



# Accelerated Globalization And Human Insecurity.

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## Abstract

Globalization tends to be an effort to integrate the economies of the whole world. It advocates for liberal economic reforms, openness and market economy. The global players of economy are required to eschew the policy of economic nationalism and an atmosphere of economic competition needs to be created. Globalization is expected to establish economic order and tranquility in the globe. The pressing issues of human development, human security and human development can also be addressed effectively. But the stark reality is totally different. Globalization has opened the way for uneven and unhealthy competition, abject economic discrimination and deprivation in the world economy. Economically affluent and prosperous countries are now solely responsible for the economic subjugation of the poor and economically weak nations. Even, due to the rapid pace of economics, globalization, sovereignty and independence of the developing and backward countries of the world are facing stiff challenges. Numerous impediments and ill-effects of globalization can be noticed, and this write-up makes an attempt to highlight the issues and concerns related to globalization. The main focus of this academic pursuit is to identify the hard realities of human insecurity noticeable throughout the entire globe.

**Key Words:** Globalization, human insecurity, discrimination and deprivation

The essence of globalization is connectivity. Cross border integration can have several dimensions-cultural, social, political and economic. In fact, some people fear cultural and social integration even more than economic integration<sup>3</sup> The fear of "cultural hegemony" haunts many. Accelerated globalization is squarely responsible for growing human insecurity in developing societies around the world. In this write-up, an attempt has been made to identify certain aspects which have made human insecurity inevitable. One of the disquieting features of globalization is that it leads to a more iniquitous distribution of income among countries and within countries. Resultantly, globalization leads to loss of national sovereignty and countries finding it increasingly difficult to follow independent domestic policies. With the pace of globalization and the changes associated with it, intensification of human insecurity has taken place. The sources of this insecurity can be traced to changes in the domains of economy, society, politics and culture. Any dynamic

3. Rangarajan.C. Indian Monetary Policy and Financial stability (2009). P-345.

system generates human insecurity - but when changes occur with startling rapidity, the cumulative impact can be quite frightening. And when the institutions and mechanisms in place to cushion insecurity begin to crumble under the impact of the same forces, the effect is intensified. Enhanced economic insecurity is at the centre of the rising spiral of human insecurity. The key contributory factors are intensified competition, internationalization of production, changes in methods of production, surges of financial speculation and the rapidity of technological innovations. These dynamic forces have been generated in different ways for different groups in different countries. In most countries, a central element in economic insecurity is an intensification of the unemployment problem. This characteristic is common to many OECD countries, the former centrally planned countries in Europe and most countries in Africa, the Middle East and Latin America. Even those with jobs have experienced a deterioration in their conditions of employment, reflected in a decline in employment security, an increase in casual and part-time work, greater work pressure from employers, and the necessity for constant adjustment to rapidly changing circumstances. Increasingly, these pressures are felt not just by unskilled workers, but also by personnel in higher grades such as technical, professional and managerial cadres. Nor are the owners of enterprises sparing the anxiety and uncertainty generated by intensified competition and innovation. These forces have also contributed to pressure on wages in low- skilled jobs. In many countries, these have declined, stayed constant or risen more slowly than the earnings of persons with higher skills, thereby widening income inequalities.

The sources of economic insecurity have been reinforced by changes in state policies in the field of income redistribution and social insecurity. Most states have been cutting down on subsidies on items of mass consumption, increasing charges for social services and reducing the level and range of benefits under social welfare and security programmes. Thus, unemployment benefits, health coverage and old age pensions are being adversely affected for most citizens.<sup>4</sup> Family and community structures are also undergoing important changes under the influence of globalization and the changes associated with it are thus less effective in cushioning the impact of adverse economic changes. Some existing and new institutions, such as religious bodies and citizens' organizations are trying to fill in the void, but their efforts have had limited importance at best.

4. Stiglitz Joseph : Globalization and its Discontents(202). P-65

Sources of insecurity are also located in other domains of human activity. In the sphere of politics, the close bonds between political parties and their supporters have loosened in recent years. Workers, the unemployed and other categories of low-income groups lack confidence in traditional parties to defend their interests. It is not surprising

that there is a growing disenchantment and lack of interest in the political process.

