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ABSTRACT

This research paper is mainly focused on the challenges and opportunities of globalization in Africa. The meaning of globalization however, depends on how one defines and describes the term globalization. Since it is a form of interaction, globalization is not new for Africa. It is difficult to decide globalization merely good or bad. Rather it is possible to say globalization itself is neither good nor bad for Africa. Because it has both negative and positive impacts up on the social, economical, political and cultural aspects of Africa. But, it is possible to conclude that, currently, the severity of globalization is heavy for third world countries of the world including the continent of Africa. Because, there is no doubt that Africa as a continent, is facing a lot of challenges by the phenomenon of globalization. Surprisingly, in the course of history, Africa has been the battle ground for external socio-political, economic and even cultural forces (starting from 15th century up to now). In contrary, we never deny the phenomenon of globalization speeds up and intensify economic interaction amongst world people's including Africa. It is also a mechanism of growth and innovation in market throughout the world. But the global market has largely been out of reach for Africa. Today, one setback of globalization, however, individualism has replaced the sense of communal life, and mutual antagonism and suspicion have replaced the unity of Africans. Politically globalization made African officials to have nominal power in their respective states. Socio-cultural and politico-economic decisions which determine the future fate of the continent are imposed by westerners. For instance, job opportunity, access to technology, free movement of peoples, industrial-

zation, emergence of new cities and towns are some of the opportunities of globalization in Africa. Generally, due to the ill-effects of globalization have already hit that continent, where most of its 780 million people, or more than 10 per cent of the world's population, are distressed by poverty, inequality, exclusion, discrimination, war and disease, as well as bad weather and climate changes. The African leaders and peoples should have to design new policies and strategies to benefit from globalization than opting to neutralize them from this worldwide phenomenon. Africa's fortune lies in her own hands. Meant, Africans should have to seek solutions for African's problem.

Introduction

The concept of globalization is not new to the world in general and Africa in particular. The meaning of the term however, depends on how one defines and describes globalization. For Africa, globalization can be seen as a form of interaction. The intercontinental interactions and contacts are not new for Africa. The history of Africa is marked by external European and Americans participation. Prolonged interaction of Africa with the outside world mainly Europe and America traced back to the 15th century. This has significantly changed Africa's history socially, culturally, politically, and economically.¹

Historians indicated Africa's contact with the rest of the world started through trade, including the Trans-Atlantic slave trade. This was the period that western traders bought human being from Africa as trade commodity. The second period of interaction was during the era colonialism means, the period since the second half of nineteenth, when Europeans agreed at Berlin to divide and partition African territories peacefully. In the meantime Africans asserted their independence from the yolk of colonization and entered in to the era of independence. Beginning from 1960s, the world brought new ideology to link Africa with the rest parts of the world commonly known as globalization. Even though, the word globalization seems new, the concepts and principles are not new to Africa and the world as a whole.²

According to Majekodunmi, the term globalization has been first used in 1959 by "*the economist*", a journal to refer quota of car imports. But the writer did not put clearly the relation of globalization and quota of car import. Later, an article called "*the spectator*" used the term globalization. Gradually, using the term globalization grew slowly and become household word. Since 1970's and 1980's the term has got great familiarity and started to become powerful term that creates debate among peoples.³ Nowadays, the positive and negative impacts of

¹ Obioha Uwezuoke Precious, "Globalization and the future of African culture", *Academic Journal of philosophical Paper*, Vol.2, (Ogun state, Nigeria, 2010), p. 3.

² *Ibid*, p. 1-2.

³ Majekodunmi Aderonke and Et al, "Globalization and African Political Economy: The Nigerian Experience", *Journal of Academic Research in Business and Social science*, Vol.2 No. 8. (Nigeria, 2012), P. 191.

globalization are practically observed by someone else. Globalization made the world countries as no alternative than opening their doors for global connections.

Generally this seminar paper has included two major parts. The first part encompasses definition of globalization, economic, political, social, cultural and environmental challenges of globalization in Africa. The second part focuses on economic, political, socio-cultural opportunities of globalization on Africa and solutions for how Africa benefit from globalization.

What is Globalization?

