Wah Academia Journal of Social Sciences
Volume 2, Issue 2, Dec 2023, pp. 73-91
ISSN – E 2958-8731 P 2958-8723
https://doi.org/10.63954/WAJSS.2.2.5.2023

Globalization and Socioeconomic Realities: An Analysis of Mohsin Hamid's How to Get Filthy Rich in Rising Asia

Muhammad Saleem[1]

Abstract

Globalization, a term widely debated in contemporary discourse, encompasses multifaceted dimensions and effects that permeate various aspects of society, including the economy, politics, geography, cultures, and individual perceptions. This article delves into the diverse dimensions of globalization and its far-reaching impact on both local and global perspectives, with a particular focus on its influence on individuals worldwide. Through the lens of Mohsin Hamid's novel, "How to Get Filthy Rich in Rising Asia," this study examines the repercussions of globalization on the lives of ordinary Pakistanis, shedding light on the lengths to which individuals go to secure a higher social standing. Drawing upon Reader Response Theory by Wolfgang Iser, this analysis offers valuable insights into the nuanced portrayal of globalization in Hamid's work, shedding light on the symbiotic relationship between individuals and this pervasive global force. Ultimately, this research contributes to a deeper understanding of the intricate dynamics between globalization and socioeconomic realities, paving the way for informed strategies to address its multifaceted implications.

Keywords: Globalization, Socioeconomic Realities, Mohsin Hamid, "How to Get Filthy Rich in Rising Asia", Reader Response Theory

Introduction

Globalization Globalization involves interconnected civilizations, financial integration, and rapid progress. It involves large-scale organizational changes and personal reactivity, as individuals constantly reshape their identities in response to evolving awareness and circumstances. Undoubtedly, globalization significantly influences culture and literature, exerting its impact across diverse realms such as

[1] English Language Teacher, Institutions of Punjab – Lahore, Pakistan

CC BY

education, economics, politics, religion, society, and individual lives. Despite its expansive nature, globalization can be succinctly described as encompassing "alterations and structures that transcend national boundaries" (Astiz et al. 66). Globalization, a complex phenomenon involving shared cultural, economic, diplomatic, and social ties, is transforming the global landscape, influencing state power and contributing to imperialistic tendencies, as emphasized by Beck.

A complex phenomenon, it encompasses a wide range of dimensions. This includes the increasing interdependence among different civilizations, the integration of businesses on a global financial scale, and the acceleration of progress due to advancements in technology, which have effectively compressed time and space. Additionally, there is a proliferation of public and industry associations that employ similar methods and systems worldwide. At the core of globalization lies the intricate interplay between large-scale organizational changes and the corresponding reactions at the personal level.

Various aspects of the modern era are encompassed by Globalization like drawing people together through shared cultural, economic, diplomatic, and social ties. This perpetuates an ongoing transformation of the global landscape. As emphasized by Beck, closer scrutiny of globalization's effects on individual entities provides a deeper understanding of its detrimental influence on state power and the frameworks that contribute to imperialistic tendencies. Additionally, Rosenberg contends that globalization has fallen short of delivering the anticipated outcomes. Its theoretical premise, which concerns the dynamic force driving contemporary cultural shifts, exhibits inherent deficiencies that hinder its accurate reflection (Albert 167-171).

Some scholars trace the origins of globalization to periods preceding European explorations and the emergence of the modern global order. Despite the term "globalization" gaining prominence in the mid-1990s, it has long been a subject of interest in literary discourse. Scholars have delved into literary works to discern indications of various themes within the context of globalization. Critical theories are employed to assess the authenticity of globalization. Consequently, literature and fictional studies have evolved into platforms for exploring, stimulating, and analyzing a plethora of social, diplomatic, legendary, and traditional concepts within the globalized milieu (Habib 15).

Three overarching approaches characterize theories of globalization. Firstly, it is seen as an enduring process that has spanned thousands of years, from ancient times

CC BY

to the present. Secondly, it is closely tied to the expansion of private enterprise over the past five centuries. Lastly, it is associated with contemporary shifts in post-industrial, postmodern, or capitalist restructuring frameworks, which have taken place over the last two to three decades.

As a result, a diverse range of perspectives connects globalization to global inequality, new forms of exploitation and control, displacement, marginalization, environmental challenges, and resistance to globalization. On the other hand, proponents celebrate globalization for fostering newfound prosperity, freedom, liberation, and democratic ideals. If globalization is indeed the quintessential concept of the 21st century, it unquestionably assumes a contentious and complex character (Robinson 126).

