ABSTRACT

Globalization can be a major force for prosperity only if it is backed by adequate national policies and conductive social, economic, and working environment on the one side. It is causing profound and complex changes in the very nature of our society, bringing new opportunities as well as risks. With the growth of industrialization, urbanization and modernization, man in his quest for a better life, luxurious and profit exploiting nature, little realizing that natural recourses are delectable. Thus started the irreversible process of environmental degradation and today we faced with environmental problems like ozone depletion, deforestation, acid rain, global warming and other pollutions. Now-a-days impact of globalization is seeing everywhere in the society. But in Uttarakhand, the impact of globalization is clearly visible on Employment, Education and Rural Culture in Himalaya’s of Uttarakhand.

Keywords: Globalization, Employment, Education, Himalaya, Uttarakhand

INTRODUCTION

The wave of globalization appeared on India’s shores only in 1991, much after China’s and some other Southeast Asian countries such as Malaysia, Singapore and Hong Kong. As a new participant in the globalization wave, India went through several structural and policy changes only in early 1990s, even if the awareness of need for opening up country’s borders was started in late 1980s, when Mr. Rajiv Gandhi was at the helm of policy design. With almost 20% devaluation of the Indian rupee in 1991, the process began that for a while slowed down a little but rarely anyone was in doubt about its existence. The reports show that Indian economy grew at the record breaking and astonishing pace of 8% growth in real GDP in 2003-2004.

GLOBALIZATION

Globalization has many meanings depending on the context and on the person who is talking about. Though the precise definition of globalization is still unavailable a few definitions worth viewing, Stephen Gill: defines globalization as the reduction of transaction cost of trans border movements of capital and goods thus of factors of production and goods. Guy Brainbant: says that the process of globalization not only includes opening up of world trade, development of advanced means
of communication, internationalization of financial markets, growing importance of MNC's, population migrations and more generally increased mobility of persons, goods, capital, data and ideas but also infections, diseases and pollution.

Globalization has definitely influenced people's mindset, culture and living standards. Focus of the discussion is mostly on its impact of different strata of the society. Intellectuals, NGO's and several organizations are studying the impact of globalization on value system and employment.

People always discuss its impact in relation to literacy, skills, growth and development mostly on urban life but its effect on rural livelihood where more than 70 percent of Uttarakhand’s population resides is seldom discussed.

**RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE OF UTTARAKHAND**

In Uttarakhand villages, people still live in houses made of mud barring houses of few rich and progressive farmers. Government made houses for people in the name of "Indira Awaas Yojna" are poorly designed and constructed. These houses are in no way better than the houses in which poor village people are already residing. Dwelling units made in the name of "Indira Awaas" are so small that a family of three to four people cannot live comfortably in these houses. This appears sheer wastage of people's money in the name of subsidy for helping poor people. The worst aspect of entire episode is location of these houses. People in rural villages prefer to stay in clusters and large spaced houses. They can stay in muddy houses but they cannot stay in clumsy and one or two room houses. They may reside in open space but not in space constrained houses. Occupation has been taken by the people but most of them are still staying in their earlier made "Kuchcha" houses. Farming communities are yet untouched from the wind of globalization. Labour class has migrated to cities in search of employment. Scarcity of labour has further worsened by the 'minimum wage act'. Earlier, wages were determined by different factors like demand and supply, nature of work and efficiency of the labourers. Poor farmers finding it difficult to hire workers on the wages determined by government and its ministries. Fund paucity has compelled them to perform farming activities using family labour. Government never allows petrol and crude prices to be determined by the market forces. Likewise, framing a policy of minimum wages to daily paid labours is an easy way to show government's sympathy to poor people.

Government has initiated several developmental programs for uplifting of living standards of poor rural Himalaya’s people but full benefits have not reached to the targeted population due to corruption prevalent in administrative and political systems. “Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojna” has resulted in road connectivity in rural Uttarakhand but roads are of poor quality and without drainage support. Toilet and lavatory systems are not of standard quality and not even constructed in all houses of the village. Even today more than 60 percent people in villages attend the call of nature in open fields.

**ELECTRICITY**

![Rural Village Electrified Graph](image)

![Comparison of Electricity Supply Graph](image)
Life in rural Uttarakhand is miserable due to non-availability of electricity. Several villages in Uttarakhand claim that 40, 50 or even 80 percent villages have been electrified. But supply of electricity to villages that have been electrified is on an average not more than 3-4 hours per day. It is big hindrance in development. Globalization is not going to make much difference to rural life until and unless electricity is supplied uninterruptedly 10-12 hours per days to these villages.

**EDUCATION**

School buildings are available in villages but number of teachers is inadequate in primary schools. Benches, boards and other facilities are of sub-standard quality. There is, however, one positive development that almost 90% of girls are attending the schools in the villages. Also more than 60% of students attending graduate and post graduate courses but unawareness among students from rural areas towards technical education and that are the single reason that most of the students from Himalaya’s rural areas are unable to secure employment.

**TECHNOLOGY**

Technology has failed to percolate to villages in absence of electricity and other communication infrastructure. Most of people know about the internet facility orally but a few (10%) of people know how it be works. However, well-to-do 95% families have availed DTH and dish TV facilities. Mobile connections are increasing almost 90% in rural areas but at slower pace. There are no small scale industries in rural villages to provide employment to educated youth.
CULTURE AND SOCIAL VALUES

Uttarakhand’s real culture is still preserved in Himalaya’s rural life. New advancement of technology has not much influence in rural areas. People still prefer to wear dresses of old fashion and celebrate festivals in old styles. Folk dances and folk songs are still popular among villagers. Culture is still untouched and unaffected by western influence. Globalization has no impact on rural life as standards of living are suboptimal but migration of people is taking place and poor people are moving to urban areas in search of employment.

AGRICULTURE

Globalization does not have any positive impact on agriculture. On the contrary, it has few detrimental effects as government is always willing to import food grains, sugar etc. whenever there is a price increase of these commodities. Government never thinks to pay more to farmers so that they produce more food grains but resorts to imports. On the other hand, subsidies are declining so cost of production is increasing. Even farms producing fertilizers have to suffer due to imports. There are also threats like introduction of GM crops, herbicide resistant crops etc.

CONCLUSION

It is suggested that government will have to play crucial role on Himalaya’s rural areas to make much difference in their rural life and it is not possible until and unless electricity is supplied uninterruptedly 10-12 hours per day, students must aware towards technical education so that students from Himalaya’s rural areas are able to secure employment, develop small scale industries in village level providing employment to educated youth will reduce migration and government must increase subsidies for farmers.

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