Globalization is defined as the process to transform the diversified world phenomena's in to global one. In other word, globalization is a process of facilitating oneness in political, economic, social and cultural spheres to create one unified world. ⁴ Globalization mainly struggles to integrate world differences irrespective of national boundaries to bring worldwide collaboration, peace, harmony and global prosperity. ⁵

Globalization is considered as umbrella to integrate the world peoples in political, social, economic and cultural interdependences to one another. ⁶ The ultimate intention of globalization is creating on single world village which has homogeneous economic, political, social and cultural way of life. Generally globalization is one new phenomena of the twentieth century to interconnect the world through conquering differences to strengthen worldwide unity in socio-political and economic aspects. ⁷ In contrary, Fidel Castro the Cuban president, looked globalization in following metaphoric explanation.

“Globalization is an objective reality underlining the fact that we are all passengers on the same vessel, that is, this planet where we live. But, he argued, the passengers are “travelling in very different conditions”. Small minorities, he stated, “are travelling in luxurious cabins furnished with the Internet, cell phones and access to global communication networks. They enjoy a nutritional, abundant and balanced diet as well as clean water supplies. They have access to sophisticated medical care and to culture.” In contrast to this, he said, “Overwhelming and hurting majorities are travelling in conditions that resemble the terrible slave trade from Africa to America in our colonial past.” He went on to state that, “85 per cent of the passengers on this ship are crowded together in its filthy hold suffering hunger, disease and helplessness. Obviously, this vessel is carrying too much injustice to remain afloat and it pursues

⁴ Aborisade Olasunkanmi, “Economic globalization and its effect on community in Africa”, *Journal of social Anthropology*, 2(1), (Ladoke Akintola Technology University, Nigeria, 2011), p. 6.

⁵ Apolo Nsibambi, “The effect of globalization on the state in Africa: Harnessing the benefit and maximizing the Costs”, *Panel discussion on globalization and the state, united nation assembly, second committee*, (2001), p.1.

⁶ Mahijabeen Khaled, “Globalization and religion”, *Presented in conference on globalization, conflict and the Experience of localities, Rome 28-29, June, (Italy, 2000)*, p.2.

⁷ Nikosinathi Sotshangane, “What impact globalization has on cultural diversity?” *Alternatives Turkish journal of International relation vol.1 No. 4.* (Turk, 2002), p.218.

such an irrational and senseless route that it cannot call on a safe port. "He concluded this description with a cautionary note, "This vessel seems destined to crash into an iceberg. If that happened, we would all go down with it." ⁸

From the above the speech of Castro, we can understand that, how much globalization is an asymmetrical rivalry between the developing African countries and developed western countries. Small minorities are the westerners who living luxurious life using the rich natural resources of Africa where as the majorities are developing countries including Africa who are living miserable life, however, they are living what they were lived during the period of slavery and colonization. He concluded that, the end outcome of globalization to majority of the world is very worse and finally this would bring world-wide sinking

Challenge of Globalization in Africa

No one doubted that over the past 50 years of globalization, Africa has gone far worse than other regions. Globalization has brought economic, political, social, cultural and environmental challenges in Africa. The economic, cultural and political are very severe than others. Let see all the challenges of globalization on Africa one by one.

Economic Challenges of Globalization in Africa

One of the major challenges of globalization in Africa is economic encounter. Globalization and capitalism are inseparable concepts in global economic integration. Capitalism is a means of producing goods and services and distributing amongst the global community to integrate world economy. Capitalism needs huge capital for investment to produce various goods and services for consumption. Hence, globalization encourages capitalism ideology (free market economic system), however, the African firms could not compete the strong and organized trans-national companies of the west. As a result, the western countries dominated the whole markets of Africa. Globalization strengthens the strong further and weakens the weak African countries. ⁹

No doubt, globalization heightens foreign investment but at the end, the lion share beneficiaries are the foreign investors themselves. ¹⁰ The competition of Africa in world market is very low because the economy of Africa is a "consumer economy". It mean, Africa produces primary goods in small scale but consumed large amount of finished products from the west. Nowadays, 70% of the world trade is seized by the hands of European Union, North America and East Asia mainly Japan. What astonished me here is, the above countries accounted 15% of

⁸ Shermain Mannah, "The impact of Globalization in Africa and the response of trade unions" *In The challenge of Globalization in Africa: the trade union response* Labor Education No.123,(2012), p.35.

