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**QUESTIONS**

**How is the portrayal of the Global South by the Global North News Organizations /Media?**

**What are the challenges a foreign correspondent is likely to face in these times, especially with Corona Virus, Racism and all other fears in view? Proffer solutions you think will overcome the challenges you raise.**

**PORTRAYAL OF THE GLOBAL SOUTH BY THE GLOBAL NORTH NEWS**

**ORGANISATION**

In International Communication, any country that has the most advanced communication equipment and mass media system will be a big player in that arena, that is why the developed countries especially Europe and North America otherwise known as Global North have continued to use their technological gift to dominate international communication to the detriment of the developing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America otherwise known as the Global South. The Global North dominate their international communication through their media empires such as the BBC, VOA and also international news agencies such as Reuters, Bloomberg etc. The countries in the Global North are believed to be wealthy, technologically advanced, politically stable and aging. The world today tends to foster inequality in many areas political, economic, technological, cultural and military thus making the countries in the Global South depend on the Global North. It was the great difference between the Global North and South that led to the agitation for New World Information and Communication Order by the leaders of Global south which led the international news agencies and media of the Global North to portray the Global South as backwards and uncivilized. Also news values of the media and news agencies in the Global North do not see any positive development stories in the Global South as news because their news values consist of wars, disasters and conflicts which attracts their audience’s attention and which are also prevalent in the Global South.

However, new terms alone were insufficient to bring about developmental change. Despite the aspirations and efforts of many people, in both Global North and Global south, most of the population of the Global South remains terribly poor. The reasons for this are complex, but several important interlocking factors can be identified.

1. They include the south’s historical legacy disadvantage, much of it stemming from the colonial system.
2. Also the economic and development costs associated with enduring and fighting various diseases, especially malaria, tuberculosis, and HIV/AIDS. All of which affects a substantial number of adults, who would otherwise be more productive.
3. High level of southern indebtedness, poor governance, and corruption are also important causes.
4. The comparatively high fertility rate in most developing countries, especially those that are the poorest which leads to a proportionately large number of children and young adults, many of whom are unemployed or underemployed, and vulnerable to disease and economic exploitation.
5. On the whole, populations and governments in the Global North have shown little interest in the social and economic fate of the South. For example, while for several decades many countries in the Global North have pledged to increase development aid to the Global South, very few large countries and none of the members of the G-7 have followed through on these promises. In fact, Northern Countries have behaved collectively as though it is just and proper that the economic and social privileges of the Northern populations be enhanced by Southern poverty.
6. Also the great diversity of the countries of the South. They are united by comparative disadvantage and poverty, but divided by differences in culture, language, religion, fertility rates, and stocks of oil and other natural resources. The South has also been divided by the policies of OPEC, a cartel whose richest countries have shown little or no interest in promoting the broader interest of the Global South.

The Global south’s often discussed struggle is to be equally represented in the media compared to the North. When looking at the media coverage of developing countries, a generalized view has developed through western media. Negative images and coverage of the poverty are frequent in the mass media when talking about third world countries. This common coverage has created a dominant stereotype of the Global South. The news organization of the Global North describes this as, the south is characterized by socioeconomic and political backwardness, measured against Western values and standards. The media and the news agencies in the Global North views the Global South as developing and less developed countries, which includes, but is not restricted to, countries in Latin America and Africa. These countries lack resources that are essential for it to develop at the same rate as others. Unfortunately, countries in the Global South suffer from poverty, lack of human rights, and the depletion and abuse of natural resources. They feel progress won’t occur in these countries unless outside and inside forces make positive changes for the well- being of its people and environment. Sustainable development is financial development that occurs without harming the environment or depleting the land from its natural resources. While it is easier for developed countries to implement policies that support sustainable development, countries in the Global South face problems that impede them from doing so. Additionally, countries in the Global South base their economic growth on fossil fuels, which in return creates negative consequences. Guatemala, a small country in Latin America, is part of the Global South and it faces many challenges as it tries to develop, because Guatemala is still developing and facing problems like poverty as it bases its economy on forest deforestation. “Guatemala’s environmental issues, particularly in regard to tropical deforestation, can seem daunting at times. The country and its people seem to be caught in a vicious cycle that will end only when the environmental degradation reaches its peak and the consequences are fully reaped. It seems greed, apathy, poverty, corruption, ignorance, and neglect have all conspired against Guatemala’s precious natural resources.

