



GLOBAL SOUTH: CHALLENGES AND CRITICISM

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ABSTRACT:

The concept of the Global South has evolved as a powerful framework for addressing economic disparities, climate justice, and global governance issues. India, as a leading nation within the Global South, has played a pivotal role in advocating for equitable global policies, fostering economic partnerships, and promoting sustainable development. This paper examines India's multifaceted engagement, including its leadership in climate initiatives, economic collaborations, and global advocacy. However, challenges such as economic inequalities, regional conflicts, and shifting geopolitical alliances pose hurdles to India's continued leadership. Furthermore, the term "Global South" itself has been subject to academic scrutiny, with critics arguing that it oversimplifies diverse socio-political realities. By analyzing India's contributions and the critical discourse surrounding the Global South, this study highlights both the opportunities and limitations of the concept in contemporary global politics. The paper underscores the need for a balanced approach that integrates economic growth with social justice and international cooperation.

KEYWORDS:

GLOBAL SOUTH, INDIA'S LEADERSHIP, ECONOMIC INEQUALITY, CLIMATE JUSTICE, GEOPOLITICAL CHALLENGES.

INTRODUCTION

India's historical, political, and economic status makes it an important and influential player in the Global South. As a huge developing country with a colonial history, India actively engages with the Global South's concerns, fighting for equitable development, climate justice, and increased representation in global governance.

India's involvement in the Global South is multidimensional, encompassing both historical leadership and present economic diplomacy. The Global South concept, which dates back to the 1955 Bandung Conference, provides a framework for resisting Western domination and achieving social justice (Lal 2019). India's policy projection is primarily based on Global South discourse, which emphasizes autonomy and cultural greatness (Chakrabarti, 2017). As an emerging economic power, India works with other developing countries through institutions such as BRICS and G20 to advocate for a more equitable global economic order (Shameer, 2015). India's G20 presidency has ramifications for Latin America, given the two areas share a Global South identity. India's historical prominence in the evolving multipolar world order opens up prospects for engagement (Pagola Rodríguez et al., 2023). However, there are worries over whether India's historical prominence in the evolving multipolar world order opens up prospects for engagement (Pagola Rodríguez et al., 2023). However, there are questions over whether growing economies such as India would continue to advocate for poor countries' interests or join with developed ones (Shameer, 2015).

KEY ASPECTS OF INDIA'S ROLE IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH INCLUDE

1. **Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).** During the Cold War, India was a founding member of the NAM, which advocated for neutrality and postcolonial states' rights.

2. **India fosters engagement with Global South nations** on commerce, technology, and capacity building.

3. **Economic Leadership**

- India's fast rising economy exemplifies reconciling development with socio-economic challenges.
- Indian-led programs, such as the International Solar Alliance (ISA), offer renewable energy alternatives to underdeveloped countries, addressing energy access and sustainability.

4. **Development Partnerships**

- India provides development aid, technical expertise, and training programs to Global South countries, particularly in Africa and South Asia, through initiatives such as the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) program.
- Investments in infrastructure, health, and education strengthen ties with partner nations.

5. **Global Advocacy**

- India advocates for the Global South's problems in international venues, including the United States (UN), where it advocates for reforms such as increased representation for developing states on the UN Security Council.
- The World Trade Organization (WTO) advocates for fair trade policies to promote the interests of developing economies.
- During India's leadership of the G20 in 2023, the country prioritized inclusive growth and debt relief for Global

South nations.

6. Climate Leadership

- India advocates for climate justice by highlighting the disproportionate impact of climate change on the Global South and requesting financial and technological support from developed nations to address environmental challenges
- India's renewable energy policies and green initiatives inspire other nations in the Global South.

7. Cultural and political influence.

- India's democratic governance and soft power, including Bollywood, yoga, and the diaspora, build ties with countries in the Global South. It is an example of a country navigating progress while maintaining its cultural identity.

CHALLENGES AND CRITICISM

The Global South faces numerous challenges in development and research. Limited access to electricity, clean water, and industrialization hinder progress (Ukoba et al., 2024). While solar energy offers potential solutions, adoption is hampered by technological, infrastructural, and financial constraints (Ukoba et al., 2024). Developing countries must seize opportunities to accelerate human development and avoid pitfalls of commodity dependence in South-South trade (Hamdani, 2013). Design researchers encounter barriers when conducting research in the Global South, including cultural, social, and political differences (Tseklevs et al., 2020). Data collection in resource-constrained environments presents ethical, philosophical, and methodological challenges, particularly when using research approaches designed in the Global North (Brown et al., 2022). Addressing these issues requires smart government policies, industrial strategies, and developmental states supportive of human development (Hamdani, 2013). Expanding South-South cooperation and enlisting the South as a leader in development cooperation can complement North-South efforts (Hamdani, 2013).

- **Economic disparities:** India's issues with poverty and inequality may hinder its capacity to satisfy the expectations of a Global South leader. Domestic issues such as unemployment and underdevelopment in specific regions can often detract from the country's foreign commitments.
- **Regional tensions,** such as those with Pakistan and China, can hinder India's efforts to promote unity in the Global South.
- Some states in the Global South see India's growing global goals, such as deeper connections with the US and the Global North, as a potential clash with its advocacy for poor countries.

The concept of "Global South" has evolved from its critical origins to a more ambiguous term, potentially losing its transformative potential (Pereira da Silva, 2024). While it aims to capture a cohesive postcolonial

movement challenging international power structure (Grovgoui, 2011), critics argue that it oversimplifies diverse regions and experiences (Pereira da Silva, 2024). The Global South has integrated criticism into its thinking, positioning itself against market-oriented globalization (Charlier, 2004). However, mainstream Western security discourses often marginalize Global South perspectives, ignoring the impact of colonial experiences on these societies' security situations (Ratuva, 2016). Some scholars argue that alternative concepts like "center/periphery" and "dependency" offer greater critical and emancipatory potential (Pereira da Silva, 2024). Despite debates over its appropriateness, the term "Global South" continues to represent a multifaceted movement advocating for equality, freedom, and a postcolonial international order (Grovgoui, 2011).

CONCLUSION

India is a key player in shaping the discourse and future of the Global South. Its actions as an advocate for equitable global policies and a provider of development aid position it as a bridge between developing and developed nations. However, tackling its home difficulties while maintaining its global obligations will be important for India to preserve its leading role in the Global South.

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