Globalization’s Impact on Weak and Failing States

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ABSTRACT

While globalization flourishes, we continue to see countries struggling to provide the basic resources needed for their people. This paper takes an in-depth look at why the disparities are so high between weak and failing states, and developed countries.
The impact of globalization continues to be an important discussion around the world. Many nations have seen the positive benefits of what globalization represents. The idea of multiple countries uniting to positively impact fellow countries by sharing resources not only affects struggling countries, but international relations as well. Although we see much progress with globalization, why do we still see nations continuing to struggle? Countries around the world are still suffering from lack of resources, food, and employment opportunities. The lack of resources has led to weak governments, rebellions, and porous borders; which create simple outlets for infiltration by radical groups. Not to mention, the lack of resources has affected struggling nation’s educational resources, health quality and facilities, and confidence. The ineffectiveness of globalization in certain countries has created doubt in how struggling countries will improve their living conditions. This research paper will concentrate on specific variables that are directly impacted when globalization is unable to aid countries effectively. The global codebook allows the review and analysis of the variables that make up the successes and failures of globalization. The three variables examined within are health, education, and corruption.

Health risks affect all countries associated with globalization; however, it focuses primarily on the weak states when infectious diseases begin to disseminate. Derek Reveron wrote, “In many cases, a disease like HIV/AIDS poses a triple tax on poor, developing societies, which must care for the infected, absorb the productivity loss when sick people withdraw from the workforce, and care for the orphans created when millions of parents die every year” (2011, 75). Infectious diseases not only affect the safety and health of the community, but they also affect the unemployment rate as people must quit work to tend to sick relatives and family. As the gap to address health risks continues, so does the vulnerability for areas facing harsh environments and inadequate health support. Health inequality is continuing to increase around the globe. J.P. Ruger writes, “Global health inequalities are wide and growing: a child born today in Afghanistan is 75 times as likely to die by age 5 than a child born in Singapore…….Although the average global life expectancy has increased by 20 years over the past five decades, the poorest countries have been left behind” (Ruger, 2). The disparities are frightening as we watch countries like Afghanistan lose children at early ages due to insufficient resources. As globalization continues to push forward in establishing a robust global open market, the weak states continue to go unnoticed.

Education is another variable affected by the globalization gap. Xavier Rambla wrote, “As to education, statistical data report inequality with regards to literacy, enrollment, drop-out rates, graduation and performance” (2004, 5). Throughout Rambla’s piece, he focuses on three countries, Argentina, Brazil, and Chile, and how the lack of resources have decreased the amount of educational resources available to students. Noah Yusuf illustrates specific examples of how globalization impacts education, especially in weak states. “The impact of the globalized environment on education and development in Northern Nigeria is very profound. Against the backdrop of a low educational level in the region, the existing environment brings several constraints and challenges, which must be overcome in efforts to raise the educational fortune of the region thereby ushering in sustainable development. The same challenges continue to impact many of the weak states around the world” (Yusuf, 4). The inability to receive resources to increase low educational levels is alarming. Statistics continue to reveal that the countries with the lowest literacy percentages are the ones most impacted by the lack of educational resources provided by globalization.
Corruption is a challenge that is influencing globalization. Many countries are able to focus on the issue, create ideas to attenuate it, and then use resources they have to solve the issue. Weak and failing states do not have the capacity of that option. Jayoti Das explains how the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) accurately depicts corruption by state, and how weak states usually have higher CPI scores than others. “As an example, in 2008, Denmark, New Zealand and Sweden each received a CPI score of 9.3, indicating that these three countries experience the lowest levels of corruption, while Somalia, Myanmar and Iraq received CPI scores of 1.0, 1.3 and 1.3, respectively, suggesting some of the greatest level of corruption” (2009, 35). Statistics show that the majority of weak states have high levels of corruption. The high levels of corruption are elevated because of the lack of resources (i.e. health and education) that forces people, who are struggling, to revert to strategies that may affect their lives. Since they are unable to envision the benefits of globalization, citizens begin to search for other avenues to improve their situation (i.e. illegal activity). The global data set and the corruption perception index are just a few of the statistical aids that illustrate the relationship between the two variables.

Scholars continue to analyze and dissect the performance of globalization, and its effectiveness on the global community. In depth research has been conducted on every variable affiliated with globalization. Even as globalization flourishes in specific areas, it remains absent in areas it is most vital. The global codebook offers the opportunity to review the variables that make up the successes and failures of globalization. The global data set has identified many variables associated with each country. For example, it includes measures such as the unemployment rate, corruption, and the population growth in each country. After measuring each variable, the codebook ranks each country, from highest to lowest, on how likely corruption would occur in each country. While researching this subject, more theories became apparent as other scholars and researchers of globalization began to elaborate on their findings. Though their viewpoints may have varied, the researchers and scholars consensually agree that globalization affects corruption in weak and failing states. Globalization is the main reason behind high levels of corruption in weak and failing states.

