

GLOBALISATION: TRANSFORMING POLICIES AND THE ROLE OF THE STATES

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ABSTRACT

The concept of globalisation has become fashionable at local, national and international levels in public leadership and governance. It is widely gaining acceptance in the world of today to the extent that this emerging global process determines successes and failures of nation states' cultural, economic and social lives. The article attempts to address some critical policy issues on globalisation and gives an overview on the expected role of the states in pursuit of a better global public administration. The article identifies a link between public leadership and governance bringing out some benefits and challenges of globalisation in global policy-making. Some of the basic policy issues such as social, political, economic and technological were identified as keys towards transforming policy-making in the present globalisation era. Attempts were made to develop strategies that could encourage good leadership and governance through sustainable democracy and transparency at all levels of government. Conclusions were drawn on the urgent need for some global policy alternatives aimed at outcome based methods which targets specific policy needs at all levels of public leadership and governance terrain.

INTRODUCTION

The term globalisation means different things to different people. It often depends on the perspective from which it is discussed. Globalisation as a concept in and of itself refers to both compression of the world and intensification of the consciousness of the world as a whole (Robertson, 1993:8). The World Trade Organization (WTO) institutionalised the concept of globalisation in 1994 after the Uruguay conference in 1994, the meeting was intended to enforce the intentions of the WTO to create a free trade zone within its area of operation. Multinational co-operations and private sector stakeholders

from the United States and Canada were the first to moot the idea of globalisation. Their aim was to make profits in their businesses by making the entire globe a *single market area*. Globalisation concepts have become a universal term in the contemporary world and had been considered *highly technical* for complex policy analysis in the public leadership and governance environment (Goldsmith, 1996:501). The role of leadership and governance in public sector institutions have shifted from focusing only on state or sovereign national problems. The challenges facing the institutions now go beyond the state borders and therefore have become issues of *common concern* for all countries. The present circumstance in tackling common global problems and other developmental initiatives need to be harmonised and co-ordinated by the state. Globalisation is the intensification of economic, political, social and cultural relations across borders and state boundaries (Snarr, 1998:2). From this perspective of globalisation, the world is becoming integrated through common objectives on issues of global interest.

UNDERSTANDING THE GLOBALIZATION CONCEPT

According to Colliers (1998:1), the term *globalisation* is essentially the process of integration in products and financial markets in the 1990s). Similarly, Pape (2000:2), defines globalisation as a process of restructuring the world economy with an aim of finding new ways for business to maximize profit. Calitz (2000:564) offers a broader definition, he views globalisation as the accelerated integration of economies throughout the world through trade, financial flows, the exchange of technology, information and ideas, and the movement of people. People view globalisation from several perspectives and therefore, it means different concepts to different people. A critical view of the above definitions may term the concept to be *slippery or ambiguous* and therefore subject to misunderstanding as a result of political manipulations, that is why some management experts call for a review of the term globalisation. Globalisation as defined earlier tends to contain the following attributes, Baylis and Smith (2001:15)

- as a process that embodies a transformation of the spatial organisation of social relation and transactions;
- as a new form of colonialism;
- as an omnipresence market place for firebrand ideas, products and service;
- as a network or web umbrella aimed at harmonising the world into one *global village*;
- and
- bringing many communities, states and regions closer in contact even though distance could physically separate them.

The above attributes on globalisation imply that there is an enormous advantage in *global unity*. When globalisation is seen from the positive perspective of solving global policy problems impacting on public governance through a common platform such as the United Nations and its agencies; some global social challenges will be reduced or eradicated. Similarly, when countries view globalisation as a mechanism for global strategic networks of interdependence worldwide, they will consider the need to review

their policies and programmes that will enable them to be more dependent on themselves than on other nations.

Arguments on globalisation

There are strong reasons for viewing globalisation as a new stage in world politics, some scholars often allude to the view that globalisation is progressive, that is to say that globalisation improves the lives of people but others do not see it in that light hence there are critics of globalisation both in concept and application.

