

GLOBAL CHALLENGES AND GLOBAL SOLUTIONS

Dr. Deoman Shrikrushna Umbarkar

Department of Sociology

Late Vasantao Kolhatkar Arts
College, Rohana

Email-

deomanumbarkar2014@gmail.com

Abstract:

We live in a huge world which is changing day by day in the 21st century. There are a lot of parameters of this big changes in this world. Most of us could realize these changes in our daily life but the most important part of this awareness is about perceiving their consequences. We cannot ignore that these alterations have some positive effects on human beings. On the other hand, most of these effects can lead to the end of earth and human beings. Today's world is more chaotic and unpredictable than at any other period in history. Apprehensions about the future determine our present. If we want to live in a safe world at present, we should get ready for the future problems. Only if we do that, we can make this world better in the future and at present. There will be no easy solution to the problem: the causes of the present situation are clearly related to our economic system, our attitudes to nature, our political organisation, our technological capacities and preferences, and our uses of resources. Solutions will involve not just all communities and every country, but solutions will necessarily involve cooperation between all, rather than individual approaches.

Definitively all these effects are pointing out a term called globalization. Humanity is winning more than losing, although where we are losing is very serious. There is no guarantee that all will work out well, but the odds are in our favour. When you consider the many wrong decisions and good decisions not taken day after day and year after year around the world, it is amazing that we are still making as much progress as we are. Global problems arise as a result of objective development of society, create threats to the whole of mankind and require for their solution the joint efforts of the world community. The specific features of global problems are that they are of a planetary nature and threaten to destroy all of humanity. With these problems, mankind collided in the second half of the 20th century which radically changed the nature, a way of life of people, society. Global problems were the result of a qualitatively new level of interaction between man, nature and society. They are generated by the growth of human needs, the enormous scale of its economic activity, the crisis of modern socio-economic development models and other planetary processes. Global problems cover all aspects of human life and concern all countries of the world. To solve these problems, the united efforts of all mankind are needed.

Key Words : Environment, Security, Social and business entrepreneurship, Sustainable Development, Reformation.

Introduction:

We cannot deal with global challenges without defining globalization. The



Globalization is a process that has been taking place for a hundred years. Actually, globalization is a natural condition for human beings. People benefit from the advantages offered by the world. Nevertheless, this kind of pragmatic activities may cause some problems for mankind. Global problems affect the modern world. Today's rapid changes have made countries more interdependent than ever before. As the world grows smaller, events in any one area have a greater impact on other parts of the world. The global problems that affect the whole world either directly or indirectly and they could range from being economic, social, political or environmental. **Insecurity, Global Warming, Aids, Poverty, Energy and Pandemic Diseases** are today's major global problems.

Global warming is a major factor affecting or precipitating climate change, which has led to many adverse effects globally. In many parts of our planet, the state of the environment can be called an ecological disaster. And the number of these points is increasing. We are practically on the verge of a near-global catastrophe. And, if humanity does not give priority to environmental issues in all activities and make efforts to preserve and restore the natural environment, our history and the whole human being may end very soon. We did not realize the two moments on which our existence directly depends. First, the whole mankind exists and depends wholly on the expense of nature. It's our stupidity to cut the branch on which we are sitting. And secondly, it's not a confrontation at all, but mutual assistance is the basis of everything on the Earth. Perhaps, nevertheless, it is necessary to understand, that for misfortune has overtaken the seven-billion human population. Global problems affect the whole of the planet, and potentially all of the people who live on it. This article confronts several biggest issues, including how to achieve sustainable development, foster ethical market economies and fight new as well as re-emerging diseases.