❖ Modus Operandi of Globalization

The modus operandi of globalization is a nuanced process, often shrouded in layers that make it challenging to discern its underlying truths. It presents itself under the guise of communication, business strategies, financial planning, investments, governmental policies, health and education initiatives, trade, and emerging trends (Bajwa 32). However, the term "globalization" did not gain prominence until the recent surge in rapid advancements in business, financial landscapes, expertise, and skills. The facilitation of travel and communication played a pivotal role in forging connections among nations, states, or individual entities, yet in some respects, it rendered them subservient in the name of freedom. While it may seem to create external comforts, it has also generated internal discomforts. To a certain extent, the populace was unprepared to navigate the operations of globalization, and consequently, its impact was felt by nearly everyone.

Conversely, the operational model conceived outside of developing regions is being imposed on less developed nations under the guise of advancement and progress. This phenomenon persists because the economically disadvantaged or less educated segments of any nation have limited recourse and are ill-equipped to contend with it as needed. Nevertheless, this issue can be constructively addressed to reevaluate our notions of success and prosperity (Bajwa 33).

Globalization, within the realm of literature, serves as the conduit for elevating local conveniences to global prominence. It signifies a process that shifts paradigms from localized perspectives to a broader global outlook. Moreover, it encapsulates a method through which the peoples of the world are brought together into a unified

CC BY

community, collaborating in tandem. This dynamic operates through a confluence of economic, technological, social, intellectual, and political forces. It imposes similar sets of challenges on nations, shaping their responses in kind. The discussions surrounding its far-reaching impacts encompass critical domains such as education, healthcare, and societal lifestyles (Bajwa 35-36).

Globalization, inextricably tied to a nation's economy, often amplifies cultural influence from affluent nations onto marginalized populations—a dynamic that has persisted throughout human history. Developed nations employ distinct strategies to propagate globalization in less privileged regions across the world. A nation stands to benefit from globalization only when accompanied by well-crafted government policies, societal advancement, and effective institutional functioning—qualities often absent in regions where such factors are lacking (Abbas et al. 193). The modus operandi of globalization is contingent on the depth of its cultural transformations and their subsequent impact. This notion further solidifies globalization as an inherently distinctive phenomenon.

It is imperative to underscore that the implementation of globalization diverges significantly from traditional systems. The spectrum of procedures is catalyzed and influenced by the prevailing milieu. While its inception and influence may appear external, its impact is felt internally, both at the individual and collective societal levels. On a broader scale, this influence extends to the realms of education and healthcare. The modality through which globalization operates not only elicits responses from affected nations but also moulds and amplifies its effects on them.

Nonetheless, it would be remiss to assert that the effects of globalization are confined solely to the framework of any given nation. Various sectors within an organization are significantly impacted by persistent global forces. It is imperative to address the need for moderation in the influence of globalization before it jeopardizes the very existence of a nation (Dale 5). The impact of globalization is manifold, presenting numerous challenges to societies, particularly those that are underdeveloped. Firstly, it exerts pressure to expand democracy on a global scale, concurrently intensifying the homogenization of cultures.

This push towards privatization has, unfortunately, fostered profit-maximizing strategies and mechanisms of control, often at the expense of human capital and effective communication. This has exacerbated inequality, leading to conflicts and

CC BY

a surge in accountability issues. Furthermore, it has widened the scope for unethical practices, including bribery, corruption, and moral deterioration (Robertson 564). In literature, we find a compelling impetus to discover novel and incisive methods of depicting life in this era of alluring yet challenging globalization (Israel 3).

Globalization exerts a profound influence on human perspectives, reshaping our understanding across various domains, including communication norms, lifestyles, and literary discourse. It behoves readers to discern the intricate interplay between globalization and literature. Numerous critics have taken up the mantle of elucidating this relationship, using literature as a lens to illuminate the experiences of both masters and slaves. Through manuscripts, literature engages readers in contemplation of globalization's multifaceted dimensions. It serves as a mirror reflecting the contemporary global experience, weaving the fabric of life into a narrative that is accessible to those who devote a modicum of attention to its purpose.

Methodology

This study examines the impact of globalization on socioeconomic realities in developing Asia, focusing on Mohsin Hamid's novel "How to Get Filthy Rich in Rising Asia." The research methodology is qualitative, focusing on textual analysis, with the primary text chosen due to its thematic exploration of globalization's impact on socioeconomic realities. The Reader Response Theory is applied to examine how readers interpret and respond to the novel's depiction of socioeconomic dynamics in the era of globalization. The analysis aims to identify and categorize themes related to socioeconomic conditions, disparities, and transformations portrayed in the novel. The research adheres to ethical guidelines, ensuring proper citation and respect for intellectual property rights.