Arguments for globalisation

According to Baylis and Smith (2001:9-10), arguments in favour of globalisation are as follows: the pace of economic transformation is so great that it has created a new world of politics. States are no longer closed units and they cannot have full control of the activities in their economies. The world is more interdependent with trade and finances ever expanding, information and communications technology have fundamentally improved the way issues are dealt with in the rest of the world. People now live in a world where events in one location can be immediately observed on the other side of the world. Electronic communications alter notions of the social group where people work and live, and as a result the world is becoming more homogenous. Differences between people are diminishing; global culture is now developing faster more than ever before. The world now tends to share a common culture; time and space seem to be collapsing. Ideas of geographical space and chronological time are undermined by the speed of modern communications and media, there is an emerging of global polity with transnational, social and political movements and the beginning of transfer of allegiance from the state, transnational or multinational corporations and international bodies, a cosmopolitan culture is developing. People are beginning to think globally and acting locally, i.e. a risk culture is emerging with people realising that the main risks that face them are global (e.g. pollution, AIDS and other natural and human created disasters) and that states are unable to deal with these problems on their own.

These and other political, social, economic and technological benefits are the arguments that seem to be in favor of globalisation but the fact remains that there exists many problems that go along with the process hence there are arguments against the concept.

Arguments against globalisation

Baylis and Smith, (2001:10) offer some reasonable arguments against a globalisation concept as follows: globalisation is very uneven in its effects. At times it sounds very much like Western theory applicable to a small part of humankind. To pretend that even a small minority of the world population can connect to the World Wide Web (WWW) is a clear exaggeration when in reality most of the people on the planet have probably never made a telephone call in their lives. Thus, globalisation only applies to the developed world. In

the rest of the world, there is nothing like the degree of globalisation, a related objection is that globalisation may well be simply the latest stage of Western imperialism. The forces that are being globalised are conveniently those found in Western world. What about non-Western values, where do they fit into the emerging global world? The worry is that they do not fit in at all and what is being celebrated in globalisation is the triumph of Western worldview at the expense of the entire worldviews of the other cultures. Critics have also noted that there are considerable losers as the world becomes more globalised. This is because it represents the success of liberal capitalism in an economically divided world. Perhaps one outcome is that globalisation allows more efficient exploitation of less well-off nations, and all in the name of openness and economic liberalisation. The technologies that accompany globalisation are those that automatically benefit the richest economies of the world, and allow their interests to override local ones. So, not only is globalisation imperialistic in nature, it is also exploitative. It is also important to point out that not all forces of globalisation are positive. Globalisation makes it easier for drug cartels and terrorists to operate and World Wide Web anarchy raises crucial questions of censorship and preventing access to certain kinds of material, one of the obvious objections to the globalisation process is that it makes it appear that it is merely a buzzword to denote the latest phase of capitalism. One powerful critique of the globalisation concept is that it makes it appear as if national governments are powerless in the face of the global economic trends. This ends up paralysing governmental attempts to subject global economic forces to appropriate control and regulations, In the globalisation process, there is no shift of finance and capital from the developed to both developing and under-developed worlds. Direct investments are highly concentrated among the developed countries, The world economy is not global, rather huge trade, investments and financial flows are concentrated in Europe, North America and Japan while the rest of the world is significantly ignored.

Following the above *reasons for and against the globalisation process*, it is well evidenced that globalisation carries with it ugly effects. These effects are more detrimental to developing countries than the developed ones. Therefore it is necessary that every nation-state has to look inwards to developing primary local self-reliance economic programmes that will not only empower the people, but will also remove local economic activities from being highly dependent on external influence.

Benefits that will come from this process should be welcomed as long as it is intended to benefit the people. Governments have to review their public economic policies and begin to make inputs on matters of people-centered local economic development. Therefore, a need has arisen to identify some common global policy imperatives with the aim to making globalisation work for the people and not for profit.