⁹ Asogwa Felix, *Africa and the challenge of globalization: A critical appraisal of the relevance of pan-Africanism*, Department of political science, (Enugu State University, Nigeria), pp.6-7.

¹⁰ Lawrence Egulu, "A new approach to adjustment", *in the challenge of globalization in Africa: the trade union Response*, Labor education No.123, International confederation of free trade union, (2001/2), p.19.

the world population but controlled nearly three- fourth of the world trade activity. Here we can envisage the participation of Africa in world trade is very little.¹¹ To show how much economic globalization escalates the dependency of Africans on the finished products of western countries, Aborside, expressed “the region produces what it doesn’t consume but consume what it doesn’t produce”. At this point, we can realize that, the products of African’s are not direct consumable; on the other hand, all the consumable products are exported from expatriate western countries. In other word, much of our products are primary which need processing. So based on this circumstances, Africa could not be beneficial from globalization.¹²

On the other hand, economic globalization has also great impact on African communalism. The peoples of Africa are acquainted to share common values and customs and to run their social life through cooperation. Meanwhile after the era of globalization, their communal life has got interruption. Because, the economic globalization encourage privatization or individualism. Currently, individualism has nearly replaced the sole social (communal) lives of Africa, and made the situation “all to him” for survival.¹³

Anti-globalization advocators of African writers stated, globalization made poverty tough to be exterminated from Africa. Because, the campaigners of globalization pressurized the African political leaders to open up their boundary in order to attract foreign investment and capital inflow.¹⁴ With very little job opportunity globalization opens the door of Africa and exposed its natural resources for exploitation. Globalization is simply a legal tool of westerners to impoverish Africa in 20th century.¹⁵

As a result of economic globalization, the imperialist agents such as International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank (WB) and World Trade Organization (WTO) forced the African countries to review their economic policies and strategies to escalate western entries.¹⁶ Most of the African countries readjusted their domestic policies without paying attention of their poor communities. The above dishonest engines of imperialists warned the leaders of Africa, however, if they do not ease the entry of foreign investors, they would stop to provide loan. This made the continent of Africa the largest debt accumulator.¹⁷

Economic globalization facilitated the disappearances of African traditional craft technology and the new European technology placed up on it. The extinctions of indigenous African technologies can distort the pattern of its technological transfer.¹⁸ Again globalization brought an amazing growth of the informal sector in Africa. Com-

¹¹ Asogwa, pp.6-7.

¹² Aborisade, p. 62.

¹³ *Ibid*, p.62.

¹⁴ Aplolo, p, 5.

¹⁵ Lawrence, p.19.

¹⁶ Alhaji Ahmadu, “The impact of globalization on Africa”, *in the international journal of humanities and social Science vol.3 No.15*, (Yobe state, Nigeria, 2013), p.87.

¹⁷ Aplolo, p, 5.

¹⁸ Alhaji, p.88.

pared to the formal sectors, the numbers of employers in the informal sector are numerous.¹⁹ By the way this occurrence is very danger because, it led many of the African employers to be seasonal worker with very little payment. Generally globalization is a man-made catastrophe to exploit and enslave Africa in this new millennium.²⁰

Political Challenges of Globalization in Africa

Another major contest of globalization in Africa is the interference of global actors in the political affairs of Africa. As a result of economic globalization, individualism replaced the spirit of oneness and communal life in Africa. This made the politics of Africa difficult, because politics cannot attain its goal, without the active involvement of the mass.²¹ Globalization diverted the autonomy and self-determination rights of Africans; however, this made the African politicians to have nominal power (puppet) in domestic issues of Africa. Because the source of foreign aid would stop if politician did not readjusted their policies and strategies to facilitate the entrance of multi-national corporations.²²

Globalization limited the power of African leaders only to safeguard peace and security in their country. The rest decisions which determine the future fates of Africana are mainly decided by the dishonest organizations of global actors. The reasons why I prefer to call IMF, WB and WTO as dishonest organizations are because they had forgotten their prime objectives to keep the economic interest of fund raisers. The representatives of African peoples did not work for Africans due to the pressure drawn from those campaigners and however, this eroded the sovereignty and power of African states.²³

Globalization has also undermined democratization processes of the continent. Democracy and democratic building needs active participation of citizens in all affairs to determine the future destiny of the continent. But nowadays, major political social, economic and cultural resolutions are decided and levied by westerners. In short, globalization narrowed the political independence of African states to make their future bright.²⁴

