

Original Article

Current Global Issues: A Review with Wide Coverage

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Abstract

Current global issues encompass various interconnected challenges that demand collective and coordinated responses. Key among these issues is climate change, which drives extreme weather events, rising sea levels, and environmental degradation, impacting ecosystems and human societies. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted global health vulnerabilities and the critical need for equitable healthcare access. Economic inequality continues to widen, leading to social and financial instability. Political instability and conflict displace millions and create humanitarian crises, while the rise of authoritarianism threatens human rights and democratic norms. Technological advancements, including artificial intelligence, offer opportunities and challenges, with ethical concerns and cyber security threats becoming increasingly prominent. Addressing these issues requires international cooperation, sustainable practices, and a commitment to equity and justice to create a more stable and just global community.

Key Words: Global, Issues, UNO, Health, Welfare

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INTRODUCTION:

Current global issues are multifaceted and interconnected, requiring comprehensive and coordinated efforts to address them effectively. Climate change remains one of the most pressing challenges, as rising global temperatures, extreme weather events, and sea-level rise threaten ecosystems, human settlements, and economies. Environmental degradation, including deforestation, pollution, and biodiversity loss, further exacerbates the situation, creating a vicious cycle of harm to the planet and its inhabitants. The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the vulnerability of global health systems and the urgent need for better preparedness and equitable access to healthcare. Moreover, economic inequality is widening, with significant disparities in income and wealth distribution within and between countries, leading to social and financial instability.


METHODOLOGY

The research paper is based on secondary data. The data is taken from different research reports, journals, websites and research papers, Magazine and daily Newspapers, and other educational textbooks.

OBJECTIVES

1. To understand the concept of Global Issues.
2. To Study the various global issues

Authoritarianism: Freedom House claims that democracy is collapsing over the globe. This comprises countries with a lengthy history of democracy. In their 2022 report, the group observes that there has been a decrease in global freedom during the preceding 16 years. Sixty countries had declines in the last year. Only twenty-five people made progress. On Earth, just 20% of people live in free nations. Within the international system, states with established democracies, such as the US, are losing their rights, while authoritarian governments, such as those in China, Russia, and other countries, have become increasingly dominant. What can be done? According to Freedom House, success "needs a bold, sustained response that establishes support for democracy and countering authoritarianism." Governments and citizens both contribute to and uphold democracy.