Discussion

The analysis of literature stands to benefit significantly from the incorporation of analytical frameworks and insights derived from diverse disciplines, including globalization studies, urban planning, and social anthropology. Larkin's perspective emphasizes the belated recognition within anthropology of the intricate significance of examining infrastructure in multifaceted ways. In parallel, literary studies have demonstrated a comparative oversight, disproportionately emphasizing themes

CC BY

such as nationhood and identity. While there exists a wealth of narrative analyses delving into settings and the interplay between space and time, occasionally extending to geometric data scrutiny, a more comprehensive application of interdisciplinary theories and methodologies is imperative to contemporize our approach to interpreting literary settings.

A notable lacuna within literary analysis lies in the insufficient recognition accorded to contemporary literature that grapples with themes related to localities, global dynamics, economic intricacies, and global citizenship. Our engagement with reading materials often tends to be succinct; nonetheless, such engagement can provoke distinct reactions, facilitating unforeseen linkages: "The reader, in creating these interrelationships between past, present, and future, makes the text reveal the multiplicity of possible connections. These connections are the product of the reader's mind working on the raw material of the text, though it is not the text itself—for this consists only of sentences, statements, information, etc." (278).

Hamid's narrative, anchored by an unnamed protagonist, commences with the character's aspirations and imagination to transition from an unidentified rural setting to an unspecified urban environment within an unnamed Asian nation. In contrast to "The Reluctant Fundamentalist," where cities like Lahore and New York were explicitly named, the city in this context serves as a narrative exploration of the concept of a post-colonial urban centre. The city's functions are intricately interwoven with the characters' experiences, firmly establishing it as their domicile.

The author envisions the city as an element within housing schemes, characterized by towering edifices symbolizing integration into the globalized world, rather than as a sanctuary of solace. This perspective subtly alludes to the materialistic dimensions of urban existence. The city's historical identity has been distilled to a generic template, echoing the contemporary global prerequisites outlined by Sassen, wherein every city must fulfil specific criteria to serve as a springboard for global economic advancement. Success propels it into global capital, while stagnation consigns it to lag akin to the dynamics between Lahore and Manila in "The Reluctant Fundamentalist.

The city under consideration possesses an enigmatic historical character that transcends specific national boundaries, imparting a sense of belonging to an entire continent, regardless of whether it embodies Pakistani, Indian, or Chinese

CC BY

influences. As articulated by Ashcroft, the postcolonial essence of the city signifies a continuation of the historical shift from rural hinterlands to urban spaces, with the city representing an intermediary stage en-route to the metropolis. Despite certain indicators, such as allusions to women's attire (hinting at veiling) and the presence of drones in the sky, pointing to a Pakistani context, the city's identity is intentionally left partially veiled, creating a simultaneous ambience of serenity and intrigue.

Hamid presents himself as a self-help writer who is in the process of crafting a book. The story employs the second-person pronoun "you" to immerse the reader in both the narrative and the self-help aspect. Consequently, the term "you" assumes a dual connotation, signifying both the reader and a presence within the storyline. This inversion of the conventional rapport between narrator and reader eradicates the customary narrative detachment, inviting the reader to engage in a satirical interplay.

- **How to get Filthy Rich in Rising Asia**

> "Your teacher did not want to be a teacher. He wanted to be a meter reader at the electric utility. Meter readers do not have to put up with children, work comparatively little, and" … "His uncle worked for the electric utility. But the one position as meter reader this uncle was able to facilitate went, as all things most desirable in life invariably went, to your teacher's elder brother" (Hamid 10).

The intricacies of globalization introduce complex dynamics, compelling individuals to pursue wealth at any cost, often disregarding the ethical implications of their endeavors. This blind pursuit of economic freedom often manifests in a backdrop of pervasive corruption, further exacerbated by the far-reaching influences of globalization on these individuals. The crux of the matter lies in this relentless quest for affluence. While we cannot underestimate the pivotal role of the economy in our lives, it is imperative that we also shoulder the responsibility towards our society and nation. We are endowed with the capacity to make choices that transcend mere materialistic pursuits. Thus, we must question why the pursuit of material wealth has eclipsed our moral compass, cultural cohesion, societal civility, judicious decision-making, quality of life, religious principles, and the personal ethos that should lead us towards genuine prosperity, rather than superficial opulence.