Globalization inspires the African political leaders to liberalize and reduce trade barriers to attract multi-national companies irrespective of natural boundaries. The African leaders do not have role to eradicate the poverty of their mass societies. The former prime minster of Uganda Apolo Nsibambi (1999-2014), stated in his paper, “the global actors can talk for themselves with little problem, the issue is who will talk for the poor’s?”²⁵ As he said, the African leaders should have to listen their poor societies who represent them to rule rather than carry-

¹⁹ Emile Delvaux, “The challenge of informal economy”, *In the challenge of globalization in Africa: the trade Union response*, Labor education No.123, Bureau of workers activity, (ILO, 2001/2), p.13.

²⁰ Lawerence, p.19.

²¹ Aborisade, p. 63.

²² Majekodunmi and Et al, p.196.

²³ Aplolo, p. 4; Alhaji, p.87.

²⁴ Aplolo, p. 4.

²⁵ *Ibid*, p.5.

ing out the simple requests and following the instructions global proponents.

Globalization has also exacerbated corruption and bribe in Africa. To smooth up their entry the owners of multinational companies offer large amount of bribe for African officials. Otherwise, the long bureaucratic way of service delivery of African states would minimize the benefit of their industries. Again the narrowed involvement of the peoples of Africa in various affairs also ease and rampant corruption in Africa.²⁶ However, political science professionals defined sovereignty as a form of far-reaching self-sufficiency and authority in domestic policy and independence from external intrusions. But due to the globalization influences, the African political leaders did not enforce domestic laws effectively.²⁷

Social Challenges of Globalization in Africa

Globalization facilitates not only the movement of goods but also the movement of peoples regardless of national boundaries. This encourages the skilled man powers of Africans for brain drain. The brilliant professionals of Africa who can solve the socio-economic problems of African communities are moving to western countries. Here, the implication is westerners attract literate Africans to exploit our energy, intelligence and creativity for their ultimate development. On other side, this has depopulated Africa and perpetuated the social problems.²⁸

Through globalization, multi-national companies are coming in Africa for 'investment'. The coming of these companies followed massive resettlement programs, environmental pollutions, unsafe living and working environment, and enhanced child labor. Due to the expansion of information technology, the productive young Africans are exposed for privacy invasion, access to pornographic films, and for more sophisticated criminal activities. The above social media's brought social distraction on Africans.²⁹

Globalization has promised to bring enormous work opportunities for developing countries.³⁰ But for the illiterate continents like Africa, globalization escalates job opportunities for informal sector rather than, the formal.³¹ This finally increased income inequality among Africans and Africans with outside world. So globalization facilitate to worsen marginalization in Africa because, globalization made Africans to become the servant of European industries with low wage cost.³²

Due to the unequal currents of globalization, African are socially deprived, there is high degree of poverty, illit-

²⁶ Aborisade, p. 63.

²⁷ Leonid E. Grinin, "State sovereignty in the age of globalization: will it survive? *Journal of globalization studies*, vol.3 No.1. (2012), p.1.

²⁸ Asogwa, p.7.

²⁹ Derrick Cogburn and Et al., "Globalization and the information economy: challenges and opportunities", *Working Paper for the African development forum 24-28, October*, (Addis Ababa, 1999, Ethiopia), p.19.

³⁰ Asogwa, pp.6-7.

³¹ Emile, p.3.

³² Eddy Lee and Et al., "The social impact of globalization in developing countries", *Discussion paper No.1925*, (Germany, 2006), p.1.

eracy is still unsolved and wars and hangars are still prevailing in Africa. The interventions of global actors on the domestic affairs of Africa, made the African political officials to become doll rather than solving the social problems of their people.³³ Apolo Nsibambi of Uganda indicated how globalization exposed African for severe social problems in the following words.

“...Global actors pressurize African governments to open up more and more to maximize foreign investment and capital inflow and big multi national and local enterprises utilizes this environment is to cater for their interests, the government is having less and less to pay attention to the object of poverty amongst its people...”³⁴

The above statement of the prime minister confirmed how much globalization accelerates the task of poverty eradication difficult. Because the African leaders paid little attention to the problems of their peoples caused by globalization.

