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Introduction

1. Changes in Social Practices due to Global Connectedness

According to Ritzer (2010), social practices can be defined as the routine activities that a group of people or a particular community continually engages in and which forms the framework on which they co-exist with one another. Social practices include a people's way of dressing, their customs and beliefs; the food they eat among many other similar factors.

Global connectedness through information technology has opened up the world and enabled people of different cultures to interact and have a basic understanding of the social practices which they engage in within their respective domains. As a result, people from different cultures have borrowed the social practices of each other and in some cases engrained them as part of their own existence as result of global connectedness. A good example of this effect is the westernization of different cultures in the eastern part of the world which has resulted in the adoption of English as the official language of communication throughout the globe (Ritzer, 2010).

2. Influence of Global Connectedness on the consequences of a global market

According to Steger (2013), Global Connectedness refers to a state of unity that exists between the people, countries and inhabitants an of the globe as a result of advancements in information technology that have created a platform through which people can easily communicate and interact with one another as well as travel to different countries across the word with minimal or no restrictions whatsoever.

Steger (2013) adds that global connectedness is in part driven by the existence of cross-border trade and investment among different countries located on the same continent or in different geographic jurisdictions. In this regard, global connectedness has resulted in the emergence of numerous benefits that are associated with the global trade market. Key among these consequences is the increased demand for the goods and services that are produced by the different countries which in turn has led to the expansion of the industries manufacturing the goods; resulting in employment, GDP increases and overall economic development over time (Steger, 2013).

3. How Global Society has influenced social change

According to Abbas (2012), various aspects of particular societies across the globe have been influenced positively and in some instances negatively as a result of the emergence of a global society that has thrived under the framework of global connectedness. Social change in particular has arisen in the field of politics where the principle of democracy has gradually spread across many geographic jurisdictions of the world that previously ascribed to governing policies such as dictatorship (Abbas, 2012).

The 2011 Jasmine Revolution that began in Tunisia and spread across the Arab World is a direct consequence of the influence which the global society had on the political systems in these countries that ultimately resulted in their citizens demanding better standards of leadership in line with those found in other countries (Abbas, 2012).

4. Global Connectedness in the Field of Emergency response/preparedness

At a personal level, global connectedness has played a significant role in revolutionizing the operations that characterize the field of emergency response and preparedness. According

to Dunning (2014), one of the most significant impacts of global connectedness in this field is the creation of communication systems that are effective and which can be used to not only respond to emergencies, but to also anticipate them and prepare accordingly before they occur.

These communication systems have been created as a result of the emergence of different emergency situations that range from natural calamities such as earthquakes and floods, to man-made calamities that include acts of terrorism. By creating a platform through which emergency services remain on standby at all times, global connectedness has enabled the movement of emergency services across countries whenever the need has arisen within a relatively short period of time. This movement has resulted in the saving of thousands of lives and the prevention of fatalities, whenever these emergencies have come up in the recent past (Dunning, 2014).

5. Global Connectedness and National Identity

The emergence of a global market due to the growth of global connectedness has resulted in both the advancement as well as the diminishing of the national identity of certain countries that are found in the different geographic regions of the world (Archibugi, 2015). In Europe for instance, the emergence of the European Monetary Union or the EU is a consequence of global connectedness that has led to the development of a global market within this region. However, the sovereignty and distinct national identity of the country that forms the European Union has ended up being lost within this economic structure.

In this regard, global connectedness can be perceived as having the drawback of diminishing the national identities of some countries (Archibugi, 2015). On the other hand, global

connectedness has numerous benefits that include the creation of new markets through which countries can sell their goods and services; and generate revenue which can be used for the growth and development of their economies over the long term (Archibugi, 2015).

Issue Arising from Global Connectedness

1. Description of Soil of Global Issue

According to Ritzer (2010), one of the main characteristics of global connectedness is the free movement of people from one country to another or from one geographic region to the next with minimal restrictions in pursuit of trade and education opportunities, among other objectives. However, this free movement of people from one region to the next has resulted in the emergence of a significant global issue, which is the maintenance and sustenance of health standards among the population of a country.

Whenever people move from one country to the next, concerns have been raised by different stakeholders that these people could easily carry with them diseases which they could spread to the inhabitants of the countries or regions where these immigrants have moved to. These concerns have been more prevalent especially where people move from less developed countries to more advanced economies such as the United States, Europe and Canada among other similar nations (Ritzer, 2010).

2. Target Population of Global or Social Issue

According to Steger (2013), the people who are most likely to be affected by the global issue of the health concerns of immigrants moving from one country to another are the people who inhabit the geographic spaces where the immigrants usually immigrate to. These concerns are more profound in instances where the emergence of deadly epidemics has

occurred and the people who were affected the most are those who were caught up by these epidemics by virtue of the fact that they resided in a particular physical location (Steger, 2010).

Towards the end of the Year 2014, the deadly Ebola Virus broke out in the third world countries of Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea in Africa. This epidemic had the potential of spreading to other nations such as neighboring Nigeria and western countries such as Canada and the United States as a result of the movement of people from the countries where the epidemic was found to these nations. The people inhabiting such countries would have been greatly adversely affected if measures to prevent the spread of the epidemic were not taken in good time (Steger, 2010).

