

# Globalization through global citizenship and right to migrate

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## ABSTRACT

All human beings of the world should be equal in status and stature. However, in reality human beings are divided by citizen status of nation states that are members of the United Nations. The human development index differs from one nation to another. Therefore quality of life, health, and life expectancy varies across countries and continents. Much depends on the governments representing human groups living in defined territorial boundaries. Governments defend sovereign territories and compete with other governments for business monopolies, territories and natural resources. From empires to colonisation, the world is passing through the phase of globalisation. There is an uneven divide of natural planetary resources and geographical territories. Also there is a continuous flow of financial resources from the poor nation states and in favour of the rich ones. Globalisation can no longer remain a refined chaotic balance of exploitation of one human territory by another. Travel and migration from one territory to another are highly regulated. The true idea of Globalization will only be realised when it is not linked to race, the level of skills, political affiliation or economic dividends and is able to add to the upward movement of the social structure of the poor. In a globalised world there should be equitable and fast paced distribution of benefits of modern development. Otherwise the global citizens of the world should look for alternatives.

**Keywords:** Globalization, global citizenship, right to migrate

## Context

Globalization, identified largely in the restricted sense as the integration of not just the global economic systems or social order, is known to impact not just economics but also to influence the larger domains of society and health. Individual countries tend to have a far from unambiguous relationship with an economically and culturally globalizing world, alternatively switching between flexibility and inflexibility with an almost lazy effort to appropriately adapt to and make the best utilization of opportunities available because of globalization. The efforts therefore appear not just skewed but also appear to hinder true globalization.

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## Background

The concept of globalization though being forwarded as recent has been under a roll out since the evolution of humans, although contextualized to a limited level in earlier times as humans have had to venture out beyond already known geographies and seek places for settlement or for production of goods as well their exchange. There truly has been an upsurge in this with the advent of technology and transportation, which has made it easier and accessible. Therefore, the movement appeared natural and not dictated, limited or restrictive. Contrarily, the current avatars of globalization that have apparently gained ground only in the 19<sup>th</sup> century as global integration is being claimed to have taken off, largely driven by the years of development of colonies and the resultant trade between colonies and colonizers or within colonies (dictated by colonizers only), have been far from natural. Because, classically described as first “wave” of globalization, this (the globalization), has been more a necessity

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of colonization than an attempt for interchange of ideas or cultures or for the transfer of benefits of globalization to the poor and the vulnerable populations. Fast rolled by quicker means of communications (ships, railways, good roads, telegraphy, etc.), the yearning for increasing economic capital has stayed central to it and culture, education, or health has only served to camouflage it from the exterior and to help provide a moral–ethical elevation to the concepts (of globalization).<sup>[1]</sup>

### The transition to protectionism

With the fall of colonization, the trends in globalization apparently received a setback, which got exaggerated further with the beginning of the First World War. The war, the post-war alliance, and the ensuing protectionism weakened the economic drive for globalization. This was escalated further by the great industrial depression and with the Second World War; globalization went on the back burner.

But, the worst part in the history of globalization as a concept was yet to come. After the Second World War, globalization resurfaced, but in its most construed manner. No doubt there were efforts to moderate the construed definitions, which were largely led by the United States. The primary aim of economic dividends stayed, but policies for international trade and investment were largely non-negotiable as the ground rules were strictly laid down through institutional mechanisms (the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund, World Bank, and World Trade Organization, among others) backed by the United States. Riding on the successful establishment of these institutions, the west started claiming credit for the success of the launch of the so-called second wave of globalization.

### The concerns

The idea of globalization was rooted in greater good. This continued to be the stated aim even during the so-called second wave of globalization glued as also an aim to create a peaceful, secure, and prosperous world. To fulfill these grand aims, globalization is expected to be free flowing, flexible, and continuously ongoing and not be limited by periodic slumps, protectionist preferences, and increasing political interference or inspections. Unfortunately, this has not happened.

Building a global world largely through an economic order that continues to stay skewed and allowing only a few to govern without agreeing upon a consensus for rules and regulations with oversight from a few multilateral institutions with limited interests in the welfare of poor and underdeveloped has a failing that needs immediate addressing. But it appears that the choices have been made and the corrections are difficult to make since advisory such as the, “Measures for the Development of the Underdeveloped Societies,” by the United Nations Department of Social and Economic Affairs, an institutions supposed to act in the interest of a global world has put economics at the core of the civilization growth and emphasized on the need for dismantling of core beliefs and cultural values as critical

to economic progress for the poor countries.<sup>[2]</sup> It is this failure of the west to develop an understanding of the east that is compromising on the inclusion of durability and invincibility in the current concepts of globalization.