Another major challenge of globalization in Africa is triggering the outbreak of non-ending internal and regional social conflicts and turmoil's. For instance, the recent past conflicts of Somalia, Ivory Coast, Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda and Sudan are directly indirectly related with globalization. There are several causes often rooted as immediate cause for the above conflicts, but one of the major causes is poverty. Scholars argued poverty does not simply exist but it is created by the manner in a region is integrated in to the global economy. The bloodiest conflicts of Africa which have taken place in the recent past can be caused due to the coming and domination of trans-national corporations. Generally globalization worsened conflicts and violations of human right in the continent of Africa.³⁵

Cultural Challenges of Globalization in Africa

Culture refers a form of life in a given national community or the common identity and homogeneous practices, value, norm and life style. Globalization encourages the homogenization of world cultures to facilitate 'interaction' without barriers.³⁶ According to A. Nicolaides, “culture is the collective programming of the mind which distinguishes the member of one human group from another...”³⁷ Globalization interprets these differences as barriers of world 'interaction'. As a result the innate cultures of Africa are gradually exterminated due to steady cultural homogenization of the globe.

³³ Asogwa, p.11

³⁴ Aplolo, pp.4-5.

³⁵ John Cantius Mubangizi, *Democracy and development in the age of globalization: tension and contradiction in The context of specific African challenges*, (South Africa, 2009), p. 9.

³⁶ A.Nicolaides, “Globalization and Americanization: the hijacking of indigenous African culture”, *Global advanced research journal of history, political science and international relation vol.1 No.6*, (Vaal University of Technology, 2012), p. 122; Nikosinathi Sotshangane, “What impact globalization has on cultural diversity?”, *Alternatives Turkish Journal of international relation vol.1 No. 4. (Turk, 2002)*, p. 218.

³⁷ A.Nicolaides, p. 123

Recent studies shown that, Americanization in the name of globalization destroyed around 22,000 native cultures around the world in the last decades. The study also predicted an estimated 90% of languages in the world will disappear in the next century. Here the African leaders and peoples should have to wake-up from slept in order to transfer the native cultures of Africa for the upcoming generations.³⁸ Today African culture is under the influence of globalization. The global actors are attempting to disseminate their culture in place of African culture. Since culture is unique and dynamic from place to place we have to keep our culture from the domination of western culture.³⁹ But if we open our door, some of our cultures might be diluted and destroyed at the expense of others, and this give chance for the spread of negative values over Africa.⁴⁰

Globalization ignored multicultural natures of African societies. Because cultural integration is one major drive of globalization to build global village.⁴¹ By the way, it is true that, “No man is an island to himself” likewise “No nation is island herself”. It is familiar that, due to international contact cultural interaction, diffusion and disseminations can be occurred in unusual manner. But what is more unusual an unfortunate nowadays is, total domination and ignorance of multicultural states, especially Africa.⁴²

Generally globalization has undermined the African cultures and eases its extinction. Because globalization negates multiculturalism to exacerbate world ‘interaction’.⁴³ Africa would suffer by identity crisis if globalization continued its rapid journey.⁴⁴

Environmental Challenges of Globalization in Africa

The impact of globalization has been observed since Africa has joined globalization game. This asymmetrical game aimed searching new markets and using the resources of Africa for their ultimate benefits. The exploitation the rich natural resources of Africa aided them to produce surplus goods and services however, this finally led overuse of the resources of Africa. The overuse of natural resources combined with world population and unlimited human wants and needs has brought great negative impact on the environment of Africa. The subsequent result is climatic change, desertification ozone-layer depletion and global warming.⁴⁵ For example due to globalization, the Ogoni peoples of Nigeria are highly affected by water pollution and water-borne diseases following the inauguration of oil exploration in Niger delta region. Generally the over computation of multi

³⁸ *Ibid*, p.126

³⁹ Aborisade, p. 64.

⁴⁰ Aplolo, p.2.

⁴¹ Nikosinathi, p. 214.

⁴² Obioha, p. 1.

⁴³ Asogwa, pp.11-12.

⁴⁴ Aborisade, p. 62.

