GEOGRAPHICAL PARSPECTIVE OF GLOBALISATION AND CONTEMPORARY AGRO-ECONOMY OF WEST BENGAL

AN EDUCATIONAL UNDERSTANDING AND APPROACH

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ABSTRACT

This chapter maintains that the globalization and economic system is one of the most important globally embedded networks of production and consumption; its integral connections with the petroleum industry and global security confirm its significance. The chapter establishes the complex nature of mapping and measuring malnutrition. It reviews significant shifts in the incidence of malnutrition but argues that disaggregating statistics is vital to understanding trends. Changes in theorizations of the problem of malnutrition and associated solutions are then considered, including conceptual shifts from food security to food sovereignty. The global food chain is embedded in contentious political, economic, and scientific debates. Volatility in local food prices are influenced by global factors: oil prices; energy policies; dietary changes, foreign direct investments associated with "land grabs" or financial speculation. The chapter concludes with a call for a fundamental rethinking of global economi provisioning to establish a more socially equitable and environmentally sustainable system of west Bengal.

KEY WORDS : 1. GLOBALISATION 2. AGRO-ECONOMY 3. ECONOMIC POLICY

INTRODUCTION

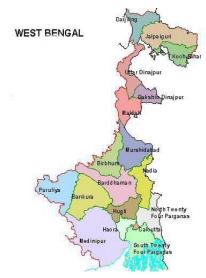
Globalization is a term used to describe how trade and technology have made the world into a more connected and interdependent place. Globalization also captures in its scope the economic and social changes that have come about as a result. It may be pictured as the threads of an immense spider web formed over millennia, with the number and reach of these threads increasing over time. People, money, material goods, ideas, and even disease and devastation have traveled these silken strands, and have done so in greater numbers and with greater speed than ever in the present age in west Bengal.



Unquestionably, these types of exchanges were accelerated in the Age of Exploration, when European explorers seeking new sea routes to the spices and silks of Asia bumped into the Americas instead. Again, technology played an important role in the maritime trade routes that flourished between old and newly discovered continents. New ship designs and the creation of the magnetic compass were key to the explorers' successes. Trade and idea exchange now extended to a previously unconnected part of the world, where ships carrying plants, animals, and Spanish silver between the Old World and the New also carried Christian missionaries.

The web of globalization in west Bengal, continued to spin out through the Age of Revolution, when ideas about liberty, equality, and fraternity spread like fire from America to France to Latin America and beyond. It rode the waves of industrialization, colonization, and war through the eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth centuries, powered by the invention of factories, railways, steamboats, cars, and planes.

With the Information Age, globalization went into overdrive. Advances in computer and communications technology launched a new global era and redefined what it meant to be "connected." Modern communications satellites meant the 1964 Summer Olympics in Tokyo could be watched in the United States for the first time. The World Wide Web and the Internet allowed someone in Germany to read about a breaking news story in Bolivia in real time. Someone wishing to travel from Boston, Massachusetts, to London, England, could do so in hours rather than the week or more it would have taken a hundred years ago. This digital revolution massively impacted economies across the world as well: they became more information-based and more interdependent. In the modern era, economic success or failure at one focal point of the global web can be felt in every major world economy.



The benefits and disadvantages of globalization are the subject of

ongoing debate. The downside to globalization can be seen in the increased risk for the transmission of diseases like ebola or severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), or in the kind of environmental harm that scientist Paul R. Furumo has studied in microcosm in palm oil plantations in the tropics. Globalization has of course led to great good, too. Richer nations now can—and do—come to the aid of poorer nations in crisis. Increasing diversity in many countries has meant more opportunity to learn about and celebrate other cultures. The sense that there is a global village, a worldwide has emerged.

LITARATURE REVIEW

The current food system has evolved in response to specific historical, political, and economic circumstances; it is not a natural system but a socially constructed one which reflects patterns of power and privilege. It is a dynamic system which has changed dramatically in the past and will in the future (**Rosegrant et al. 2012**). **Goodman and Sage (2013)** assert that "there is almost nothing more geographical than food in the ways that it intimately interlinks production and consumption, nature and society, bodies and landscapes, the global and the local, and indeed spaces, places, and everywhere in between" (p. 3). This chapter maintains that the food system has become one of the most important globally embedded networks of production and consumption; its integral connections with the petroleum industry and global security only serve to confirm its centrality and significance (**Le Billon et al. 2014a, b; Goodall 2008; Weis 2009**).