While globalization has always been billed as the big ticket initiative for increasing opportunities for employment and to create a culture for equal opportunities and support consumerism and thereby play a pivotal role in poverty reduction, estimates report that this may not turn out to be true. It is reported that about 2 billion people in this world do not actually benefit from globalization and a large majority of these are poor and vulnerable.

### The polycrisis

Climate change, COVID-19 pandemic, and Russia–Ukraine war as a polycrisis have raised concerns in our current accepted understanding of globalization. With the ever-increasing addition of people projected to be living in poverty in 2023, as the direct result of a hard and unequal contraction of per capita income (or consumption) that started during the pandemic and was exacerbated in the following years through war and climate change is a reality, the solutions seem far war. Limiting our estimates of the effects of the current polycrisis to monetary poverty only will be a thinking we need to avoid as there are also significant negative impacts on non-monetary wellbeing as reflected by the first-ever decline of the Human Development Index (HDI) for two years in a row, which has erased the human development gains of the preceding five years.<sup>[3]</sup> The so-called multilateral system, which appears to think beyond just economics like the G20, the G7, the Paris Summit, and the Sustainable Development Goals Summit, is addressing some of the key development finance challenges facing developing economies today although not nearly at the speed and scale required has failed up until now to address the opportunity gap between the poor and the rich. Its scant emphasis on evolving a mechanism of migration within and out of countries is an indicator.

### Migration and globalization

So what cause migration and what are the usual drivers of migration. The data point that a large majority (41%) of migration internationally originates from Asia. The migration is not just driven by economic reasons but also dictated by political choices and preferences, socio-cultural influences as also an apparent feeling of less availability/accessibility to resources locally. There are other reasons driving migration including a willingness to improve quality of life and standard of living, uniting with families, climate change among others. A majority of these reasons have its origins in the differential distribution of resources, differential avenues to explore these resources as also indifferent policy initiatives (at the global level) to facilitate exploration. Creating a supportive cultural structure for migration will go on to build a strong pillar for globalization.<sup>[4]</sup> But the fact remains that despite claims of a unified world, migration has

remained relatively selective wherever or whenever it is permitted. For example, reason such as family reunification was found to be the largest (2/3) contributor of legal immigration to the United States every year.<sup>[5]</sup>

Though factors as restrictive as Ethnic selection like the White Australia policy do not determine migration now generally, giving priority to the more educated, technically skilled, politically relevant or beneficial and wealthy is no less reflective of a willingness to restrict migration. It is this (restriction) by the wealthy states that deprive the poor and the vulnerable from the low- and middle-income countries, for whom, globalization was envisaged to work. The unavailability of legal and protected immigration opportunities for the poor and vulnerable not only is contrary to the principle of equal opportunities but also fuels illegal immigration.

Despite selective Immigration policies fully capable of driving a brain drain in the host country, it is the net economic gain the host country looks for as a cushion to it. But the truth remains, notwithstanding the net income gains, it is the unavailability of equal opportunities to poor, unskilled of the host country that offsets the benefits.

### True globalization

True globalization does not come in watertight chambers of sectoral or geographically demarcated packages, being dictated by a few. It is about human interactions and an expression of their concern; it is across states, in cultures, production networks and markets, between greed and grievances, crime, terrorism, and failing states. It is more composite and comprehensive; it is between nature and society. All human beings of the world should be equal in status and stature. However, in reality human beings are divided by citizen status of nation states that are members of the United Nations. The human development index differs from one nation to another. Therefore quality of life, health, and life expectancy varies across countries and continents. Much depends on the governments representing human groups living in defined territorial boundaries. Governments defend sovereign territories and compete with other governments for business monopolies, territories and natural resources. From empires to colonisation, the world is passing through the phase of globalisation. There is an uneven divide of natural planetary

resources and geographical territories. Also there is a continuous flow of financial resources from the poor nation states and in favour of the rich ones. Globalisation can no longer remain a refined chaotic balance of exploitation of one human territory by another. Travel and migration from one territory to another are highly regulated. The true idea of Globalization will only be realised when it is not linked to race, the level of skills, political affiliation or economic dividends and is able to add to the upward movement of the social structure of the poor. In a globalised world there should be equitable and fast paced distribution of benefits of modern development. Otherwise the global citizens of the world should look for alternatives.

## Conclusion

Although the world may not be at stage to follow complete freedom in allowing individuals from moving from one country to other as a basic human right, allowing less restrictive legal immigration as a human right may be a step in the right direction.

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### Conflicts of interest

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