

Global Citizen

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Abstract

This essay is about Global citizen and what this term means in fact, the process of globalization and the effects it causes. The globalized world is well-explained as well as the advantages and the disadvantages of it. What is more, global citizenship is considered to be one of the most important aims of people today, so in this essay I have tried to point out how one global citizen should look like and the most essential questions which have something to do with attitudes of the questioned people connected to global citizenship.

Finally, the essay will consider if it is good for people to become and be global citizens nowadays. Given that being a global citizen is difficult, the essay will contain the list of problems which have something to do with this term.

Key words: global citizen, globalization, global world, people, education, consumer, the internet, global village...

Rezime

Ovo je esej o gradjaninu sveta i o tome sta u stvari znaci ovaj termin, procesu globalizacije i o efektima koje on izaziva. Globalizirani svet je dobro objasnjen, kao i njegove prednosti i mane. Stavise, biti gradjanin sveta se smatra jednim od najvaznijih ciljeva ljudi danasnjice, s toga sam ovim esejem pokusao da istaknem kako bi gradjanin sveta trebalo da izgleda i osnovna pitanja koja su u vezi sa stavovima ispitanika vezanim za globalno gradjanstvo.

Na kraju esej ce razmotriti da li je dobro za ljude da postanu i budu gradjani sveta danas. S obzirom da je biti gradjanin sveta veoma tesko, esej ce sadrzati listu problema koji su u vezi sa ovim pojmom.

Kljucne reci: globalni gradjanin, globalizacija, globalni svet, ljudi, edukacija, internet, globalno selo...

Globalization

”My country is the world and my religion is to do good.“ Thomas Paine, an English writer, theorist and activist.

Is the world really our country? Can good really represent our god? The world has always aspired to unification and the creation of a large, unified state. Looking back, we have several great empires that encompassed a large area and a huge number of people were living in them. There were many well-known empires as the empire of Alexander the Great, the great Roman Empire, Byzantine Empire and the Turkish empire.

Nowadays, people also tend to unity and the creation of a unique world which does not have boundaries and will be linked into a single unit. According to that came the concept of globalization as a phenomenon which makes the world smaller. Globalization refers to the absence of the walls of matchboxes that every country had, between themselves based on suspicion, mutual distrust and ambition. But not everybody will understand this definition of globalization.

What globalization really is? Let’s face it. People are moving from one country to another, the trade restrictions are reducing, domestic markets are opening up for foreign investments, telecommunications are better established and the countries that are leading the innovations are passing on their know-how to the countries who are not. In short, the people are no longer bound by territorial restrictions any more, getting the world closer. It's no longer about 'my country and me', it's now more like, 'the world and us'. People are no longer bound by territorial restrictions-unless, of course, there are security issues. The businesses are expanding, the horizons are widening, and the people are coming together to form one homogeneous unit - HUMANITY. This is known as globalization. Globalization is not just the coming together and integration of people. It is the integration of ideas, of cultures and of values.

The pessimists continue the talk about the friction this is generating, but the endorsers of globalization choose to remain positive about things and go with the flow. The optimists want to jump on to the bandwagon of the globalized world and reap the benefits of a larger market and a larger talent pool. And hence, despite the doomsayers, globalization goes on unabated.



The advantages and the disadvantages of globalization

As far as the term and the phenomenon of globalization are concerned, the experts are divided into those who are for and those who are against the world becoming one country. There are so many advantages and so many disadvantages about if the process of globalization should be continued. As we know globalization means increasing the interdependence, connectivity and integration on a global level with respect to the social, cultural, political, technological, economic and ecological levels. Due to that fact good sides are very important.

Advantages of Globalization

- Goods and people are transported with more easiness and speed
- the possibility of war between the developed countries decreases
- free trade between countries increases
- global mass media connects all the people in the world
- as the cultural barriers reduce, the global village dream becomes more realistic
- there is a propagation of democratic ideals
- the interdependence of the nation-states increases
- as the liquidity of capital increases, developed countries can invest in developing ones
- the flexibility of corporations to operate across borders increases
- the communication between the individuals and corporations in the world increases
- environmental protection in developed countries increases

So what's the harm if the entire world is coming together on a common platform? Why are we even discussing whether globalization is good or bad for the world? As we said earlier, everything has a good side and a bad side. The bad side of globalization, what we refer to as globalization disadvantages, predominantly revolve around the fact that preferences differ from nation to nation, and coming to a consensus on any issue becomes more difficult when too many nodes are required.