Meanwhile countries as varied as China, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt now suffer a "double burden" where under nutrition coexists with obesity as a major public health problem; a strange world too where "some people destroy food because prices are too low, and others literally eat dirt because food prices are too high" (Angus 2008: 1). Understanding these paradoxes requires analysis of unprecedented changes in global food provisioning in the last 40 years, but we start with a review of malnutrition statistics which establishes the contentious nature of the "food debate."

Maybe, but first it is vital to consider some problems associated with measuring malnutrition (Lappé et al. 2013; IFPRI 2014). The FAO (2012, 2014) employs a limited definition of hunger based on a diet of 1800 kilocalories per day, the minimum for someone who is not active. If we assume people are active and need more calories, then these estimates are a gross underrepresentation. They also ignore "hidden hunger," diets sufficient in calories but which lack essential minerals and vitamins, such as iron, vitamin A, iodine and zinc. A recent estimate holds that 2 billion people suffer from this form of malnutrition and associated health problems (IFPRI 2014, p. 5).

The 2012 FAO Report remarks that "we are losing the battle in Africa." However, if we disaggregate the statistics, a more nuanced picture emerges; countries in this region exemplify best and worst practice. Ghana's success is dramatic and illustrates what can be done to reduce hunger by dedicated political interventions (**Curtis 2011**). In



contrast, the Democratic Republic of Congo exemplifies the worst case situation and helps explain the poor performance of Sub Saharan Africa (SSA) in aggregate; extract this one country and the "picture" from SSA is less depressing. These examples exemplify the importance of scale to analyses of malnutrition; it is always instructive to disaggregate data whether at the global, regional or national scale.

Disaggregating statistics based on other variables is also illuminating, as populations which are economically and political marginalized dominate national statistics. Rural populations have a higher incidence of malnutrition than urban populations; females and children more than males; ethnic minorities and people with disabilities more than the general population (**Young 2012**). Finally, world food prices are volatile and subject to changes associated with social and natural factors, so numbers vary seasonally and the specific geography of their impacts are notoriously complex (**Cohen and**

Smale 2012).

GLOBALISATION AND CONTEMPORARY ECONOMICAL THEORY

The World-systems Theory is a fluid model, but it is criticized for being too focused on the economy and the Core countries, and forgetting about the culture or even the class struggles of individual countries. Then we have modernization theory which proposes that all countries follow a similar path of development from a traditional to a modern society. It assumes that with some help traditional countries can develop into modern countries in the same way that today's modern countries developed in the first place. It looks at the internal social dynamics as the country adapts to new technologies, and the political and social changes that occur. Dependency theory was a reaction to modernization theory, and uses the idea of Core and Periphery countries from the World-systems theory to look at the inequalities between countries. Basically it is the idea that Periphery or third world countries are poor and export resources to the wealthy

core or first world countries. Not because they are in an earlier stage of development, but because they have been integrated into the World-system as an undeveloped country. They have their own structures and features not seen in developed countries, and will not accelerate to become a developed nation. They are in an unfavorable economic position that means they don't even have the opportunity to improve and develop. They'll remain poor and dependent on wealthier nations. These are just a few of the theories of globalization. There are lots more that look at: culture, or social networking, economy, politics, or even goods. The world is now a busy and bustling place where events and things can have an effect around the globe. There are different ways of looking at globalization too. The hyper globalist perspective sees globalization as a





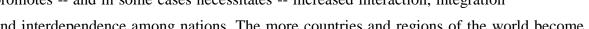
legitimate process ,a new age in human history. Countries economies become interdependent as the nations states themselves become significantly less important. The many individual countries become one global society, though theorist don't agree whether this is good or bad. The skeptical perspective is critical of globalization, and considers today's international processes as becoming regionalized rather than globalized. Countries borders are not becoming less important. The third world countries aren't being integrated into the global economy with the same benefits as first world countries. Skeptics don't believe that the current economy is leading towards global capitalism.

transnational Corporations are still tied to their home country and national borders are as important as ever. Then you have the transformationalist perspective which doesn't have either a specific cause or a specific outcome. They believe that National Governments are changing, perhaps becoming less important, but it is difficult to describe the change so simply. As to the strong stance skeptics take on the marginalization of third world countries, transformationalists again just see that the world order is changing. Into what specific patterns they are uncertain, just that a new world order design is developing. They state that there are many factors that influence the change of the world patterns, but that the outcomes of these changes is just not known. Globalization has caused many changes in society. It has allowed for international terrorism and civil unrest as different nations are inundated by foreign cultures. It has also created a world economy where different countries are interdependent on each other promoting a global community by west Bengal survey report.

