

The Role of Higher Education in Globalization: An Indian Perspective

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INTRODUCTION

Today the world has become interconnected in such a way that no country can be perceived and understood in isolation in terms of its social, political, economic as well as cultural dimensions. The interconnectedness and interchange of these social, political, economic, cultural, and technological attributes are manifestations of the significance of the interdependence of different countries (Dosi, 2000). The term which connotes and displays all these characteristic features of a worldwide process is globalization. Now it is an established impression that this process has an impact on the motion of development. Now the development of a country depends on its involvement in the exchanges of the above-mentioned attributes. Today there is a rapid increase in the frequency and density of these exchanges. This understanding of the term globalization sounds closer to Kenniichi Ohmae's concept of "the borderless world," where mere geographical divisions cannot decide the limits of a country. However, different disciplines define the term in their own manner. For instance, sociologists. Anthony Giddins define it as an intensification of worldwide social relations through which far away places are linked together in such a way that events in one place are affected by a process taking place many miles away and *vice-versa*. Predicting the upcoming phase of globalization MIT Professor Paul Krugman says that in the coming century, everything will be tradeable. We will be able to supply anything to or buy anything from anybody in the world.

The process began with the serious initiatives taken by developed countries like the USA and the UK after II World War to improve upon their mutual relations as a step forward in the formation of a more stable, peaceful, and harmonious world to live in. After the 1980s, the underdeveloped countries were partly pursued and partly compelled by different International Financial Institutions like IMF and World Bank on the behest of the developed ones to get involved in it (Gupta, 1995). However, the underdeveloped countries in it have

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accepted and acknowledged gradually that they cannot escape the recent developments at this large scale where the old pattern of dealings is giving way to that new one and as it provides them an opportunity to get benefits of their scientific and technological advancements.

In understanding all these large-scale changes, it is important to identify and recognize the role played by different education programs because it is the exchange of ideas and knowledge among different countries which is bringing them closer than earlier.

Here the paper intends to understand and show how higher education at the world level contributes its part in giving place to this process.

When we talk of the role played by higher education in promoting and intensifying the process of globalization, we become attentive to its two important aspects. First, the role played by research and development and scientific and technological advancements in different discoveries and inventions which have increased the industrial production; second, the role played by the exchange of readings in liberal sciences, art, and literature in improving our understanding of different cultures and the requirement of people with different tastes and temperaments (Gupta, 1997).

The higher education landscape at the world level is shaped by the exchange of knowledge across borders. It prepares the ground for mutual competition in terms of getting higher benefits from different world-level activities affecting the economies of different countries. Different research universities in different countries are the factories, for that matter, where such brains are produced who are more aware and conscious of world-level competition in all fields. These activities are given place by the use of the Internet. It is within the access of all students around the world and benefits them in terms of availing them of all the required information.

The advancements in information and technology have given access to e-learning. This has saved the time and resources of the learner. Teferra has given the motion of “borderless education,” which is most relevant. Moreover, the use of English as the principal language of an academic exchange has to smoothen the road of interconnectivity. This language has become a global means of communication. And if we talk of political and strategic influences of globalization, we can say that it is a recognized proposition that “Almost everywhere policy and management are being affected by global models of new public management derived largely from higher education practices in the United States and the United Kingdom, though nations vary considerably in the extent to which and the manner in which these templates are adopted.”

Different world organizations like UNO, WTO, World Bank, and IMF are holding the hands of almost all the countries of the world. Their mutual commitment is promoting and advocating peace and harmony at the world level, as mentioned earlier. The ideals which are helpful and useful for the whole human society are propagated and promoted by these organizations. At the same time, these ideals are inculcated in the students and scholars by different International Higher Education Institutes.

Different countries adopt many measures and devices to promote academic mobility. The student exchange program is one such measure, and in return, a large group of students, researchers, and scholars utilize their cross-border experiences to enhance their academic careers in their home countries.

In this particular context, if we analyze the place of India herein, we find that India has recognized the inevitability of its active involvement in different world activities. Its aspirations can be achieved only through proper strategies and political will and not forget the proper implementation of higher education programs (Samier, 2015). Recently established SAARC University, better known as South Asian University, located in New Delhi, shows India's enthusiasm and genuine interest in reaping the benefits of globalization. It aims to promote regional understanding, peace, and security which ultimately enhances the well-being of the people of the region. It also aims to reach never common and challenging frontiers in various disciplines and inter-disciplinary outfits, usually not available in individual countries; sure, such kind of initiative will strengthen South Asian Nations' aspirations in the process of globalization. The decision to renovate Nalanda University situated in Bihar, which was once a center of learning and knowledge but now is in ruins will not only improve the education standards in India but also provide a golden opportunity to improve our relations with neighboring countries like Singapore, China, Japan, and other nations as it is their joint venture and which are trying to raise \$ 500 million to build a new University and another \$ 500 million to develop the necessary infrastructure. This Nalanda University is planned as a post-graduate research University with the following schools: the school of Buddhist studies, philosophy, and comparative religion; the school of historical studies; the school of International Relations and Peace; the school of Business Management and Development; School of Language and Literature and school of Ecology and Environmental studies. Though the highlighted objective of the school was claimed to be "aimed at advancing the concept of an Asian Community.... and rediscovering old relationships, it would not be unwise to say that this will increase Indian stature at the global level.

Indian higher participation in different student exchange programs shows its interest in improving its image at the world level as an emerging economy, for that matter, as a country. This not only increases the educational experiences of students but also provides them a chance to explore, appreciate and understand different cultures enhance the ability of their second language learning and eliminate fear and prejudice among nations, and also to experience international education.

Medical tourism in India and also cultural exchange programs organized from time to time show India's stand at the world level. It is beyond any doubt that India is very much conscious of its active participation in the formation of a world where countries will cooperate in terms of knowledge and experiences irrespective of their geographical division and boundaries.

A lot has been achieved since 1947 still, but a lot is yet to be achieved. To conclude, it can be said that "globalization is a geo-spatial process of growing interdependence and convergence, in which worldwide or regional pan spheres of actions are enhanced, and India is becoming more and more conscious of its role to be played in upcoming time to come up to the level of world-expectations associated with it.

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