

Panacea and Perfidy of Globalisation as an Engine of Social Development in Developing Countries

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ABSTRACT The paper endeavours to validate positive aspects of globalization to social development of developing countries; as well as to critique negative aspects that globalisation poses to social development of developing countries. The paper uses literature review methodology. Globalisation has been identified as an engine of social development in facilitating: international development of policies such as MDGs; global information generation, packaging, communication and dissemination; exposure of human rights violation; advocacy of gender equality; advocacy for accountability, transparency and good governance in developing world; fighting global ills such as hunger, abuses and atrocities of all kinds; diseases such as HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis; and opening new markets for the products of the developing world. It also poses challenges of: widening inequality between developed and developing countries; is a tool of exploitation and imperialism; widens opportunities for the rich countries to extend their political power over poor countries. The paper recommends: global efforts to maximize positive aspects of social development to developing countries; negotiations between all countries to redress the challenges of globalization to developing countries; debt cancellation by the developed world to developing countries; and ensuring fair playing ground in trade between all countries.

INTRODUCTION

Globally, development of different countries appears to be so much influenced by the wind of development, modernization, eurocentrism, civilization and globalization. These factors have made the countries appear as if they are one village where forces from once country can easily be felt in another country irrespective of the distance (Christopherson et al. 2008). However, the concept globalization appears to be understood and received differently in different countries. It is therefore important that the positive aspects of globalization or the panacea of globalization are taken stock of; in tandem with the undesirable aspects of the phenomenon. Perhaps this cross examination can place respective countries in a position to reap the best from globalization and at the same time work towards minimizing or annihilating altogether the perfidious effects of globalization (Christopherson et al. 2008). However, it is good to give a succinct definition of the concept globalization. Globalization espouses the following tenets: international integration; transformative power of international trade; increased global movement of people across all the countries; increased exchange of goods and services; increased amount of cross border trade in goods and ser-

vices; increased volume of international financial flows; increased flows of labour; greater interdependence among countries and their citizens; increased embracement of diversity through increased tolerance of people's religions, cultures, thinking etc; sophistication in communication networks (mobile phones, internet, twitter, blackboard, skype, etc); and increased international collaboration and networking (Christopherson et al. 2008). It is these factors and how they act as engine of development that the paper will discuss.

Problem Statement

Worrying trends of endemic poverty, diseases, wars, illiteracy, gender inequalities and inequities and underdevelopment in the developing countries in general justifies the need for global assistance and efforts to address these vulnerabilities. This has necessitated the application of globalization ideals such as Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), global information generation, packaging, communication and dissemination; exposure of human rights violation; advocacy for gender equality and equity; accountability, transparency and good governance; fighting global ills such as hunger, abuses and atrocities of all kinds; diseases such as HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis; and opening

new markets for the products of the developing world. This is to see a world where men and women enjoy equally the fruits of their economies, all children going to school, all people with food to eat and a world in which there is medication for diseases and where HIV and AIDS epidemic is managed.

Definition of Terms

Panacea and Perfidy

The word panacea which means an answer or solution for all problems or difficulties is operationally taken to mean a satisfactory and desirable state of social and economic affairs; while the word perfidy that refers to the state of deception, disloyal or treachery has been operationalised to mean a bad or undesirable state of economic affairs.

THE PANACEA OF GLOBALIZATION

Globalization as an Engine of Social Development

It is an incontrovertible fact that globalization ideals facilitate social development. This is because these ideals push and prompt governments of the developing world to embark on policy formulation and implementation that fights to eradicate hunger and poverty; strengthens advocacy, accountability, transparency and good governance in developing world; and promote funding to fight global ills such as HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis; gender inequality and inequity and other inhuman atrocities such as crimes against humanity. Globalization in form of improved communication and networking also widens inter-country exchange of goods and services as well as open new markets for the products of the developing world (Mulinge and Mufune 2003).