GLOBALIZATION AND SOCIAL APPROACH

Globalization is the process by which ideas, knowledge, information, goods and services spread around the world. In business, the term is used in an economic context to describe integrated economies marked by free trade, the free flow of capital among countries and easy access to foreign resources, including labor markets, to maximize returns and benefit for the common good.

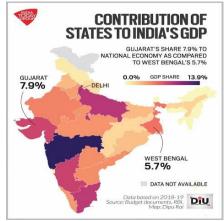
Globalization, or globalisation as it is known in some parts of the world, is driven by the convergence of cultural and economic systems. This convergence promotes -- and in some cases necessitates -- increased interaction, integration



and interdependence among nations. The more countries and regions of the world become intertwined politically, culturally and economically, the more globalized the world becomes.

GLOBALIZATION AND ECONOMICAL STATUS

In a globalized economy, countries specialize in the products and services they have a competitive advantage in. This generally means what they can produce and provide most efficiently, with the least amount of resources, at a lower cost than competing nations. If all countries are specializing in what they do best, production should be more efficient worldwide, prices should be lower, economic growth widespread and all countries should benefit in theory.



Policies that promote free trade, open borders and international cooperation all drive economic globalization. They enable businesses to access lower priced raw materials and parts, take advantage of lower cost labor markets and

access larger and growing markets around the world in which to sell their goods and services.

Money, products, materials, information and people flow more swiftly across national boundaries today than ever. Advances in technology have enabled and accelerated this flow and the resulting international interactions and dependencies. These technological advances have been especially pronounced in transportation and telecommunications.

Among the recent technological changes that have played a role in globalization are the following:



INTERNET AND INTERNET COMMUNICATION :

The internet has increased the sharing and flow of information and knowledge, access to ideas and exchange of culture among people of different countries. It has contributed to closing the digital divide between more and less advanced countries.

COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY :

The introduction of 4G and 5G technologies has dramatically increased the speed and responsiveness of mobile and wireless networks. Increased speed and bandwidth are among the benefits of 5G technology. These technologies are enabling the tracking of assets in transit and as they move across borders, making cross-border product management more efficient. By technology is enabling the development of decentralized databases and storage that support the tracking of materials in the supply chain. Blockchain facilitates the secure access to data required in industries such as healthcare and banking. For example, blockchain provides a transparent ledger that centrally records and vets transactions in a way that prevents corruption and breaches.

TRANSPORTATION :

Advances in air and fast rail technology have facilitated the movement of people and products. And changes in shipping logistics technology moves raw materials, parts and finished products around the globe more efficiently.

MANUFACTURING :

Advances such as automation and 3D printing have reduced geographic constraints in the manufacturing industry. 3D printing enables digital designs to be sent anywhere and physically printed, making distributed, smaller-scale production near the point of consumption easier. Automation speeds up processes and supply chains, giving workforces more flexibility and improving output.

GLOBALIZATION AND ECONOMICAL IMPORTANCY :

Globalization changes the way nations, businesses and people interact. Specifically, it changes the nature of economic activity among nations, expanding trade, opening global supply chains and providing access to natural resources and labor markets. Changing the way trade and financial exchange and interaction occurs among nations also promotes the cultural exchange of ideas. It removes the barriers set by geographic constraints, political boundaries and political economies. For example, globalization enables businesses in one nation to access another nation's resources. More open

access changes the way products are developed, supply chains are managed and organizations communicate. Businesses find cheaper raw materials and parts, less expensive or more skilled labor and more efficient ways to develop products. With fewer restrictions on trade, globalization creates opportunities to expand. Increased trade promotes international competition. This, in turn, spurs innovation and, in some cases, the exchange of ideas and knowhow. In addition, people coming from other nations to do business and work bring with them their own cultures, which influence and mix with other cultures. The many types of exchange that globalization facilitates can have positive and negative effects. For instance, the exchange of people and goods across borders can bring fresh ideas and help business. However, this movement can also heighten the spread of disease and promote ideas that might destabilize political economies inb state of west Bengal also .

