



The Indian Journal for Research in Law and Management

Open Access Law Journal – Copyright © 2026

Editor-in-Chief – Dr. Muktai Deb Chavan; Publisher – Alden Vas; ISSN: 2583-9896

This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-Non-Commercial-Share Alike 4.0 International (CC-BY-NC-SA 4.0) License, which permits unrestricted non-commercial use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium provided the original work is properly cited.

BEYOND BORDERS: UNDERSTANDING HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE AGE OF GLOBALISATION

~ *Khushi Arora*

“The world has become borderless but have human rights become universal?”

A person in India can view an occurrence taking place on the opposite side of the globe in moments, interact with individuals across different continents and obtain information from nearly any location. Globalization has linked nations, economies, cultures and people in unprecedented ways. However, as these connections have diminished the world's distance, they have also introduced a crucial question into legal and social discussions: as global interconnections grow, should human rights surpass national boundaries? Human rights are frequently characterized as entitlements that every person possesses solely due to their humanity. They encompass the rights to life, equality, dignity, liberty and freedom from discrimination. However, the safeguarding and experience of these rights vary in different places. Variations in legal frameworks, governance models, economic situations, societal arrangements and availability of justice persist in impacting the effectiveness of human rights recognition and protection. Globalization has presented both prospects and difficulties for human rights. On one side, global collaboration, dialogue, human rights activism and international legal norms have increased the visibility of violations and prompted nations to adopt shared principles of justice. Conversely, worldwide economic disparities, exploitation, displacement and the actions of influential institutions and corporations have created new worries regarding accountability and safeguarding.

Globalisation may connect the world but justice determines whether that connection benefits everyone.

This blog explores the connection between globalisation and human rights, analysing how the flow of ideas, individuals, economies, and legal concepts across borders has altered the

perception of human rights. It also addresses the difficulties of safeguarding universal rights while honouring state sovereignty and diverse national circumstances, with a special focus on the Indian viewpoint. Ultimately, the conversation questions whether human rights have genuinely transcended borders or if the hope for universal rights is still pending realization on a global scale.

MEANING OF GLOBALISATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Globalisation involves more than merely the transfer of goods, currency and technology among nations. It has also established a realm where thoughts, principles and issues move beyond boundaries. Human rights have progressively turned into a worldwide issue of concern. A wrongdoing happening in one region of the world can now garner interest, conversation and even global response well outside the boundaries of the nation where it occurs. Globalisation fundamentally signifies the growing interconnectedness and reliance among nations and individuals. It has connected economies through global trade and investment, societies through migration and communication and legal systems through international collaboration. This interrelation has affected how human rights are perceived and analysed. Concerns like discrimination, gender equality, freedom of expression, labour rights and environmental protection are now seen not just as local matters; they are increasingly included in broader global discussions about justice and dignity.

In contrast, human rights rely on the belief that each person holds specific fundamental rights and liberties merely by virtue of being human. The concepts of equality, dignity, freedom and non-discrimination constitute a vital basis for contemporary discussions on human rights. Globalization has enabled these principles to spread to a broader audience via international organizations, civil society, digital platforms, and transnational human rights movements. Nevertheless, this connection is not wholly beneficial. Globalisation can serve as a significant means for promoting human-rights principles, yet it may also subject individuals to emerging types of inequality and susceptibility. Economic globalization, for example, can generate chances for growth while also posing issues regarding labour exploitation, unequal resource distribution, and corporate responsibility.

The true relationship between globalisation and human rights, then, exists in this tension: a more interconnected world does not necessarily lead to a more equal or fair world. The task is to make certain that the advantages of globalisation are distributed fairly among people and that economic or political agendas do not undermine human dignity. In this regard,

globalisation has not only altered the way the world engages; it has also transformed the inquiry of whose rights are significant, who is accountable for safeguarding them, and how justice can be attained across national boundaries.

THE GOOD SIDE OF GLOBALISATION

Globalization has linked not just economies and markets but also individuals through ideas, information and common values. One of its most important positive impacts has been the increasing worldwide recognition of human rights. Problems that were previously limited to national borders can now attract global attention, increasing pressure on governments and institutions to acknowledge and safeguard fundamental rights. A significant advantage is the increase in awareness of human rights. As the internet, social media and worldwide communication have expanded, individuals can quickly discover rights violations and exchange information across nations. Human rights organizations and civil society entities can utilize these platforms to increase awareness, rally support, and attract global attention to challenges impacting at-risk communities. Globalization has additionally fostered worldwide collaboration. Nations are progressively collaborating through global organizations and legal systems to tackle issues regarding human dignity, equality, discrimination, refugees, labour rights, and other human rights matters. This has aided in the establishment of shared principles and standards that shape national legal systems. A further beneficial aspect is the heightened visibility of marginalized voices. Cross-border actions and global initiatives have given people and communities chances to highlight discrimination and inequality. Worldwide discussions on gender equality, children's rights, disability rights and other social issues have turned topics previously seen as solely domestic into matters of broader significance. Globalization can also promote responsibility. As information crosses borders, governments, corporations, and other influential entities may encounter increased public and global examination of their behaviours. Nevertheless, globalization should not be seen as a guaranteed protector of human rights. Its advantages rely on the effectiveness of implementing international standards at the national level. In the end, its biggest potential is in establishing a realm where knowledge, collaboration, and unity transcend boundaries—and where human dignity is not confined by location.