3. Consequences of a global market and the Identified global issue

According to Abbas (2012), the identified issue of health concerns surrounding the movement of migrants from one country to another can also significantly impact the scope and extent under which global market trade is undertaken within the realm of global connectedness. In this regard, health concerns relating to the movement of people can also be manifested through the movement of goods from one country to another which may result in adverse health impacts on the people residing in the particular area where these goods have been shipped to (Abbas, 2012).

In this regard, such goods and services may contain contaminated elements that may cause such damages and thus, utmost care must be taken in ensuring that goods, and not only people, do not lead to the transmission of health epidemics from one region to another (Abbas, 2012).

4. Impact of Identified Issue on the Target Population

As previously mentioned, the movement of people as well as goods in the form of trade from one country to another can result in adverse health consequences where disease and other serious epidemics can be transmitted by these immigrating people to the populations and inhabitants of the regions where the movements take place. Such diseases and epidemics can have fatal consequences on the target population if left unchecked or if they are not detected in good time (Dunning, 2014).

In other instances, the effects of these health concerns might be more severe on the target population than on the people who carry them due to adaptations arising from climatic conditions that may create a situation whereby the carriers of the diseases are immune to them or are only mildly affected, yet when these epidemics land on the target population they cause havoc since such populations are not climatically adjusted and immune to such epidemics (Dunning, 2014).

5. Changes in Social Global Issue in the Future

According to Archibugi (2015), concerns arising from health issues associated with global connectedness due to the movement of people and goods from one country to another are likely to become less prevalent in the future due to the emergence of medical technologies that will be capable of detecting and treating them before they arise.

One of the main contributors to the deepening of the global connectedness principle is the advancement in technology that has not only enabled people to communicate easily but to broaden their emergency preparedness and responsiveness in relation to various health concerns (Archibugi, 2015). These capabilities have resulted in the achievement of major

health related milestones such as the containment of the Ebola virus when it recently broke out in Africa through the use of technology. It is expected that such technologies as well as others that will be developed will be used in mitigating the negative effects associated with the issue of health concerns within a globally connected environment (Archibugi, 2015).

Plan of Action

1. Recommendations

As previously mentioned, it is recommended that the existing technology in the medical and communication fields should be utilized and deepened so as to ensure that it can be used to detect and mitigate the effects of adverse health consequences on the target population that may arise as a result of the movement of people and goods from one country to another (Ritzer, 2010).

Through such concerted efforts, the consequences on these populations will be eliminated entirely and a framework through which the benefits of global connectedness such as increased trade opportunities will be increased to the countries and individuals who continually participate in them over time. Over the long run, it will be possible to create new avenues that can further benefit countries and people under the realm of global connectedness as a result of the elimination of the said health concerns (Ritzer, 2010).

2. Strategies to be Utilized in Addressing Global Issue

The first strategy which can be used in addressing the health concerns implied by global connectedness and global trade is the identification of previous specific health issues that have continually caused havoc on the target population within the countries or regions where such

issues have arisen. Such an identification process will enable the creation of measures that can be able to prevent them from occurring in the near future.

The second strategy entails the development of appropriate treatment procedures as well as emergency response that will be applied in the event that such health concerns cannot be entirely mitigated and they will arise from time to time. In such cases, appropriate action plans should be developed to ensure that the effects of these health concerns are minimized to the lowest possible levels. It is also important to ensure that these health concerns do not disrupt the overall global connectedness ecosystems as such disruptions will result in the forfeiting of the benefits associated with global connectedness (Dunning, 2014).

3. Plan Implementation Process

From a personal perspective, the process of the implementation of the formulated plan which will be used in addressing the health concerns associated with global connectedness would be undertaken through a three-step process. In the first step, I would set up an implementing body through which the functions and operations of the plan implementation would be undertaken through.

In the second step, I would ensure that this organization which is tasked with the implementation of this plan would be equipped with the adequate resources that would enable it undertake its functions. Resources in this case entail a combination of both human capital as well as physical resources such as operating spaces, communication systems and so forth.

In the third step, I would formulate the objectives of the implementation plan which would also act as benchmarks in assessing the overall success of the plan. The expectation in this case would be that the attainment of these objectives would imply the subsequent success of

the plan which was devised to mitigate the effects of the health concerns raised within the realm of global connectedness.

4. Benefits of the Formulated Plan

According to Ritzer (2010), the main importance of global connectedness is the creation of a framework for global trade which results in massive economic empowerment opportunities for the countries that participate within the global market. However, the emergence of health concerns particularly affecting global economies implies that such markets cannot operate effectively and the implication of such failures is that countries that reap significant economic advantages from these markets cannot continue to enjoy such advantages.

The main benefit of the plan which has been formulated to address these health concerns is the fact that it will ensure that the operations of the global economy are not disrupted and that countries can continue to operate within this environment whenever such health concerns do arise from time to time.

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