⁴⁵ Khushbu Prasad and Et al, “Impact of globalization and sustainability in Africa”, *Global journal of management And business studies vol.3, No.8*, (India, 2013), pp. 924-925.

national companies in Africa brought not only job opportunity but also environmental damage.⁴⁶

The Opportunities of Globalization in Africa

No one denied how globalization changed the outdated way of lives in Africa. We have entered into an era of borderless countries and rapid changes. However, globalization has its own negative and positive impacts. The proponents of globalization believed that globalization have several opportunities for developing countries including the continent of Africa. I have looked the opportunities of globalization in Africa economically, politically and socio-culturally.

Economic Opportunities of Globalization in Africa

No doubt, the challenge of globalization is very severe than opportunities for Africans. Because economically globalization further devastated and far weaken the continent compared to the global actors. This unequal competition of the 20th century benefited the west than Africa. With its great gap, different writers propagated the opportunities of globalization in various explanations. For example, Nancy Birdsall denied the negative impact of globalization and inclined to the prospects of globalization for developing countries. The writer asks “Is globalization exacerbating world poverty and inequality?” He responded, no globalization has not be the cause for world poverty and inequality rather, he argued those who are poor and unequal are peoples who are less touched by globalization. He absolutely opposed media’s and peoples who talked about the negative impact of globalization. He generalized that the decline of poverty and inequality does not mean, the global economy is fair and just.⁴⁷

Others looked globalization as one great opportunity for developing countries including Africa. Because globalization led the Africans countries to have financial connections with various countries and this enhance the involvement Africans in international market. Again globalization gave opportunity for Africans to have better financial systems with more credit to foster their economic growth. But if the regulation of domestic financial systems is not care full, the economic crisis which appeared on global actors may appear on Africa.⁴⁸

Economic globalization also led the integration of African states in to the economic system through trade, foreign direct investment and spread of technology.⁴⁹ Foreign investment creates job opportunities for Africans and facilitates technology transfer to build independent economy.⁵⁰ Globalization reduced domestic trade policy

⁴⁶ Majekodunmi and Etal, p. 196.

⁴⁷ Nancy Birdsall, “Asymmetric globalization and opportunities”, *Discussion paper*, No.7, (2001), p.3.

⁴⁸ Sergio L. schmukler, “Benefits and risks of financial globalization: challenges for developing countries”, Development research group, (World Bank, 2004), p.2

⁴⁹ Aborisade, p. 61.

⁵⁰ Derrick and Et al., pp.1-2.

barriers to ease trade and investment in Africa. Again as a result of globalization transport and communication costs have been reduced. This accelerates the opportunity for Africans to find out better wage outside their country.⁵¹

Generally globalization brought several changes in Africa. For example, science and technology developments have been observed beyond the imagination of traditional African societies. Due to globalization, industrialization has been expanded in Africa and this brought the formation of new cities and towns and peoples Africa began to live new way of life.⁵² Globalization and its result brought internet access, fastest transport systems, better health facilities, improved educational media, and sophisticated electronic machines which can make eas the accesses of banking communication and transport.⁵³

Political Opportunities of Globalization in Africa

Several arguments have concentrated on the prospects of economic globalization for Africa's development. On the other hand, much has been said how globalization brought impoverishment and destruction on Africa. But globalization played a great role for the democratization processes of the continent of Africa, because globalization has the potential to create dominant capitalist classes which can influence the public unfair decisions making processes. Again the widespread disengagement of the government on the economic sector as a result of globalization and global actors would give more chance to involve on democratic concerns.⁵⁴

Globalization encourages the development of freedom human right in Africa however, globalization creates closer interaction with world countries which are democratic. The Africa leaders will share experiences of democratic principles like democracy, gender equality, and supremacy of constitution, popular sovereignty, and equality before the law and so on.⁵⁵

The Socio-Cultural Opportunities of Globalization on Africa

Pro-globalization writers considered globalization is the consequence of modernization. It is the way of intensifying world-wide social interactions without natural and artificial boundaries. This harmonious relation of world peoples helped Africans to share ideas, technologies and cultures. Globalization eases all world-wide happenings easy and this made social interactions fast and accessible.⁵⁶

Another social opportunity of globalization is increment of job opportunities in Africa following the coming of

⁵¹ Jerry Frankel, *Globalization of Economy*, Ed. Joseph Nye, (Harvard University, America, 2000), p.2.

⁵² Aborisade, p. 64.

⁵³ Olubukola S. Adesina, "The negative impact of globalization on Nigeria", *International journal of humanities and Social science vol.2, No.15*, (Ibadan, Nigeria, 2012), pp.194-195.

