

An Empirical Investigation of Social Exclusion and Inequality: The Status of Dal Dwellers in Kashmir

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Abstract

The paper examines the nature, forms, and consequences of social exclusion in the Dal Dwellers' society in Kashmir. It discusses the relationship between the economic status and the socio-cultural status of people. The basic objective of this paper is to provide empirical evidence based on which a conclusion is to be drawn as to whether a significant relationship exists between economic status and the socio-cultural status of people. This research paper will talk about the people residing at Dal Lake. We will discuss the socio-economic status of people living at Dal Lake, the relationship between deprivations and assessing socio-cultural and economic status, the marginalization of Dal Dwellers, the factors responsible for social exclusion, and the consequences of such social exclusion.

Keywords: Social Exclusion, Dal Dwellers, Socio-economic Status, Marginalization

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I. Introduction:

The issues of exclusion and discrimination take on particular weight in the Indian context since Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), which comprise approximately one-fourth of the Indian population, have historically endured social marginalization. Even though these groups are statistically important, they are always behind other groups regarding social, economic, and political development (Mamgain, 2013). The concept of social exclusion aims to help us make sense of the life experiences that result from multiple sufferings and social inequality that individuals and local jurisdictions across the social fabric suffer by focusing on the self-supportive effects of reduced involvement, utilization, maneuverability, access, inclusion, impact, and acceptance. The vocabulary of social exclusion acknowledges the machinery of exclusion and its mechanisms of operation, including marginalization, silencing, rejection, isolating, segregating, and disenfranchisement. In contrast, the language of social connection values citizenship, freedom, equity, and fairness.

"Social isolation" was a term used by socialist politicians in France to describe people who lacked access to social security. It was first used in French (Lenoir 1974). As time went on, the connotation was broadened to encompass other marginalized groups like disgruntled youth, the unemployed, and the homeless. In accordance with Durkheimian theory, the loss of common values and the resulting "deficiency in solidarity" generated by exclusion are harmful to society as a whole. According to Thorat and Sadana (2004), "In India, exclusion focuses on the societal institutions that isolate, deprive, exclude, and discriminate against specific groups on the basis of gender and others." He explains that "exclusion" refers to social practices that divide, stigmatize, and deny particular groups based on shared traits like caste, ethnicity, religion, or gender. The systematic discrimination that some groups face because of their caste, religion, gender, handicap or other characteristics is referred to as "social exclusion." Social exclusion prevents a social group from accessing resources and power structures. It shows itself in segregation from society's social, political, economic, cultural, educational, and religious domains. Thus, it creates a system of dominance and subjection by instilling a feeling of superiority and inferiority in individuals of a society or culture. These actions eventually culminate in oppression and exploitation, which then cause poverty and starvation (Thorat 2007). In this article, we argue that the economic dimension of exclusion is as important as the political and sociological aspects. We also question if a multi-dimensional approach to addressing the issue of poverty and destitution can provide a superior

analytical advantage over the more traditional approaches. The article aims to answer some of the most critical questions about the relationship between social exclusion and poverty. For instance, is it a European concept or is it a global issue? Also, how does it relate to both the relational and economic dimensions? In addition, how can the concept be used to implement and make policy? The goal of this article is to look at the concept from different angles, including how it can be used to measure and run social programs. Although the concept of economic exclusion is often discussed in developing countries, it is not always stated in terms of its political, social, and economic dimensions. This paper aims to establish an analytical framework that can help policymakers and the public understand the multiple dimensions of economic exclusion. For instance, by demonstrating that civil liberties and political freedom can help improve the productivity of people, they can help lift the country out of poverty. In developing countries, the freedom to pursue one's own interests can give people bargaining power when they are excluded from the state. However, economic exclusion is a major issue that affects the most vulnerable groups in society. For instance, in poor countries, the claim to income is more important than the claim to civil and political rights. A properly functioning democracy requires citizens to exert a lot of energy and time to ensure that the system is functioning properly. But when a lot of people are struggling to make ends meet, it may be easier for the public to see how the system can be controlled by powerful interests. People who are excluded from these income sources are usually focused on maintaining their basic livelihood and survival. These ideas of well-being and welfare are not studied in a vacuum. Instead, they are studied in the institutional and social context in which they are used. This paper aims to establish an analytical framework that can help policymakers and the public understand the multiple dimensions of economic exclusion. Through this approach, we have been able to explore the relational and distributional aspects of social exclusion. It has also been shown that there are no measurements that can capture all the different parts of this problem. Research needs to be conducted on this issue in order to develop a more accurate and comprehensive understanding of the multiple dimensions of social exclusion. National databases on this issue also need to be established.