When it comes to globalization, the difference between the rich and poor nation can be a major hindrance. Even though the richer nations will try to assimilate and help poor nations come up, they will not sacrifice on their national interests willingly. Given below are some of the bad effects of globalization which have sparked off the debate on this concept.

Disadvantages of Globalization

Economic Problems: If the entire world becomes a global village, any sort of economic disruption in one nation will have a disastrous impact on various other nations which are closely related to it in terms of trade and commerce. It will be a domino-effect wherein disturbance in one economy would result in disturbance in another, and so on!

Cultural Problems: Culture and globalization also seem to be at the loggerheads. Critics of globalization are also of the opinion that it will hamper the age-old cultures which have been followed religiously all over the world. There are many countries in the world which would

Global Citizen

never agree to compromise when it comes to culture or religion. Migration will become even easier, and the influence of local cultures and traditions will slowly start to wear down. Incessant westernization of Southeast Asian nations has already put western cultural beliefs and traditions under the scanner in these countries.



Unemployment: One may feel that globalization is promoting employment, but the fact is exactly reverse of this is happening, especially in developed countries wherein people are losing jobs as a result of outsourcing. Several major companies from the United States and United Kingdom have outsourced their jobs to the developing nations in Asia, this has in turn resulted in unemployment in these countries.

Spread of Diseases: Increase in flow of people will also result in spread of diseases, and thus make people more vulnerable to health issues. We do have many examples in history wherein outbreak of a particular disease happened in some part of the world, and before we could realize it spread throughout the world.

While there do exist few more disadvantages of globalization, they are relatively less important as compared to the major disadvantages mentioned above. The strong point that the critics of globalization and supporters of anti-globalization movement want to make is that this phenomenon will result in implications in terms of economics, culture, health and employment, and most of the countries are not ready to take on these disadvantages head-on. Taking their seriousness into consideration, it is not at all possible to turn a blind eye towards these negative effects of globalization. The need of the hour, therefore, is to evaluate various pros and cons of globalization find out which of the two have an edge over the other.

Global Citizen

Global Citizenship- A New Concept?

'Global Citizenship' is a relatively new term, but it is based on ancient concepts. In both Ancient Greece and Ancient Rome, a 'citizen' was someone who not only 'belonged' to a place, but was also someone who played a role in advancing society- someone who made life better.

As the theory of 'citizenship' developed and interaction between different countries and cultures increased, several Ancient Greeks and Romans began to call themselves 'citizens of the world' (or 'global citizens'). They started to look at their lives in a much wider context.

These historical definitions show that citizenship has never been simply about 'belonging' to a place. It is also about making positive changes, and considering the wider environment. A Global Citizen is someone who cares about themselves, how they act and how their actions

Global Citizen

impact others, both locally and remotely. A Global Citizen is more importantly, someone who is willing to act if they feel that the world they live in is not what it should be, and someone who tends to turn it to global world.



What is a Global Citizen?

Today, every single one of us is a 'Global Citizen', whether we are conscious of it or not. Global inter-dependence happens every day. We rely on countless different people from all over the world for the clothes we wear, the food we eat and the technology we use. Our daily lives are constantly affected by what people on the other side of the planet are doing!

How one Global Citizen should look like?

He or she:

- is aware of the wider world and has a sense of their own role as a world citizen;
- respects and values diversity;
- has an understanding of how the world works economically, politically, socially, culturally, technologically and environmentally;
- is outraged by social injustice;
- participates in and contributes to the community at a range of levels from local to global;
- is willing to act to make the world a more sustainable place;
- takes responsibility for their actions

As far as this topic is concerned I carried out a survey about what do teenagers know about Global Citizen and are they one. They mainly said that Global Citizen is one who communicate with people from other foreign countries by social networks (facebook, tweeter,..) However there are also those who think that Global Citizen should be one who brings peace to the world and love people no matter where they live, which race they are, or which language they use. What is more 84 % of polled ones think that they are Global Citizens while the others find themselves not belonging to this group.

“Think globally, act locally“

"Think Globally, Act Locally" originally began at the grassroots level, however, it is now a global concept with high importance. It is not just volunteers who take the environment into consideration. It is corporations, government officials, education system, and local communities. It is now extremely important to consider global markets and communities when doing business. Global markets and large corporations have one of the largest impacts on the environment, it is their influence and actions that are vital to the survival of our planet.

Global Citizen

Large corporations have the most impact on the environment, therefore "thinking globally and acting locally" can make a major difference in the survival of our planet.

