

## Globalization and Interconnectedness: A Global Grocery Story for Education

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At Harvard University, Nayan Chanda, Founder of Yale Global Online said "Globalization means reconnecting the human community." He further mentioned that globalization has been an age-old process. For centuries, we as a race have been migrating to different lands, exchanging goods, services and ideas to improve our lives. "With globalization our interconnectedness and interdependence have grown."

As I was going through my weekend shopping bills, I noticed how truly global my grocery receipt was. If I could only issue passports, the apples would be tagged Indian, Nectarines would be "United Stadians" (learned this term for U.S. at Harvard, HGSE), Guavas were of Thai origin, Cherries were very Canadian, the Ginger stick was Chinese, Figs were Turks, Tomatoes were Spanish, Chilies were South African, Potatoes were Peruvian and Coriander was Vietnamese.

While I was selecting the fresh produce, I felt more like an immigration officer doing the required inspection before entry into the country or in my case, the shopping cart. As the fruits and vegetables made way into my cart, I felt like I was organizing a mini summit of the United Nations.

While multiple thoughts were buzzing in my head, I just chuckled to myself because all this fresh produce from various nations was available for me. [...]

Every time I grocery shop in Dubai or other parts of the first world, I am just amazed at how far we have come as a human race, and what we have achieved with the help of globalization, research and technology. It seems like everything is available, everywhere, and all the time. (When I say this, I mean in the developed nations of the world). It is like you don't miss anything anymore, and you have a variety of options.

Recently, a friend of mine in the U.S. asked me if I miss anything in particular about the U.S., and I said none because everything that is available in the U.S. is also readily available where I live. From odd food joints to clothing lines, everything seems to be in real time sync with a little bit of variation to suit the cultural palate of the given nation.

I truly find it fascinating to be in the middle of an unknown land (developed or developing), and yet have a few familiar signs that make me automatically comfortable. E.g. McDonalds, Ikea, H&M, Aldo, Starbucks, Roundtable, Cheesecake Factory, Apple, Google, Burger King, KFC, Gevalia, Twix, Kitkat, Tang, Coke, Pepsi, Loreal, Nivea, Hindustan Unilever etc. It makes me think that I can survive in any land, due to the familiarity of these global icons.

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