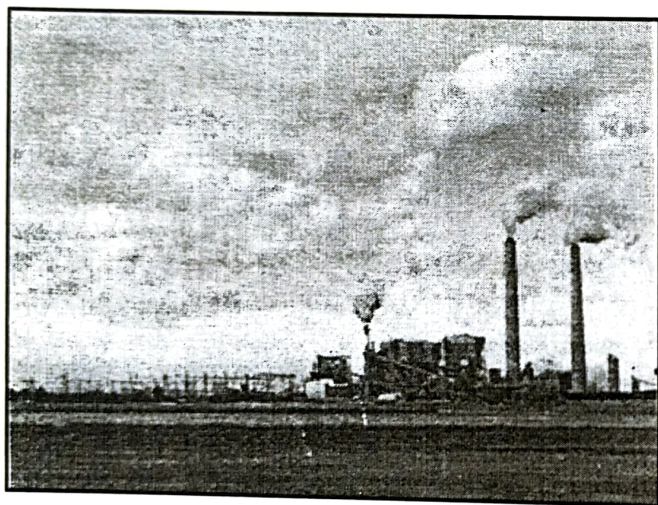


# Globalization And Its Impact On The Environment

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Globalization refers to the increasingly global flow of culture people, good services. Most often, it refers to economics; the distribution of the production of goods and services, through reduction of barriers to international trade as tariffs, export fees, and import quotas. Globalization has accompanied and allegedly contributed to rapid economic growth in developing countries through increased specialization and application of the principle of comparative advantage.



The term can also refer to the transnational circulation of ideas. Languages, or popular culture through acculturation. Activities which have gone through the process can be solid to be globalized. An alternative view claims that globalization decreases inter-cultural contact while increasing the possibility of international and intra-national conflict.

Activists have pointed out that globalization has led to an increase in the consumption of products, which has impacted the ecological cycle. Increased consumption leads to an increase in the production of goods, which in turn puts stress on the environment. Globalization has also led to an increase in the transportation of raw materials and food from one place to another. Earlier, people used to consume locally-grown food but with globalization, people consume products that have been developed in foreign countries fuel that is consumed in transporting these products has led to an increase in the pollution levels in the environment. It has also led to several at spilled from one of the leaking containers

of British Petroleum in 2010 is just one of the examples of the threat globalization poses to the environment.

Globalization has made so many changes to our lives that reversing it is not possible at all. The solution lies in developing effective mechanisms that can check the extent to which it can impact the environment. Researchers are of the view that the answer to this problem lies in the problem itself, that is, globalization itself can lend support to building a better structure which is economically feasible and environment friendly. Globalization is about competition, and if certain privately owned companies can take the lead in being environment friendly, then it will encourage others to follow suit.

It is important that we put in some efforts to maintain harmony with the environment. The survival of human race on this planet is dependent on the environment to such a large extent that we cannot afford to ignore the consequences of our own actions. While there are a lot of debates and discussions on this issue, the need of the hour is to have effective policies in place, and implementation of those policies. The people that we have chosen to represent us have the responsibility of ensuring that the extent of damage on environment is curtailed, if not totally prevented. We hope this article helped you in understanding globalization and its impact on the environment and the importance of taking concrete actions against it.

## The Effect of Globalization

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such as gasoline. The gases that are emitted from the aircraft have led to the deflection of the ozone layer apart from increasing the greenhouse effect. The industrial waste that is generated as a result of production has been laden on ships and dumped in oceans. This has killed many underwater organisms and has deposited many harmful chemicals in the ocean. The damage caused to ecosystem from the oil that spilled from one of the leaking containers of British Petroleum in 2010 is just one of the examples of the threat globalization poses to the environment.

### ■ Environmental costs of Globalization

The principal environmental costs of global free trade are well known. They include water, air and soil pollution, exhaustion of non-renewable and slowly renewable resources and global climatic change—all caused by globalization-related increases in industrial activity, production agriculture and the fossil fuel energy used in the free trade-related transport of raw and finished materials, and by the overriding of local and national protective laws and customs. Regulating the environmental side effects of globalization is another matter. A country importing “dirty” products essentially “leaks” its pollution to exporting countries that have less strict standards. The conflict between trade and environment arises because countries with weak property rights appear to be more productive even when they are not, and export their natural resources unsustainably. Article XX of the original General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) was intended to safeguard ‘exhaustible natural resources and protect human, animal or plant life or health.