⁵⁴ John, pp.4-5.

⁵⁵ *Ibid*, p.5.

⁵⁶ Khushbu and Et al, p. 2.

trans-national corporations. Globalization encourages liberalization and foreign direct invest. This escalates the coming of cross-boundary investors in Africa to involve in agriculture, manufacturing and service sectors, however this created job opportunity for African to solve their domestic problems and to live better standards of life.⁵⁷

Culturally globalization played a great role in bringing hidden cultures using electronic media. Hidden but amazing cultures of Africa get familiarity by the mass using television, radio, and using other social media's. This is true in Ethiopia too.⁵⁸

How does Africa Benefit from Globalization?

Even though, globalization brought overwhelming effect and challenge on Africa, it is impossible to be neutral from globalization. Rather, Africa should find solution to benefit from globalization. The following has to be taken in Africa to minimize risks and increase the benefits from globalization.

- 1) Improving the performance of various social institutions using global technologies in order to give quality services for the mass society.⁵⁹
- 2) Supporting and financing science professionals to bring technological advancements by decreasing brain drain. This also includes recognizing their mental properties to enhance domestic technological revivals. Institutions which focused in motivating, awarding and acknowledging professionals should have to be organized and functioned well to decrease foreign dependences.⁶⁰
- 3) Expanding educational and research centers to build human resource developments. Africans should have to expand and strengthen vocational and higher institutions to build self-reliant citizens.⁶¹
- 4) Developing the past senses of pan-Africanism. Pan-Africanism should expand its scope beyond political aspects and include cultural, and socio-philosophical aspects to fight negative impacts globalization on Africa.⁶²
- 5) By avoiding debt accumulation and the debt burden like India.
- 6) Improving and the undermined the powers of the African State (strengthening political commitment by taking risks)
- 7) Paying more attention to improve the democratization process of the continent.⁶³

⁵⁷ Obayelu Abiodun Elijah, "Effect of globalization on employment and wage in developing countries", *Selected Paper for presentation at the twenty second national conference of labor economics, Sep. 13-14 (2007)*, pp. 1-4.

⁵⁸ Olubukola, p.194.

⁵⁹ Banji Oyelaran-Oyeyinka, "How Africa benefit from globalization? Global governance of technology and Africa's global exclusion", *African technology policy studies (ATPS), special paper series No.17*, (Nairobi, Kenya, 2004), p.8.

⁶⁰ *Ibid*, pp.8.

⁶¹ *Ibid*, pp.13-14.

⁶² Asogwa, p.11.

⁶³ Alhaji Ahmadu, p.89.

Conclusion

The paper tried to put emphasis on the challenges and opportunities of globalization on Africa. The name globalization seems very new for the world. But Africa experienced the current motives of globalization long before World War II. Since 1960's the term has got familiarity and become debatable issue around the world. The west propagates, globalization aimed to integrate the world economically, politically, socially, and culturally to bring sustainable world-wide development. In contrary, anti- globalization campaigners of African writers advocated that, globalization theory is designed to impoverish Africans, exploit our natural resources, ignoring our unique cultures and intensifying the poverty of Africans.

Nowadays, due to globalization, Africa has influenced economically, politically socially culturally; and environmentally. Economically, liberalization opened African markets to goods from foreign countries but the African countries had little to sell abroad. Africa is richly blessed with human and natural resources, but we have not been able to convert this resource into sustainable growth and development using the opportunities of globalization.

With its enormous challenges, globalization has brought little opportunities in Africa. Through cultural dissemination, several changes have taken place in Africa. One vivid example is the progress in science and technology reduced transport and communication costs. The direct foreign investment brought industrialization and this had led to the expansion of new cities and the beginning of new ways of life. Peoples of Africa are now move from their communal setting to urban centers for new and improved ways of life.

Whatever happens, the continent of Africa cannot be isolated from the global, socio-economic and political relation and integration. Rather, Africa should sought solutions to benefit from globalization. It is possible to benefit from globalization, if the continent designed policies and strategies which can keep the socio-cultural, and politico-economic interests of the peoples of Africa. Generally, through prioritizing development, democracy as well as replacing the socio economic and political dependences by true independences, we can facilitate the internal development of Africa.

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