WHEN GLOBALISATION BECOMES A CHALLENGE

Globalization is frequently praised for uniting individuals, markets, and concepts, yet each link presents its own unique challenges. A world that is more interconnected doesn't necessarily lead to a more equitable world. In certain cases, globalisation can generate new types of

vulnerability and complicate the safeguarding of human rights. A significant issue is economic disparity. Worldwide economic expansion can generate jobs and chances, yet its advantages are not consistently shared fairly. Disparities in wealth and resource availability can marginalize at-risk communities. In the competition for investment and economic growth, issues regarding labour standards, equitable pay, and social security might occasionally be overlooked.

Globalization may also pose difficulties due to the operations of major corporations and international companies. Companies functioning in various nations can wield substantial economic power, but holding them accountable for detrimental practices may prove challenging as their actions span different legal territories. Consequently, issues of corporate responsibility grow more crucial in safeguarding employees, communities, and the environment.

A further challenge is the conflict between international human-rights norms and national sovereignty. Countries continue to hold the responsibility for creating and implementing their own laws, but globalization increasingly subjects national policies to global standards and examination. This can raise challenging questions regarding the extent to which international principles ought to impact domestic decision-making. Technology has introduced an additional aspect. While digital platforms have increased awareness of rights, they can also enable privacy breaches, online harassment, false information, and other types of damage.

Thus, the task is not merely to halt globalization, but to guarantee that it evolves in tandem with equality, accountability, and respect for human dignity. A genuinely interconnected world must not only link economies but also enhance the safeguarding of its people.

THE INDIAN EXPERIENCE

India offers a fascinating example of the interplay between global human-rights principles and a national legal framework. The Indian Constitution positions human dignity, equality, and personal freedom at the heart of its legal structure. Essential Rights, especially the rights to equality, life, and personal freedom, offer crucial constitutional safeguards for individuals. Simultaneously, India's involvement with the global community has impacted how human-rights issues are talked about and tackled domestically.

The Indian judiciary has significantly contributed to expanding the interpretation of constitutional rights. For instance, Article 21 has evolved from a limited safeguard against the loss of life and personal freedom into a wider assurance linked to dignity and a purposeful

existence. Indian courts, via judicial interpretation and Public Interest Litigation, have established a means for issues impacting vulnerable and marginalized groups to access the justice system. Globalisation has enhanced India's engagement with global human-rights standards. Global events, worldwide organizations, civil society groups, and enhanced information access have led to heightened awareness of matters like gender equality, children's rights, environmental conservation, and discrimination.

Nonetheless, the Indian experience illustrates that acknowledging rights in legislation is merely one aspect of the process. **The true challenge is in putting it into practice.** Social and economic disparities, insufficient awareness, restricted access to legal remedies, and other practical obstacles may hinder individuals from completely enjoying the rights that are guaranteed to them. Consequently, India exemplifies the larger worldwide issue: the acknowledgment of human rights at the constitutional and international levels must be paired with functional institutions, attainable justice, and substantive enforcement.

ARE HUMAN RIGHTS REALLY UNIVERSAL?

The concept of human rights is founded on a strong principle: **every individual is entitled to certain fundamental rights simply because they are human.** If this principle is indeed universal, rights like equality, dignity, liberty, and freedom from discrimination should not be influenced by nationality, religion, culture, economic status, or geographical location. However, the situation is actually more complex. Nations vary greatly in their legal frameworks, governmental setups, societal circumstances, and cultural customs. A right acknowledged and rigorously safeguarded in one nation might encounter various legal or practical restrictions in another. This poses a significant inquiry: **is it possible to have a universal interpretation of human rights in a world composed of such varied communities?** The discussion is frequently influenced by the conflict between **universalism and specific cultural or national identities.** Universalism highlights the need to safeguard fundamental human dignity at all locations. Conversely, states and communities might contend that the understanding and enforcement of specific rights should consider their unique social, cultural, and legal circumstances. Globalization has heightened the visibility of this debate. Global human-rights standards can motivate nations to enhance protections, yet challenges may occur when international demands seem to clash with local laws or assertions of state sovereignty. However, acknowledging cultural differences does not automatically imply forsaking universal principles. Different legal and cultural perspectives can coexist while

upholding a shared dedication to fundamental human dignity. Consequently, the more appropriate question may be not if every nation needs to safeguard human rights in identical manners, but whether any individual should have their fundamental dignity compromised solely due to their birthplace or current residence. Universal human rights might necessitate shared principles, whereas their application can showcase valid distinctions among cultures.

CONCLUSION: BEYOND BORDERS, TOWARDS GLOBAL JUSTICE

Globalization has altered how the world communicates, trades, evolves, and interacts. It has also altered our understanding of human rights. Rights that were previously viewed mainly as domestic issues are now included in a broader global discussion. Global collaboration, technological advancements, human rights advocacy, and international legal norms have increased the visibility of violations and enhanced opportunities for accountability. Simultaneously, globalization has presented challenges like inequality, exploitation, corporate power, and obstacles in guaranteeing effective protection within various legal frameworks. The path of human rights across national borders, thus, is not an easy one. **A right may have worldwide acknowledgment, but mere recognition does not ensure its actual enjoyment.** The true difficulty is in transforming universal principles into significant safeguards for individuals in their daily lives. The Indian experience illustrates that constitutional protections, judicial safeguards, and access to justice are crucial for realizing the concept of human dignity. Concurrently, international human rights norms and local legal frameworks must collaborate while acknowledging valid distinctions among cultures. In the end, global justice should not imply standardizing every nation. It ought to signify establishing a realm where fundamental dignity, equality, and freedom are honoured irrespective of nationality, location, or social standing. **Boundaries may separate nations, yet human dignity must never be fractured by borders.**

The genuine success of globalisation, then, should not be evaluated solely by the extent to which it connects economies and markets, but by whether it fosters greater justice, equality, and human dignity among people. In a genuinely globalized world, the aim should be straightforward: across boundaries, towards equality for everyone.