

Clinical Messages

Ask The Expert

GLOBALIZATION AND PSYCHIATRY

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The present paper discusses the reduction of State's role in economic activities and its control on the transfer of money and products. The decrease in the state's income is due to decrease in taxes and due to the promotion it gives to attract capitals, in the presence of international competition. The economy based upon efficiency and advanced technology by the way of reconstruction and decreasing the routine will increase the problem of unemployment (jobless growth). In the coming years, 80% will not find a stable job, as a sequence, there will be an absence of security. For their security, 5% of the American spend double what is spent for the governmental security. Globalization will lead to injustice and inequality because justice can't be determined by market and will lead to increase in pollution, earth's temperature, illegal drugs, violence and aggression towards the minorities. The effect of these phenomena on the psychiatric disorders including addiction and shortness of social care for the chronic mental-ill patients, on chemical industries of psychotropic drugs as well as on psychiatrists and psychiatry profession will be discussed.

Globalization and Psychiatry

"Concealing the custom taxes, supporting free trade, then, our worker in all fields of economy will be slaves and miserable"

Said Abraham Lincoln the 16th President of the United State 1860-1865.

Globalization term was - firstly used to describe some aspects of change in the international economic activities. Capitalism became a comprehensive term to cover all different ways of what is called market economy. Economic transformations appeared as irresistible natural events and there is an increase concern with free trading and transfer of money between countries.

Globalization will lead to absence of national sovereignty. Botrous Ghali said "The political leaders are still imagining that national sovereignty is under their full control, and they can control globalization in their national domain". He added "I don't doubt their intelligence".

The failure of governments to deal with the chaotic international market seems to be endless as shown in the following, points:

1. The governmental income and taxes

The globalization competition to attract the capitals has obliged the governments to decrease taxes to a minimal levels, at the same time the governments offer a generous fund, for example ,giving land free, pavement of roads and supply with water and electricity, governments are burdened by almost one third of the total costs of some projects. Moreover, corporations always have more efficient consultant in taxes than the governments have. The reduction in the governmental income will affect the provided social services, one of the German politician mentioned that he found a huge mountain of special interests that should be concealed. These special interest he means are:

1. Payment of salaries in case of illness
2. The financing help for newly born.
3. Unemployment payment.
4. Working only 5 days per week.

In the atmosphere of globalization these social privileges will considered as a selfish interests.

2. Unemployment:

The economy based on high efficiency and advanced technology lead to deterioration in the unemployment problem. In the coming years only 20% of the working population will be in a regular job, we will observe the phenomenon of "Jobless growth". In 1995 the German drug companies Hoechst, Bayer and BASF gained the highest benefits but they fired out many of their employees. The merge of Ciba Geigy and Sandoz in 1996 despite their high economic efficiency led to cancel a 15 thousands job.

3. Environment:

Globalization will increase environmental pollution, the increase earth's temperature, storms and floods became facts, the developed countries are responsible, 20% of countries consume 85% of wood, 75% of steel and 70% of energy the market economy is not concern with the pollution problems.