TRANSFORMING POLICIES ON GLOBALISATION

Governments are the people's voice and policy-making organ on behalf of the people they govern, therefore in spite of the fact that the globalisation process is driven by the private sector whose motives and aspirations are to maximize profit, governments are expected to begin to make some reasonable inputs in the globalisation

process. This can be done through dialogues, laws, and legislation at local, national and international levels thereby exercising their traditional role of service delivery to the people. A government that ignores the suffering of its citizens lacks development agenda hence the need for the role of the state in the overall policy formulation in the globalisation process. Several issues that may form part of the agenda for public policy considerations in the globalisation process may not be exhaustive in this article. But a few major areas such as social, political, economic and technological were identified as major areas that could influence governments' efforts towards making policy-decisions on globalisation issues which may include, social, economic and technological considerations (Thornhill, 2000.2). As governments all over the world consider every new development as a collective responsibility, then countries will begin to handle issues of global nature with *absolute interestedness* particularly where their sovereignty and economic future of the citizens are threatened hence the need for key policy considerations in managing the globalisation process.

Social Policy

The shift towards a global economy brings with it major changes in nearly every aspect of personal and public lives. From the impacts on democracy and power to the effects on employment, community, farms, and on food, on public health and the preservation of cultural and biological diversities. The consequences may vary regionally, as between the Third world and the Western world (Norbert-hodge, 1996:31). To perceive globalisation through the impact of public governance refers to the growing tendencies for issues of global concern and hence require solutions through regional and global institutions which make attempts towards addressing these issues. Policy on social considerations suggest the development of a global civil society, in whose local groups and grassroots organisations from all parts of the world act directly through organised platforms such as civil society organisations (CSOs), community based organisations (CBOs) and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). They consequently channel these demands to the United Nations (UN) and other global development agencies.

On December 2nd 1999, the *Pretoria News* reported that the 135 member countries organisation WTO's philosophy is based on the theory that when countries can trade freely with one another, without import tariffs or other measures to protect a domestic market, the world economy grows and every one benefits (WTO 1999:18). Many developing states will not be able to reach that peak of productivity so as to qualify for such *luxurious global trade privilege* This undermines the sovereignty of the economically weaker states to protect their citizen's economic welfare hence there is a need for national comprehensive social policy consideration on every global issue.

Economic Policy

Economic globalisation implies the existence of a unified global economy where public interest is adequately considered. This process may have a dynamic beyond the

interaction of separate domestic economies. Here the arguments rest upon two principles, the globalisation of production and globalisation of finance. Both relate to the evolving of large business corporations and are substantially founded upon technological innovation and the ownership of knowledge. It is estimated that more than half of the world's goods and services are now produced according to the strategies that evolve planning, design, production and marketing on a global scale. New forms of production, financial globalisation involving transactions in money, equities and credit, have been emphasized as agents. Globalisation - though has its role in financing global production and as a distinct form of economic activities.

Hayter (1999:58) is of the opinion that until South Africa's first democratic elections in 1994, it was isolated from the global economy. After the elections, South Africa re-entered the international arena and is now experiencing the effects of globalisation in its economy. The new government started a much-needed process of economic reform. It introduced policy measures aimed at achieving expert led growth while at the same time introducing measures aimed at improving social equity. The liberalisation of trade together with lifting of sanctions against South Africa led to a dramatic increase both in export and imports as a share of gross domestic product. Foreign direct investments began to increase, showing the increased international interaction with the South African public economic set-up. Therefore, the need for economic considerations in dealing with the effects of globalisation is important to both the developed and developing countries.

