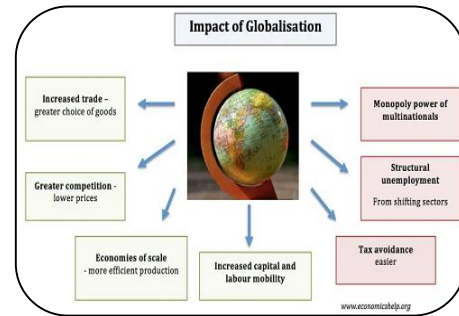




IMPACTS OF GLOBALIZATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AMONG THE ASIAN COUNTRIES

Dr. Kishor S. Navsagare
 Assistant Professor in Commerce
 G.S.G. College, Umarkhed Dist. Yavatmal.



ABSTRACT :

"Yet corruption clearly remains a challenge. Despite countless policy diagnoses, public campaigns to raise awareness, and institutional and legal reforms to improve public administration, research shows that it continues to flourish. Indeed, opinion polls suggest that the public is more pessimistic than before about the likelihood of eliminating it. Combating corruption requires strong collective efforts from different sectors in society acting in co-ordinated ways. The aim of this report is to encourage and assist individuals and institutions which work to promote and protect human rights to engage with corruption issues and collaborate more closely with anti-corruption organisations. It may also assist those who combat corruption to recognise the value of human rights to their work and the advantages of closer collaboration with human rights organisations. In addition, the report may help to raise awareness among key stakeholders and the public of the links between corruption and human rights, thereby diminishing public tolerance of corruption and strengthening public support for anticorruption measures. It suggests some additional tools that individuals can use to denounce corruption as well as to protect those who combat it."

KEY WORDS: Anticorruption, Human Rights, United Nations, Children Rights, NGO.

INTRODUCTION:-

In recent years, the subject of corruption has received considerable attention. Work on governance has brought it into the light and it is no longer taboo. Corruption is being addressed by financial institutions, government agencies, bilateral donors, international organisations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and development professionals. Its causes have been measured empirically, as have its impacts on human development. Institutions and administrative procedures have been overhauled. Countries have negotiated and signed international anti-corruption conventions. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Global Programme against Corruption has acted as a catalyst, helping countries to implement the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). Transparency International (TI) and other civil society actors have created a large forum for discussion and advocacy around its many forms; an international coalition of NGOs has emerged, challenging corruption "from below".

Yet corruption clearly remains a challenge. Despite countless policy diagnoses, public campaigns to raise awareness, and institutional and legal reforms to improve public administration, research shows that it continues to flourish. Indeed, opinion polls suggest that the public is more pessimistic than before about the likelihood of eliminating it. Combating corruption requires strong collective efforts from different sectors in society acting in co-ordinated ways. The aim of this report is to encourage and assist individuals and institutions which work to promote and protect human rights to engage with corruption issues and collaborate more closely with anti-corruption organisations. It may also assist those who combat corruption to recognise the value of human rights to their work and the advantages of closer collaboration with human rights organisations. In addition, the report may help to raise awareness among key stakeholders and the public of the links between corruption and human rights, thereby diminishing public tolerance of corruption and strengthening public support for anticorruption measures. It suggests some additional tools that individuals can use to denounce corruption as well as to protect those who combat it.

CORRUPTION AND CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

Adoption

Children possess a right to special protection during adoption, particularly in cases of intercountry adoptions. States must ensure that an adoption is authorised by a competent authority following legal procedure, taking into account the child's best interest. In addition, states are required specifically to take measures to ensure that an adoption does not result in improper financial gain for those involved in it (CRC, Article 21(d)). Despite this, corruption occurs in many cases of intercountry adoption.

Judges and orphanages sometimes receive large bribes to speed up the adoption process; or judges may accept false documents, against payment, purporting to contain the consent of the birthparents. Such practices violate the right of the child to be protected, because parties involved in the procedure gain financially, legal procedures are breached and the child's best interest is not prioritised. All this violates.

Article 21 of the CRC. Corruption in intercountry adoptions can also violate other rights of the child, such as the right to identity.

Right to identity

Every child has the right to preserve his or her identity, including nationality, name and family relations (CRC, Article 8). In cases of corrupt intercountry adoptions, in order to remove the traces of an illegal procedure, those involved may efface evidence of a child's family lineage, ethnic roots and medical history. Corruption in intercountry adoptions facilitates the commercialisation of children with all the risks and abuses that this implies.

Trafficking

Those who traffic or sexually exploit children commonly engage in corruption. Corruption in such cases clearly impairs the rights of children, in particular girls. Children must be protected from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse (CRC, Article 34), and from abduction, sale and trafficking (CRC, Article 35, and Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography).

Child labour

Children have the right to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is harmful to their health and development (CRC, Article 32). Children under an age determined by law should not be allowed to work. In many countries, the enforcement of laws against child labour remains minimal because the labour inspectorate is underfunded or because employers bribe labour inspectors to overlook abuse. In such cases, the state fails to meet its obligation to protect the child,

whose rights to be free from economic exploitation and labour are violated.

People living in poverty

Corruption has a severely detrimental impact on the lives of people living in poverty when compared with higher income groups. Corruption not only affects economic growth and discourages foreign investment, thereby indirectly affecting the poor, but reduces the net income of those living in poverty, distorts policies, programmes and strategies that aim to meet their basic needs, and diverts public resources from investments in infrastructure that are crucial elements of strategies to lift them out of poverty. Where corruption is generalised, for example, poor people are as exposed as others to the small-scale bribery of public officials (notably in the healthcare, law enforcement and judicial sectors) but the effect on their purse will be heavier. Large-scale corruption, meanwhile, damages the quality of public services on which the poor depend particularly, to meet basic needs. Here again they are disproportionately affected.

Indigenous people and minorities

Indigenous people and minorities suffer particularly from corruption. They are often among the poorest and most disadvantaged groups in society. Indigenous women are additionally exposed to risk. Indigenous communities that are closely linked to land they live on collectively are especially vulnerable to corruption of infrastructure programmes that displace them, and smaller-scale corruption associated with land sales and registration. Many indigenous communities also lack access to education and are consequently less aware of their legal rights. Mechanisms for reporting and tackling corruption are often out of their reach as a result. Lack of access to justice compounds the risks of harm they face. Since indigenous voices are rarely heard in policy discussions, these populations often have little influence on the design and implementation of anti-corruption policies and programmes that could improve their status.

CONCLUSION

Human rights organisations may play a role in helping to expand state interpretations of the right to access to information, and advocating where necessary for the inclusion of this right in constitutions and national laws. An access to information law should guarantee the right of all citizens to request and obtain public information, without being required to justify that request. In case of refusal, there should be effective mechanisms for filing administrative and judicial complaints. Access to information should be guaranteed for vulnerable groups, which often lack the economic resources or knowledge they need to obtain information from governments successfully. Some governments, in addition, tend to discriminate by putting up barriers or simply denying access. Human rights organisations can encourage and assist such groups to demand information to which they are entitled. More broadly, the same strategy can support broader efforts to prevent and expose corruption.

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