Air, water and soil pollution have increased markedly as global trade has increased. For example, in Taiwan, exports have soared as a result of global trade; forests have been cleared for industrial development and tree farms. Soil and water have been polluted by pesticides and fertilizer, and 90,000 factories dump their wastes into air and waterways. Scientists can influence the deliberation of the WTO by providing conclusive scientific evidence of environmental harm. They cite the case of sea turtles which were being caught in shrimp nets: population biologists presented data to the WTO showing that turtle populations were declining drastically as a result of scrimping. Adverse effects of trade on most other biological resources are likely to be far more difficult to prove, as will the growing effects of chemical pollution caused directly or indirectly by global trade.

A few forms of environmental pollution related to globalization are indisputable. One is the pollution provided by the transport of raw materials and finished goods that

were formerly produced and consumed locally, or done without. The term ‘in season’, as applied to foods, is no longer comprehended by many First World consumers: sweet peppers and strawberries from Mexico can be purchased in Canadian markets in mid-winter. Even heavy, minimally processed products are transported around the world to places where they already exist in abundant supply. For example, steel shipped from China has replaced American steel in domestic US markets. In many cases, the distant products are cheaper than local ones, because social and economic subsidies render transportation energy costs irrelevant, and because the cost of pollution is not included in the pricing. Therefore, even when the environmental costs of globalization are indisputable, the market cannot be relied on to control them.

### ■ Loss of Wild Species.

The massive anthropogenic die-off plant and animal species now occurring far exceeds the usual extinction rates that have prevailed throughout most of evolutionary history. During the second half of the twentieth century and beginning of the twenty-first, when global trade and the global expansion of new technologies and exploitation of natural areas have been increasing rapidly, species losses have become comparable to those of the great extinctions of earlier geological epochs.

It is impossible to determine the particular contribution of globalization to the current extinction rate, or even to separate globalization from other, interrelated factors such as human population growth. Nevertheless, it is evident that globalization is making a profound contribution to the great reduction in biodiversity that is now taking place. The negative impact of globalization on wild species is caused by the following factors:

- i) *increased development and exploitation of populations and natural areas to satisfy new demands of production and trade, including increased logging, land clearing for production agriculture, overfishing of marine fisheries, road-building, mining and dam construction;*
- ii) *secondary effects of pollution from production agriculture, fish farming, vehicles burning fossil fuel, added electricity generation, nuclear wastes and other sources;*
- iii) *tertiary effects of climatic change from excess carbon dioxide, methane, fluorocarbons and other chemicals;*

- iv) *adverse effects of ecotourism on wild flora and fauna*
- v) *the impact of the soaring numbers of exotic species, carried by the tremendous plane, ship, rail and truck traffic of global trade, on local flora and fauna. Even a trade-related, intensive production system such as aquaculture, which might appear to relieve pressure on wild species, may have the opposite effect.*

Some of the effects of globalization on wild species are quite subtle. Although it has long been known that this enhanced wildlife-human contact might be the source of new infectious diseases among humans (including HIV), the reverse situation has received little attention. Alexander (2002) document for the first time the introduction of a primary human pathogen into free-ranging wildlife. The report outbreaks of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* in handed mongooses (*Mungos mungo*) in Botswana and suricates (*Suricata suricatta*) in South Africa. In both cases, regional increases in human-wildlife contact, especially from expanded ecotourism and other globalization-related changes in human mortality among both mongoose and suricate populations has been heavy.

#### ■ Loss of Bio-diversity

**Reduced Genetic Diversity in Agriculture** A profound reduction of genetic diversity in agriculture is now underway. The process has been well documented for food plants, and pertains to vegetables, grains and tree crops. Since 1970, pharmaceutical, petrochemical and other transnational corporations have purchased more than 1,000 once-independent seed companies. Loss of germplasm occurs as transnational drop all but the most profitable seed varieties from their inventories. For example, the fifth edition of the Garden Seed Inventory. A list of all commercially available, non-hybrid vegetable varieties in the United States and Canada, shows that sugar beets, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, onions and garden peas lost an average of 41 percent of named varieties between 1981 and 1998. New commercial varieties also appeared during this time, but these were mostly introduced by tiny, independent seed companies, some of them non-profit, and typically represent the commercialization of preexisting private varieties, non the result of new breeding efforts.