Technological Policy

According to Bekker and Wang (1998:183), information and communication technology have been used to support and speed up quality of service delivery. The fact that it is possible to process and retrieve more information in less time increases the quality and efficiency of service delivery. Technology plays an important role in the process of globalisation; indeed it is necessary for such processes. Technology can enhance the ability of the state to control the repressed citizens while simultaneously contributing to the reduction of government autonomy in the economic sphere. New communication technologies, however, are inherently transitional. They facilitate direct, worldwide links between individuals and groups, presenting considerable challenges to state sovereignty. Nevertheless, while they are used to enhance global co-operation, they may equally serve to emphasize cultural divisions. These create a common ground in which the states can make inputs in the globalisation process thereby controlling all the excesses of the multinational companies and at the same time protect the citizens by making sure that globalisation works for their benefits.

Technology and information is often considered as prerequisites for improving living conditions and thus also social circumstances. In the present situation it appears as though globalisation does not succeed in attending to the real needs, policies and products to improve the social conditions of all sections of the global community. The major consideration in participation in supranational and international organisation should be to establish whether the poor and particularly the poorest of the poor indeed benefit.

It is important to also determine whether e.g. increased trade does indeed provide job opportunities and whether technological developments do indeed enable developing countries to improve their social and economic circumstances.

Although it appears as though globalisation is a phenomenon that will characterise the present millennium, attention should be devoted to the reasons for participation by national states. Should national states still be considered as the building blocks of societies, supranational and international bodies may consider their respective roles and influence to guarantee the continued existence of states as political, economic and social entities, hence there is a need to examine the role of the states in global governance.

ROLE OF THE STATES IN SHAPING BETTER GLOBAL POLICY

Good leadership and governance have become major issues of debate in both private and public sectors in nation states and within the global circle. The term governance can be unpacked in many dimensions based on the perspective from which it is being discussed. It covers for instance issues ranging from the obligation of supervising and monitoring management performance to several attempts aimed at ensuring social accountability. According to Wooldridge and Cranko (1995:344), governance is a means to maintain social stability and well-being through deepening democracy, structuring social relationships and conflicts and ensuring responsive service delivery. This indicates that governance deals with the issue of performance and conformance that may be described as key elements that constitutes governance.

Promoting public sector efficiency and high productivity

The global pressure of public sector efficiency and productivity is perhaps the best-documented pressure in the public literature. There is a worldwide pressure on public institution to cut waste and increase output. With an increasingly integrated world of mobile resources and well-informed citizens, reluctance to keep national bureaucracies up to a global standard of efficiency and productivity can mean dissatisfaction in citizens and a permanent outflow of valuable resources from the national territory. According to Civil Engineering in South Africa (1993:26), by eliciting beneficiary inputs timely, costs can be reduced considerably by eliminating delays, by achieving a smoother flow of project execution and a general spirit of co-operation and interaction, and sometimes reducing or even eliminating theft and vandalism. Higher levels of productivity have also been recorded. Similarly, an effective service delivery with efficiency and high productivity outcomes is one that differs in accordance with the community's as well as the promoter's needs and constraints; where objectives are achieved and where benefits accrued were intended. This clearly can only be achieved through processes aimed at ensuring promoters' understanding of and responding to public concerns and ensuring public understanding of the promoter's programmes and implications of his/her efforts (CUTA 1990:26).

The flip side of efficiency is simultaneous pressure on public agencies to develop ways of increasing effective output and service delivery. This pressure can be seen most

obviously in the number and variety of streamlining, downsizing, and new management and privatisation efforts in governments throughout the world. However, the potential impact of this pressure is more profound than its immediate impact on bureaucracies' structures. It has the potential to redefine the role of government in society, create more tension between administration and democracy and pose a serious challenge on the foundation of legitimacy in leadership and governance terrain. It is important to point out that the success or failure of governments, agencies and institutions all over the world depend on the quality of leadership.

Promoting visionary leadership for good governance

Leadership is one of the major issues today in both national and global governance. The bible states, *Without vision, people perish* (Hosea 4.6) it is vital that national heads of states and government lead by example. They should also inculcate the ethics of good governance and leadership on the top government officials that will trickle down to the entire level of public office. Similarly heads of governments and public office holders is expected to know, understand and implement the visions of government with all government departments aimed at improving the lives and conditions of living of the people. The Commission on Global Governance (CGG) gives a broader definition of *Governance* as the sum of many ways individuals and institutions, public and private, manage their common affairs. It is a continuing process, through which conflicting and diverse interests may be accommodated and co-operative action may be taken. It includes formal institutions and regimes empowered to enforce compliance, as well as informal arrangements that people and institutions either have agreed on or perceive to be in their interest (CGG, 1995:2).