CC BY

> "So, your teacher, who narrowly failed his secondary-school final examination but was able to have the results falsified, and with his false results, a bribe equivalent to sixty percent of one year's" ... "conviction that the world is profoundly unfair, manifests itself in the steady dose of violence he visits upon his charges. With each blow, he tells himself, he helps education penetrate another thick skull". (Hamid 11).

In this narrative, Hamid unflinchingly portrays the adoption of deceptive practices to navigate the complexities of the globalized world. This is exemplified through the character of the teacher, who resorts to falsifying qualifications and resorting to bribery to secure employment. Despite being entrusted with the noble profession of education, the teacher's disdain for it arises from its perceived lack of opportunities for corruption, a sentiment that reflects a disturbing shift in values. In this milieu, the accrual of wealth is exalted as the paramount achievement, leading individuals to transgress moral boundaries in pursuit of this objective.

The disconcerting reality emerges that even educators, tasked with nurturing the next generation, are succumbing to the allure of corruption. This jeopardizes our educational aspirations and compromises the very essence of learning. This scenario signals a moral decay wherein individuals abandon their self-respect in a frenzied race towards material gain. While the tide of globalization exerts a formidable influence, it is not insurmountable. By preserving a steadfast connection with the core values of our culture and traditions, we fortify ourselves against the encroachments of globalization. I posit that nurturing a robust symbiosis between body and soul is imperative to shield against the pernicious effects of globalization (Hamid 13).

"Your father comes home after you have eaten. He has his meals with the other servants at the house where he cooks". ... "Few channels that broadcast terrestrially.

But it works, and your family watches in a state of hushed rapture the musical variety show it delivers to your room" (Hamid 15).

Globalization, propelled by the rapid advancement of technology and amplified through pervasive media channels, forges connections between disparate worlds,

CC BY

giving rise to an alternate reality. This alternate reality, however, often diverges markedly from our authentic identities, prompting the pursuit of a fabricated persona founded on materialistic gains, even if it necessitates recourse to corrupt practices. The pervasive influence of social media and television has profoundly altered our perceptual landscape. Regrettably, maintaining an unwavering commitment to a principled vision has become increasingly challenging.

We, at times, avert our gaze from unvarnished truths, instead savoring the allure of deceit. In this pursuit, we inadvertently sidestep reality, opting instead for an illusory existence of opulence and extravagance. To mitigate the impact of such pervasive global operations, a concerted effort is imperative. Each individual must endeavor to lead a conscientious existence, mindful of the far-reaching repercussions of their actions. By internalizing this ethos, we hold the potential to instigate positive change and foster a more ethically attuned global paradigm.

"Which is where you come in. The proprietor has divided his delivery area into two zones. For the first zone, reachable on a bicycle" … "a man on a motorcycle is immediately perceived as a higher-end proposition than a boy on a bicycle. Unfair, possibly, but you at least do not have to pay monthly installments to a viciously scarred and dangerously unforgiving moneylender for your conveyance" (Hamid 18).

In this passage, Hamid delves into the dichotomy of laborers, elucidating the challenges faced by those with modest incomes. Such individuals find themselves constrained in their ability to expand their client base on a broader scale, grappling with multifaceted impediments. This is further compounded by limited access to efficient modes of transportation, which proves to be a significant hindrance. In stark contrast, a worker earning twice as much is endowed with the capacity to swiftly accomplish their objectives.

Hamid astutely underscores the pivotal role of financial resources in an era dominated by globalization, where it exerts an incessant influence on the trajectory of people's lives worldwide. Transportation emerges as a cornerstone factor entwined with the mechanics of globalization. A well-developed transportation network ensures the seamless transfer of goods and services to disparate locations, underscoring the inextricable link between transportation infrastructure and the operations of globalization. Hence, the salience of this facet cannot be overstated.

> "I gave him a few free cans."
> "We don't give anything for free." "I paid for them. Personally."
> "I see. And?"
> "He sold them. Fast. Now he's a believer." (Hamid 38).

Indeed, the adage holds: that there is no gain without a corresponding cost. Globalization, while endowing us with certain advantages, does not come without its challenges. It permeates nearly every facet of our lives, touching upon individual identities, cultural dynamics, healthcare systems, legislative bodies, regulatory agencies, industrial centres, and more. One of the most conspicuous consequences of globalization is the heightened competition within markets, a direct result of its far-reaching effects.