MDGs as Measures of Countries' Advancement

Since the signing and adoption of MDGs in 2001 by all 193 member states, international NGOs and other development partners, with these countries and the organizations pledging to achieve the MDG's threshold contents by the year 2015, many of the developing countries have adjusted their development goals and strategies

to meet especially the eight goals of MDGs. These goals or gaps are the ones that have stagnated developing countries and therefore stifling their sustainable development as well as curtailing peoples' enjoyment in their lives. These goals include eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, achieving universal primary education; promoting gender equality and empowering women; reducing child mortality rates; improving maternal health; combating HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases; ensuring environmental sustainability, and developing a global partnership for development (UNDP 2004; UNAIDS 2001).

Development Aligned to MDGs

For some countries, the time frame that United Nations has set for stock taking, for example in 2015, has acted as an impetus for many countries to expedite their social-economic developments. This is because countries have directed resources towards facing the eight gaps identified in the MDGs. For example the country of Botswana through the assistance of UNDP has aligned its development goals to the MDGs goals through drafting its own Botswana specific MDG goals in 2004 (UNDP 2004). The country has especially invested heavily on poverty alleviation strategies such as granting the youth funds grants without interest. Due to the importance of food security, those embarking on agriculture have especially been prioritized. The country has also heavily invested in fighting HIV and AIDS. This is because HIV and AIDS in Botswana have posed a serious development challenge (Kang'ethe 2010a). Through its implementation of both 2003-2009 and now 2010-2016 strategic frameworks for HIV and AIDS, Botswana is apparently winning the war against HIV and AIDS. The successful implementation of these frameworks have been executed through the assistance of United Nations funding such as President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and development partners such as Bill Gates funded African Comprehensive HIV and AIDS Partnership (ACHAP) (ACHAP 2005; UNDP 2004; GOB 2003, 2009).

Global Advocacy on Understanding and Operationalizing Rights

Due to the practice of traditionalism and patriarchal systems in many developing countries,

rights have been curved according to the traditions and cultures. Rights based on principles of human value and dignities have not always been understood, or operationalized (Rogers 1980; Segal et al. 2007). Globalization has incrementally set in a paradigm shift that has seen the level of awareness of what human rights constitute. These has seen governments, NGOs and knowledgeable civil society bodies take a bold step in sensitizing local communities on human rights and how to operationalize them. Many rights which were not emphasized in many countries are now in the agendas of most governments of the developing world. These are: the rights of women and the girl child; the rights of people living with HIV and AIDS; the rights of the minorities such as the homosexuals. South Africa through its Treatment Action Campaign (TAC) NGO has especially strengthened the rights of the sexual minorities. This saw the practice of homosexuality allowed in law (TAC 2007; Barrett-Grant 2001).

Human Rights of Women and Children

In patriarchal systems, women and by extension the girl children have suffered violation of their economic rights, rights of equality and equity, rights of expression and association, and have been agents of economic generation for their male counterparts. Through globalization, information dissemination through both print (books, newspapers) and electronic media such as TVs, many countries have come to realize how the rights of women and the girl child have been violated. Some countries such as Botswana have acted swiftly to craft and legislate women friendly laws that uphold the rights and dignity of women. Such legislation includes: allowing women to take loans without men being a party to the deal, abolishment of marital power, ensuring equal access to education between the boy child and the girl child, equal job opportunities, and application of the affirmative action in favour of the apparent weaker gender position etc. This could partly explain why Botswana enjoys one of the highest gender development index and a perfect gender parity index among the developing countries (Kang'ethe 2009; UNDP 1995).

Despite these efforts to advance the rights of women, the country is still experiencing grievous spates of gender based violence. Passion killing where young women are killed by their

boyfriends is especially on the increase. The girl child also continues to experience abuses such as rapes perpetrated by closer family members who are never apprehended. The gender power dynamics that make women fear men generally impedes the mothers or the guardians of such victims to report the crime to the authorities (Gender Link and Women Affairs Department 2011; UNDP 2008; Kang'ethe 2009). This was one of the findings from the UNDP driven research in 2008 and another survey in 2011 by Gender Links in collaboration with Women Affairs Department (WAD) (UNDP 2008; Gender Links 2012).