GLOBALIZATION AND SOCIOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- The Roman Empire. Going back to 600 B.C., the Roman Empire spread its economic and governing systems through significant portions of the ancient world for centuries.
- Silk Road trade. These trade routes, which date from 130 B.C. to 1453 A.D., represented another wave of globalization. They brought merchants, goods and travelers from China through Central Asia and the Middle East to Europe.



Pre-World War I. European countries made significant
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investments overseas in the decades before World War I. The period from 1870 to 1914 is called the golden age of globalization.

• **Post-World War II.** The United States led the effort to create a global economic system with a set of broadly accepted international rules. Multinational institutions were established such as the United Nations (UN), International Monetary Fund, World Bank and World Trade Organization to promote international cooperation and free trade.

The term *globalization* as it's used today came to prominence in the 1980s, reflecting several technological advancements that increased international interactions. IBM's introduction of the personal computer in 1981 and the subsequent evolution of the modern internet are two examples of technology that helped drive international communication, commerce and globalization.

Globalization has ebbed and flowed throughout history, with periods of expansion and retrenchment. The 21st century has witnessed both. Global stock markets plummeted after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in the United States, but rebounded in subsequent years.

More recently, nationalist political movements have slowed immigration, closed borders and increased trade protectionism. The pandemic has had similar effects on borders and immigration and also disrupted supply chains. However, overall, the early 21st century has seen a dramatic increase in the pace of global integration. Rapid advances in technology and telecommunications are responsible for much of this change.

G20 AND GLOBALIZATION AND SOCIOLOGICAL ASPECT

The G20, or Group of Twenty, is an international forum that aims to foster international cooperation by addressing global economic issues, such as financial stability and climate change. The G20 is made up of 19 countries and the European Union, including most of the world's largest economies. The nations involved account for 60% of the planet's population, 75% of global trade and 80% of world GDP. It was founded in 1999, following the 1997 financial crisis, and has met every year since then. Since 2008, the G20 has held an annual summit that brings together heads of state to discuss important economic issues. The G20's president is selected annually on a rotating basis, and that per son's home country hosts the summit. In 2019, the summit was held in Osaka, Japan, and it addressed issues such as women's empowerment, climate change and artificial intelligence. The 2020 summit was to be in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, but was held virtually because of the pandemic. Three of the main themes addressed were empowering people, especially women and youth; safeguarding the planet; and long-term strategies to share the benefits of innovation and technological advancement. The 2021 summit will be held in Rome, Italy, and will focus on recovery from the pandemic and climate change. The members of G20 are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, Japan, India, Indonesia, Italy, Mexico, Russia, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, South

Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union. Spain is a permanent guest of the organization.

TYPES OF GLOBALIZATION AND SOCIAL VIEW

There are three types of globalization.

- 1. **Economic globalization.** Here, the focus is on the integration of international financial markets and the coordination of financial exchange. Free trade agreements, such the North American Free Trade Agreement and the Trans-Pacific Partnership are examples of economic globalization. Multinational corporations, which operate in two or more countries, play a large role in economic globalization.
- 2. **Political globalization.** This type covers the national policies that bring countries together politically, economically and culturally. Organizations such as NATO and the UN are part of the political globalization effort.
- 3. **Cultural globalization.** This aspect of globalization focuses in a large part on the technological and societal factors that are causing cultures to converge. These include increased ease of communication, the pervasiveness of social media and access to faster and better transportation.

These three types influence one another. For example, liberalized national trade policies drive economic globalization. Political policies also affect cultural globalization, enabling people to communicate and move



around the globe more freely. Economic globalization also affects cultural globalization through the import of goods and services that expose people to other cultures.

EFFECTS OF GLOBALIZATION ON ECONOMICAL DEVELOPMENT IN WEST BENGAL

The effects of globalization can be felt locally and globally, touching the lives of individuals as well as the broader society in the following ways:

• **Individuals.** Here, a variety of international influences affect ordinary people. Globalization affects their access to goods, the prices they pay and their ability to travel to or even move to other countries.

- **Communities.** This level encompasses the impact of globalization on local or regional organizations, businesses and economies. It affects who lives in communities, where they work, who they work for, their ability to move out of their community and into one in another country, among other things. Globalization also changes the way local cultures develop within communities.
- **Institutions.** Multinational corporations, national governments and other organizations such as colleges and universities are all affected by their country's approach to and acceptance of globalization. Globalization affects the ability of companies to grow and expand, a university's ability to diversify and grow its student body and a government's ability to pursue specific economic policies.