Conceptually, globalization increases the exchange of resources between countries all over the world. Operational theory describes globalization as a global trade market for the international community. Merriam-Webster dictionary defines globalization as “the development of an increasingly integrated global economy marked especially by free trade, free flow of capital, and the tapping of cheaper foreign labor markets”. Merriam-Webster’s definition illustrates globalization’s intentions to create infrastructures amongst neighboring and distant countries in hopes of developing sturdy relationships. Globalization promotes the willingness of countries to assist one another in creating an open market for successful economies across the world. Conflict begins to arise when many weak and failing states do not see the benefits of globalization.

As corruption continues to cause concern in weak and failing states, there is the notion that globalization has no relationship to corruption in these areas. Corruption is not just linked to globalization and weak states, but it is also linked to a multitude of variables. Anup Shah writes, “Corruption affects the poorest the most, in rich or poor nations, though all elements of society are affected in some ways as corruption undermines development, democracy, economic development, the environment, people’s health and more” (2013, 1). Mr. Shah illustrates that
Globalization’s Impact on Weak and Failing States

corruption affects both the poor and the rich. The idea that globalization leads to corruption is not accurate. Reveron wrote, “Thus, in his latest report assessing the progress made with only five years remaining…..noted the problems in achieving Goal 8’s global partnership, attributing it mainly to a lack of resources, unmet commitments, and no clear focus or accountability” (2011, 75). Although Reveron cites lack of resources as a problem, he also mentions other variables, like accountability, which plays a role in corruption. If law enforcement agencies of weak and failing states are not holding themselves and other citizens accountable, the idea of globalization being the main culprit for corruption is flawed.

Human Development Index (HDI) 2011

Table 1. Very High HDI Countries


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Corruption Score</th>
<th>Life Expectancy at Birth</th>
<th>Mean Years of Schooling</th>
<th>Gross Domestic Product(millions of US dollars)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>2.17</td>
<td>81.1</td>
<td>12.6</td>
<td>$499,667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>2.16</td>
<td>81.9</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>$1,532,408</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>2.17</td>
<td>80.7</td>
<td>11.6</td>
<td>$770,555</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>1.23</td>
<td>78.5</td>
<td>12.4</td>
<td>$16,244,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>1.68</td>
<td>80.4</td>
<td>12.2</td>
<td>$3,428,131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>1.51</td>
<td>81.5</td>
<td>10.6</td>
<td>$2,612,878</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2. Low HDI Countries


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Corruption Score</th>
<th>Life Expectancy</th>
<th>Mean Years of Schooling</th>
<th>Gross Domestic Product(million of US dollars)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>-0.87</td>
<td>57.1</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>$40,697</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>-1.00</td>
<td>65.4</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>$225,143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>-1.14</td>
<td>51.9</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>$262,597</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rwanda</td>
<td>0.45</td>
<td>55.4</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>$7,103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>-1.55</td>
<td>48.7</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>$20,497</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congo</td>
<td>-1.37</td>
<td>48.4</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>$13,678</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Human Development Index (HDI) gathers information on every country in the world, and ranks them individually on specific areas of development. The HDI has become an asset in assessing globalization because of its ability to account for all areas affected by globalization (i.e. health, education, corruption and gross domestic product). Table 1 highlights the major discrepancies between developed and developing countries. It illustrates the high HDI countries, who are flourishing in areas that globalization affects. Table 1 identifies countries that
are excelling at the exchanging of resources. The countries identified in Table 1 are also developed countries with thriving economies. Conflict begins to arise when many weak and failing states do not see the benefits of globalization. Table 2 illustrates the conflict between globalization and weak and failing states. Table 2 identifies specific countries with low human development (LDI). Of the six countries listed, all are located in developing areas that are not receiving the resources guaranteed by globalization.

Graph 1. Health Expenditures (per country) vs. GDP (per country)
https://remdesk.angelo.edu/RDWeb/Pages/en-US/default.aspx

Graph 2. Life Expectancy vs. GDP (per country)
https://remdesk.angelo.edu/RDWeb/Pages/en-US/default.aspx