Human Rights of the Sexual Minorities

Through globalization, the wind of the rights of homosexuals is increasingly raising global awareness, and their rights are becoming increasingly being realized and recognized. This is because of the impetus and medium through which the information and practices from developed countries is being conveyed to developing world. However, the issue of accepting homosexuals is taking too long to be accepted and embraced. This is because some countries especially from Africa view the phenomenon as an issue of the western world. Christians and other world religious bodies are still against the ideology (Kang'ethe and Gaseitsiwe 2011). However, increased advocacy and lobbying by human rights bodies supported by United Nations are bearing fruit as countries now recognize the rights of all as espoused in their constitutions. To expedite good results, the United Nations and other human rights friendly bodies are increasingly investing or assisting the local human rights NGOs and civil societies that advocate for the rights of the sexual minorities. Some of the western based governments that are funders of the developing countries have even threatened to tie the funding of needy countries with their human rights practices (Mulinge and Mufune 2003).

It is the researcher's feeling that for people of all kinds of sexual orientation to have space for social and economic development, they need to be served without discrimination based on their ideologies and sexual practice. With South Africa having accepted all people's sexual orientation, and Barack Obama's openly supporting gay marriages, it is possible that many coun-

tries are going the route of recognizing the rights of all. Failure to acknowledge this reality poses challenges of HIV and AIDS proliferation. For example if the health facilities cannot have anal dams used for viral prevention during anal penetration, this can cause vulnerabilities among the homosexual membership (Barrett-Grant et al. 2001).

Rights of the People Living with HIV and AIDS

With close to 40 million people living with HIV and AIDS, the world cannot be at peace as this number has incrementally been building up since the first discovery of the HIV virus in 1981 (Ndinga-Muvumba and Mottiar 2007; UNAIDS/WHO 2005). Global HIV and AIDS campaign especially spearheaded by United Nations has seen messages trickle down to individual countries of the developing world. This has seen United Nations and other HIV and AIDS friendly organizations and individuals increase funding of HIV and AIDS Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Community based Organizations (CBO's), Alternative Governmental Organizations (AGO's), Community Based Associations (CBAs) and faith based organizations (FBO's). For example America through PEPFAR has been funding developing countries through Global Funds to support the various kinds of the HIV and AIDS campaigns. To this effect, United Nations has put in place different lobbying and advocacy machineries, empowered goodwill ambassadors endowed with presentation, lobbying and advocacy skills to move across different countries to raise awareness, and disseminating education on prevention methodologies (Ndinga-Muvumba and Mottiar 2007). Some countries such as Uganda have realized and exploited the goodwill of the United Nations and other western donors in helping contain the HIV and AIDS campaign. Even though Botswana has not adequately contained its epidemic, it has also exploited and experienced assistance from United Nations and other friendly countries. Notably, it has succeeded in bringing down HIV state of stigma (Kang'ethe 2010b).

The critical global message is for all the people to accept HIV and AIDS as a disease like any other so that people do not fear it (Barrett-Grant et al. 2001). This is one of the strongest method-

ologies to reduce stigma and discrimination (Kang'ethe 2010b, 2014). Stigma and discrimination has seen people living with HIV and AIDS killed by community members; while others opted to commit suicide (Barrett-Grant et al. 2001). For example in South Africa, in 1998, Gugu Dlamini was stoned to death by members of her community in Kwazulu Natal for publicly disclosing that she was living with HIV/AIDS (Barrett-Grant et al. 2001). In 2000, another man from Soweto, after discovering that her wife and himself were seropositive, cold bloodedly murdered his wife and father-in-law, and then committed suicide (Barrett-Grant et al. 2001).