It is likely that losses of non-commercial varieties maintained by individual farmers, especially in Third World Countries, are even greater, as representatives of giant seed corporations react more and more agricultural areas

that have been hitherto isolated from global trade. When this happens, local farmers drop a wealth of existing varieties in favour of the new, commercial, 'high-yielding' seeds. Over the last half-century, India has probably grown over 30,000 different indigenous varieties or landraces of rice. This situation has, in the last 20 years, changed drastically and it is predicted that in another 20 years, rice diversity will be reduced to 50 varieties. With the top 10 accounting for over three quarters of the sub-continent's rice acreage.

The impacts of globalization are being experienced not only by domesticated varieties but by wild relatives of food plants. The wild relatives of cereals, vegetables, fruits, nuts and other crops constitute a critical resource for genes affecting disease resistance, pest resistance, yield, vigour, environmental adaptations, high starch content, soluble solids, vitamins, cytoplasmic male sterility, petaloid made sterility and harvest and transport adaptations. Many of these wild relatives are highly endemic, and their ranges are decreasing sharply because of development, overgrazing, increased herbicide use, logging and conversion of marginal lands to production and export agriculture-all of them related at least in part to globalization.

As to globalization-both the worldwide spread of technologies and the networking of all economics-progresses, livestock breeds also face an increased risk of extinction. During the twentieth century. Of the 3831 breeds or breed varieties of ass, water buffalo, cattle, goat, horse, pig and sheep....618 are estimated to have become extinct....In countries of the Old World, numbers of breeds are correlated with human population and with land area.... Peripheral and remote countries have the highest ratios of breeds per million people, implying that remoteness can also promote diversification. Hall and Ruane demonstrate that in Europe and the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), breed extinctions have generally been highest in these countries, such as Switzerland, that have the highest per capita income. The implications for the biodiversity of domestic animals during to globalization are evident. To this writer, it seems clear that breed diversity in Asia, Africa and the subcontinent will be reduced by to globalization (as it has in the industrial world), and this reduction is likely to occur long before per capita income increases, if it ever does.

Occasionally, pressures of to globalization can be shown to be causality related to the loss of a particular kind of domestic livestock, as in the case of the near demise of Haiti's Creole pigs.

These small, black, long-snouted pigs (not a breed, but what has been called a 'long-term puariab morph type') adapted to the Haitian climate and with very low maintenance requirements, were a mainstay of both soil fertility and the rural economy. Haitian peasants, the poorest in the Western hemisphere, lost an estimated US\$ 600 million. As president Aristide notes:

There was a 30% drop in enrollment in rural schools.....a dramatic decline in the protein consumption in rural Haiti, a devastating decapitalization of the peasant economy and an incalculable negative impact on Haiti's soil and agricultural productivity. The Haitian peasantry has not recovered to this day....For many peasants the extermination of the Creole pigs was their first experience of globalization.

### **Top 10 Ways to Save the Environment**

We might think that saving the environment is the duty of the government and the big shots of society, but you couldn't be more misguided and wrong about that. There are countless things that one can do in our own ways which will ensure that the pressure on the environment is lessened. What are some of these ways to save the environment? Let's take a look at a comprehensive list of the same.

#### **Remedy # 1 – Saving Water**

Water is a rare commodity and it won't be long before we will need to fight for clean and fresh water. That is why saving water and preventing water pollution becomes very, very crucial. Keep simple things in mind like turning off the tap when you are brushing, do not load the machine or the dishwasher if there is a less load of clothes or dishes, do not use a house pipe to wash the driveway-instead use a mop and broom, reduce the amount of baths that you take and switch over to showers instead. Do not discard paint and oil into the drains, these will make their way into the nearest water body and pollute it further. These are some ways to save the environment for kids and adults alike. Think back to the ways in which you use water and look for ways in which you can curb or reduce the wastage.

#### **Remedy # 2 – Save Paper**

Save paper to save trees. And their importance I don't have to spell it out for you, do I? Ways to save paper? Make sure that you use both sides of paper believe discarding it, if you can, try not to use paper as much and do not forget to recycle paper. Similarly, using cloth in place of paper can do wonders to save a huge bulk of paper. This is one of the best ways of how to save our environment.