"Think globally, act locally" urges people to consider the health of the entire planet and to take action in their own communities and cities. Long before governments began enforcing environmental laws, individuals were coming together to protect habitats and the organisms that live within them. These efforts are referred to as grassroots efforts. They occur on a local level and are primarily run by volunteers and helpers.

Statistics showed that one half of the all questioned said they don't consider themselves as a person who "Think globally, act locally". On the other hand second half said that they are that kind of person or admitted that they have not ever thought about that and do not have opinion to share.

Education and Global Citizen

To create a world of Global Citizens, education must be a priority. Global Citizenship is not an additional subject - it is an ethos. It can best be implemented through a whole-school approach, involving everyone with a stake in educating children, from the children themselves to those with teaching and non-teaching roles in the school, parents, governors/school board members, and the wider community.

Global Citizenship in schools is based on the following principles:

- * The importance of reaffirming or developing a sense of identity and self-esteem.
- * Valuing all pupils and addressing inequality within and outside school.
- * Acknowledging the importance of relevant values, attitudes, and personal and social education.
- * Willingness to learn from the experiences of others around the world.
- * Relevance to young people's interests and needs.
- * Supporting and increasing young peoples' motivation to effect change.



A holistic approach to Global Citizenship - that it should be an ethos permeating all areas of school life

Most of the respondents claimed that role of education is very important and it broadens our minds but there are some opinions which are different. The most interesting ones are:

- "We should learn, but not only from the book, but from all situations we get in in our everyday life."

- "Education has nothing to do with Global Citizenship."

- "With all that easily accessible information we do not get smarter, we are just becoming preoccupied with unimportant information."

The Global Village

The world currently has a population of over a 6 and a half billion and it is growing by over 200.000 every day. 10 countries now each have more than 100 million people. And China and India both have over a billion. Such big numbers aren't easy to imagine. But what if we imagined the population of the world as a village of just 100 people? What would this global village be like?

- there would be 60 Asians, 14 Africans, 12 Europeans, 8 Latin Americans, 5 North Americans, and 1 from the South Pacific.
- 51 would be male and 49 would be female.
- 80 would live in a poor housing.
- 50 wouldn't have enough food.
- 24 wouldn't have any electricity. (And most of the other 76 would only use it at night.)
- 17 wouldn't know how to read.
- 7 would have access to the Internet.
- 5 would control 32% of the village's money.
- only 1 would have a college education.
- 1 person would die every year, but 2 babies would be born.



Global Citizen

People who have been asked what they think about the phenomenon of global village declared that our world is huge but it is getting smaller and smaller due to the Internet which connects all people in the world. Also, The WWW confirms that the Internet is web invented to provide to all of us all "topical" information we are in need for. Creating the world as one unit by the Internet where flow of information and news expand everyday knowledge of people is good but of course has its bad sides.

One bad side of global village is that huge percent of goods are controlled by small number of people. That is also the case when it comes to energy, especially nuclear one.

The village would be buried beneath it enough explosive power in nuclear weapons to blow itself to smithereens many times over. These weapons would be under the control of just 10 of the people. The other 90 people would be watching them with deep anxiety, wondering whether they can learn to get along together; and if they do, whether they might set off the weapons anyway through inattention or technical bungling; and, if they ever decide to dismantle the weapons, where in the world village they would dispose of the radioactive materials of which the weapons are made.

Environmental Citizenship

Environmental Citizenship is an idea that each of us is an integral part of a larger ecosystem and that our future depends on each one of us embracing the challenge and acting responsibly and positively toward our environment. It's about making changes in our daily lives to be environmental citizens all day, every day.

Scientists have spent decades figuring out what is causing global warming. They've looked at the natural cycles and events that are known to influence climate. But the amount and pattern of warming that's been measured can't be explained by these factors alone. The only way to explain the pattern is to include the effect of greenhouse gases (GHGs) emitted by **humans**.

In my research more than 80 percent of repondents agree that global citizenship causes the destruction of the environment and nature around us and the others say that it is ok until people have benefits.



For a number of years, there have been concerns that climate change negotiations will essentially ignore a key principle of climate change negotiation frameworks: the common but differentiated responsibilities. Realizing that greenhouse emissions remain in the atmosphere for a very long time, this principle recognizes that historically:

- Industrialized nations have emitted far more greenhouse gas emissions (even if some

Global Citizen

- developing nations are only now increasing theirs);
- Rich countries therefore face the biggest responsibility and burden for action to address climate change; and
- Rich countries therefore must support developing nations adapt—through financing and technology transfer, for example.

