

*Full Length Research*

# Landscaping the Creeping World: Globo-Parenting

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Accepted 7 July 2015

In the contemporary world, the forces of globalisation and foreign aid are shaping the identities of developing nations. The transition is slow but evident. The purpose of globalization is majorly integration of a multi-cultural world with a diverse resource base for various social, economic and political mutual benefits. The colonial and semi-colonial history of “developing world” has developed a creeping social psychology amongst them. A new form of colonialism i.e. “Globo-Parenting” is establishing the world system. The developed world, with its economic diplomacy, is trying to shape the politico- economic system of other nations. It is the parenting of the so called “developed world” that has on one hand helped the nations to grow and on the other hand made them dependent. Only “self –help”, which is a “socio-psychological therapy that can help the developing world to think and act independently. It is important that rather than comparing the status of development among the nations, every nation should have its own parameters based on its past. It is important to understand that “development” is not a race rather it is a step for achieving the wellbeing of all. The goals of development of a nation should be need-based and to accomplish those needs it is important to realize one’s own potentiality. It is important to develop the resource base and Research and Development of one’s own country rather than just to depend every time on external help. It’s, for the developing countries, to remember that globalisation is like a fashionable cloth which is stylish but expensive.

**Key words:** Globalisation, Globo- Parenting, Dependency, Economic diplomacy, Self-help.

**Cite This Article As:** Rajput S (2015). Landscaping the Creeping World: Globo- Parenting. Acad. Res. J. Hist. Cult. 1(2): 22-26

## INTRODUCTION

I remember a day, one of a student, who was pursuing an undergraduate course, asked me a question, “what if we were a colony of Japan and not British, what would have been different about us?” The question triggered my nerves, not to find the answer but to find the reason as to what made him ask this question? Somewhere, the youth of developing nations keep associating themselves with

their colonial past (even after several decades of independence) and this colonial past has, somewhere, created creeping social psychology over the generations. Why not, what if India was never a colony in the past?

History can never be changed or erased; rather it leaves impression and evokes powerful responses over generations. But the question that comes to one’s mind is

whether it is a habit of dependency or it is lack of will or it has slowly become a mind-set to adopt or follow the “Developed World”? Why for success, the developing countries look towards Europe and North America? Whether for education, employment, health or infrastructure development, the developing or underdeveloped world tries to fit the models of “developed World” for solutions? The “First World Models” might lead to improvement and development in the poor nations so it becomes easier to rely on such models. At the same time such adoptions make the “developing World” creepers, who can simply climb to reach a particular “development mark”.

The colonial past earmarks a slow penetration of social, economic, cultural and psychological realms of a nation. Similarly, forces of globalization continue to reshape identities in the twenty first century. The transition is slow but evident. The colonial psychology, no matter whether good or bad, becomes fossils and at times blends in the soil of a nation. The creeping social psychology is a reality, but not the only contributor to slow growth and development of a nation. The lagers have an exorbitant history of geo-political and socio-economic unrest.

This paper tries to highlight the lethargic approach of resource rich poor nations and smart globo-parenting approach of developed countries. It also inducts a need of self-help : a socio-psychological therapy for development in poor countries.

### **Resource rich-poor countries: The creepers**

Many resource rich nations of the world are considered to be poor. The richness of available resources does not ensure development rather; it perpetuates the habit of exchange and therefore dependency. The dependence of natural resource rich nations on human resource rich nations, reminds one of Zimmerman functional theory of resource, i.e. “resources are not until they become”. Resource is an outcome of interaction between man and neutral stuff, in which culture (technology and skills) plays an imperative role. So, the country where technology is strong becomes the hub of power while the resource rich countries rely on techno-world or in a way become their prey.