**CHALLENGES A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT IS LIKELY TO FACE IN THSES TIMES WITH CORONA VIRUS AND RACISM**

Foreign correspondence is the reportage and filing of new stories by a Journalist known as a foreign correspondent (who works for a media organization) from a foreign country. A Foreign correspondent is a journalist who sends news reports and commentary from a foreign country for publication or broadcast.  His is an agent who contributes reports to a newspaper, radio or television, from a remote, often distant location. The foreign correspondent is stationed in a foreign country. Challenges are the part of every job and journalism is not escaped from it. This profession invites maximum number of challenges and a correspondent has to take them as part of his/her occupation. According to a famous journalist, “the biggest challenge for a today’s journalist is to survive”. Foreign correspondence, even from a layman’s perspective has a lot of challenges especially because the Journalist has to leave his/her own country for another country that he/she is not familiar with. The challenges of foreign correspondent normally are

1. Language Barrier
2. Cost of Operation
3. Cultural Challenges
4. Political Instability
5. Wars, Disputes and Ripples

But due to recent happening going on in the world, likes of the recent COVID-19 pandemic and also that of racism and all other underlying events these foreign correspondent are faced with new challenges which are as follows

1. The sudden ban on movement, traveling be it interstate or outside the country.

Most if not all foreign correspondent is sent by their various media organisations to report or cover news stories thereby making them to travel around the world so as to carry out the tasks or assignment assigned to them. But as we have it now a ban has been placed on movements cause of the COVID-19 pandemic spreading across the world which has affected these foreign correspondent because they will have to device other means of carrying out their assignment and also their source of income has been cut down cause of the sudden ban in movement and also having to protect themselves from contracting this deadly virus.

1. Economic problems

Economic problems with most definitely affect the operations of foreign correspondent, the effectiveness and efficiency of a foreign correspondent is linked to how stable the economy of the country is. Most of the countries are on lockdown presently due to the COVID-19 pandemic and all the means of earning or making income has been kept on held, all the workers are being asked to stay at home so as not to contract the deadly virus, all means of livelihood are on hold thereby making the economy to develop problems be it socially, financially, politically etc.

1. The ban on social gathering is also another challenge of a foreign correspondent

A foreign correspondent is known for traveling around to gather and cover news events or stories for their various media organisations but cause of the sudden ban on social gatherings there’s no way for a foreign correspondent to make this happen cause he or she need people around to be able to ask question and gather more information.

1. Racism

This is another important challenge foreign correspondent faces. We all know that foreign correspondent travel to other countries to report or cover news stories and events, they leave their own country to another man’s country to gather information, they go to foreign land where they are not welcome, they have to abide by the country’s rules and regulations just to avoid problems, they have to learn the country’s language just so they can be able to fit in. Foreign correspondent is at the high of getting killed at any time, they live in the fear for being black.

**There are various ways in which the challenges of a foreign correspondent could be solved:**

1. Media organisations should devices various means through which foreign correspondent could gather their stories without traveling and putting themselves a risk be it through the internet and also find ways to supply them with limited data or Wi-Fi to enable them carry out their assignment
2. The government should also find ways to solve the problems country whether economically, financially, politically, and socially. They should find ways to curb these problems and make lives better for correspondent.
3. Also due to the fact of the ongoing pandemic social gatherings have been banned, but if the government can devices ways by which citizens can protect themselves at these social gatherings, then it would be much easier for foreign correspondent to do their jobs.
4. Lastly, media organisations should find out more about a foreign country before sending their correspondents there. By doing this the correspondent will know what he or she is going to encounter and how to go about it.