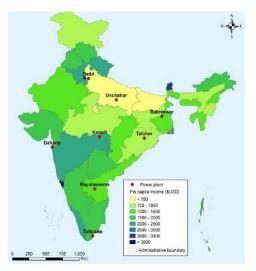
While the effects of globalization can be observed in west Bengal, analyzing the net impact is more complex. Proponents often see specific results as positive and critics of globalization view the same results as negative. A relationship that benefits one entity may damage another, and whether globalization benefits the world at large remains a point of contention.

BENEFITS OF GLOBALIZATION

Globalization enables countries to access less expensive natural resources and lower cost labor. As a result, they can produce lower cost goods that can be sold globally. Proponents of globalization argue that it improves the state of the world in many ways, such as the following:

- Solves economic problems. Globalization moves jobs and capital to places that need these resources. It gives rich countries access to lower cost resources and labor and poorer countries access to jobs and the investment funds they need for development.
- **Promotes free trade.** Globalization puts pressure on nations to reduce tariffs, subsidies and other barriers to free trade. This consequently promotes economic growth, creates jobs, makes companies more competitive and lowers prices for consumers.
- **Spurs economic development.** Theoretically, globalization gives poorer countries access to foreign capital and technology they would not otherwise have. Foreign investment can result in an improved standard of living for the citizens of those nations.
- Encourages positive trends in human rights and the environment. Advocates of globalization point to improved attention to human rights on a global scale and a shared understanding of the



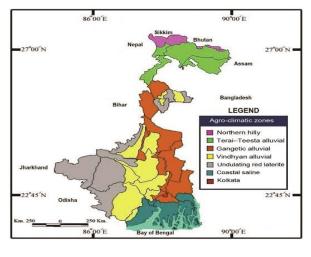


impact of people and production on the environment.

• **Promotes shared cultural understanding.** Advocates view the increased ability to travel and experience new cultures as a positive part of globalization that can contribute to international cooperation and peace.

NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES OF GLOBALIZATION

Many proponents view globalization as way to solve systemic economic problems. But critics see it as increasing



global inequality. Among the critiques of globalization are the following issues:

• **Destabilizes markets.** Critics of globalization blame the elimination of trade barriers and the freer movement of people for undermining national policies and local cultures. Labor markets in particular are affected when people move across borders in search of higher paying jobs or companies outsource work and jobs to lower cost labor markets in west Bengal.

- **Damages the environment.** The transport of goods and people among nations generates greenhouse gas and all the negative effects it has on the environment. Global travel and trade also can introduce, sometimes inadvertently, invasive species to foreign ecosystems. Industries such as fishing and logging tend to go where business is most lucrative or regulations are less strict, which has resulted in overfishing and deforestation in some parts of the world.
- Lowers living standards. When companies move operations overseas to minimize costs, such moves can eliminate jobs and increase unemployment in sectors of the home country.
- Facilitates global recessions. Tightly integrated global markets carry a greater risk of global recessions. The 2007-2009 financial crisis and Great Recession is a good example of how intertwined global markets are and

how financial problems in one country or region can quickly affect other parts of the world. Globalization reduces the ability of individual nations to effectively use monetary and fiscal policy to control the national economy.

• **Damages cultural identities.** Critics of globalization decry the decimation of unique cultural identities and languages that comes with the international movement of businesses and people. At the same time, the internet and social



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media are driving this trend even without the movement of people and commerce.

• Increases the likelihood of pandemics. Increased travel, critics say, has the potential to increase the risk of pandemics. The H1N1 (swine flu) outbreak of 2009 and coronavirus in 2020 and 2021 are two examples of serious diseases that spread to multiple nations quickly.

FUTURE OF GLOBALIZATION

In west Bengal, Technological advances, particularly blockchain, mobile communication and banking, are fueling economic globalization. Nonetheless, rising levels of protectionism and anti-globalization sentiment in several countries could slow or even reverse the rapid pace of globalization. Nationalism and increasing trends toward conservative economic policies are driving these anti-globalization efforts. Global trade is also made more difficult and facing rising threats from other factors.