Most governments all over the world tend to develop effective programmes and policies for the citizens but lack practical implementations. Leaders need to be dutiful in all respects. *Duty* can be described as an obligation that one person has towards another by law, ethics or convention. To bribe or corrupt another person to act contrary to this duty and violates and induces the violation of a code of practice customary in a society. Therefore a good leader has to resist temptations towards corruption and embrace transparency and openness that would be a moral guide against any unethical behaviour in the course of exercising his/her positional authority. For example, according to government's *White Paper on the Transformation of the Public Service in South Africa*, the government leadership vision is as follows, (5-15), (Human,1998:1-6): Service orientation and commitment to the provision of high quality services to all South Africans in an unbiased and impartial manner; responsiveness to the needs of the public as well as being human and caring in it's dealing with them; responsiveness to all sections and levels of society which may include among other things; maintenance of a fair labour practices for all public service workers irrespective of race, gender or class; efficient, effective and productive civil service; respect for the rule of law and human rights and honesty, transparent and accountable government and administration.

According to the Commonwealth Secretariat,(1996:6-8), Leaders and public managers must have the following skills for implementing good leadership and governance: setting

directions-guiding and facilitating, moving towards entrepreneurial government by emphasizing performance, moving from conviction to collaboration, courage, commitment and confidence. It is obvious that leaders in government and commerce both at national and global levels face several challenges and therefore there is a need that leaders must *inter alia* demonstrate the highest standards of personal integrity, truthfulness, honesty and fortitude; serve the public with respect, concern, courtesy and responsiveness, recognising that service to the people goes beyond service to oneself; strive for personal professional excellence and encourage the professional development of those associated with and those seeking to enter into the public service; and affirm the dignity and worth of the services rendered by government. It is only when national heads of states and government and the officials comply with the above stated suggestions that they may be said to have the attributes of good leadership and governance.

Leaders whose policies and programmes constitute contrary views rather than the ones expressed above, run the risk of bad governance and therefore may not be locally relevant and internationally competitive as globalisation concept may demand. Leaders are expected to be as transparent as possible in this era of globalisation; this will encourage the citizens and the global community towards making some reasonable amount of input for sustainable self-reliance local economic development.

Promoting political and cooperate transparency

According to Langley, (2001:73) transparency in its simpler term refers to a process by which information about existing conditions; decisions and actions are made accessible, visible and understandable. The significance of transparency in global governance extends beyond the implementation of global treaties. The performance of institutionalised practices across both states and market institutions become open to outside scrutiny as part and parcel of the drive for transparency. Apart from general transparency in leadership and governance, the issues of finance and environmental treaties have to be taken seriously by national states and governments. This will ensure global compliance by parties to every global agreement and therefore encourage transparency in both nation states and global levels of governance. The call for greater transparency across global financial governance which combines a desire for increased disclosure of information and data according to recognised accounting standards and procedures, improved openness of state physical and monetary policies, and less secrecy concerning the operations of the World Bank, International Monetary Fund and other relevant agencies. These and other attributes of good governance need to be observed in every sphere of government so as to ensure a better life in the face of globalisation.

Combating corruption

Most analysts emphasize that corruption involves public officials, but for the purpose of this article corruption can be defined as collaboration between two or more people for the private financial gain in contravention of the public's interests. The international Anti-

corruption Conference, first convened in 1983, was originally a forum for co-operation in international law enforcement. It has subsequently become increasingly focused on combating corruption. According to Wang and Rosenau (1997:25), the eight conferences convened in Peru, adopted the Lima Declaration, a document that consist of more than forty clauses specifying actions to be taken. The declaration was billed as representing the global community's first attempt to articulate a broad strategy for combating of corruption at both the national state and international levels. A similar conference was held in Durban South Africa in 1999 and the delegates declared corruption to be one of the most depilating legacies of the twentieth century and re-iterated their commitment to fighting corruption.