Definition of global challenges:

Before going to discuss the main theme of this article, first of all, it is really important to define global challenges. Actually it is really hard to define this term because of the multiple definitions. Roughly speaking, global challenges are bad results of globalization. According to **Cambridge Dictionary**: "*Global means relating to the whole world, challenge means something needing great mental or physical effort in order to be done successfully, or the situation of facing this kind of effort, issue means a subject or problem that people are thinking and talking about.*" On the other hand, according to **Kirsten Gelsdorf**: "*Global challenges are defined as any major trend, shock, or development that has the potential for serious global impacts.*"

"Never before has the world faced such a need for sound scientific knowledge and expertise, to better understand and tackle rising global challenges" said **UNESCO Director General Irina Bokova**, co-chair of the meeting of the Scientific Advisory Board.

Prof. Tan Sri Zakri Abdul Hamid, Science Advisor to the Prime Minister of Malaysia and co-chair of the Board, stated that "*The Scientific Advisory Board of the Secretary-General is a reflection that science is global, increasingly interconnected and multidisciplinary. The challenge for us now is how to reap maximum benefit of global science; how to ensure that the fruits of science are best used to address current and global issues, and to prepare for the opportunities and challenges of the future.*"



Global Challenges and Solutions:

Twenty-five years ago, people thought that civilization would end in a thermo-nuclear world war III between the USSR and the USA. But we all know the future is not necessarily rosy. If current trends in population growth, resource depletion, climate change, terrorism, organized crime, and many other Pandemic diseases like COVID-19 continue and converge over the next 50-100 years, it is easy to imagine a continually unstable world with a series of catastrophic results. The world is getting richer, healthier, better educated, more peaceful, and better connected and people are living longer, yet half the world is potentially unstable. Food prices are rising, water tables are falling, corruption and organized crime are increasing, environmental viability for our life support is diminishing, debt and economic insecurity are increasing, climate change continues, and the gap between the rich and poor continues to widen dangerously. But history has taught us that good ideas and technologies can have unintended and negative consequences. These capabilities will eventually make it possible for a single individual acting alone to make and deploy a bioweapon of mass destruction like COVID-19, and for organized crime to become far more powerful than today.

Global Challenges are as follows:

1. Climate change 2. Extreme poverty and inequality 3. Financial and Economic crisis 4. Food crisis 5. Water scarcity 6. Energy security 7. Migration 8. Population growth and demographic shift 9. The risk of Rapid Urbanization 10. Health /Pandemics and infectious diseases- COVID-19.

1. Climate change:

Climate change is one of the most important challenges for the world. Climate change is directly related to global warming. Global warming is a result of high level of CO₂ in the air. This level of CO₂ generates another term named 'Greenhouse Effect' connected with decreasing ozone layer. This ozone layer is what keeps the Earth's climate liveable. Without it, the Earth's surface would be on average about 60 degrees Fahrenheit colder. Because of the change in this level, ice on the polar caps is melting and the level of oceans is getting higher. Also it is really harmful for some kind of animals not just for human beings. For instance the winter in the USA was extremely cold in 2014. A lot of people died because of that problem. Actually, Earth's average temperature has risen by 1.4°F over the past century, and is projected to rise another 2 to 11.5°F over the next hundred years. If we do not take some precaution about climate change and about its reasons, it can be the end of humanity and our planet.

68th United States Secretary, **John Kerry**, made a speech about climate change in Indonesia on 16/02/2014. In his speech he mentioned that climate change is a fact and states have to cooperate about this challenge. On the other hand, the USA signed Kyoto Protocol on 11 December 1997 but, ironically, the USA has not put that agreement into practice. Climate change is also a big problem for Europe and European countries, namely they have to do something about that challenge. Therefore, the European Union made some dispositions about climate change in 2013. A kind of strategy was launched by the European Commission.