This notion of climate justice is typically ignored by many rich nations and their mainstream media, making it easy to blame China, India and other developing countries for failures in climate change mitigation negotiations.

Development experts calculated that taking historical emissions into account, the rich countries owe a carbon debt because they have already used more than their fair quota of emissions.

Yet, by 2050 when certain emission reductions are needed by, their reduced emissions will still add up to go over their fair share.

However, rather than continue down the path of unequal development, industrialized nations can help pay off their carbon debt by truly helping emerging countries develop along a cleaner path, such as through the promised-but-barely-delivered technology transfer, finance, and capacity building. So far however, rich nations have done very little to reduce emissions by any meaningful amount, while they are all for negotiating a follow on treaty that brings more pressure to developing countries to agree to emissions targets.

In fact, the more there will be delay the more the poor nations will have to save the Earth with their sacrifices (and if it works, as history shows, the rich and powerful will find a way to rewrite history to claim they were the ones that saved the planet).

Global Consumer

The consumer is the one who consumes the goods and services produced. As such, consumers play a vital role in the economic system of a nation because in the absence of the effective demand that emanates from them, the economy virtually collapses.



Global consumer is the one who consumes the good which produce services from all over the world. He tends to meet his needs and to fit the current trend which is placed by the global market using the goods which is popular with people he is connected to. He knows his rights as a consumer but often he does not know where the goods he buys come from, but he continues doing the same in order to stay in trend.

Today there are many large companies that sell their products all over the globe and cover a large market of consumer countries thus making a monopoly on the market. Large branded companies in

large retail chains sell their products already advertised and thus invite customers to remain

Global Citizen

loyal to them. In this way small businesses and private workshops fail, and many people lose their jobs. As the big companies are often from developed countries, they are getting richer and richer and those countries wherein companies get closed, go bankrupt. In this way, the global consumers destroy economy of their country without even knowing that it is happening. Thus, in a globalized world economy developed countries are developing and not that developed ones are getting poorer as well as Third-World countries are becoming less developed.

Also, 80% of polled think that Global Citizenship will not improve the way of life of the people and decrease the famine and slavery in the Third-World countries. When they were asked if they consider their consumer rights are disturbed, they mostly claimed that it is true, but there is someone who said that all consumers have their own needs and desires but they sacrifice them differently. Finally, there is one answer which says that despite all the disadvantages of global economy, global citizenship will result good in some other ways.

Unifying the world - Conclusion

Should we be global citizens? In my opinion, we should, but in order to be citizens of the world we should think in global terms and be the citizens of our own country first. We must be good citizens in our own country – respect our compatriots, save our surroundings and natural resources.

First of all, our attitudes, opinions and behaviour should change. First step towards this change might be doing some voluntary work, which can be a great way to gain some useful skills. Then, we can share our knowledge with everyone we can reach. Every single person, every single act counts. As Margaret Mead says: “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has.”

Another, very important thing is taking responsibilities for your behaviour and actions, pursuing justice and respecting the law and other people no matter who they are. Things like diversity of languages, religion, human races and nationalities should not be hindrance for willing people to associate with others all over the world because in the world of global citizens there is no room for prejudice.

A global citizen needs to be aware of world religions, history, and cultural traditions, to be able to understand the conflicts and international relationships today. Whenever possible, a global citizen should try to pay attention to what’s going on in the world. A global citizen should be truly interested in all people and countries, no matter how far away they are. A global citizen should try to learn, travel and understand.

There are many different approaches to active global citizenship but the only lodestar in our lives ought to be goodness. Only in that way connections among people are going to be strengthened and the world more unified. Being positive must become our first step towards unifying the world.

Contents

ABSTRACT	1
REZIME	1
GLOBALIZATION	2
THE ADVANTAGES AND THE DISADVANTAGES OF GLOBALIZATION	3
ADVANTAGES OF GLOBALIZATION.....	3
DISADVANTAGES OF GLOBALIZATION.....	3
GLOBAL CITIZEN	4
“THINK GLOBALLY, ACT LOCALLY“.....	5
EDUCATION AND GLOBAL CITIZEN.....	6
THE GLOBAL VILLAGE	7
ENVIRONMENTAL CITIZENSHIP.....	8
GLOBAL CONSUMER	9
UNIFIING THE WORLD- CONCLUSION	10

Global Citizen