SOCIAL EXCLUSION: IMPACT ON DALITS IN INDIA

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Introduction

Social exclusion remains a malaise in all societies. Social exclusion is a process by which individuals or groups are wholly or partially excluded from full participation in the society within which they live. The causes for exclusion can vary from country to country in different times: Reflecting different situation such as geographically, historically and politically but the result will be the same in the form of lack of people development and country. As a result of social exclusion. Its impact on the live hood of the people such as increase in the rate of poverty, health and others. The exclusion is practiced world wide mostly in the identity of gender, caste, religion, ethnicity, color, race, nationality and others. In India unique forms of exclusion are observed where certain group like the dalits, experience systematic exclusion in regard to accruing the benefits of development, and institutional inequality and discrimination have been prevailed in the society. It hampers democracy, development and social integration.

Meaning of social exclusion in different countries.

Definitions from ILO country case studies (Gore and Fiqueiredo, 1997:17-18)

Peru: 'social exclusion is the inability to participate in aspects of social life considered important. These are economic, cultural and political. "Hardcore" social exclusion occurs when there is mutual feedback, rather than offsetting, relationships between the inabilities to participate in these three dimensions of social life'.

India : 'social exclusion is the denial of the basic welfare rights which provide citizens positive freedom to participate in the social and economic life and which thereby render meaningful their fundamental negative freedoms'.

Thailand : 'social exclusion is a process through which citizenship rights on which livelihood and living standards depend are not recognized and respected. This involves relationships between people, in which rights are challenged and defended through negotiations and conflict'

Russia : 'social exclusion is both an objective and a subjective feature of people's lives. As an objective condition, it is characterized by material deprivation and infringement of social right (including rights related to employment for the employed and the unemployed). As a subjective feeling, it is characterized by a sense of social inferiority in the community or a loss of prior social status'.

Tanzania : 'social exclusion is both a state and a process. As a state, it is equivalent to relative deprivation; as a process, it refers to the socially determined structures and processes which impede access on the part of some members of society to economic resources to social goods, and to institutions which determine their destinies.

Yemen : 'social exclusion is the opposite of social integration. It is present when some individuals and groups cannot participate, or are not recognized, as full and equal members of society, at local community or national level'.

Concept of Social Exclusion

The concept of social exclusion has been defined differently among social scientists, by western in Indian. According to **Silver (2004)**, social exclusion is multidimensional process of progressive social capture, detaching groups and individuals from social relation and institutions and preventing them from full participation in the formal normatively prescribed activities of the society in which they live. **Amartya Sen (1997)** Observes that social exclusion emphasizes the role of relational feature in deprivation. **Bauvinic (2005)** summarizes the meaning of social exclusion as the inability of individual to participate in the basic political, economic and social functioning of society and goes on to add that it involves "the denial of equal access of opportunities imposed by certain groups in society upon others." The concept of social exclusion can be applied within the Indian context were caste and untouchability is been practiced from centuries ago and its changes from time to time.

Characteristics of Social Exclusion

(A) Economic /Structural Exclusion (Distributional Dimension)

1. Material deprivation :- Deficiencies in relation to basic needs and material goods, life style deprivation, problematic depts., payment arrears.

2. Inadequate access to government and semi-governments provisions (social rights):- waiting lists, financial (impediments and other obstacles to health care education, housing, legal aid, social services, debt assistance, employment agencies, social securities and certain commercial services such as banking and insurance.

(B) Social –cultural exclusion (Relational dimension)

3. Insufficient Social Integration :- A lack of participation in formal and informal social networks, including leisure activities inadequate social supports, social isolation.

4. Insufficient cultural integration :- A lack of compliance with core norms and values associated with active social citizenship indicated by weak work ethnic, abuse of social security system, delinquent behavior and deviating views in the rights and duties of men and women, no involvement in local neighbourhood and society at large.

Social Exclusion : Violation of Human Rights

In recent era, Dalits have been facing different types of disabilities in their life cycles. These disabilities are as follows:-

1. Denial or restriction of access to public facilities such as well, schools, roads, post offices and courts.

2. Denial of the right to learn the Vedas.

3. Denial or restriction of access to temples.

4. Exclusion from any favorable and profitable employment and subsequent relegations to menial employment.

5. Residential segregation that required them to remain outside the village etc.

So, these disabilities are legitimized the violation of human rights of human dignity. The traditional Hindu Social System was based in purity and pollution. The system subverted equality before law, equal opportunity and equal protection of the law. Thus it was a source of exclusion and thereby a source of violation of human rights. Every human being by virtue of being human is entitled to certain human rights for development. But in reality dalits are denied minimum basic human rights such as right to equality, right to work, right to line, right to health etc. if we go deep into the reality we will find the pathetic condition of the dalits population in every corner of the society.

According to NCRB report in 2016, an estimated 214 incidents of crimes against scheduled castes (Scs) were reported per million SC population, up from 207 the previous year, acc. to the NCRB Data. In all of India, 40.801 atrocities against Dalits were reported in 2016 up form 38,670 in 2015.

Uttar Pradesh reported the highest number of atrocities against Dalits, the NCRB data shows, at 25.6% of all cases reported. This is followed by Bihar (14%) and Rajasthan) (12.6%).

Acc to NCRB data, most of crimes against SCs reported were crimes against women, including assault, sexual harassment, stalking, voyeurism and insult to modesty.

Impact of Social Exclusion :-

Social exclusion results in the following main consequences:-

1. **Geographic Segregation** :- It is generally observed that the so-called untouchables (Dalits) and even minorities are residentially segregated from the mainstream of the society. They are made to live and construct their residential places and dwellings outside the villages or at the periphery of village or town.

2. **Intimidation** :- It can be observed at every level in a society. It is a major form of control used by men over other men and women. Verbal abuse, sarcastic remarks, threat of harm is the main means of intimidation.

3. **Physical Violence** :- When threat of harm does not work actual violence is used. It can be committed by the state, community, group or individuals. Violence against women in the household and poor people and ethnic and religious minorities is reported to be practiced all over the world. Domestic violence is rooted in the norms of gender inequality and patriarchy.

4. **Barriers to entry**: At many places and in many spheres, people excluded are debarred from entry. Barriers to entry involving the state are mostly related to documentation requirement other than documents, transition costs is another way to put hurdle in the entry of the excluded.

5. **Corruption** : It is the main cause of many social evils in India and elsewhere. The people who are excluded from obtaining goods and services do not have the required necessary amount to pay for securing jobs, health care and other public services. It causes insecurity among the excluded. Corruption denies access to resources, opportunities and information.

6. **Other Impacts**
   1. It leads to various kinds of deprivations – economic, educational, cultural and social.
   2. It lead to impoverishment of human life and develops a poorer sense of well being.
   3. It leads to inequality, poverty, unemployment and involuntary migration.
   4. It leads to social stigmatization and marginalization.
   5. It develops fear complex among the excluded.

6. It puts various restrictions on the excluded about their free and full participation in the economic, cultural and political activities.

7. On the whole, it put on intense negative impact on the quality of life.

Conclusion:

From the foregoing discussion it may concluded that the concept of social exclusion is a process of blocking the development of the marginalized communities and disintegrating people into mainstream of development, with a series of institutionalized social systems. The most affected population is dalits who lag in all spheres of developmental activities. The impact of exclusion has made the Dalits as vulnerable community since from the Vedic time and dependable on the others so called upper communities. In the contemporary scenario due to the impact of exclusion in Dalits they are subjected to social , economically and politically exclusion.

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