2. Extreme poverty and inequality:

Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, particularly extreme poverty, remains the greatest global challenge. It is an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. Today, one person in eight lives on poverty and many of those who have escaped extreme poverty still live precariously near the poverty line. Poverty is increasingly concentrated in certain regions and groups, trapping generations of families in vicious cycles of poverty. That is why the first Sustainable Development Goal is to “*End poverty in all its forms everywhere*”. To do that, we must recognize the multidimensional nature of poverty itself, how it interacts with human and environmental health and how it intensifies inequality among and within countries. Today, we are faced with huge global challenges that cut across sectors and are interlinked with other issues. Addressing poverty, inequality, climate change, food insecurity and a sluggish and unpredictable global economy requires integrated responses and engagement by all. We know that the Sustainable Development Goals are more effectively realized when they are supported by a comprehensive and integrated policy approach. It requires building synergies across all dimensions of poverty eradication and sustainable development. Expectations are very high and now it's a time to come that we must have a collective responsibility to deliver results at the country level.

3. Financial and Economic inequality:

The next challenge is economic inequality between people or even between states. It is a really serious problem nowadays and there are a lot of reasons for that gap but in my opinion the most important reason is education. When we look at poor segment of the community, generally they are uneducated individuals. On the other hand, it does not mean that they deserve to live in inequality. According to the World Bank the percentage of extreme poverty is about 20% of the world's population. That gap between poor and rich states can cause terrorism and wars. Therefore, it would be good to solve this problem in a logical way for rich countries too. The poor people may be taken advantage of for domestic political power by governments by giving poor people some consolation prize for their votes in elections. For me, this problem is a really grave problem for the order of world. Poor people or poor countries may hold a grudge against rich sides and this feeling may cause a collapse of the stable world system and may result in wars. The best solutions for that challenge is to start with education and in this way remove barriers between poor and rich people in the meaning of sociology.

4. Food crisis:

When the world food crisis exploded in 2007-2008, international prices of all major food commodities reached their highest level in nearly 30 years, pushing the number of people living in hunger to one billion, and compromising the human right to adequate food and nutrition of many more. Food security occurs when all people are able to access enough safe and nutritious food to meet their requirements for a healthy life, in ways the planet can sustain into the future. However, food security faces a number of challenges across both production and consumption which research will be essential to solve. Many countries are facing the double burden of hunger and under nutrition alongside overweight and obesity, with one in three people across the globe currently suffering from some form of malnutrition. Indeed it is not unusual to find people with different forms of malnutrition living side-by-side in one

country, in one community, or even in the same household. A major challenge is understanding how we can redesign the food system to be healthy, sustainable, and more resilient to climate change, helping to meet the Sustainable Development Goals.

5. Water scarcity:

Too many of the world's people live with less water than they need. Estimates suggest that, globally, 844 million people lack access to safe water and 2.3 billion people lack access to a toilet. This distressing water crisis cuts across both urban and rural populations and so, as humankind faces the growing challenge of an abundance of water in some places yet a scarcity in others. Therefore, we must take collectively responsibility to seek innovative, equitable solutions that ensure a fair distribution of water resources. According to a 2016 study in *Science Advances*, 14 out of the world's 20 megacities are experiencing water scarcity or drought conditions. With up to four billion people already inhabiting regions that are under severe water stress for at least one month of the year. As populations continue to rise, and unless something can be done, the stress on water supplies will only get worse. At the same time, disaster data from the UN also offers clear indications of a worsening trend of floods, which are now occurring more frequently, particularly along coastal regions and river valleys, and consequently affecting more people. Between 1995 and 2015, flooding accounted for more than half of all weather related disasters, affecting 2.3 billion people and killing 1, 57, 000. We live in a historic moment, where we are all to be faced with the impact of water related crises and climate challenges. The need for us to come together, with care and consideration and together we can make what may seem impossible, possible.

