

# **Globalization and its Impact on Education in Developing Countries**

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## **Abstract**

The term globalization has become controversial due to its ambiguous nature. Globalization in higher education and science is inevitable. Historically, academe has always been international in scope, and it has always been characterized by inequalities. Modern technology, the Internet, the increasing ease of communication, and the flow of students and highly educated personnel across borders enhances globalization. No academic system can exist by itself in the 21st century. The challenge is to recognize the complexities and nuances of the modern context and then seek to create a global academic environment that recognizes the need to ensure that academic relationships are as equal as possible. Recognizing inequality is the first step. The second is to create a world that ameliorates these inequalities. These tasks, in the context of globalization and the pressures of mass higher education, are not easy ones. Yet, it is important to ensure that globalization does not turn into the neocolonialism of the 21st century. My intention is to reveal some of the realities of globalization and internationalization in higher education and to highlight some of the ways in which globalization affects higher education in developing countries.

## **Introduction**

The term globalization has become so controversial due to its ambiguous nature. It has become the topic du jour of journalists, politicians and the like. Expansion of global linkages, organization of social life on a global scale, and growth of global consciousness, i.e. consolidation of world society, all come under the term globalization.

It has been said that high expectations breed deep frustrations. Perhaps the truth of that saying is attested to in recent and more sober assessments of the phenomenon called globalization. The past decade was marked by unalloyed enthusiasm and unrealistic hopes for the emergence of a global village in which the world's disparate and warring peoples would realize at last that they shared one small, vulnerable planet on which their destinies were linked. But there was no such epiphany; instead there has been a growing, if disillusioning, realization that globalization is not a panacea for the world's ills. Globalization has both advantages and disadvantages and it provides opportunities at the same time that it pose its dangers, because globalization carries with it unanticipated, often contradictory and polarizing consequences.

However, globalization, already well established in the New World economy, is fueling competition and is emerging as an important force in education and higher education in particular. Consider, in this light, this statement: "Education is an essential human right, a force for social change and the single most vital element in combating poverty, violence, empowering women, safeguarding children from exploitative and hazardous labor and sexual exploitation, promoting human rights and democracy, protecting the environment and controlling population growth. Education is a path toward international peace and the security". (Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the United Nations Organization.(2000)

### **Have we achieved it?**

Does our education help individuals and communities make use of their potential or enhance the quality of life and the productivity of the peoples in the world?

My intention is to reveal some of the realities of globalization and internationalization in higher education and to highlight some of the ways in which globalization affects higher education in developing countries.

It must be acknowledged that foreign providers have helped in increasing access to higher education in developing countries as governments in those countries are finding it difficult to provide additional resources to local universities to meet the increasing demand for higher education. The foreign providers have especially helped in promoting lifelong learning and continuing professional development. Learners have also welcomed the availability locally of programs of foreign universities at a significantly lower cost than if they were to study abroad. This has been especially beneficial to mature students who are able to study part-time while working and staying with their families. Cross-border delivery through virtual education has revolutionized higher education in the