In the social domain, the weakening of community and family structures exacerbates a sense of personal insecurity. Changes in the established pattern of relations between generations, sexes and peer groups add a potent new source of anxiety for many.<sup>5</sup>

In the sphere of culture, the clash between traditional values and those propagated by the media and consumer society contributes to conflict and uncertainty. The intensified individual and social insecurity resulting from multiple sources has been associated with a range of adverse effects.<sup>6</sup>

When confronted with the malaise induced by insecurity, people tend to turn for support to institutions such as the state, work organizations, communities and families. The ability of such organizations to offer material and psychological support has declined significantly by ethnic and religious bodies. At moments of deep anxiety for their people, such organizations supply material needs, cultural identity and secure values. Unfortunately, in many circumstances these organizations espouse extremist visions characterized by intolerance, exclusion, hatred and violence. Material and cultural crises provide fertile ground for the operation of ethnic and religious entrepreneurs with their own power and ideological agenda. All too often, these initiatives end up in religious and ethnic violence and war of succession with their inevitable accompaniment of mass killings, physical destruction and forced displacement of people as external and internal refugees.

People turn in many directions in their search for security of livelihood. The process of globalization creates new and enlarged opportunities, not all of which are legal and benign. Nor are all the beneficiaries indigent and helpless. Growing members of people turn to illegal and clandestine ways to earn vast fortunes or to augment their meagre means. This expanding complex of activities ranges in space from transnational to the village level and in number from teams of thousands to operations of individuals. The armaments and illegal drugs trades run into chain of growers, industrialists, merchants,

5. Sing Jogendra Singh : Culture change in India(2003). P-101

6. Mondal.S.R:Globalization and culture : Some Reflections.(2010). P.112

banks, retailers and consumers. Robberies and thefts also come in many shapes and sizes.<sup>7</sup> Commerce in sex and pornography has taken new and perverse forms. Entrepreneurs have even found ways to profit from moving people around illegally and dealing in human parts.

### **Enhancing Economic Security -**

Human insecurity is the product of diverse and complex factors. In one form or another, it has always formed part of the human condition and can never be eliminated altogether. Nor is it clear that total insecurity to tolerable levels. Although insecurities in different domains are interrelated and feed on each other, the primary focus of this

discussion is on economic insecurity. It must be admitted that economic insecurity has worsened in most parts of the world in recent years. Human insecurity derives from high levels of unemployment, precarious job conditions, deepening poverty and diminishing state support.

Human Security can't be enhanced simply by reverting to the conditions and policies of early years. The forces of globalization cannot be rolled back.<sup>8</sup> Technology alone has forever changed the world we live in. The great challenge for analysts, reformers and leaders alike is to devise policies and institutions to ensure greater security in the new situations created by accelerated globalization and technological advance.

The problems of human security differ in industrialized, transition and developing countries and so must the policies to deal with them. Most developed countries were able to achieve near full employment in the first three decades of the post WW II period, in large part due to historically unprecedented rates of economic growth. It is unrealistic to assume that this experience can be repeated in the future. Rapid growth alone is not sufficient to make a significant dent in unemployment and poverty. There are many instances of countries where rapid growth provided only limited relief from unemployment and destitution, social security and welfare programmes are under strain almost everywhere. In the poor countries, stabilization is structural adjustment policies which seek to cut social spending. In the industrialized countries, the range and level of benefits are being trimmed. Many factors have contributed to this outcome. These include high levels of debt, balance of payments difficulties, budget deficits, demographic changes. The problems of the welfare state are also due in no small measure to increased international competitions, reduced state autonomy to pursue independent fiscal and monetary policies and discipline of the market - all associated with accelerated globalization.

7. Dikshit RD : Political Geography (2006) P-241

8. Banerjee Abhijit V & Duflo-E (2011) P-248

Provision of social support for the poor, the unemployed and other vulnerable groups raise important issues of public policy in the era of market liberalization. It is amply clear that, in the light of market liberalization and globalization over the past few decades, there is a need to rethink the roles and responsibilities of the institutions at all levels.

In any global social policy, priority needs to be accorded to meeting the basic human needs of the world's population. This includes food, shelter, clothing, literacy, primary education and health care. In the allocation of global and national resources, priority should be given to meeting these needs. In countries that have reached a certain stage of development or have necessary resources, appropriate policies and institutional reforms can adequately meet most basic needs. But the problem arises in situations where governments are weak or incompetent where resources are scarce and where level of development is low. In such situations, international agencies and NGOs have a critical role to play in meeting the essential needs of the people. The globalization of the economy must be matched by a globalization of social policy.