II. Review Of Literature:

There is broad consensus in the social science literature regarding the fundamental characteristics of social exclusion, its primary indicators, and its connections to poverty and inequality. Some groups don't give other groups the same chance, which leads to social exclusion. Social exclusion keeps a person from participating in a society's basic political, economic, and social processes (Thorat 2005). The effects of exclusion heavily depend on how well social institutions operate and how much they are exclusive and discriminating. If social interactions happen between groups in an inferior connection, social exclusion significantly impacts a person's access to equal opportunity. The emphasis on groups acknowledges the value of social interactions in studying poverty and inequality (Haan et al., 2007). Thorat emphasizes the importance of individual exclusion vs. group exclusion. The idea of social exclusion fundamentally refers to the process through which groups are fully or partially excluded from full participation in the society, economy, and polity in which they exist based on group identities. It involves two critical dimensions: "societal relations" (which cause exclusion) and their "outcomes" (causing deprivation). As a result, comprehending the nature of exclusion requires insights into social interactions and exclusion institutions and distinguishing their results in terms of deprivation for excluded groups (Thorat Sukhadeo, Newman 2010). People's personal well-being and social participation are both impacted by social exclusion in various ways.

Some of these include access to community services and amenities that promote a full life, employment, educational opportunities, and the social and financial benefits accompanying them (Milner et al., 2004). The definition here recognizes that social exclusion is a multifaceted, complex process. The definition used here specifically acknowledges that social exclusion includes being denied or not having access to resources, rights, goods, and services, as well as being unable to engage in the typical relationships and activities that are available to most people in a society, whether in the economic, social, cultural, or political spheres. It impacts the equity and cohesiveness of society as a whole as well as the quality of life for each person (Levitas et al., 2007). Sen has gone one step further by conceptualizing capabilities and functioning in a way that considers "poor lives, not simply exhausted wallets." The inability to communicate freely with people and the limitations on living opportunities, such as a job and sufficient housing, are two major aspects of this perspective on poverty as capability deprivation (Sen 2000). Social exclusion is additionally seen as both dynamic and relative. It is relative in that it only relates to the environment and society in which individuals live, and dynamic in that it depends on people's past experiences, possible futures, and current occurrences equally.

Last, social exclusion entails agency or goes beyond personal accountability and decision-making. It can only be judged by figuring out which people, institutions, and structures have the power to actively or passively keep other people out (Grimaldi, 2011). The effects of exclusion on a person's quality of life and well-being have also been recognized. Peace (2001a) identified the psycho-social repercussions of social exclusion. This could involve psychological issues, interpersonal issues; a loss of identity; a loss of cultural associations;

sadness, a lack of purpose; poverty; and a break from interactions with coworkers, friends, and family members. Also, these effects are linked to and strengthened by other factors that lead to exclusion, which causes different loss levels (Peace, 2001b). People who, either individually or collectively, suffers from disadvantage in the society in which they reside are said to be socially excluded. This has frequently been connected in traditional sociology to the status of immigrants (Parker's 1928 concept of the "marginal man"), to the urban underclass (e.g., Lewis 1969; Wilson 1987), and to cultural disputes between insiders and outsiders in local communities (Elias and Scotson 1965). Over the past few decades, the problem has returned as a significant policy concern for a variety of reasons. Many governments have implemented austerity measures since the 1980s as a result of the rising cost of social security and health care as well as the broad acceptance of a neoliberal policy paradigm. This has primarily been accomplished by tightening eligibility requirements, reducing benefit levels, shortening entitlement periods, and stepping up administrative oversight and control (Pierson 1996; Levy 2010). Such changes have increased the likelihood that weaker individuals will slip through the social safety net. In many countries, the growth of this group may have been helped by migration, the growing importance of education in getting jobs and other social positions, and the rise of new information technologies that not everyone has access to. In reaction to these developments, fighting social exclusion has evolved over the past 20 years to be seen as a human rights issue, and the idea has grown in importance in social policy, particularly in Europe. The European Union first wanted to eradicate poverty, but as time went on, the policy objective was changed to "combating poverty and social exclusion." The EU states that it wants to cut the number of individuals who are at risk of poverty or social exclusion by 20 million as part of its Europe 2020 agenda (EC 2011a).

Objectives:

1. To study the socio-economic status of Dal Dwellers of Kashmir
2. To investigate the relationship between deprivation and the socio-cultural and economic status of Dal Dwellers of Kashmir.