To mitigate stigmatization, the world through globalization has been funding human rights bodies to disseminate messages of the fact that one living with HIV and AIDS did not lose his/her humanity and that humane treatment was the best to reduce the psychosocial burdens associated with living with HIV virus. This is to afford them positive living (Nurses Association of Botswana 2004; UNAIDS 2002). In Botswana, for instance, human rights bodies such as BONELA (Botswana Network of Ethics, Law and HIV and AIDS) and Ditswanelo, both human rights based bodies usually get a lot of funding to advocate for the rights of the sexual minorities (homosexuals) (BONELA 2004; Ditswanelo 2003, 2005; Baird and Baird 1978).

Global Information Generation, Packaging, Communication and Dissemination

Globalization has turned the whole world into a globalized village. This is through development of fast means of communication. The use of cellophones, skype, and internet facilities, internet banking and goggle search for research has made pursuing education an easier methodology. Many people today from the developing countries are able to access online courses that they could not access before these online services. This is providing a forum for people from the developing world to tap their latent potential for the benefit of the development of their countries. However, most of these communication channels use electricity which most countries are struggling to avail especially in the rural areas. These services, therefore, are only accessed by people in the urban areas at the detriment of the rural communities

Globalization Opening Markets for Developing Countries

Globalization means improvement in services, especially the infrastructure, increasing the capacity to reach the rest of the world with ease, to achieve and create wealth, and to facilitate the enjoyment of higher and sustainable standards of living by the people (UNDP 1995). Incontrovertibly, the 21st century has seen countries making trade pacts and opening embassies in as many countries as possible. The result has enhanced and expedited the inter-country relationships and opened markets for each other. This is a process of market creation as the forces of demand and supply are freely allowed to interact. As the economist guru, John Keynes advised, supply creates its own demand. This means that when new products are taken as market samples to another country, there is likelihood that the people may learn the product and therefore become a market for such goods (Todaro and Smith 2006).

To say the least, although most policy development models explaining and driving developing countries' economies indicate that wealth creation would eventually trickle to the poor people, this is debatable as resources that form the basis of wealth creation are usually in the hands of a smaller population. Even though globalization is apparently benefitting all the people in the developing countries (for instance many poor people can today afford to buy a cello phone and therefore ease their communication challenges), apparently the lion's share benefit may be going to the very rich and therefore widening the gap between the haves and the have nots.

This opening of the markets has also offered an opportunity for competition. Countries have to make their products better than others so that they may fetch and command better markets.

Globalization and Talent Development

Globalization has led to the exploration and the widening of the markets of some talents which were otherwise latent or inadequately explored. Due to good communication network and enhanced relationships among countries generally, there are competitions for countries to showcase their competency in athletics and various types of games. Since these skills are well paid in developed world, some countries like Kenya

with well-developed running skills are benefitting from the monies the runners are receiving upon winning. This is enhancing the development of body kinesthetic intelligence which had not adequately been exploited in most countries of the developing world (Gardner 2006).

Developing Countries Pushed to Achieve Accountability, Transparency and Good Governance

It is an incontrovertible fact that many developing countries have had leadership challenges, with most of their senior government officials engaging in corruption, nepotism, killing or punishing those opposed to their governance policies. Corruption according to Dwivedi (1967) is an unethical behaviour, although the extent varies because different countries have their different perspectives of unethical behaviour. It includes nepotism, favouritism, bribery, graft patronage and other socially unacceptable means used by government officials to extract some socially and legally prohibited favours. This has seen these countries getting poorer and poorer and the same leaders ask for a bail out from the western countries; or make the country borrow from the international lending bodies usually from the IMF or World Bank. This has driven these countries without wealth as they struggle to repay their debts while their leaders are usually swimming in wealth (Dwivedi 1967). United Nations in a bid to help these countries has come up with leadership expectations packages which all the countries have been asked to implement. These include only two five year terms as heads of state, one becoming accountable to the people he/she leads and facilitating the holding of transparent and fair elections. While there has been notable progress towards this direction, for instance most of the countries' constitutions provide for the President to go for only two five year terms, issues of corruption are still common. Another notable development to helping the poor nations be accountable was mooted by United Nations asking countries to constitute an international criminal court to try those leaders who abuse the office, especially crimes against humanity. This researcher believes that these threats on the leaders of the developing countries is going to make them accountable. The role of Transparency International in determining the level of corrup-

tion in a country has also been an eye opener for the leaders to work to clear their countries or to improve the corruption indices (Transparency International 2011).