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1. **Children's rights:** Young people are incredibly susceptible. 5.2 million children under five died in 2019 from primarily treatable and preventable causes. There were 2.4 million infants younger than 28 days, where the most severe consequences of climate change are experienced 600 million children are at risk of vector-borne illnesses like malaria, and 920 children struggle to get access to clean water. Child labour remains an issue. At the beginning of 2020, around 160 million people were forced into labour, and COVID-19 put an additional 9 million children in danger. That equates to almost one child worldwide for every ten. Nearly half are situated in hazardous areas. As is frequently the case, children's rights are impacted by the other concerns on this list, including as gender equality, poverty, COVID, and climate change.
2. **Climate change:** The IPCC released its sixth report in 2022. Policymakers received a synopsis of the short-, mid-, and long-term risks from the research authors. A 1.5°C increase in global warming will, in the short term (2021–2040), lead to "multiple risks to ecosystems and humans" as well as "unavoidable increases in multiple climate hazards." The long-term consequences of climate change will include dangers to towns and villages, early mortality, major health issues, and other dangers. Mitigation is urgently required. Because of its links to many of the issues on this list, climate change is one of the largest issues facing humanity.
3. **Corruption:** Election tampering, bribery, state capture, fraud, and other behaviours are all considered forms of corruption. The World Bank Group claims that corruption is one of the barriers to ending extreme poverty and "boosting shared prosperity" for the world's poorest people. Efforts to address problems including poverty, healthcare, gender equality, and climate change are hampered by corruption. Since corruption is a worldwide problem, global solutions are needed. Reform, enhanced accountability frameworks, and transparent processes will all be advantageous.
4. **COVID-19:** The WHO declared COVID-19 to be a pandemic in March 2022. It is and will continue to be a major global issue. In the WEF's Global Risks Report 2022, the effects of COVID-19 are covered in great detail and include notable gaps in economic recovery and societal degradation. An NPR article dated January 2022 claims that there are issues with vaccinations as well, since many countries still struggle to secure dosages, concerns with healthcare systems, vaccine reluctance, distribution, and other concerns all have an impact on low vaccination rates. While the exact impact may never be known, the WHO predicts that between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2021, there were roughly 14.9 million extra fatalities linked to COVID-19.
5. **Cyber security:** A concern regarding cyber security vulnerabilities was raised on page 9 of the WEF's Global Risks Report 2022. The cause is the acceleration of digitalization, which COVID-19 contributed to. A higher
6. **Debt crises:** Debt problems are ranked as one of the most pressing issues for the next ten years by respondents to the WEF Global Risks Report, despite their belief that things will only become worse in three to five years (page 7). One important aspect in this is COVID-19. Even if government assistance was necessary, debt is currently plaguing a number of countries. Debt loads can lead to defaults, bankruptcies, insolvencies, and other financial issues affecting public and corporate finances in major economies. This is a big issue because it affects healthcare and green energy spending.
7. **Disability rights:** Over a billion individuals worldwide are estimated to be impaired by the World Health Organisation. Merely 50% are unable to pay for medical care. In comparison to those without impairments, they also have lower health outcomes, less access to jobs and educational opportunities, and a higher likelihood of living in poverty. Human Rights Watch states that increased incidences of violence are among the other forms of discrimination that disabled people face. Despite advancements in the field of disability rights, many countries still do not have strong legal safeguards. There is still more work to be done to guarantee equality for people with impairments.
8. **Disinformation:** The lightning-fast spread of false information is just one of the many issues with rapid digitization. According to a WEF assessment, deepfakes are an easily accessible AI technology that can affect political outcomes, including elections. However, in order to succeed, clever disinformation need not be. Almost all of the anti-vaccine posts and videos on Facebook, Twitter, and other social media platforms were created by twelve anti-vax activists. Their message was widely disseminated online, causing a deluge of harmful and emotional disinformation that played a major role in the rise of political extremism and vaccination resistance. On the internet, misinformation travels more swiftly than the truth, making it a global issue that requires attention.
9. **Food insecurity:** According to the Global Network against Food Crises' 2022 Global Study on Food Crises, the number of people facing food insecurity or worse is at an all-time high. The duration of this study is six

years. Acute food insecurity instances increased by about 40 million in 2021 to approximately 193 million. There has been a startling 80% increase in this since 2016. Among the reasons are "economic shocks," like a sudden increase in the price of food on a worldwide scale. Significant rises in domestic food price inflation were also observed in low-income countries. "Weather-related disasters" are still another important component. It was the primary cause of 15.7 million people's severe food insecurity in 15 different countries.