The Asian and African countries which are considered to be “poor” are no less bountiful. According to World Bank data Africa accounts for nearly 17 percent and Asia 15 percent of the forest resource of the world. Similarly many Asian and African countries are house of many important minerals like mica, aluminium, coal, oil etc. According to Stiglitz, even new discoveries of natural resources in African countries like Uganda, Ghana, and Tanzania etc cannot lead to prosperity. He found that it is difficult to somehow project that new discoveries are resource blessing or curse. He observed that most of

resource rich countries have corrupt governments which give disproportionate share to foreign countries. He believed that fair renegotiation can build these countries stronger. Stiglitz supported his argument by citing an example of Botswana, Bolivia and Venezuela; which did renegotiations and generated profits for their economy in long run.

Patrick and Vatson in their respective studies mentioned that some oil rich countries like Angola and Nigeria

are unable to raise the standard of living as these countries have authoritarian corrupt government. The dependency of developed nations on many Asian and African countries for natural resources or skilled and unskilled labour should benefit both nations. Then why resource rich regions in the world are poverty stricken?

Globalisation and integration helps to earn foreign exchange, opt for better job opportunities, gives exposure to knowledge and new skills. This social, economic and cultural integration of the world should help the developing nations to a large extent. Integration of the nations is important and inevitable. It not only develops global economy but also works on its social structure. The “globo-politan” culture encourages the feeling of unity and prosperity.

Globalisation, to some extent, discards the centrifugal forces operating in the nations, one of the main causes of underdevelopment. But it is for the “third world” to remember that globalisation is like a fashionable cloth which is expensive and stylish.

### **Globo-Parenting: A form of globo- colonialism**

Colonialism was a complete take–take situation, which led to thriving of colonizers.

“**Globo-Parenting**” is rather a give-take situation, which widens the gap between rich and poor nations. It is a strategic way where developed nations tries to induct policies and strategies that are benefitting to their nations and in response the developing countries which are poor negotiators, due to various reasons, follow the footprints. It is also an easy and convenient way to improve the market-oriented economies but leads to overexploitation of resources.

Inequalities among nations have triggered exchange of resources. It was during the cold war, that there was a demarcation of first, second and third world based upon level of development or in other words, “power”. It created a rifted psychology among nations. “We are rich, you are poor”, became clearly evident. All underdeveloped were actually colonial, semi colonial or dependent nations. To sustain the richness, the resources started flowing from a “periphery” of poor and developing states to a core of wealthy nations. Rich nations became richer and poor became lagers. Rather,

it would not be an exaggeration to say that the “resource rich nations that were technologically challenged, became poor in real sense.”

The well versed commercial diplomacy of the ‘First World’ made them politically powerful. For example, among the long lasting consequences of Africa’s participation in the Atlantic Trade System was the loss of independence by indigenous African economies that had become integrated into and dependent on the needs and demands of the triangular trade among Europe, Africa and America... “The river’s mudfish grows fat to the crocodile’s delight”. Ultimately it would be European capitalist crocodiles who would consume their African counterparts of the Atlantic world (Goucher and Walton, 2013).

At present China is currently Africa’s largest trading partner. China is picking up natural resources like petroleum and minerals to fuel its economy. Similarly, in 2007, Republic of China signed an agreement with Congo, where Chinese firms provided services in exchange for an equivalent amount of copper ore extracted from Congo mines. The inherited treasure has been over utilised and eroded to acquire the technology, sophisticated consumer goods or services.

The webs of multinational companies played an inevitable role in influencing the policy formulations in other nations. The bias policies at times have compromised upon the provision of basic necessities and services to the indigenous people. In 2008, South Korea multinational Daewoo logistics secured 1.3 million hectares of farmland in Madagascar, to grow maize and crops for biofuels. Roughly half of the country’s arable land as well as rainforests of rich and unique biodiversity were to be converted into palm and corn monoculture, producing food for export from a country where a third of the population and fifty per cent of children under are malnourished.

The Early period of globalization, i.e. 1980-90s, saw free-market oriented policies, which were oppressive and gave immense power to the, now called, “Developed World”. The WTO provoked sharp opposition among many who saw it as a perpetuation of control by dominant economic and political powers over the world’s poorest people who had no voice in the deliberations and decisions (Goucher and Walton, 2013).

