

Impact of Globalization on Education and Religion in a Contemporary Society

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Abstract

The impact of globalization on education and religion is a major concern. Some people saw it as a treat for traditional institutions such as the family and the school, another argument saw benefits in overturning traditional and developing modern attitudes. This paper will analysis the impact of globalization on education and religion in contemporary society. Effective education systems and religious conditions are the foundation of opportunities to lead a decent life. The paper argues that education and religion is a core element of society, and the foundation of democratic choice. The large difference in opportunities in education between the countries is one of the basic causes of global inequality. People can only contribute and benefit from globalization if they are endowed with knowledge, skills, and values with the capabilities and rights needed to pursue their basic livelihoods.

Keywords: Globalization, Education, Religion, Contemporary Society.

Introduction

To understand the impacts of Globalization on Religion in a contemporary society first we have to understand the term Globalization.

What is Globalization?

Globalization has become a buzzword today. In everywhere of life the word has been used and abused in most part of the world. It has become a household phenomena now. In the last few years, Globalization has touched almost all spheres of life in most parts of the world. Globalization refers to the increasing global interconnectedness, resulting in a new world order characterized by greater movements, linkages, persistent interactions and exchanges. There is an urgent need today for thinking through a new system of national education, commensurate with a globalized world.

In a global society people sail and sink together. Broadly speaking Globalization is an Indian concept which has been imported from the developed countries of the world considering that the world is one family and the whole world is one village. Education system of any nation is greatly influenced by the political, economic, social, religion and cultural aspects of the society. Tremendous changes are brought in all these aspects due to “Globalization”. Globalization is the result of human innovation technological progress. It refers to movements of the people and knowledge across the international borders. The term has turned into common usage since 1980s, reflecting technological advances that have made it easier. In general sense 'Globalization' can mean closer contact between different parts of the world, with increasing

possibilities of personal exchange, mutual understanding and friendship between “world citizens” and creation of global civilization.

Globalization is defined and interpreted differently by different authors. According to Robert.J.Schreiter,

Globalization “is about the increasingly interconnected character of the political, economic , and social life of the peoples on this planet.”

Some other claim that Globalization is not merely a process of economic integration, but actual universalization and commoditization of knowledge, technology and communication, culture, health care, heritage, genetic codes and natural resources such as land, forests, air and water.

What is Religion?

Religion has a great significance for human life. It gives meaning and purpose for human life. It is a binding force which can bring peace, love, fellow feeling in the world and can save human life from disaster. All religion is divinely inspired but is products of the human mind and taught by human beings. It is the task of religion to grow in man the consciousness that, he is part and parcel of society. Religion clearly states that misunderstanding is the root cause of social disharmony. Religion also points out that social relation are fundamentally valuable.

In spite of such a lofty ideals and vision of religion now a days people are misinterpreting and practicing contradictory to its real ideals and hence religion is not in the present juncture, an uplifting factor in the lives of mankind and has not led to love and peace in

the world. While all the profounder and leaders of religions have preached impassionate in their times and in their own way the gospel of love, brotherhood and selfless service, humanity, by and large has failed to live up those ideals. No religion teaches us to hate other religion. No religion allows violence. It is sustaining force of the universe. No religion says or preaches any immoral or illegal activities. No religion is superior or inferior to any other religion. Each has a goal to be achieved. Religion is a necessity in one's life to guide one to help the poor to reach self-sufficiency, to the illiterate to reach literacy, to the sick to become healthy. Religion must be our way of living and not merely used for preaching. Every preacher must be a practitioner and then only people will have faith in religion.

History had been witness to the sad story of so-called Holy-wars of wars between the cross and the crescent, conflicts between Catholics and Protestants, between Hindus and Muslims, Christians and Jews and others. The intolerance, deep seated hatred and hostility between followers of different religions continue to prevail in many parts of the world even today. It may however, be worthwhile to refer to a few pertinent pieces from some of them to show their breadth of vision, tolerance and understanding.

Hinduism says, "The roads men follow-they all lead to Me"

Islam says, "There are as many roads to God as souls"

Christianity says, "God hath made of one blood all nation of men, for to dwell all the face of the earth."

Buddhism says, "Never think or say that your own religion is best; never denounce the religion of others".

Different religions are different streams of religious experience. We are to believe in the greatness of all religions. The different religions are beautiful flowers from the same garden or branches of the same majestic tree. All are equally true though being received and interpreted through human instruments equally imperfect. Each must respect the other religion, must refrain from even secretly thinking ill of the others. The key to the solution of the tangle lies in every one following the best in his own religion and entertaining equal regard for the other religions and their followers. It is an inter-religious dialogue initiate's hope for a meaningful co-existence which has to be encouraged, for peace and progress in the world.

The purpose of religion is to unite people irrespective of colour, creed, language, sex and nationality. This ought to be its sole objective. The inter-religious understanding is the common bond of religious and believers of the world to sustain the family of human kind. Inter-religious understanding aims at bringing the leaders and members of religion to work together to remove the causes of hatred and tension among people and to establish a future with human experience of unity and harmony. Religion is not in dogmas, in doctrines nor in intellectual argumentation. It is being and becoming and it is realization. It is a matter of feeling in sublime sentiments. It confronts with morality as well as reason. It is the way towards God, truth and peace which cannot be found apart from humanity. Service to the man is the best religion. It is a creative force in man for the divine uplift.