However, it is crucial to recognize that the benefits of globalization are far from uniform; they vary significantly from one region to another. This divergence contributes to the exacerbation of disparities between the affluent and the underprivileged, further engendering socio-economic imbalance. While the affluent continually fortify their financial standing, those less fortunate grapple with the pursuit of economic freedom (Hamid 39). This stark reality underscores the nuanced impacts of globalization on diverse segments of society.

> "Globalization is hurting us because we have allowed it to do so. We are constantly busy concealing our origin or real identity. We are trying to cover the basic flaws in us at all levels. We are still not taking or accepting it as a negative effect producer. We are motivated to hide the issues or our weaknesses, which is creating hollowness in us collectively. We are united but in-depth; we are making our best efforts to stand out of the crowd means don't bother the problems of others." (Hamid 62)

The operations of globalization have ushered in a paradigm where traditional norms and regulations governing those who represent the state, both nationally and internationally, have become notably lax. This laxity can be attributed to the overarching influence of material interests in various spheres of life. Consequently, individuals vested with bureaucratic authority find themselves at a crossroads, endowed with both power and access to resources. This duality affords them the

latitude to either utilize their authority for the greater good or, regrettably, to exploit it for personal gain.

Regrettably, the pursuit of monetary gains often takes precedence over the broader societal responsibilities entrusted to these bureaucrats. Their primary charge is to maintain equilibrium within society through the effective administration of their respective departments. However, the text underscores a disconcerting trend wherein departments engage in contract approvals with private entities, influenced by personal connections or enticed by financial kickbacks, all under the umbrella of their authoritative position. This points to a concerning interplay between bureaucratic structures and the mechanisms of globalization, warranting a closer examination of the ethical implications and systemic reforms required to rectify such practices.

❖ Positive Effect of Globalization

"You'll never know if it is your answer that makes your father change his answer. But that night he tells your mother that he has decided she and your children will join him in the city". (Hamid 5).

The author astutely brings to light the affirmative dimensions of globalization through the portrayal of a character's transition from a less developed rural setting to a dynamic urban landscape. This shift promises a wealth of opportunities, underpinned by the robust infrastructure and resources characteristic of a thriving city. The urban milieu, replete with its diverse amenities, empowers the characters to pursue and potentially realize their ambitions.

Indeed, urban life serves as a crucible for personal and professional advancement, offering a fertile ground for individuals keen on integrating into the globalized world. The city's vibrancy and extensive networks create an environment conducive to growth and progress, provided one is inclined to embrace the transformative potential it holds. This narrative not only underscores the transformative power of urbanization but also serves as a poignant reflection on the pivotal role played by globalization in reshaping individual trajectories.

> "Atop your inky-smoke-spewing, starboard-listing conveyance you survey the changes with awe. Dirt streets" … "running at bus-top eye level on either side of the road, and finally in streetlights and

> shop signs and glorious, magnificent billboards. Buildings go from mud to brick to concrete, then shoot up to an unimaginable four stories, even five" (Hamid 6).

Globalization stands as the conduit that bridges the gap between less developed regions and their more advanced counterparts. This interconnectedness has been significantly bolstered by the advent of enhanced communication channels and the ubiquity of social networking platforms. With the world accessible at the click of a button, physical distances have become increasingly inconsequential. The emergence of modern technology, a cornerstone of this global shift, has ushered in a myriad of positive transformations across various sectors.

The COVID-19 pandemic, for instance, compelled a swift pivot towards online education and distance learning, vividly illustrating how technology can serve as a powerful enabler of continued education. Furthermore, advancements in engineering have revolutionized architectural practices, propelling construction from humble mud structures to robust brick and concrete edifices. As Hamid poignantly notes, "Buildings go from mud to brick to concrete and then shoot up to an unimaginable four stories, even five" (Hamid 6). These palpable changes bear testament to the profound impact of globalization on the built environment and educational landscape alike.

> "Moving to the city is the first step to getting filthy rich in rising Asia. And you have now taken it. Congratulations". ... "needs reassurance, that she seeks you out not to comfort you, but rather for the comfort that you, her only recently recovered little brother, have in this moment of fragile vulnerability the capacity to offer her" (Hamid 6).

Migration, an age-old practice, has played a pivotal role in reshaping economic landscapes throughout history. However, in the contemporary world, the complexities and responsibilities associated with relocation have multiplied, presenting formidable challenges. Stepping out of our comfort zones is no small feat. Globalization, characterized by enhanced mobility, relaxed trade barriers, foreign market access, advanced telecommunications, and technology dissemination, has ushered in a new era of possibilities. In this epoch of globalization, we grapple with a spectrum of outcomes—some advantageous, others less so.