10. **Press freedom:** According to research from the Varieties of Democracy Institute (published in *The Economist*), around 85% of people live in a country where press freedom has declined during the last five years. Beginning in the early 2000s and reaching its peak in 2011, the global average dropped to .49 in 2021. Significant declines were observed in important countries such as Brazil, Russia, China, India, and Turkey. Threats to news organisations and journalists include concerted internet abuse and attacks, jail time, inadequate funding, and physical damage. Without the free press, democracy cannot function effectively. Without press freedom, all human rights are at risk.
11. **Planning and responding to future pandemics:** The global COVID-19 pandemic brought home the importance of preparation. In a Harvard blog post, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the director-general of the World Health Organisation, enumerated the lessons that the entire world ought to learn. First, science should be the guide for policy. A significant deal of unnecessary harm was caused by the politicisation of the pandemic. Another thing to keep in mind is that science and equity are interdependent, and that research may potentially make inequality worse. This is demonstrated by the fact that wealthier countries hoarded vaccines while low-income countries found it difficult to get any. More robust international response strategies and stronger healthcare systems are also necessary. Research on zoonotic illnesses, infectious diseases, the efficacy of outbreak responses, and other topics need to be funded globally.
12. **Gender equality:** The global gender gap will not be eliminated for another 135 years, according to the 2021 Worldwide Gender Report, despite a gradual but consistent development in gender equality over time. Positive developments were dramatically undone since women were more severely financially impacted by the pandemic. Men lost their jobs by 3.9%, while women lost their jobs by 5%, according to Oxfam. Women lost around \$800 million as a result in 2020. This figure is modest considering the millions of women who labour in the unauthorised sector. Women are also more likely to be affected by climate change, gender-based violence, and poverty.
13. **International cooperation:** Addressing the issues brought up in this article is not an easy task. The WEF report has always emphasised that only through international cooperation can real progress be made.
14. **Healthcare:** The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in notable transformations within the healthcare industry. Significant investments and innovations have reportedly been made, especially in the technology and healthcare sectors, according to the World Economic Forum. In 2021, \$44 billion was allocated on health innovation. The world will be affected by these developments in the long run, but equity will surely be a major worry. The epidemic also brought to light potential flaws in the US and other countries' healthcare systems. In an MIT News blog post, political science professor Andrea Campbell asserts that the outbreak demonstrated a "dire need" for investments in public health infrastructure in addition to the need to expand access to healthcare and insurance coverage.
15. **Mental health:** Globally, there are about 1 billion people who experience mental illness. There was a decline in mental health worldwide due to the pandemic. According to a WHO scientific brief, there has been a 25% global increase in anxiety and depression. Among the reasons include financial concerns, grief, social isolation, and anxiety about getting sick. Health professionals were disproportionately affected, as were young women and girls. The brief also describes the ways in which the pandemic impacted drug abuse programmes and other mental health services. Nations must ensure that people have access to mental health services both throughout and after COVID-19 recovery plans. It's also a financial decision. The Lancet estimates that anxiety and depression alone cost the global economy \$1 trillion a year.
16. **Poverty:** In the autumn of 2022, the World Bank will update the International Poverty Line, moving it from \$1.90 to \$2.15. Anybody earning less than \$2.15 per day is classified as being in "extreme poverty" under this. Why was it modified? Costs of housing, food, and clothes have gone up from 2011 to 2017, hence the "real value of \$2.15 in 2017 prices equals \$1.90 in 2011 prices." The epidemic has made it more challenging for the World Bank to meet its 2030 target of bringing the rate of severe poverty down to 3% or less. Extreme poverty is not the only kind of poverty. On the earth, sixty-two percent of individuals earn less than \$10 every day. Although there has been some progress over the years, poverty is still very far off.
17. **Refugee rights:** According to UNHCR reports, the conflict in Ukraine is the cause of the largest refugee crisis since World War II. By May 10, 2022, about 6 million people had departed. UNCHR's Refugee Brief

compiles the week's top refugee stories and documents recent crises in places like Somalia, where thousands of people were forced to flee due to extreme drought. Between January and mid-April, almost 36,000 refugees arrived in Niger from Nigeria, Mali, and Burkina Faso together. These are only a few examples of how the refugee crisis endangers women, children, and other marginalised groups and raises the possibility of human trafficking, abuse, and even death.

18. **Terrorism:** One of the biggest threats facing the world today is terrorism, which is defined as the willful use of violence to spread fear and further ideological, political, or religious goals. Its effects are cross-border, affecting countries all over the world and presenting grave risks to stability, security, and peace. Because of the transnational nature of this issue, terrorist groups are able to function internationally, planning and carrying out attacks in multiple nations by utilising contemporary communication and transportation networks. Stemming from a variety of intricate motivations, such as political grievances, economic inequality, or religious extremism, terrorism damages people's trust in governments and institutions, disturbs daily life, causes psychological pain, and costs money.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, addressing current global issues is paramount for the stability and prosperity of our world. The challenges of climate change, environmental degradation, global health crises, and economic inequality require immediate and sustained efforts to mitigate their impacts. Political instability and conflict underscore the need for robust international cooperation and humanitarian responses. The rapid advancement of technology, while promising, also necessitates careful management to prevent ethical breaches and cybersecurity threats. A concerted global effort emphasizing sustainability, equity, and justice is essential to navigate these complex issues. By fostering collaboration among nations, enhancing awareness, and adopting innovative solutions, we can work towards a more resilient, equitable, and sustainable future for all.

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