6. Energy security:

Energy is a fundamental driver of growth and development around the world, and the use of energy has been steadily expanding along with the world economies. For less developed countries, energy is a key enabler of growth, but also a hindrance to growth if not available, or only available, at high prices. As we know that that great wealth and prosperity may enhance national security of a nation. But they also bring increasing pressure on world energy markets particularly markets for oil, on which most of the world's transportation depends, and markets for gas, on which a growing share of the world's electric power production depends. Greater competition for finite fuel supplies may take the form of higher prices, which curb economic growth and disproportionately affect developing economies. Threats to energy security include the political instability of several energy producing countries. The manipulation of energy supplies countries attacks on supply infrastructure, as well as natural disasters, terrorism, and reliance on foreign countries for oil. Therefore, for the sustainable development there is necessities to include more investment in energy production and transmission as well as to enable the integration of renewable such as wind, solar and geothermal energy into the energy system.

7. Migration:

In an era of globalization, economic or labour migration is on the rise. Due to lack of employment opportunities in developing countries and increased demands for low wage workers in developed countries, youth, women and men are pursuing work in other countries in order to support themselves and their families back home. The International Labour



Organization (ILO) estimates that approximately 175 million migrants around the world, half of them are workers. Migrant workers not only contribute to the economies of their host countries, and the remittances, they send home augment their home economies. Migrant workers are contributing to growing diasporas, dispersed communities abroad who have ties to both origin and host countries but without full membership in either. Migrant workers are vulnerable to harassment, exploitation and human trafficking. Part of the reason for this is that migrant workers are not granted full citizenship in countries in which they settle. Skilled migrant workers are less vulnerable to exploitation, but their departure has deprived some developing countries of valuable labour needed for their own economies. Many of these well-educated and skilled workers are youth, who make up approximately 30% of the world's migrants. This phenomenon is known as the 'brain drain', where a significant segment of skilled workers leave their home country for better opportunities in other countries.

8. Population growth and demographic shift:

In general, in general, the global problems of mankind can be schematically represented in the form of a tangle, where from each problem there are many threads to all other problems. Rapid population growth of the Earth was called the demographic explosion. With the demographic explosion, there was also a scientific and technological revolution. The demographic explosion and scientific and technological revolution led to a tremendous increase in the consumption of natural resources. At such rates of consumption, the exhaustion of many natural resources became apparent in the near future. At the same time, the waste of giant industries began to pollute the environment, destroying the health of the population. In all industrialized countries, cancer, chronic pulmonary and cardiovascular diseases became widespread.

The impact on nature has reached such a level that there are problems of a global nature that no one could even suspect at the beginning of the 20th century. Due to this global warming, depletion of the ozone layer, extermination of the Earth's forest cover, desertification of vast areas, pollution of the World Ocean, reduction of species diversity of flora and fauna these global environmental problems arises. As the human civilization develops, new global problems can and do arise. If in the 60-70's the main problem was the prevention of the world's nuclear warriors; now some experts put environmental problems first, others a demographic problem, and still others the problem of poverty and backwardness.

9. The Risks of Rapid Urbanization:

It is estimated that by 2050 more than two thirds of the world's population will live in cities, up from about 54 percent today. While the many benefits of organized and efficient cities are well understood, we need to recognize that this rapid, often unplanned urbanization brings risks of profound social instability, risks to critical infrastructure, potential water crises and the potential for devastating spread of disease. These risks can only be further exacerbated as this unprecedented transition from rural to urban areas continues. How effectively these risks can be addressed will increasingly be determined by how well cities are governed. The increased concentration of people, physical assets, infrastructure and economic activities mean that the risks materializing at the city level will have far greater potential to disrupt society than ever before.



But these utopian concepts are threatened by some of the factors driving rapid urbanization. For example, one of the main factors is rural-urban migration, driven by the prospect of greater employment opportunities and the hope of a better life in cities. But rapidly increasing population density can create severe problems, especially if planning efforts are not sufficient to cope with the influx of new inhabitants. The result may, in extreme cases, be widespread poverty. Estimates suggest that 40% of the world's urban expansion is taking place in slums, exacerbating socio-economic disparities and creating unsanitary conditions that facilitate the spread of disease. The Global Risks 2015 Report looks at four areas that face particularly daunting challenges in the face of rapid and unplanned urbanization: infrastructure, health, climate change, and social instability. In each of these areas we find new risks that can best be managed or, in some cases, transferred through the mechanism of insurance.