CC BY

On the positive side, globalization catalyzes heightened individual effort and innovation. It spurs us to strive for personal betterment and self-reliance, laying the foundation for economic progress and prosperity. Yet, it is imperative to recognize that alongside these merits, globalization also introduces a set of intricately intertwined challenges and complexities. Consequently, the contemporary global landscape demands a nuanced understanding and thoughtful navigation of the multifaceted impacts of this transformative force.

> "Getting an education is a running leap towards becoming filthy rich in rising Asia. This is no secret. But like many desirable … working as a painter's assistant. Third also means you are not, like the fourth of your three surviving siblings, a tiny skeleton in a small grave at the base of a tree" (Hamid 15).

Globalization has emerged as a dynamic force driving the advancement of healthcare and education systems, particularly in developing nations. This surge in educational pursuits can be directly attributed to globalization's role in incentivizing professions that require higher levels of expertise. Consequently, individuals are increasingly drawn towards higher education avenues, which, in turn, contributes significantly to the overall progress of a nation. It is crucial to recognize that healthcare and education are not only integral to societal well-being but also exhibit a symbiotic relationship with economic growth.

In the contemporary era, we find ourselves endowed with a unique privilege—the capacity to embrace novelty and experiences that were once beyond the realm of our ancestors. This modern age empowers individuals to achieve remarkable feats, each intricately aligned with the complexities of our times. The success stories of burgeoning markets in developed nations find their roots in the strategic privatization of state-owned enterprises. This approach, aimed at expanding consumer demand, has propelled these industries toward diversification along the value chain, often extending their influence to global markets.

This dynamic transformation of industries serves as a compelling testament to the profound impact of globalization on the landscape of business management. The discernible surge in cross-border transactions further substantiates this phenomenon. Corporations, driven by the imperative to sustain revenue streams

CC BY

and fortify competitive edges, are strategically extending their reach, a measure that translates into cost efficiencies and the realization of economies of scale.

> "Readers don't work for writers. They work for themselves. Therein, if you will excuse the admittedly biased tone, lies the richness of reading. In addition, therein, as well, you must work for yourself. The fruits of labor are delicious, but individually they are not particularly fattening. So, do not share yours, and munch on those of others whenever you can." (Hamid 47).

Hamid astutely delves into a key underpinning of success in the contemporary age of globalization—an insight shared by a select few. He posits that while employment certainly has its merits, achieving financial fortitude necessitates an entrepreneurial venture. This sentiment aligns with the adage: "If opportunity doesn't knock, build a door." Hamid's emphasis on self-employment resonates profoundly in an era characterized by fierce competition. Indeed, in today's landscape, relying solely on a single source of income may prove insufficient. Self-employment presents a multitude of advantages.

It affords us the autonomy to shape policies on our expertise and requirements. This avenue of work remains impervious to external interference, enabling continuous progression without impediment. It serves as a testament to the agency and is potentially embedded in sell potentially-driven endeavors in the face of globalized economic realities.

❖ The Dark Side of Globalization

The pernicious effects of globalization are acutely felt in impoverished regions, where the populace lacks comprehensive resources for advancement. Pre-existing economic hardship, exacerbated by cutthroat competition for wealth, has led to an alarming societal divide, rendering the task of achieving economic and cultural equilibrium a formidable challenge. This precarious state of affairs places the very foundation of the nation at risk. The realm of healthcare bears the brunt of this degradation, manifesting in diminished healthcare services, inadequate nutrition for families, and a dearth of medical practitioners.

Brain drain policies and resource scarcity prompt healthcare professionals to seek more fertile ground abroad, leaving their native lands bereft of vital expertise. The

CC BY

resulting disarray in healthcare further extends to mental well-being, underscoring the inseparable link between physical and psychological health. The repercussions extend beyond the individual, impacting the very fabric of society. Inadequate nutrition during pregnancy leads to compromised fetal health, often culminating in tragic outcomes. Without concerted efforts to rectify these critical sectors of education and health, the prospects for sustainable growth in underdeveloped nations remain precarious, imperiling the very existence of the nation itself (Hamid 2).

He says, "I can't afford to bring you to the city." (Hamid 2). "You earn ten thousand now. You're not a poor man."
"In the city, ten thousand makes you a poor man." (Hamid 3).