The digitalisation of international finance and the proliferation of strategic business alliances accompanying globalisation are other reasons why corruption may be increasing (Wang & Rosenau 1997:25). There is also another aspect of corruption in which corrupt leaders of the South, bank public funds, meant for local projects in foreign banks, for their personal use. Therefore, there is a need towards intensifying the fight against corruption at local, national, regional and global levels. The global legislative framework will play a major role in this area. In view of the above dimensions in which corruption was discussed, it may be important to describe the scourge as the perversion or adulteration of a situation, a person or an action. It is also the act of corrupting someone by securing their consent to act in breach of duty for financial gains. The act degenerates or deteriorates and becomes an act of decadence. In this sense, corruption is a matter for individual ethics, although it may result in unintended macro-economic cost. There is no organisation or government that can survive in the midst of rampant corrupt practices and therefore the global community needs the full support of all and sundry to eradicate this problem.

Protecting the environment against over exploitation

Environmental issues emerged in the late twentieth century as a major focus of international concern and activity. Since the late sixties, awareness of the risks and implications of a wide range of international environmental problems have increased. Since then, it has become clear that most of the worlds' seas and oceans are *under fished*; soil is being degraded and eroded on a large scale throughout the world, natural habitats are bring destroyed. However, it was argued that the reasons why the issues of environments can be said to be of global importance includes the following (Baylis & Smith 1997:314):

Health

The chlorofluorocarbons (CFS) released into the atmosphere contribute to the depleting of the stratosphere or ozone layer. According to medical experts this has enormous health consequences on the lives of all natural organising or on the ecological existence. The exposure to ultra-violet rays has for long been an issue of global concern and has had disastrous consequences. In 2001, during the G8 summit in Genoa Italy, the non-responsiveness of the heads of states and governments to the effects of industrialisation prompted a great deal of protest around the world.

Common resources

Resources shared by all members of the international community are numerous, they cross states and boundaries. A common problem currently faces the possible exploitation and management of these resources. For example, the emission of sulphur dioxide by one state will be carried by wind and deposited as acid rains on downwind countries. Waste dumped into an enclosed or semi-closed sea affects all littoral states. Such transitional or regional problems exist in many parts of the world and pose similar technical and political challenges to the entire globe.

Over exploitation

Many processes of over-exploitation or environmental degradation are relatively local or national in scale, and yet they are experienced in such a large number of localities around the world. These are considered also as a global problem, examples include sustainable agricultural practice, soil degradation and erosion, environmental problems associated with urbanisation and industrial waste, river pollution and de-forestation. It is observed that these global problems can only be solved with the cooperation of national states and government by initiating policies and programs that will give rise to solving or reducing these problems. The problems leading to over-exploitation and environmental degradation are intimately linked to broader political and social-economic processes, which themselves are parts of the global political economy. Global environmental issues encompass a wide range of types of problems and issues, posing different challenges to those who wish to develop effective responses. Therefore, the global community needs to develop effective responses towards solving problems that will impede development in any part of the world.

Human rights protection

Just like any other public authority, the issue of global commitments and governance are bound by several treaties, which include provisions for safeguarding human rights. Human rights date back to the times of slavery as well as women's rights. These are basic rights that a person is supposed to enjoy, for example, every citizen has a right to life. The establishment of the United Nations saw the universal acceptance of human rights declaration of 10 December 1948 (Snarr and Snarr, 1998:45).