AGRO-ECONOMY OF WEST BENGAL

WEST BENGAL TEA PLANTATION

Agriculture dominates both the landscape and the economy of West Bengal. Its proportion of agricultural land is among the highest of all the Indian states. Rice, which requires extensive irrigation, is the leading crop in nearly every area. Indeed, despite its relatively small size, West Bengal produces a significant percentage of India's rice harvest. Other major crops are sugarcane and oilseeds. Jute is especially prominent along the border with Bangladesh and south of the Ganges River. Mangoes, jackfruit, and bananas are widely produced in the southern and central portions of the state. Wheat and potatoes are produced as winter crops throughout the south. The northern areas around Darjiling and Jalpaiguri have long been known for their production of high-quality tea. The Darjiling region also produces oranges, apples, pineapples, ginger, and cardamom.

INDUSTRY

The state's most important industrial belt is a corridor extending for a distance north and south of Kolkata, along

the Hugli River. Another significant industrial region is located along the Damodar River. There are steel plants at Durgapur and Burnpur and a locomotive plant at Chittaranjan. Haldia, the terminus of an oil pipeline from Assam and the site of a large oil refinery, also has a petrochemical industry. Other important manufactures include ships, automobiles, chemicals and fertilizers, wagons, electronics, paper, jute, and cotton textiles. The state has a large number of small-scale and cottage industries as well. In the late 20th and early 21st centuries, the only mineral resources of West Bengal that sustained nationally significant exploitation were coal and clay for brickmaking.

The service sector has accounted for an increasing proportion of the state's economy. Trade, finance, insurance, and related activities have grown significantly, and tourism has become increasingly important. Also



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experiencing growth has been the information technology sector. Kolkata is the financial centre for both the state and eastern India.

TRANSPORTATION

Local river transportation was augmented by steam navigation in the 19th century—first introduced between Kolkata, Allahabad (Uttar Pradesh), and Guwahati (Assam). The division of Bengal in 1947 and the ongoing deterioration of river channels have disrupted river transport. Nevertheless, Kolkata and its sister port of Haldia, farther south, still handle international trade. West Bengal saw the inauguration of the railway system in eastern India in 1854, and local railway headquarters are now located in the state. Kolkata was the first Indian city to open an underground railway system. National highways link West Bengal with the rest of India, while state highways provide internal connections. There is an international airport at Kolkata as well as several smaller airfields within the state.

CONSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

The structure of the government of West Bengal, like that of most Indian states, is determined by the national constitution of 1950. The head of state is the governor, who is appointed by the president of India. The elected Council of Ministers, with a chief minister at its head, aids and advises the governor. The chief minister is appointed by the governor, and the other ministers are appointed by the governor on the advice of the chief minister. The Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to the state legislature, which consists of a single house, the Legislative Assembly (Vidhan Sabha). The constitution provides for a High Court; its chief justice and judges are appointed by the governor.

The state is divided administratively into a number of districts. Each district, except that of Kolkata, is administered by a collector, who is also the district magistrate. Districts, in turn, are divided into subdivisions, each administered by a subdivisional officer. Units of police jurisdiction vary in area according to population. Most encompass several mawzas (villages).

With the object of developing rural self-government, mawzas were grouped together under elected local authorities known as panchayats. Established under the West Bengal Panchayat Act of 1956, panchayats are entrusted with sanitary and conservation services and with the supervision of the village police and the development of cottage industries. A three-tiered panchayat system, comprising several thousand village-level panchayats, several hundred intermediate-level panchayats, and more than a dozen district-level panchayats, covers the rural area.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

Medical facilities include hospitals, clinics, health centres, and dispensaries. Family-planning services are available in district bureaus, as well as in urban and rural centres. An employees' state insurance scheme provides factory workers with health, employment, safety, and maternity insurance and also provides a free medical service.

A social welfare directorate coordinates various welfare services dealing with orphans, people with mental and physical disabilities, and the underprivileged. The government's social-welfare enterprises are supplemented by private agencies, of which the most prominent are the Ramakrishna Mission, founded by the Hindu reformer and teacher Vivekananda in 1897, and the Order of the Missionaries of Charity (1948), founded by Mother Teresa, recipient of the 1979 Nobel Prize for Peace.

