a large freshwater lake and risk to arctic ocean up to 12 miles. These types of disasters are huge risks in this modern times.[7]

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Plastic is the major toxic pollutant as it is the non-biodegradable product it is immensely used for packaging and preserving goods that are to be exported this lead to increase in plastic use and cause environmental pollution.

Globalization is all about competition and sustainment. Private companies should start using eco-friendly techniques which is economically feasible. MNC's play a role in social, cultural & political issues; the growing trend of MNC's has led the international law to think about CSR- Corporate Social Responsibility the most important aspect of CSR is the environmental issue. In the case of environmental damages, they should be responsible for it and should compensate for such damages.

The corporation has adopted an Environmental Management System (EMS) that requires informed consensus on environmental management objectives and policies that are based on the good understanding and the roles & responsibilities of the players including the polluters and the affected community. As to prevent the unfavourable environmental problem different laws are enacted but the implementation of these laws is poor. MNC's considered environment management a trend so includes it in their annual reports but the meaningful approach has not been taken[8].

Coca-Cola case:

A plant in Uttar Pradesh has been shut down because they were extracting too much groundwater for their bottling plant. It was directed to them the water you extracted twice of which should be treated as depleting the groundwater. Uttar Pradesh pollution control board ordered the closure of a Coca-Cola co. The company appealed to the National Green Tribunal for a closure order.

In India Parle, Britannia, Amul, and ITC are the top most polluters. While the MNC's PepsiCo, Perfetti Van Melle, Hindustan Unilever, and Coca-Cola are the top most polluters.

The practice of using single-use disposable and low-value plastic packaging onto consumers to improve their profit margins. PepsiCo cited that company by 2025 will recycle its packaging and plastic waste and will use 100% compostable, plant-based packaging for two of its most popular products. CSR focus on energy use, water use, waste management, recycling, emissions, etc. Developed nation considers Environmental issue as the trade barriers they exploit the underdeveloped country by polluting them and using polluting technologies they should be severely punished for their dumping policies.[30]

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