Globalization and Education

Globalization has a multi-dimensional impact on the system of education. It promotes new tools & techniques in this area like E-learning, Flexible learning, Distance Education Programs and Overseas training. Globalization will mean many different things for education. Globalization is impacting the

institutional framework in both developing and industrial countries. It is changing the way in which governments perceive their role in the society. It has also far reaching implications for socio economic development and educational systems of countries all over the World. With abundance of natural resources, India has huge young and skilled man power to excel in every walk of life. The effects of globalization on education bring rapid developments in technology and communication are foreseeing changes within learning systems across the world as ideas, values and knowledge, changing the roles of students and teachers, and producing a shift in society from industrialization towards information based society. The impact of globalization on higher education provides new dimensions for study and research which will no longer limited by national boundaries but also wields a subtle treat to national cultures and autonomy. Internationalization has been very prominent at regional and international level. Among the most critical dimensions of change are the convergent impacts of globalization, the increasing importance of knowledge as a main driver of growth, and the information and communication revolution.

Globalization and Religion

Globalization of religions in the past in the sense of certain religions going global is qualitatively different from what is understood as globalization today. James Kurth in The Templeton Lecture on Religion and World Affairs observed:

Globalization is often described as a process: steadily progressing over time, pervasively spreading over space, and clearly Evident in its development. But globalization is also a revolution, one of the most profound revolutions the world has ever known. Indeed globalization is the first truly world revolution. *All revolutions disrupt the traditions and customs of a people. Indeed, they threaten a people's very security, safety, and even identity. The world revolution that is globalization in some measure threatens the security of every people on the globe.*

The disruptive effects of globalization on religion are particularly worrisome. On globalization as a global mantra and its effects, James Petras and Henry Veltmeyer wrote:

Globalization is at the centre of diverse intellectual and political agendas, raising crucial questions about what is widely considered to be the fundamental dynamic of our time – an epoch-defining set of changes that is radically transforming social and economic relations and institutions in the 21st century.

While on religion and globalization, it is important to know whether globalization unites or divides religions; results in newfangled religions; and has a direct nexus with fundamentalism and religion-linked terrorism. It is also important to ascertain whether for its new imperialist project globalization has been exploiting different religious forms; whether fundamentalism and religion-inspired terrorism have increased since the advent of globalization; and whether religions, far from being belief systems in their traditional sense, have spawned new dimensions which are far removed from the 'spiritual' and 'religious' realms.

Impact of Globalization on Education and Religion in a Contemporary Society

Education and Religion plays a very important role in bringing about and characterizing globalization. Globalization refers to the historical process by which all the world's people increasingly come to live in a single social unit. It implicates religion and religions in several ways. Education and Religion has long been a driving force in the process of globalization. This idea is not controversial or novel thinking, nor is it meant to be. However, the dominant reasoning on the subject of globalization expressed by authors like Thomas Friedman, places economics at the center of analysis, skewing focus from the ideational factors at work in this process. By expanding the definition of globalization to accommodate ideational factors and cultural exchange, religions agency in the process can be enabled.

Education, Religion and globalization have a co-constructive relationship, but it is riddled with paradoxes. The relation between Education, religion and globalization involves two basic possibilities. On the one hand Education and religious responses to globalization and Education

and religious interpretation of globalization. These are, as it were, part of doing religion in a globalizing context. On the other hand, there are those analyses of globalization that seek to understand the role of Education and religion in globalization and the effects of globalization on Education and religion. They focus on observing religion in a global society.

Indeed if there is any globalization of religion, the problem is to identify which religion this process is all about. Indeed, on the one hand, globalization studied refers to 'religion', in global conditions just like an archetypal model above historically and socially embedded traditions. A further theoretical approach to the role of religion and religions in globalization goes beyond the idea that religious worldviews and institutions have participated in the process. It focuses on the degree to which both modern institutional forms and modern understandings of religion are themselves manifestations of globalization. With the centuries-long development of what is today a globally extended society, religion came to inform what is today a globally extended religious system consisting primarily of a series of mutually identified and broadly recognized religions. These religions in virtually every region of the globe include Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism, but a variable list of other religions receives almost as broad legitimacy, among these are Judaism, Sikhism and Jainism. The idea that religion manifests itself through a series of distinct religions may seem self-evident to many people, including a great many of their adherents. Yet that notion is historically of recent provenance. In Europe, where this understanding first gained purchase, it dates back at the earliest to the seventeenth century. Elsewhere, such as in most regions of Asia, one must wait until at least the nineteenth century. Its development and spread is entirely conterminous with the period most theories identify as the prime centuries of globalization.

In respect of the globalization – religion relationship, perhaps the most significant Macro-structural development is the growing religious diversification of an increasing number of socio-cultural contexts around the world. Though not the only causes of the ongoing growth of religious diversity, both the large-scale transnational migration enabled by the networks and flows of globalization and the aforementioned dynamics and processes of globalizing modernity are the most impactful. Regarding transnational migration, numerous studies in various parts of the world have identified the rapid and increasingly mobile flows of people and their different beliefs as helping diversify and reshape their respective religious landscapes.

Conclusion

The age of globalization has brought in a sea change in the field of education and religion in India. Globalization of education and religion has to be spread broad mind that education and religion is not meant only for and individual for a society. The process of globalization is affected the educational and religious system of our country to meet the challenges of globalization. The wave of globalization and trends of internationalization of education and religion further reinforce the need to develop a strong and vibrant education and religion system in the country. Thus globalization challenges us to rethink not only how much education and religion is needed but also its ultimate purposes. The challenge of globalization to education and religion is to realize that the needs of the learners are the needs of the peoples

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