The Health Impacts of Globalization

Name

Institution

Professor

Course

Date

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**Most Important Features of Globalization**

Global markets are one of the most important features of globalization. Globalization allows organizations to market their products worldwide, increasing their sales margins. Domestic markets also extend beyond borders, allowing organizations to target countries with higher economic and population growth rates. Global markets promote health by increasing information flow. The advanced computing and telecommunications used in global markets allow people to gain knowledge about specific diseases (Huynen et al., 2005). However, global markets increase the spread of diseases due to the increased social movements. In essence, Huynen et al. (2005) observed that global markets have significantly contributed to the spread of infectious viruses, such as HIV/AIDS, due to the increased social interaction.

Another crucial feature of globalization is global environmental changes. Globalization has raised critical concerns about environmental management. Huynen et al. (2005) point out that globalization has contributed to the increased consumption of products, impacting the ecological cycle. High consumption influences the high production of goods, which leads to environmental exploitation. Environmental exploitation affects the social and environmental health determinants due to climate change. Consequently, communities have limited access to safe drinking water, healthy foods, and secure shelter (Dodgson et al. 2002).

**A Health Issue that Has Become a Threat Due to Globalization**

The social environment is increasingly becoming a public health threat due to globalization. Before globalization, communities lived according to specific social norms that promoted their health and well-being. People acknowledged their social and cultural practices. However, globalization changed the social environment and people adopted some unhealthy behavior. Huynen et al. (2005) document that globalization has led to stressful circumstances due to socioeconomic factors, increasing people’s anxiety and uncertainty to cope with situations. The anxiety has led to premature death as individuals face challenging social and psychological circumstances. Huynen et al. (2005) suggest that globalization has led to high competition in the social environment, minimizing employment opportunities. Unemployment affects psychological health as victims face low living standards, low self-esteem, and social isolation.

**How Countries can Address the Issue**

Low-income and middle-income countries are vulnerable to the globalization impact on the social environment. Economic globalization has a significant impact on job opportunities in developing countries. Despite developing countries’ citizens having high educational levels, they are more likely to receive lower wages when they work for foreign investors. Moreover, foreign investors have reduced employment opportunities due to technology. In this sense, low-income and middle-income countries should formulate policies to ensure equality. This way, individuals will avoid the risk for stress and anxiety, promoting their psychological health and well-being (Huynen et al., 2005).

References

Dodgson R, Lee K, Drager N (2002): Global health governance: a conceptual review. London, Centre on Global Change and Health, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

Huynen, M.M., Martens, P. & Hilderink, H.B. (2005). The health impacts of globalisation: a conceptual framework. *Global Health* 1, 14 https://doi.org/10.1186/1744-8603-1-14