10. Health /Pandemics and infectious diseases-COVID-19:

Health problems have always been a challenge for the humanity. Science has progressed and therapies of many diseases have been discovered. Despite improvements, there are still many health challenges. For Instance, one billion people do not have access to health care systems in the 21st century. High density population growth and slow progress in sanitation in poorer areas keep many preventable diseases active. Some of the largest health impacts remain *Schistosomiasis* (200 million cases), *Dengue fever* (50 million new cases a year), *Measles* (30 million cases a year), *Onchocerciasis* (18 million cases in Africa), *Typhoid and Leishmaniasis* (1.2 million each globally), *Rotavirus* (600 000 child deaths per year), and *Shigella Childhood Diarrhea* (600 000 deaths per year).

COVID-19 as a Global Challenge towards an inclusive and sustainable Future: COVID-19 is a global challenge that demands researchers, policymakers, and governments to address multiple dimensions that go far beyond the implications of this pandemic for health and wellbeing. Humans have witnessed three deadly pandemics so far in the 21st century which are associated with novel coronaviruses: SARS, Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS), and COVID-19. All of these viruses, which are responsible for causing acute respiratory tract infections are highly contagious in nature and have caused high mortalities. The disease first appeared in Wuhan, China, in December 2019 and quickly spread across the globe, infected 16,25,93,285 people, and caused 33,73,152 deaths in 218 countries, and the infection is still spreading at the time of manuscript preparation. Different types of potential vaccines and therapeutics have been evaluated and vaccinated the patients around the world to eradicate this disease.

Conclusion:

Imagine a world where there's no trash, no air pollution, no world hunger, and no issue of starving and homeless animals. Do you think it's an unreachable dream in the conditions of global crisis, increasing population, and technical progress? Fortunately, a perfect world like this is still an achievable reality. Some countries have already found solutions to global problems and they are going to tell us how to manage to do so. What can be the conclusion? Everyone should realize that humanity is on the verge of destruction, and whether we survive or not is a merit of each of us. The earth is our common home. It does not occur to anyone to



blow up, demolish, and clutter your living room or kitchen. It's time for a person to stop being an egoist so that our children and grandchildren can breathe clean air, enjoy those treasures of nature that have remained and which we are obliged to preserve.

References:

- Gelsdorf, K., (2010). Global Challenges and their Impact on International Humanitarian Action, https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/Documents/Global_Challenges_Policy_Brief_Jan10.pdf.
- Gizewski, P., (2009). The Global Security Environment: Emerging Trends and Potential Challenges. <http://www.creativeassociatesinternational.com/CAIStaff/Dashboard>
- Global Challenges Research Fund. <https://www.ukri.org/research/global-challenges-research-fund/> / Date accessed: June 17, 2020.
- Singh, Ahluwalia., Mohan, R. (ed.), (2017) India's 1991 Reforms, India Transformed: 25 Years of Economic Reforms, Penguin Random House India, 2017, p. 56.
- World Bank Open Data (2018). 34 World Bank, Global Economic Prospects, The Turning of the Tide? June 2018.
- World Economic Outlook. Challenges to Steady Growth, International Monetary Fund, October 2018. 36 Asian Development Bank (2018) India, 31 March 2016, pp. 18-37.
- Shah, Anup.(September 27, 2014). Health Issues. <https://www.globalissues.org/issue/587/health-issues>
- Anthem, P Yemen. (2020). DRC, South Sudan, Venezuela, and Afghanistan are the worst affected World Food Programme Insight. <https://insight.wfp.org/covid-19-will-almost-double-people-in-acute-hunger-by-end-of-2020-59df0c4a8072> Date: April 16, 2020.