

The origin of the narratives of Social Exclusion: Comparative Analysis

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Rene Lenoir came up with the identification of the exclusion. He listed exclusion on the basis of social-economic conditions. He included mentally and physically handicapped, aged, suicidal people, abused children, delinquents, substance abusers, single parents, multi –problem households, asocial persons, marginal (Lenoir 1974). The departure point was due to the dissatisfaction of French intellectual with the British concept of poverty. As the European version of social exclusion focused on deprivation and inequalities. It intensified the research in the area of participation and customary way of life which mainly focused on financial well being, income inadequacy and consumption (Room 1995). The EU provided practical and moralistic argument for policy modification. It focused on failing regarding the involvement of individuals and groups in political and economic life. Social rejection as a leading idea has given the way to policy matters as pension reforms, minimum income, health care, child care and the participation of women in labour market.

Social exclusion is understood in term of its cause especially economic restructuring. It takes a strong economic and material dimensions. Poverty and unemployment are mainly included in its literature. These can be the important factors for social exclusion. Sen (2008) argued that unfair exclusion or unfair inclusion (access based on discriminatory terms and conditions) with respect to opportunities curtails entitlements and capability to enhance personal well being resulted poverty among the excluded groups.

The roots of its existence exist in the European discourse on social exclusion. Firstly the concept was used in France. This term was the impression of deprivations in the society. After that in 1980s the concept was taken as the discourse of social policy of European Unions. On the basis of the major tenants of this concept European Union

framed the policy for the weaker section of the society. The major problems were related with the economic inequalities and unemployment. The practicality of the concept was to win overall development and overcome all economic disparities. The objective of this concept was to highlight the multidimensional deprivations. The strategy was to help to those who falls in the vicious cycle of poverty. The Eurocentric approach has remained an issue of debate. It raises the question that how the interpretation of the social exclusion fits for such culturally diversified Indian society. In the recent time, this concept has taken the shelter under the neo-liberal policies. In India with the foundation of 32 centres to make a deeper study and analysis of social exclusion and inclusive policy, there is a growing curiosity to understand the concept of social exclusion and inclusive policy.

The origin of the concept

This concept came in its form in Mid twentieth century. The advent of globalisation and industrialisation excluded the few section of the society and they did not ripped the benefit gained out from this present century. This scenario raised the picture of unemployment and poverty. It became the major reason of failure for the welfare state. Lenoir (1974) firstly used this term in France. This concept was understood to fulfill a demand of the modern societies caught in different social problems. “ Social Exclusion is a process whereby certain individuals are pushed to the edge of society and prevented from participating fully by virtue of their poverty or lack of basic competencies and lifelong learning opportunities or as a result of discrimination. This distances them from job, income and education and training opportunities as well as social and community network activities. They have little access to power and decision making bodies and thus often feel powerless and unable to take control over the decisions that effect their day to day lives” (European Commission 2004).

According to the EU socially excluded can be labelled as (a) where normal living conditions do not prevail (b) prevents participation of excluded communities (c) lack of income or lack of basic skills or discrimination based on gender, caste, creed or disabilities etc.(d) people without a job, income and education to their children and training opportunity (e) as a result, they are not connected to the major decision making bodies. They become weak and powerless and their voices are not respected.

Who are excluded?

To Lenoir (1974) socially excluded are those not protected by the modern welfare state. Lenoir's clear indication is towards the failed state unable to perform the duty to protect the excluded people. Silver (1994) defined the social exclusion the result of monopoly where the few section of the society keep other sections deprived. This process is fixed out of the social functioning. Todman (2006) comes with a new methods on the basis of which people have been excluded. In this whole process he included abandonment, discrimination, ostracism, marginalisation, shame, imprisonment, confinement, segregation, pathologisation, exile, genocide and extermination, Government practices and public policies, cultural values, globalisation, democratic shifts, technology and organisational transformations are the factors of active social exclusion. De Haan's (2001) perspective is that the cultural disadvantages and structural disparities keep the excluded people at bottom and provides more benefit to those who are culturally at the upper section of the society. Culture factors play crucial role for the dictation of social exclusion. Hindrance of participation in cultural life that includes the issues related to cultural life (Council of the European Union 2010).