III. Research Methodology:

The following methodology will be performed to draw conclusions regarding the different perspectives of the social and economic status of people living at Dal Lake:

- **Descriptive Statistics, including frequency:** It highlights the basic characteristics of the variables like mean, standard deviation, variance, kurtosis, skewness, standard error, etc. Under this, categorical variables are cross-tabulated to know their relationship.
- **Regression:** The regression model helps establish a relationship between the dependent and explanatory variables. The decision can be based on actual p-value, t-statistics, and f-statistics.

Discussion

Table 1: Socio-economic status of Dal Dwellers:

Head of the Family

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Male	394	98.5	98.5	98.5
Female	6	1.5	1.5	100.0
Total	400	100.0	100.0	

Occupation

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Shikara	167	41.8	41.8	41.8
Fisherman	34	8.5	8.5	50.2
Houseboat	58	14.5	14.5	64.8
Farmer	36	9.0	9.0	73.8
Labourer	37	9.3	9.3	83.0
Hawker	31	7.8	7.8	90.8
Govt.Employee	9	2.3	2.3	93.0
Motor Boat	4	1.0	1.0	94.0

Carpenter	7	1.8	1.8	95.8
Flower Nursery	7	1.8	1.8	97.5
Any Other	10	2.5	2.5	100.0
Total	400	100.0	100.0	

Relationship between deprivation in assessing socio-cultural and economic status:

Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. The error in the Estimate
1	.124 ^a	.015	.013	.38901

a. Predictors: (Constant), Income

Income of the Family

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Low Income (5000-10000)	280	70.0	70.0	70.0
Middle Income (10000-20000)	91	22.8	22.8	92.8
High Income (Above 20000)	29	7.2	7.2	100.0
Total	400	100.0	100.0	

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
1 (Constant)	1.080	.048		22.667	.000
Income	.079	.032	.124	2.492	.013

b. Predictors: (Constant), Income
Coefficients^a

a. Dependent Variable: Exploitation

IV. DISCUSSION:

From the above regression output table, it can be said that there exists a significant relationship or association between the income level of people and exploitation as the actual p-value is less than the significance level or alpha value of 5%, actual t-statistics is more than critical value of t-statistics at given alpha value or significance level, and actual f-statistics is less than the critical value of f-statistics at given alpha value or significance level. It means that low-income people are highly exploited in society by high-income people. Exclusion and discrimination have a far more severe effect on income distribution than economic development or efficiency does. It poses a greater threat to issues of inequality and poverty than it does to economic progress. Some of the jobs that are thought to be socially demeaning are those tasks that people are forced to do because of the castes that they come from. They are unhappy with what they do for a living, so they are often the target of hostility and have a strong desire to not work.

V. Conclusion:

The multiple drivers and levels of social exclusion highlight the need for effective systems-level approaches to address this issue. Think Differently aims to help people transform their attitudes and behaviors through the challenge of embedded mental models. This research paper is designed to provide a framework for exploring the various factors that can help improve the effectiveness of social change among. Social exclusion is discrimination that prevents people from participating in the activities and relationships available to most people. It changes the quality of life for each person and the way the whole community works together. There are many ways to define and discuss social exclusion, which is often discussed differently. It can be categorized into various forms, such as political, economic, cultural, and social. There are many ways to think about this idea in the literature, but the roles of structural and mental models tend to overshadow these ways of thinking.

The main drivers of structural and socio-economic factors that affect the development and maintenance of communities were identified in this review. These include low Income, unemployment, and education level. The complexity of addressing social exclusion is often explained by the multiple levels of drivers and constraints that affect its implementation. With the help of the Think Differently approaches to social change, we can look into the different parts of this idea and come up with good ways to help the Dal Dwellers of Kashmir. Economic exclusion is a major issue in poor societies. There is a greater weight given to the claim to income in these societies than to the civil and political rights of individuals. In order for citizens to effectively participate in democracy, they need to spend some time and energy on culture. When a large portion of the population is struggling to survive, the democratic system may be more evident than it actually is. This is because it is likely to be controlled by groups that are not interested in the people's best interests. Although the concepts of exclusion, well-being, and welfare can be considered independently of the institutional context and social and cultural norms that are involved in their study, they cannot be considered as part of the overall development of a society. Some of the factors that can be considered when it comes to assessing the integration of individuals include the availability of civil and political rights, the recognition of individual rights; and the establishment of a good livelihood. This article aims to provide an analytical and operational framework for understanding social exclusion. It also explores the various dimensions of this concept and their applications. Through this method, we can identify the appropriate indicators to measure social exclusion. To get a full picture of social exclusion, many steps need to be taken, such as creating national databases on the topic.

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