Member states of the United Nations are supposed to embrace the declaration and regulate it through their public governance mechanism. They pass laws that would ensure that citizens are treated fairly as stipulated by the conventions. However, Snarr and Snarr, (1998:45), identify human rights in the following categories: Civil and political rights non discrimination due to gender; equal treatment by law; Social and economic rights i.e. adequate living standards and rights to education. Solidarity rights i.e. global redistribution of power, wealth, and political, economic and social values. Governments are the ultimate enforcers of such rights. The consequence of the globalisation process requires states' participations in various global treaties and agreements. There is a need

for commitment to these treaties and honouring of global financial obligations by all countries. To enforce this belongingness, there must be an agreed sanction for defaulters or else the legal framework will be rendered powerless.

Gender rights and mainstreaming

Gender is a relevant issue in analysing global governance. Globalisation and its effects affect women in a different way from their male counterparts, though how it does still depends on women's interests and identified values. According to Verdussen and Bruyn (1999:423) the protection of human rights takes two distinct forms, depending on whether one adopts a national or international standpoint. Although the two share a common ideal those humanistic societies concerned for the integrity of human dignity—they nevertheless take quite a different methodological approach to the issue. In both cases, respect of human rights is imposed on administration, not only for the benefit of all citizens or administrative constituencies but also in the interest of safeguarding the law of the land. In the case of war or famine, which has been established earlier in this article are issues of global concern. It is obvious that women bear the worst brunt of such catastrophes. Therefore, it is of necessity that the global agenda need to include the protection of women as a weaker sex in such a situation where they are displaced or raped or left without care as a result of internal, national or international conflicts or even natural disasters. Such situations can lead to untold hardship and poverty to those women and children. It is important that every nation state re-align their policies to accommodate a new approach to governance that will ensure a better future for their citizens, which will be locally relevance and internationally competitive.

The above arguments may not be considered as an exhaustive list of the role of the state towards better political and co-operative governance. Globalisation has various manifestations and therefore, countries and regions may be required to tailor policies and programmes to meet their own peculiar needs in efforts to counter-balance the ugly effects of globalisation, perceived or real.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Globalisation impacts heavily on the state even though several business interests of the private sector drive it. The role of the state in governance cannot be underestimated in this globalisation era. Globalisation can be described as a *tide* that blows across states and beyond national boundaries. It cannot be stopped and it cannot be removed. It demands that every community on this planet, whether big or small, rich or poor is by one way or the other a part of the globalisation process.

Global policy alternatives

The good news is that, there are alternative policy paradigms to counter-balance the adverse effects of globalisation. The aim of every national government is to improve

the living standards by delivering better and prompt services to the people. As long as the private sector profiteers drive globalisation, it will still put a squeeze on the global community's efforts towards human development. It is important for governments to begin to look inwards to developing a new approach to governance, the system that will ensure globalisation works for the people and not for profit.

Good governance as explained earlier should be seen as the sum of many ways that individuals and institutions, public and private, manage their common affair within the state laws in the common interest of the stakeholders. In addition to the public (interstate) economic organisations such as International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, national states should still retain their key decision-making roles.

Public accountability is at the heart of good governance and has to do with holding government accountable for their actions. At the political level it means making rulers accountable to the ruled, typically through the contestability of political power. These and other attributes of good governance can be achieved by encouraging grassroots primary community economic initiatives in which the people will initiate their programmes, develop their programmes, and manage their programmes and benefit in the end.

The *new approach to public governance* would encourage that any financial inputs from outside the nation state would be grants, donations or exchange with a view to improving the lots of the citizens, as against being dictated to by outside influence through loans and advances. The new approach is a kind of *localisation* which encourages governments to go back to the basics by harnessing those products and services in which they have a relative high rate of economic advantage over others. The process will not only encourage sustainable self-reliant local economic development but will also make countries less dependent on others and more confidence in themselves economically.