Indeed, urban centres hold a wealth of opportunities, but they come hand-in-hand with the challenge of higher living costs. When individuals migrate from rural areas, where livelihoods can be sustained with modest means, to cities, they must strategically manage their earnings to meet the heightened financial demands of urban life. Unfortunately, this shift has left many rural areas in a state of neglect, with limited access to essential amenities. The prioritization of urban development in the wake of globalization often leaves smaller towns and villages overlooked. In such locales, necessities like access to clean water and educational institutions are scarce.

The absence of adequate healthcare facilities in these areas leads to dire consequences, with lives hanging in the balance due to the lack of timely medical intervention. On a broader scale, there is a pressing need for comprehensive national reforms that ensure equitable access to essential services and a decent standard of living for all citizens. The erosion of family bonds is a direct consequence of this economic migration, as parents are compelled to leave their children behind in pursuit of livelihoods. This physical separation, driven by financial exigencies, has a profound impact on familial relationships, often leaving parents with scant time to nurture their children's emotional and psychological well-being (Hamid 2).

> "There are fifty pupils in your class and stools for thirty. The others sit on the floor or stand. You are instructed by a single … indeed only, the pedagogical tool being enforced rote memorization. Parts

> of his mind not responsible for control over the tissue and bone of his vocal apparatus wander far, far away" (Hamid 9).

Simultaneously, the education sector in local regions often grapples with neglect and insufficiency. Accessible schools are a rarity, and those that do exist often lack the resources to adequately serve their communities. This chronic deficiency in educational infrastructure underscores a fundamental failure in providing foundational learning opportunities for the populace. Tragically, regions afflicted by poverty are frequently mired in a vicious cycle of violence and unrest. Economic deprivation often drives individuals to desperate measures, engendering an environment where lives are undervalued, and acts of aggression become tragically commonplace.

This grim reality stands as a stark testament to the detrimental impact that globalization can wield in impoverished nations. To counteract these disheartening circumstances, educational institutions must be fortified with the necessary resources to cultivate a thriving learning environment. This entails not only physical resources but also a commitment to nurturing intellectual curiosity and critical thinking skills among students. Only through such concerted efforts can we hope to dismantle the entrenched cycle of violence and destitution that afflicts many underprivileged communities (Hamid 2).

"It's getting late,"
He says apologetically.
"Yes, don't let me keep you." "When's your next doctor's visit?" "Today."
"Promise to text me how it goes." (Hamid 89).

In times past, the bond between father and son resonated with profound strength and closeness. However, the current epoch of globalization has witnessed a palpable weakening of this once steadfast connection. Presently, it often manifests as a perfunctory exchange, strained by the exigencies of economic challenges. The rich, heart-to-heart engagement of yesteryears has regrettably ebbed, exemplified by the son's apparent lack of time for his father.

Furthermore, the advent of globalization has ushered in a cacophony of disruptions, notably in the form of traffic congestion and the ceaseless barrage of information from modern communication mediums such as television, social media, and radio.

CC BY

Regrettably, in many developing nations, this influx of information often carries with it a disheartening dearth of positive news, further exacerbating the sense of disquietude among its inhabitants. This compounding effect of globalization on familial and societal bonds necessitates a thoughtful reevaluation of our priorities and a concerted effort to preserve the cherished connections that define us as a collective (Hamid 2).

Conclusion

In delving into Mohsin Hamid's "How to Get Filthy Rich in Rising Asia" through the lens of Reader Response Theory by Wolfgang Iser, a nuanced understanding of the intricate interplay between globalization and socioeconomic realities emerges. The novel serves as a potent mirror reflecting the multifaceted impacts of globalization on individual lives, families, and communities. Through the experiences of its characters, it underscores how economic pursuits, while laden with promise, can also bring forth a host of challenges and societal shifts.

As the narrative navigates through the relentless tide of globalization, it becomes evident that the pursuit of wealth, while often marked by individual determination and resilience, is intrinsically tied to the broader socio-economic landscape. Hamid adeptly captures the transformative power of globalization, illuminating how it shapes aspirations, navigates cultural norms, and redraws the contours of personal identity.

Yet, amidst the dazzle of economic prosperity, Hamid does not shy away from exposing the underbelly of this rapid development. Through meticulous narrative construction and vivid character portrayal, he reveals the fissures in familial bonds, the strains on traditional values, and the fraying of human connections. Through this exploration, Hamid compels the reader to engage with the visceral realities of a globalized world, prompting contemplation of what is gained and what is lost in the relentless pursuit of financial success.