#### **Remedy # 3 – Recycling**

Speaking of recycling, it is one of the most important practices that needs to be taken up urgently. This ensures that the environment is not further polluted and cause for dangers like so. Recycling does not simply involve recycling paper, but things like plastic, tin and metal scraps, office supplies like cartridges and more. This ensures that they are converted into material that is reusable and also puts less pressure on the environment and its resources.

#### **Remedy # 4 – Saving Electricity**

Another factor to be looked into urgently? Saving electricity. What are the ways in which this can be done? Switching all the electrical appliances off when you're done with them, using less energy-consuming bulbs, using cold water instead of hot to wash clothes, using the stairs instead of the lift, keeping the thermostat or air conditioner on a moderate setting to consume less energy.

#### **Remedy # 5 – Growing Vegetables**

Growing your own vegetables helps you to nurture high quality organic vegetables with minimum use of chemicals and pesticides. This is not only beneficial for the environment but also fix your own health. This being one of the most effective ways of how to save the environment.

#### **Remedy # 6 – Switch to Biodegradable Products**

There are so many chemical and synthetic products that we use which find their way into water streams or the air and lead to more pollution. That is why making use of biodegradable products for the sake of washing utensils and clothes, fertilizers for gardens and the like is one of the simplest and most effective choices to make.

#### **Remedy # 7 – Planting Trees**

There are trees being cut down very single day. Do your bit and plant more plants and trees. You are not only replacing the lost ones but are also ensuring less pollution, and curbing green house effect and global warming.

#### **Remedy # 8 – Practicing Ethical Fashion**

Turning vegetarian is a great way to save animals. Animals are being hunted for their fur and other body parts which leads to their extinction and thereby affects the human race directly. Along with ensuring not killing them for food, one

needs to also look into the way in which one makes use of animals in the fashion industry. Practicing ethical fashion is therefore very-very important.

#### **Remedy #9 – Composting**

Making use of composting bins in the garden is a great way to prevent littering as well as providing you with natural manure and fertilizer, that is not harmful to the environment in any way.

#### **Remedy #10 – Maintaining Car**

One other thing that is usually neglected is the maintenance of one's car. There are harmful gases and chemicals that are dispelled into the air if the car has not been serviced well, did you know? Make sure that the car is kept in proper condition and taken for regular maintenance so that it give its optimal performance. Similarly, other appliances need to be maintained as well.

#### **Conclusion**

It is far easier-and more realistic-to predict the disruption and possible demise of globalization than to devise strategies to cope with the environmental upheavals to come. Presumably, physical environmental changes, including increases in atmospheric carbon dioxide, changes in temperature, melting of permafrost and oxidation of boreal peat deposits, changes in the distribution and abundance of rainfall and storm events, sea level rise and changes in the ozone shield will have to be dealt with primarily on an ad hoc basis, to the limited extent possible. Many biological

changes, such as introduction of exotic species and extinction will similarly have effects that are easy to describe but difficult or impossible to counter-especially with the reduced economic resources available.

Responsible critics of globalizations must do more to show the connection between globalization and its dangerous side-effects, and to keep this association in the public eye. Nor is the task entirely negative; we face the challenge of developing workable socio-economic systems that have a strong regional element and are not dependent on centralized, complex technologies-systems that preserve and enhance wealth in a sustainable way. And we must do this before the chaos of resource exhaustion, ecosystem collapse and global climatic change makes the job even more difficult or impossible. International trade in goods and ideas will and should continue, but the only form of globalization that is acceptable is one that unites nations in meeting global threats and in preserving the environments, life forms and civilizations of this planet.

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### **AFSPA extended in Assam by another year**

The Centre has extended the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 declaring Assam as a 'disturbed area' for another year beyond November 3 last, a State Government release said here on Saturday.

"The Government of India vide order dated November 4, 2014 has extended the earlier notification regarding 'disturbed areas' under the provisions of Section 3 of the AF(SP) Act, 1958 for another one year beyond November 3, 2014 which is presently in force." The release said.

"The Government of India in exercise of powers under AF(SP) Act, 1958 has also declared, besides other areas, the area falling within 20 km wide belt in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya along their border with the Assam as disturbed area," It said.

"The Government of India extended and issued the notification after considering the law and order situation in Assam due to the violent incidents caused by the underground outfits," It said, -PTI.

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