The diversion of funds and resource allocation for satisfying the needs of multinationals has led to borrowing for improvement of basic needs and infrastructure development, in the poor countries. The debts escalated and became burdensome. According to an estimate, the developing countries pay \$1.3 to make the payment of debt of \$1. Some 7 million children die each year for the debt crisis.

According to Rogoff, “By the end of 1990 the world’s poor and developing countries owed more than \$1.3 trillion to industrialised countries... Third World debt grew

dramatically during the seventies, when bankers were eager to lend money to developing countries. Although many Third World governments defaulted on their debts during the thirties, bankers had put that episode out of their minds by the seventies. The mood of the time is perhaps best captured in the famous proclamation by the Citibank chairman at the time, Walter Wriston, that lending to governments is safe banking because sovereign nations do not default on their debts”.

According to World Bank data, in 2010 alone, developing countries paid out \$184 billion on debt service, about three times the annual resources required for the fulfillment of the MDGs. Even more troublesome, between 1985 and 2010 net public debt flows to developing countries, that is the difference between debt inflows and debt payments, have reached -\$530 billion (Millet, 2012).

The role of foreign aid in the growth process of developing countries has been a topic of intense debate. Foreign aid is an important topic, given its implications for poverty reduction in developing countries. Previous empirical studies on foreign aid and economic growth generate mixed results. For example, Papanek (1973), Dowling and Hiemenz (1982), Gupta and Islam (1983), Hansen and Tarp (2000), Burnside and Dollar (2000), Gomane, et al. (2003), Dalgaard et al. (2004), and Karras (2006), found evidence for positive impact of foreign aid on growth; Burnside and Dollar (2000) and Brautigam and Knack (2004) found evidence for negative impact of foreign aid on growth, while Mosley (1980), Mosley, et al. (1987), Boone (1996), and Jensen and Paldam (2003) found evidence to suggest that aid has no impact on growth. It should be noted that, although Burnside and Dollar (2000) concluded that foreign aid has positive effects, this conclusion applies only to economies which are combined with good fiscal, monetary, and trade policies. A recent study by Doucouliagos and Paldam (2009), using the meta-analysis covering 68 papers containing a total of 543 direct estimates, it is found that the effect of aid on growth estimates scatter considerably and add up to a small positive, but insignificant, effect on growth. The zero correlation result has yet to be overcome (Ekanayake and Chatrna, 2010).

Globo- Interdependence means that benefits are mutual, the losses are also mutual. Any economic crisis in developed world would affect developing nations and vice versa. According to former Prime Minister of India, Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee:

“Global interdependence today means that economic disasters in developing countries could create a backlash on developed countries”.

But the impact would be much aggressive on the developing countries if there will be an economic disaster

in developed world. Climbers would die if the tree withers.

The Developed world parents the third (poor, developing) world by showing the “right” path and lending hand to accomplish the task in a particular way. For poor and backward areas, i.e., those that are ignorant about new technology; it’s like an exposure to the magical world.

The magic of technology amazes them and to glorify their future, they simply adopt it. The development becomes easier, in the sense that without much of research they can adopt the technology introduced by parent nations. Adoption of an existing and tested technology saves time and money for research. The process of development can be initialized easily by just buying the technology or exchanging goods and services.

Judged by their HDIs, today’s poor countries are well ahead of where the leading countries were in 1870. This is largely because medical advances and improved living standards have brought strong increases in life expectancy. But even if the HDI gap has narrowed in the long-term, far too many people are losing ground. Life expectancy may have increased but the quality of life for many has not improved, with many still in abject poverty (IMF, 2000).

According to Duc, the foreign aid helped South Asian nations to grow and perform well in all the sectors. Bangladesh has performed relatively well over the last decade with average annual GDP growth of 5% with more and more entrepreneurs emerging recently. Good macroeconomic management has kept inflation relatively low. Recent reforms in fiscal management, governance, state-owned enterprises, banking, telecommunication and energy have shown promising results. Increasing FDI flows with the amount of private FDI of nearly US\$ 400 million in fiscal year 1997-1998 strengthened infrastructure, energy and export-oriented industries (World Bank, 2003).

