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Social Exclusion: Mechanisms and Its Impact with Reference to the Indian Context

Muralidharan A. R.
Research Scholar, Centre for Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy,
Gandhigram Rural Institute, Tamil Nadu, India
Dr. Ramanujam C.
Research Supervisor, Centre for Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy,
Gandhigram Rural Institute, Tamil Nadu, India

Abstract: This article titled "Social Exclusion: Mechanisms and its impact with reference to Indian context" is an attempt to give an idea about the social exclusion and its impacts in India. This article describes the caste system and its hierarchical approach towards social exclusion in India. The authors conclude that, all will be a common practice and there will be an equality in services to access public services and there will be an equality in voices of those excluded will be included in the society in India.

Keywords: Social exclusion, social inclusion, caste, jati, Varna, India

1. Introduction

The term social exclusion is not a new for Indian caste system. It was started before this word "Social exclusion" coined. In the current scenario this term has been interpreted differently in different countries. As very familiarly known system in India is "Caste". The term social exclusion is a process of multidimensional process. This term was initially coined in France in 1974, and then it spread over various countries. Later on, in Europe couturiers the policies based on social exclusion put harder role. The term 'social exclusion' is used for the population which is excluded in community life. Such populations are discriminated in providing basic services, amenities and equal opportunities necessary for their development.

Social exclusion is a popular agenda for all in the field of intellectual and policy makers work. This term is mostly related to "Poverty" as a general. But it is a process of identifying the variation for the development of the neglected group of people. The causes for exclusion can be identified in different dimension from countries.

It is based on the times, reflecting different in sphere. Even it can be used to describe that they may differed in terms of Political, historical, cultural and economy. But the impacts will be the same form of lack of people development. Most of the exclusion involves with related to gender caste, race, colour, ethnicity, age, nationality, work, religion and other differentials.

Social exclusion is a process of which involves denial of opportunities based on their above characteristics and it leads the inability of individuals from excluded group to participate in social functions such as politics, culture and economic of the local area or others. As the cause, there is a deprivation and poverty among groups.

1.1. Concept of Social Exclusion

The term "Social exclusion" has several dimensions based on their classification and characteristics. Social exclusion, is the group of people or community or region or locality, with social disadvantage and excluded from the other group who are not excluded groups. This social exclusion may appear across disciplines including education, social, cultural, political, public services, and economic sectors. It is the process of completely or partially denial of opportunities based on their characters. It is not good in society to allow social exclusion. It will result the discrimination of people and there will be Imbalance or non-equal in their status of that society which they belong.

The impact of this practice has some unwanted outcomes and is that affected individuals or that communities has to be prevented from participating fully in the education, social, cultural, political, public services, and economic activities of the society in which they live. This process is known as social inclusion.

Social inclusion is not exactly the opposite of social exclusion. It is getting back or include the excluded in all activities of the society.

The term social exclusion may define as: Social exclusion is a multidimensional process of progressive social rupture, detaching groups and individuals from social relations and institutions and preventing them from full participation in the normal, normatively prescribed activities of the society in which they live. (Hilary Silver 2007).

"Isolation is common to almost every vocational, religious or cultural group of a large city. Each develops its own sentiments, attitudes, codes, even its own words, which are at best only partially intelligible to others."(Frederic Thrasher,1927) Social exclusion is a form of discrimination, it occurs on the basis of their identities and characteristics

1.2. Social Exclusion in India

In the context or practice of Indian system, social exclusion plays an important role. As a history, the caste system followed in India from 7 A.D. These castes are determined by birth not by race. By caste system in India there are some stratification or cluster. It leads an inequality among the society. Caste determines their spouses, friends, occupations and even their living place or locality. Caste is based on "varana" (Colour) system, these castes is based upon the Hindu belief that a person's position in life is based upon the deeds and sins of their past life (Karma). In Indian caste system there are five major castes and hundreds of minor castes. Each caste has a specific duties and privileges. The hierarchical importance of the caste system in India. Figure 1 explains the Hierarchical caste system the layer of this pyramid is explained as:

- Brhmins: - Originally the priests and intellectuals
- Kshatriyas: - Warriors
- Vaishyas: - Business men
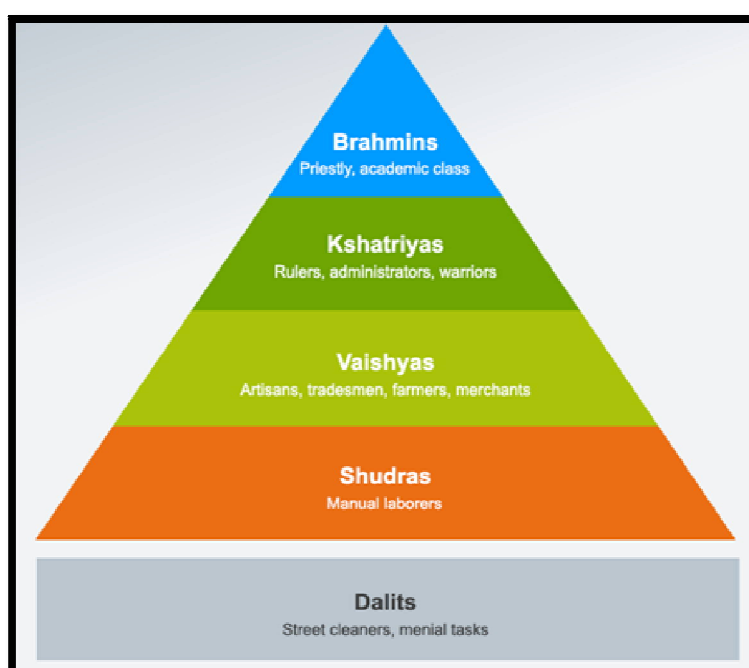- Sudras: - Manual laborers
- Dalits: - workers with menial tasks

Figure 1: India's Caste System

From the above classifications or discrimination, the last layer is the social excluded group. This system is also identified by the term "Jati" meaning "Birth". In this process, the upper castes being privileged over the lower casts, which were often repressed by those higher up on the caste scale. Again, by this Jati or caste system, there is an untouchable even may occur. Centuries gone, still the inter-caste marriage is forbidden and in rural part of India the discriminated group separately use some services such sharing amenities. Social exclusion has an undeniable impact on the poverty status of socially excluded communities. In general, the social excluded groups are not affected by lack of resources "Just like that" the rest of poor and discrimination in gaining access for these resources. They are the people who discriminated not allowed out of the benefits of development, denying their opportunities, interests and they are not allowed to give voice for their rights.

In other ways also without any restriction, the excluded may belong to the groups such as women, old age disabilities, HIV/AIDS, TB, Transgender and so on. So, the exclusion present in India is not only based on the caste but also on the basis of other identities.

Exclusion is a both a product and process and it has four components as excluded, the agents, the institutions and the process

As some remedial were taken after India attained independence in 1947, the country introduced laws to make discrimination against lower castes illegal and to improve their socioeconomic positions. Quotas were introduced for college admissions and jobs. Inequalities under the system still exist in modern India despite these measures, which have even served to reinforce the divisions to some extent. Violence based on caste has also erupted in recent times, much of it involving attacks on Dalits. Historical divisions along lines of caste, tribe, and the excluded sex, that is, women. These inequalities are more structural in nature and have kept entire groups trapped, unable to take advantage of opportunities that economic growth offers. Culturally rooted systems perpetuate inequality, and, rather than a culture of poverty that

afflicts disadvantaged groups, it is, in fact, these in equality traps that prevent these groups from breaking out. Combining rigorous quantitative research with a discussion of these underlying processes, this book finds that exclusion can be explained by inequality in opportunities, inequality in access to markets, and inequality in voice and agency. This report will be of interest to policy makers, development practitioners, social scientists, and academics working to foster equality in India.

1.3. Degree of Social Exclusion in India

Social exclusion varies from different degree of refusal. It can mean the complete denial of access to social services, such as the refusal of being treated at a hospital. Alternatively, it can take the form of selective inclusion, where socially excluded groups receive differential treatment, such as being required to pay different prices for goods and services. The classification of degree may be deliberate and explicit. For instance, certain social background people are denied access to a particular service or facility. It can be implicit and unintentional, this leads to lack in social interaction.

1.4. Mechanisms of Social Exclusion

According to Christine Bradley (1994) pointed out following five main mechanismsthrough which social exclusion is practiced:

- Geographical segregation: It is observed that minorities or Dalit are residential segregated from the mainstream society
- Intimidation: This is used to exclude the excluded as the important component. It includes verbal abuse, threat of harm. It is the major form of control the excluded.
- Physical violence: If the above component Intimidation does not work, there will be a physical violence by committed by the state, community, caste, group or individuals.
- Barriers to entry: In many places, excluded peoples are not allowed to entry and the costs that are involved are more expensive beyond the actual price
- Corruption: Finally, the main cause of many social evils in India and elsewhere is corruption.

2. Conclusion

India has shown a record of rapid economic growth and poverty reduction over recent decades, rising inequality in the country has been a subject of concern among policy makers, activists, academics and social workers. But still the practice of social exclusion exists in the country. Because of the domination of upper caste and ignorance of the lower caste. Still the Indian government works on this issue to eradicate the process of social exclusion from our cultural, political, educational and economic practices. There are some policies existed to encourage the inter caste system, making common services such as Public distribution centre, Hospitals, markets and so on. It is clear that in future there will be no discriminated or excluded person existed. All will be a common practice and there will be an equality in services to access public services and there will be an equality in voices of those excluded will be included in the society in India.

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