The concept has the potential to highlight the social and economic hierarchies. Europeans distinguished social exclusion from poverty. They considered poverty as an distributional outcome and social exclusion as the cause and consequences of poverty (Silver and Miller 2003). The contradiction is that all the socially rejected people are not poor but the all poor are socially excluded. It shows that poverty can be considered as the one dimension of social exclusion. Social exclusion is the reflection of multidimensional deprivation. Sen (2000) argues that social exclusion has its roots in deprivation. It impacts the capability dimension of the people. It can be the ideal measurement to demonstrate the poverty. Social exclusion covers any type of social deprivation. In this deprivation there can be caste, gender, race and any sort of other inabilities. The concept of social exclusion could be prioritised because of its holistic approach for solving out different types of deprivations. It includes anti poverty mechanism as well as anti deprivation methods.

Indian Narratives

The concept of social exclusion has got the significance in developing countries also. The process of liberalisation extended the mechanism of deprivations. Many people have been left at the margin of the development. This concept of social exclusion

deals with various section of the society. The goal is to promote the inclusive societies. In this process, the participation of every individuals are guaranteed. Social inclusion addresses the issues of income inequality, lack of skill and education, housing carrying capacity. India prioritised the study for the social exclusion in research in 21st century. The newly research centres are created to look into (a) Conceptualisation of discrimination, inclusion and exclusion based on caste, ethnicity and religion (b) Nature and Dynamics of Discrimination (c) Problematising exclusion and inclusion (d) Policies for protecting the rights of these groups (University Grant Commission 2006).

Sen argues (2000) in Indian society certain section of society such as scheduled tribe and scheduled caste and religious minorities experience the social exclusion. Indian society is based on the caste system. The society has been stratified into four sections namely priests, warrior, traders and labourers. This stratification was hierarchical and created the hindrances for the full participation for the lower section of the society. Scheduled Tribe inhabit in forest and mountains and lived away from the mainstream society. They did not recognise the caste system of mainstream society. Since independence various policies have been framed for the welfare of the disadvantaged group. But it can be argued that the magnitude of the problem of social exclusion is large in its shape.

Social exclusion emerged as a significant policy theme in European Union. It was found that since second world war the larger population not participated has been ignored. Initially the debate was very much limited to Europe only and it ignored different kind of discrimination and deprivation in other countries. But with the passage of the time this concept got the popularity in different countries. In Indian Context, social exclusion is used to address different inequality in the society. The economic policies in 1990s shifted the agenda from redistribution to national growth of economy. Liberalisation had uneven impact on economic growth. It is argued that the neo-liberal forces of globalisation has strengthened the market forces at the cost of Social protection (Mishra 1999).

In the analysis of Amartya Sen the concept of social exclusion is premised on the capability deprivation. Thorat extends his analysis to poverty of social groups. He argues that caste and ethnicity based social exclusion has created a polarised society (Thorat 2007). Social Exclusion occurs when some groups of people are denied to

access the resources on the basis of their colour, caste, ethnic identity and religious beliefs which are mandatory for their survival. By contrast, social inclusion is more participatory and empowering. It requires affirmative measures to remove deprivation, discrimination and marginalisation (Bhattacharya et al 2010: 1).

After independence Nehruvian socialist policy impacted for the reduction of poverty. After three decades there was a decline in the poverty. In 1990s due to neoliberal policies the welfare policies were sidelined. Due to the capitalist mode of development the role of agriculture in GDP went to less than 20% (Sharma 2007). Giddens (1998) proclaimed that the neo-liberal paradigm pushed human life beyond their control. The benefit of the reservation policy have been used by the predominant within the community. There is a larger demand to identify the most needy sub-sections within the community. It is very true that the advance within the community would not accept it. It can be argued that the less excluded became the cause of excluding the others also. This type of mechanism is important for the creation of fair societies.