Around 60 percent of Delhi Metro project, in India, has been financed by Japan Bank of International Cooperation through “soft loans”. The World Bank and other development institutions provide soft loans to develop infrastructure in developing countries. The total net debt flow to developing nations have risen from 121 million US\$ to 411 million US \$ from 2000 to 2012.

Another example of a soft loan is China's Export-Import Bank, who gave a \$2 billion soft loan to Angola in October 2004 to help build infrastructure. In return, the Angolan government gave China a stake in oil exploration off the coast. Another example is the interest free soft loan of Rs. 20 billion given by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to the government of West Bengal (India) on the condition that it is used for health, education and developing infrastructure and that the government would implement 16 economic reforms (Mitra, 2013)..

Globalization leads to international integration that

arises from the interchange of world views, products, ideas, and other aspects of culture. The backward nations have borrowed help from developed nations to improve transportation and telecommunications infrastructure, including the rise of the telegraph and its posterity the Internet. Globo – parenting in the form of foreign aid, help, soft loans or exchange in any form has ultimately resulted in infringement in political and economic sovereignty of developing countries.

### **Self-help: A Socio- psychological Therapy for Development**

According to Campolo, “Haitians do not need development programs imposed on them by expatriates. Instead they need help in developing as self-assured persons”.

The stress to come to par with the developed nations has inbuilt a creeping psychology in the poor nations. The spatial diversity is the truth of the earth; it would always pertain to uneven growth. Moreover, the spatial histories of the world, which are past realities, have their impressions and would remain for long.

One of the Meta theories of psychology is SDT i.e. self-determination theory points out a very important fact of healthy development and functioning are based upon three psychological needs autonomy, competence and relatedness. The dependency on First World can be a good option to initiate the process of development but cannot be a long lasting solution for the economy. Preserving indigenous culture and social values can be equally helpful, as that would involve the sentiments of the nationals. Dependency, in the form of foreign aid, research and development and policy formulation can lead to ignoring native potentialities and problems. It is important to understand that policies and technology cannot be adopted blindly as inequalities of natural and human resources exist between developed and developing nations. Good governance and good resource management policies can bring prosperity in developing countries.

Many small self – help groups in Asian and African countries have emerged to find out the solution to various socio- economic problems at micro-level. These are village level financial intermediaries that have broad anti-poverty agenda. They also have many social and cultural agendas like, pursuing and popularising indigenous art and culture, women empowerment, improving nutrition in children and women etc. Such an approach of self -help can be reflected at national level too by focussing on indigenous cultural identity and socio-economic conditions.

The new policy of “Make in India” is one of such initiative, at national level, of self-help. The policy encourages investment, foster innovation and protects

intellectual property to manufacture in India. Though it is not a full proof immunity to globo-parenting but it would bring an attitudinal change in investor and give bargaining power to India. It will also lead to job creation and skill enhancement in India.

The self-help is social- psychological therapy, which the leaders of these nations have to give to their citizens, not only by propagating but also by providing them social and economic security. These nations have to develop and concentrate on the quality of human resource, which should include health and education as priorities. This doesn't mean simply following "First World Models" rather building their own competitive and realistic models. For instance education and health opportunities should be equally distributed and easily approachable. They should follow an enabling approach suitable to their economy and society.

The purpose of globalisation is actually to integrate multi-cultural world of diverse resource base for economic, social and political benefits. The uneven and diverse spatial realities have to be considered while formulating policies. The indigenous identities should be maintained and boosted with globalization. The globo-parenting needs to be replaced by globo-participation. The inclusiveness of all the nations should be the agenda. The parity is unrealistic due to diversity but it is important to involve all nations.

"Remember, aid cannot achieve the end of poverty. Only home grown development base on the dynamism of individuals and firms in free markets can do that." — William Easterly.

The developing nations have to try to capitalise the given opportunities. The developing nations have to build strong policies to mobilise their existing geo-political and geo-economic situations by enhancing their bargaining capacity in global market.

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