With globalization adopting the idea of global trade to increase a global economy, gross domestic product is an important variable to helping establish globalization’s objectives. Gross domestic product assists in creating more revenue for countries in hopes of increasing and receiving more resources. Table 1 illustrates the average life expectancy for a person living in a developed country is 81, while in Table 2, developing countries life expectancy is 54. There is a large disparity amongst countries because weak and failing states are not receiving the same
resources as developed countries. The resources received through globalization are aiding countries, like the ones listed in Table 1, in maintaining healthier people. Graph 1 uses the global codebook to show how much gross domestic product affects health around the globe. Health expenditures are money used to produce the efficient resources to maintain healthy people throughout the specific country. Graph 1 illustrates how the more GDP you produce, the greater the ability to spend money on health resources. The two countries used in the testing were Chad and Netherlands. Testing the two countries allows a comparison and analysis of the difference between a developed country and developing country. Life expectancy is dependent on the resources accessible to countries in order to establish longer and healthier lives. For example, life expectancy is dependent on resources, provided by GDP, to import and produce resources that will aid the increase in life expectancy. Graph 2 illustrates how gross domestic product affects health in other countries. Both graphs are able to identify that each country that ranked low in life expectancy, also ranked low in gross domestic product. These statistics show the vulnerability of developing nations, who are unable to establish a sufficient GDP.

Graph 3. Education vs. The Educational System


Graph 4. Education vs. Average years of schooling

https://remdesk.angelo.edu/RDWeb/Pages/en-US/default.aspx
GDP is pivotal in determining the amount of education each country receives. Table 1 and 2 show developed countries are averaging 12 years of schooling, while developing countries are averaging five years. This is an alarming statistic as globalization pushes for a global economy. This statistic highlights the disparities between developed and developing countries. Graph 3 and 4 depicts the large disparities shown in the HDI between weak and failing states and developed countries. The graphs above show how globalization affects education. Graph 3 illustrates without sufficient GDP, the average years of schooling decreases in primary, secondary, and tertiary education. The inability to provide resources for proper education in weak and failing countries is created by globalization and its ineffectiveness in developing countries. Not assisting weak and failing states with resources affects the value of the goods each country produces. This in turn affects the outlets these countries have in trying to trade and import/export goods. The resources used to provide adequate education in these countries is left dormant because there is no way to access them. Graph 4 tests the theory shown in graph 3 by using the global codebook to test Switzerland (developed country) and Congo (weak and failing state) in establishing an accurate answer. The results support Graph 3’s claim that the less GDP a country has, the average amount of schooling provided decreases.

Graph 5.

https://remdesk.angelo.edu/RDWeb/Pages/en-US/default.aspx

Corruption is a challenge that affects every country. Many countries are able to focus on the issue, create ideas to attenuate it, and then use resources they have to solve the issue. Weak
and failing states do not have the capacity for that option. Graph 5 depicts the correlation between corruption and GDP. It also shows how weak and failing states suffer from insufficient GDP. The graphs illustrate the higher the GDP, the higher the corruption. Meaning, if weak and failing states are unable to trade and produce products for revenue, they are more susceptible to corrupt activity.

Graph 7. Corruption Perception Index

(http://cpi.transparency.org/cpi2013/results/)

Graph 7 is the Corruption Perception Index (CPI), provided by Transparency International (TI), which illustrates which sections of the world are most susceptible to corruption. This map, which is provided by TI annually, depicts the issue at hand regarding globalization, and how its ineffectiveness affects weak and failing states. The CPI ranks each individual country, from highest (red) to lowest (yellow), in corruption. The CPI shows that of the countries in the highest area, each of them is on the bottom of the HDI list in GDP, education, health and more. The countries in red are developing countries are unable to produce goods for revenue, which creates no outlet for global trade, and increases the likelihood of corruptive activity. The CPI supports the testing, provided by the global codebook, showing that areas consumed in corruption also have lower GDP.
The regression analyzed the data provided by the global codebook to calculate the mean in each category used in this study is to provide the reader with a better understanding of the disparities between developed countries and weak and failing countries. For example, the average life expectancy amongst the 122 countries identified is 70 years old. Table 1 illustrates that, of the developed countries, all six are above the average life expectancy. On the other hand, Table 2 illustrates that, of the weak and failing states listed, all six are below the average life expectancy. Graph 1 and 2 illustrate that the standard deviation is 9.672. The global codebook calculated the average corruption in countries to be 0.058. Of the countries listed in Table 1, all six are in positive sections of corruption. Of the six listed in Table 2, all six are in negative sections of corruption. This statistical test was taken to provide further information on how globalization affects the development of developing countries.

The idea of multiple countries uniting to positively impact fellow countries by sharing resources affects every country around the globe. Even though many nations have seen the positive benefits of what globalization offers, there are still too many not benefiting from globalization. Corruption, education, and health are just a few of the variables affecting globalization and its impact on weak and failing states. Throughout this research paper, multiple scholars and data charts illustrated the implications when resources are not provided in weak and failing states. The correlation between weak and failing states and the lack of resources informs us that globalization still has improvements to make in order to establish a global economy. For globalization to truly be effective, it must positively impact every country around the globe, and at this stage in its development, it does not.
REFERENCES