UNDP framework for social exclusion

European Union adopted a list of 18 indicators for the study of social exclusion. Broadly, it covers the various aspects like financial poverty related with income, employment, education and health. Social exclusion can be perceived as a vicious cycle of unemployment, poverty and social isolation (UNDP 2006). The unemployment caused lack of money. As a result of it, social ties are weakened and it increased the possibility of social isolation. The lack of money not only worsen the relationship with family and it also weakens the ties with neighbours, friends and relatives.

The classification of Silver is pertinent for the analysis of social exclusion. Her ideas were based on the existing situation of western Europe and North America. These dimensions are based on republicanism, liberalism and social democracy. Republican theory is based on the integration. This integration is based on the premises of organic solidarity. The social orders are framed around common values. It is argued that social exclusion is rooted in the solidarity of nation states, ethnicity, race and other cultural ties. Republican paradigm draws heavily from anthropology, ethnography, sociology, and cultural studies. It focuses attention on the exclusion prevailed in the solidarity of caste, race, ethnicity and other cultural ties. Mainly it

underpins the french experience where the notion of the social exclusion developed. The second paradigm was one of the dominant paradigm in social exclusion. It has its roots with liberal ideology in the United States of America. The proposition explains that social exclusion is caused by individual preferences. When any boundaries create the hindrances in individual freedom to participate, exclusion take the form of deprivation. Liberal individualism focuses on neo-classical liberal policies. It includes political pluralism, public choices theories. It included two types of thought : libertarian and communitarian liberalsim. The third paradigm embodies the balance of power and tries to compensate with policies of social protection. The third paradigm explains the exclusion as a result of the formation of group monopoly. This exclusion originates from the interaction of class and status.

Life domain framework was developed by Heady (2006) and Scutella and other (2009) in Australia. He described the seven area as an indicators for the measurement of social exclusion. They included: (1). Material resources (2) employment (3) education and skills (4) health and disability (5) social (6) community (7) personal safety.

Material resources domain area comprised household income, net worth, consumption expenditure and governemnt income suport. Employment domain is related with financial benefits. It has its value to social inclusion. On the other side, unemployment is associated with the negative effects that results the lack of income. Education and skills are related with the information of human capital. Health and disability can produce the social exclusion. It raises the costs of achieving a given level of social inclusion. The effected persons will have a need of personal aids and medical services so on. Social domain refers to support from friends and society. It is the most important point of social inclusion. It is relatively difficult to objectify the measurement. Community participation considers access to community services, neighbourhood quality, institutional resources, political and civic involvement. Persoal safety is also important for the inclusive society. Persons being discriminated can impact the peoples participation in framing the inclusive society.

Life Domain Framework of Social Exclusion in Australia

Domains	Components
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Material Resources	Household income Household net worth Household consumption expenditure Homelessness Financial hardship
Employment	Paid work, employed, self employed, unemployed, non-employed, underemployed, unpaid work
Education and Skills	Basic skills (literacy and numeracy) Educational attainment Lifelong Learning
Health and Disability	Physical health Mental Health Disability or long-term health conditions
Social	Institutionalisation /Separation from family Social Support Participation in common social activities Internet access
Community	Access to transport Access to health,utilities and financial services Neighbourhood quality Voter enrolment Civic participation and voluntary activity/membership
Personal Safety	Victim of Crime Subjective safety Victim of discrimination

Scutella and Others (2009)

Social exclusion can be suggested an isolation not only connected with financial issues and difficulty. It can be said that poverty is the excluder of many people. Poverty becomes the major reason for lack of opportunities and choices. Poverty is a critical conception to social exclusion (Walker and Walker 1997). Social exclusion

focuses on multi-dimensional disadvantage. It provides analysing relationship between livelihood and well being of the individual. It is also important to make a link between different political, sociological and economic dimensions of the poverty. The present development scenario focused on the development of macro economic development. But at the same time those forces are important to analyse which prevent the inclusive growth.

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