Comparative Indices Showing Countries Position in Development Scope

The United Nation's has also come up with several tools that compare different performances for different countries. For example there are gender parity indices (DPI) that compares the difference between the boys' and girls' access to school; Gender development indices (GDI) that compares women's involvement in activities of social and economic development compared to their male counterparts. These are but a few of the indices that position the country along the continuum of other countries as far as an index is concerned. They are important global indices because they tell a country how it is performing compared to the other countries. For example if people are living under one dollar per day, they are defined as poor. Therefore, when a country is addressing the MDG number one of eradicating poverty and hunger, it therefore has to put in place measures that will raise the income of a greater population of its people. Therefore, these indices serve as quality assurance tools (UNDP 1995).

Globalization as a Tool of Multiculturalism and Diversity

People from developing countries have been able to mingle and learn cultures that make developed countries economically viable and sustainable.

PERFIDY OF GLOBALIZATION

Globalization Widens the Rich-poor Countries Economic Gap

It is stark naked reality that globalization opens markets for goods and services. However, the market that globalization opens, though it benefits poor countries, it is the developed world that gets a lion's share. This is because of their massive production and the high quality of their products compared to those of poor countries. Globalization, therefore, widens the gap between the rich and the poor countries

Globalization as a Tool of Imperialism and Exploitation

It is a strong borne fact that economically strong countries like America have been using their economic muscle to dictate what the poor countries should do. A good example is the recent utterances by Britain that it will peg its assistance package to developing countries with the level of reforms the poor countries will make. It follows that these reform packages are crafted by the same economically strong countries. In the case of Malawi, Britain wants it to allow homosexuality against the wishes of the government.

The Rich Countries Craft the Trade Pact

Although trade is an important component and a desirable outcome of globalization, it is the rich countries that determine the tariffs of the commodities from the developing world. This is because the world body that controls multilateral policy environment is managed by the rich countries. The decisions they make therefore are skewed and favour the rich countries

CONCLUSION

Globalization presented in terms of information exchange, facilitator of international trade, exchange of talents and other aspects of multinational exchange cannot be easily dispensed with especially in the developing world struggling to achieve some of the development ideals achieved many decades ago by the developed world. Empirical effects of globalization in areas of education, information technology, talent exchange and increased flow of goods and services that were only a reserve of the developed world, but are now accessible to developing world, forms evidence that globalization is an engine and stimulus of development. It is expediting a trickle down of fruits of modernization, development, civilization from the developed world to the developing countries. Globalization has made many parts of the developing world accessible and its people endowed with globalized ideas and ideals.

However, the imperialistic and capitalistic values that accompany globalization are widening the horizons of inequalities between developed and developing countries with poverty

increasingly becoming a feature of countries like those of African continent. It is therefore critical that both the positive and negative aspects of globalization are debated and attention sought from both the developed and developing countries. This is to bring hope that the socio-economic gaps attributable to globalization can be bridged so that the fruits of globalization can be enjoyed proportionately between continents and countries.

THE WAY FORWARD/ RECOMMENDATIONS

- ♦ The developing countries should be involved in crafting trade policies so that they are not skewed to favour the wealthier countries.
- ♦ The rich countries as a way of showing equity to the fruits of globalization should cancel the debts that the poor countries owe them.
- ♦ The rich countries should respect the sovereignty and governance structures of the poor countries irrespective of their economic positions. The aid given to these countries should not have any strings attached.
- ♦ The rich countries especially those that colonised developing countries should consider returning some of the wealth if they got their wealth from exploiting the poor countries. This would be exploiting the tenets of globalization

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