Poverty alleviation initiatives

Poverty, hunger and disease remains widespread, women and children continue to comprise the majority of the world's poorest people. Different conceptions of poverty underpin the mainstream and alternative view of development. There is a basic material aspect of poverty, such as lack of food, clean water and sanitation, but also a non-material poverty. *Poverty* refers to a situation where people do not have money to buy adequate food or satisfy other basic needs and are often classified as unemployed or underemployed. This mainstream understanding of poverty based on money has risen as a result of globalisation of Western culture and the attendant expansion of market. It is important to note that alternative views of poverty exist in other cultures where emphasis is not simply on money, but on spiritual values, community ties and availability of common resources. Global governance through national states has a major role to play in drafting and implementing policies that will direct a sizeable portion of the economy towards creating income-earning opportunities for the poor people. For example, small farmers should be afforded secured title deeds on their lands, which

give them security and vested interest in developing these lands. Government should make inputs in local farmers by supplying e.g. farm implements and fertilizers. This will motivate the farmers to produce more and the economy will grow. But a situation where government makes no inputs, farmers will be discouraged and consequently the aggregate economy will suffer.

Global commonwealth and security

Economic security needs to go along with security of lives and property within the global context. This is because, the absence of both economic and social security pose serious dangers to global existence and economic development. The poor may not want to die quietly and therefore, it has become imperative that there is a desperate measure taken by desperate people or governments to deal with issues in which they feel marginalised or denied by stronger or more powerful states and governments. According to the United Nations Human Development report (1994:1-4), global security includes among other things safety from threats such as hunger, disease, and protection from sudden and harmful disruptions in the patterns of daily lives. These are basic issues of global nature and should be tackled with global efforts. Similarly, international trade may affect national economic security. Since trade increases state wealth, if a state were to invest its gains from trade into increased military capabilities, then it would gain some military advantage over its trading partners, trade could then be said to create *security externally*.

International treaties have been an important base for achieving co-operation on matters ranging from aviation, environmental protection and trade. The majority of disputes are resolved peacefully. Similarly the international community has an obligation to take action in situations where the security of the people are at stake and the only way to do this is by strengthening the global rule of law and for the world to speak with a common voice on issues of war, terrorism and discrimination of any kind. These will bring sustainable development, peace and prosperity to all humankind.

Global policy networks

Globalisation has led to more than just the internationalisation of nation-state actors, with correspondingly, an additional set of incentives. Beyond the nation state, global actors increasingly have to co-operate in new types of *global public policy networks*. An emerging feature that will be extensive and flexible among public and private sectors as well as non governmental organisations. These networks will deal with issues of global concern such as the environment (e.g. coastal or forest protection) social policy standards (e.g. child labour) economic (e.g. poverty alleviation) or political issue (e.g. corruption, human rights) and any other related issue. The aim will be to create a database for implementing policies of global concern by carrying along communities, nations, and regions without leaving any part of the world behind in the globalisation process.

CONCLUSION

Globalisation does not only provide a useful framework for analysing the rise of global activism in areas of global concern as pointed out in this article, but, it also provides an innovative way of thinking about the growth of the global system that does not focus exclusively on the expansion of the developed countries but the world at large. The benefits for developing a culture of good leadership and governance may include being linked to a global economy and society, and global public policies, people could benefit from new incentives and global knowledge for inducing and managing change effectively within the boundaries of nation states. As a result, accountability, participation and transparency may improve over time. Similarly, there exists some consequences of bad leadership and governance; it ranges from lower private foreign investments, sanctions by bilateral and multilateral donors to adverse public opinion. The article did not prescribe a blue print for *state policy transformation*, it also suggests that the development of culture of good governance can only be achieved in a nation state where the people interact with the government and participate in every process of policy-making.

The article has proven that globalisation is a unifying process of social change, or a way of seeing social relations, that takes in the world as a whole. It goes beyond forms of analysis centred on social relations within and between national societies and identify structures and procedures that exist at the global level. It can be concluded that globalisation is and will continue to be an ongoing process through which the world has in many respects become a single place. Therefore, participation of nations and governments in transforming public policies will determine the individual nation's social, economic, technological and cultural growth in the present globalisation era.

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