EDUCATION

West Bengal has more than 10 degree-granting universities, as well as engineering and medical colleges and many technical institutes. The University of Calcutta (1857) and Jadavpur (1955) and Rabindra Bharati (1962) universities are all located in Kolkata. The science laboratories of the University of Calcutta, the Indian

Association for the Cultivation of Science, and the Bose Institute have made notable contributions to science. The Asiatic Society of Bengal, a scholarly organization founded in 1784, is headquartered in Kolkata. Vishva-Bharati University, in Shantiniketan (now part of Bolpur), is a world-famous centre for the study of Indology and international cultural relations.

The state has a central library, together with a number of district, area, and rural libraries. More than 5,000 adult education centres aid in literacy training. The state's literacy rate, which exceeded 75 percent in the early 21st century, is one of the highest in India, and the disparity in the rate between men and women is lower than the national average.

CULTURAL LIFE

Bengalis have long fostered art, literature, music, and drama. The visual arts have, by tradition, been based mainly on clay modeling, terra-cotta work, and decorative painting. Bengali literature dates before 12th the century. to The Chaitanya movement, an intensely emotional form of Hinduism inspired the medieval saint Chaitanya (1485by 1533), shaped the subsequent development of Bengali poetry until the early 19th century, when contact with the West sparked a vigorous creative synthesis. The modern period has produced, among others, the Nobel Prize-winning poet Rabindranath Tagore (1861–1941), whose contribution still dominates the Indian literary scene.



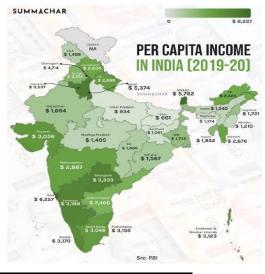
Traditional music takes the form of devotional and cultural songs. Rabindra Sangeet, songs written and composed by Tagore, draw on the pure Indian classical as well as traditional folk-music sources, including the Baul singing genre. They exert a powerful influence in Bengali cultural life.

The theatre is popular, and performances—amateur as well as professional—are sophisticated. Yatras (jatras), traditional open-air performances that may treat mythological and historical topics or contemporary themes, are popular both in the countryside and in urban areas. The kavi is an impromptu duel in musical verse between village poets. The kathakata, a religious recital, is another traditional form of rural entertainment, based on folklore.

ADVANTAGES OF GLOBALISATION

Globalisation is a process that has several advantages. It is a process that contributes significantly to the development and growth of a nation. Here are some of the benefits of globalisation:

- **Employment:** The establishment of special economic zones has increased the number of jobs available. There are export processing units established all over the world, which have helped employ thousands of people. The multinational companies of the west have been providing employment opportunities to the people by outsourcing employees.
- **Compensation:** There has been an increase in the level and amount of payment compared to the domestic companies. The main reason for this is that domestic or home companies lack skill and knowledge compared to multinational companies. An increase in



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compensation is leading to changes in the management structure of the companies too.

- Standard of Living: With the emergence of globalisation, there has been a change in people's standard of • living. The difference in the purchasing behaviour of people has increased the standards of living of people. Therefore, the evolution and development of business have raised the standards of living of people.
- Increased Investment: Globalisation has led to an increase in cross-border investments. This has led to companies investing and opening branches in different countries across the globe. The increase in investment across the borders has enhanced the welfare of both countries.
- Development of Infrastructure: Technological advancement has helped improve the infrastructure of • countries. With the help of technology, the countries are achieving overall development.
- Foreign Exchange Reserves: With the help of globalisation, there is a constant flow of capital in the • international financial flows. This capital flow helps countries build foreign exchange reserves.

CONCLUSION

The policy of globalisation is bringing the world closer to each other. Globalisation has impacted every aspect of a person's life, right from the phones they use to the clothes they buy. While there are many advantages of globalisation, there are a few drawbacks too. One of the drawbacks is that the process of globalisation has impacted the environment negatively and didn't stabilise the global economy in west Bengal. While some people tend to find it kind of funny, or perhaps scary, that American fast food restaurants and clothing brands are just about everywhere in the world, cultural globalization is by no means a one-way street. In the india we've adopted lots of great things from other cultures and traditions, including lots of foreign cuisine, like Chinese, Thai, and Mexican food. In Europe, music from various European countries will, despite different languages, be heard in clubs and restaurants. Business leaders from around the world gather in China, Japan, the U.S., and the U.K. to exchange ideas about the direction of their particular field, business culture, and technology as well as in west Bengal.



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