



Globalization and education

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Abstract

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world

-Nelson Mandela

Education is an important investment in building human capital that is a driver for technological innovation and economic growth. The modern world is not only confined to modern science and technology, but it is also marching towards the process of liberalisation, privatisation and globalization (LPG). So as a consequence, relations are being established among science and technology, globalization and investment, and liberalisation.

Globalization is no more a recent phenomenon in the world's socio-economic system. The impact of globalization has been uneven and responses to it are varied in terms of its positive and negative dimensions the world over.

People can only contribute and benefit from globalisation if they are endowed with knowledge, skills and with the capabilities and rights needed to pursue their basic livelihood. They need employment and incomes, and a healthy environment. These are the essential conditions which empower them to participate fully as citizens in their local, national and global communities.

In this paper, the writer has focussed on giving productivity dimension to education and the need for reforms in the education system.

Keywords: education, liberalisation, privatisation and globalization

Introduction

The term 'globalization' means integration of economics and societies through cross-country flows of information, ideas, technologies, goods, services, capital finance, and human resources.

Globalization is a new technique of establishing recognition of man, society and the nation. It brings about a healthy attitude in the actions and interactions among the nations. In fact, globalization develops interest among different nations towards one another for their mutual actions and interactions, and the economic development of the different countries.

Defining the term 'education' is a difficult task as it is like a diamond which appears to be of different colours when seen from different angles. It is believed that the word 'education' has been derived from the latin words, *educare* meaning 'to bring up' or 'to nourish', *educere* meaning bring forth or draw out and *educatum* meaning the act of teaching or training.

In short, education means bringing about a desirable behaviour in human beings.

In the words of Prof. James S. Ross, "Education consists of leading out the innate knowledge, virtues, and powers of the child, making the potential actual".

Meaning of Globalization of Education

The commercialisation, privatisation and capitalisation of education at the international level is called as globalization of education. In other words, educational services will progressively be commercialised, privatised and capitalised at the international level.

After 1990, private people in India took over schools,

colleges, and universities with a view to make them business centres for generating profit. That is educational services have become profitable goods which can be bought and sold at the international level for monetary benefits.

Anthony Giddens, a sociologist and Director of the London School of Economics defines globalization of education as "a decoupling of space and time stressing that with instantaneous communications knowledge and culture can be shared around the world simultaneously"

Globalization of education leads to sharing of 'knowledge'. For a nation like India sharing of knowledge is very important because knowledge is universal and its creation and dissemination cannot be confined to national boundaries.

Need and Importance of Globalization

The following reasons have made the globalization of education quite unavoidable in the present world:

- Due to the expansion of mass media like the newspaper, radio and television all the countries of the world have come nearer to one another.
- It has become necessary for us to discover new resources for the fulfilment of our needs which have increased much due to the explosion of population, urbanisation and industrialisation.
- In the modern competitive society, no country can be absolutely autonomous and can act on its own resources. In fact, each and every country is dependent on other nations for trade, economic needs, educational planning and development, food, medicines, machines and defence.
- The nations of the world have been developing owing to

trade at the world level in agriculture, industries, minerals and defence.

- Globalization has been a very important factor for developing international understanding.
- All the nations of the world have been forced to give a thought on international platform in order to find a solution to the cleanliness and purity of the environment, natural calamities, AIDS, population explosion, poverty and unemployment.
- Globalization has become inevitable to change the theoretical conception of world citizenship into practical one.
- It has become essential in the sense that wars, riots, earthquakes, flood, tsunami, and drought occurring in one country affect all other countries of the world.
- It is urgent and important to prepare and develop the individual personality, and create awakening in him at the national and world level, so that he might be a useful world citizen.
- The development of science and technology has become important with a view to increase production and maintain its quality
- It is also essential that higher education be the best means by which knowledge is related to health, medicine, science, engineering and technology that can be expanded at the world level.
- There has been tremendous improvement and unprecedented development, both internally and externally, in the process of transformation and communication

Impact of Globalization on Education

Let us look at some of the effects of globalization in the field of education:

- Students of our country can learn the courses of foreign universities.
- They may get dual degrees –one from within the country and the other from a foreign country.
- Indian universities may conduct the classes on information technology with the consent of private organisations.
- Some courses conducted In Indian universities have been accepted and awarded degrees by the foreign universities.
- Foreign universities make use of the organisations that are functioning in India to propagate their educational practices.
- The representatives of foreign universities organize conferences and seminars in order to attract the attention of Indian students.
- The craze for foreign degrees and courses, and vying of foreign institutions to start their courses in our country can effect the popularity of Indian courses.
- The uncontrolled privatisation of education may affect equity, quality and social relevance. Transparency is gradually lost and commercialisation get established. The theory of survival of the fittest may give way to money power and various kinds of social evils.
- It creates the trend of state minimalism and market maximalism.
- Globalization of education is the direct consequence of economic reforms and economic globalization

Impact of Education on Globalization

The slogan “Think globally and act locally” has become popular everywhere in the world.

- It may be recalled that it was Gokhale who advocated making primary education free and compulsory 94 years ago.
- Even the Article 45 of the Indian Constitution that promised for free and compulsory education within the first decade of our Independence, achieved very little, partly due to its non-judicial character.
- However, The Education Commission further hoped that “all the areas of the country should be able to provide five years of good effective education to all the children by 1975-76 and seven years of such education by 1985-86.
- The simple calculations of free and compulsory education were never gone into though all realized that the total cost will be enormous. Obviously, the India’s Education commission (1964-66) under the leadership of D.S. Kothari and J.P. Naik as the chairman and member secretary that laid the foundation of post –independent India’s national education policy.

In the wake of globalisation process and to cope up with the changing priorities of the people, the planners are bound to revise their strategies in the education sector. Thus, several specialist committees, involving the elites and captains of industry and education, constituted by the Union ministry are engaged in the process.

Trends due to globalisation on education

1. Type of Education

- A majority of children got primary education from government schools
- 3% got professional education and 4% got technical education.
- It shows that globalization has had a role in making people aware of such opportunities of education.

2. Language

- There has been a significant change in the preference of medium of instruction from hindi to English.
- This clearly indicates that the recent trend is due to globalization on education.

3. Brain circulation: Brain drain”, a term according to Vinokur (2006) ^[3], first used in the United Kingdom to describe the influx of Indian scientists and engineers.

- Now, the focus is on the developing phenomenon of “brain circulation”, where skilled and professional workers move between wealthy nations or return to their homelands after migrating to another country.
- Some researchers claim positive effects of countries experiencing brain drain. One positive effect for nations losing educated people to wealthier nations are the remittances sent home, with some of these remittances being used for education and health care.
- The researchers say this can result in a “net brain gain” that is, a brain gain that is larger than the brain drain, and a net brain gain raises welfare and growth”
- The brain gain for developing nations has resulted, according to some researchers, in a movement of high skilled jobs from developed to developing countries.

Conclusion

As a result of globalisation, we would achieve international standards in education. It would be for the good of the country. But foreign education that results from the globalisation of the education, certainly transmits culture. This may ultimately lead to homogenization of the society.

Globalisation and education are both interdependent and interrelated on each other. If one spreads, the other is also benefitted. The development of science and technology both lead to the development in field of education which finally lead to globalisation completing the cycle.

In the words of Mahatma Gandhi, "I do not want my house to be walled on all sides and my windows to be stuffed. I want the culture of all the lands to be blown about my house as freely as possible. But I refuse to be blown off my feet by any."

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