In conclusion, Mohsin Hamid's masterful narrative, analyzed through Wolfgang Iser's Reader Response Theory, offers a poignant meditation on the intricate dance between globalization and socioeconomic realities. Through its vivid characters and deft storytelling, the novel implores readers to grapple with the multifaceted impacts of an increasingly interconnected world. It challenges us to question,

CC BY

reflect, and ultimately, forge a path that recognizes the value of wealth without losing sight of the profound human connections that define our shared humanity.

CC BY

References

Abbas, Shujaat, Sulaiman D. Muhammad, and Shoaib Ali (2016). "Globalization Challenges and Opportunities: An empirical Analysis of Pakistan." Pakistan Journal of Commerce and Social Sciences (PJCSS) 10.1: 192- 99.

Albert, Mathias (2007). "Globalization Theory": Yesterday's Fad or More Lively than Ever?" International political sociology 1.2: 165-82.

Astiz, M. Fernanda, Alexander W. Wiseman, and David P. Baker (2002). "Slouching towards Decentralization: Consequences of globalization for curricular control in national education systems." Comparative Education Review 46.1: 66-88.

Bajwa, S (2009). "Globalization: Challenges for Pakistan." NDU Journal 1 (1): 32-60.

Bakhtiar, Sajadi "Reader-Response Approach: Critical Concepts and Methodology in Phenomenological Reading Theory." 1.1 (2017): 87-98

Barrett, Michael, Leiser Silva, and Geoff Walsham (2003) "ICTs, globalization, and local diversity." Communications of the Association for Information Systems, 11.1 (2003): 27.

Dale, Roger (1999) "Specifying Globalization Effects on National Policy: a Focus on the Mechanisms." Journal of education policy, 14.1 (1999): 1-17.

Hamid, Mohsin (2013) "How to Get Filthy Rich in Rising Asia". Penguin, 2014.

Harkin, Patricia (2005). "The Reception of Reader-Response Theory." College Composition and Communication: 410-25.

Israel, Nico. (2004). "Globalization and Contemporary Literature." Literature Compass, 1.1.

Habib, M. (2015). "Globalization and Literature", Language in India, Research Scholar, 15:9, www.languageinindia.com ISSN 1930-2940

Mahmutović, Adnan (2017). "'Move to the City', Infrastructure and Globalization in How to Get Filthy Rich in Rising Asia." Mosaic: An Interdisciplinary Critical Journal 50.4: 69-84.

Mehri, Sharmeen (2018). "The Idea of Self in the Land of Self-help: Globalization and a structure of feeling in Mohsin Hamid's How to Get Filthy Rich in Rising Asia."

Naydan, Liliana M (2018). "Beyond economic globalization in Mohsin Hamid's How to Get Filthy Rich in Rising Asia": The false promise of self-help and possibilities through reading with a creative mind." The Journal of Commonwealth Literature, 53.1: 92-108

Poon, Angelia. (2017) "Helping the novel: Neoliberalism, self-help, and the narrating of the self in Mohsin Hamid's How to Get Filthy Rich in Rising Asia." The Journal of Commonwealth Literature 52.1 (2017): 139-50.

Robertson, Robbie (2004). "The Historical Context and Significance of Globalization." Development and Changes 35.3: 557-65.

Robinson, William I (2007). "Theories of globalization." The Blackwell Companion to Globalization: 125-43.

Todayszaman (2010) [online], the social and cultural impact of globalization, available at www.todayszaman.com/columnists/dogu-ergil_204938-social-and-cultural-impacts-of-globalization.html, [accessed on the 3rd of February]

Lobo, Alejandra Giangiulio (2013). "Reader-Response Theory: A Path towards Wolfgang Iser." Letras 54: 13-30.
www.physio-pedia.com/Qualitative_Research#cite_note-1.
https://www.ukessays.com/essays/economics/positive-and-negative-effects-of-globalisation-for-business-economics-essay.php

Article Information:

Received	*3-Sept-2023*
Revised	25-Nov-2023
Accepted	11-Dec-2023
Published	31-Dec-2023

Declarations:

Author's Contribution:

- **Conceptualization, and intellectual revisions**
- **Data collection, interpretation, and drafting of manuscript**
- The author agrees to take responsibility for every facet of the work, making sure that any concerns about its integrity or veracity are thoroughly examined and addressed

- **Conflict of Interest**: NIL
- **Funding Sources**: NIL

Correspondence:

Muhammad Saleem

saleem111@gmail.com

CC BY