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## **Social marginalization and their upliftment through entrepreneurship development**

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### **Abstract**

Social development is about improving the well-being of every individual in society so they can reach their full potential. The success of society is linked to the well-being of each and every citizen. Social development means investing in people. It requires the removal of barriers so that all citizens can journey toward their dreams with confidence and dignity. This may result in resistance in the form of demonstrations, protests or lobbying from the excluded people. Marginality is an experience that affects millions of people throughout the world. Marginalization may manifest itself in forms varying from genocide/ethnic-cleansing and other xenophobic acts/activities at one end of the spectrum, to more basic economic and social hardships at the unitary (individual/family) level. Of course, the forms of marginalization may vary-generally linked to the level of development of society; culturally, and as (if not more) importantly, with relation to economics.

**Keywords:** Social marginalization and entrepreneurship development

### **Introduction**

Social exclusion, marginalization or social marginalization is the social disadvantage and relegation to the fringe of society. It is a term used widely in Europe and was first used in France. It is used across disciplines including education, sociology, psychology, politics and economics. It is used across disciplines. Social exclusion is the process in which individuals are blocked from (or denied full access to) various rights, opportunities and resources that are normally available to members of a different group, and which are fundamental to social integration and observance of human rights within that particular group (e.g., housing, employment, healthcare, civic engagement, democratic participation, and due process). Alienation or disenfranchisement resulting from social exclusion can be connected to a person's social class, race, skin color, religious affiliation, ethnic origin, educational status, childhood relationships, living standards, and or political opinions, and appearance. Such exclusionary forms of discrimination may also apply to people with disability, minorities, LGBTQ+ people, drug users, institutional care leavers, the elderly and the young. Anyone who appears to deviate in any way from perceived norms of a population may thereby become subject to coarse or subtle forms of social exclusion. The outcome of social exclusion is that affected individuals or communities are prevented from participating fully in the economic, social, and political life of the society in which they live. This may result in resistance in the form of demonstrations, protests or lobbying from the excluded people. Marginality is an experience that affects millions of people throughout the world. People who are marginalized have relatively little control over their lives, and the resources available to them. This results in making them handicapped in delving contribution to society. A vicious circle is set up whereby their lack of positive and supportive relationships means that they are prevented from participating in local life, which in turn leads to further isolation. This has a tremendous impact on the development of human beings, as well as on society at large.

### **Objectives**

1. To study the socio-economic condition of marginalized groups.
2. To find out various causes of educational backwardness among marginalized groups.

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### **Hypothesis**

1. Weak socio-economical conditions of marginal families results in low educational status.
2. Marginalized groups have lack of educational awareness and lack of educational environment which effect on their children's educational performance.
3. Government through entrepreneurship development schemes can uplift marginal groups in the society.

### **Methodology**

A research design is a plan, structure and strategy of investigation so conceived as to obtain answer to research questions or problems. The research design refers to the overall strategy that choose to integrate the different components of the study in a coherent and logical way, thereby, ensuring effectively address the research problem; it constitutes the blueprint for the collection, measurement, and analysis of data. Research design is the framework of research methods and techniques chosen by a researcher. The design allows researchers to hone in on research methods that are suitable for the subject matter and set up their studies up for success.

Accurate purpose statement- the research is aimed to explore the education status of marginal groups and suggest necessary intervention to cope up with the problems. Primary data is collected from respondent through interview schedule. Secondary data has been collected from various books and journals.

As the objective of development is to create an enabling environment for people to enjoy a productive, healthy, and creative life, it is important to address the issue of marginalization. Development is always broadly conceived in terms of mass participation. Marginalization deprives a large majority of people across the globe from participating in the development. It is a complex problem, and there are many factors that cause marginalization. This complex and serious problem needs to be addressed at the policy level. This project deals with the problems associated with the groups suffering from marginalization and the ways to reduce them.

### **Meaning and definition of marginalized groups and marginalization**

In general, the term 'marginalization' describes the overt actions or tendencies of human societies, where people who they perceive to undesirable or without useful function, are excluded, i.e., marginalized. These people, who are marginalized, from a GROUP or COMMUNITY for their protection and integration and are known as 'marginalized groups'. This limits their opportunities and means for survival. Peter Leonard defines marginality as, ". . . being outside the mainstream of productive activity and/or social reproductive activity".

The Encyclopedia of Public Health defines marginalized groups as, 'To be marginalized is to be placed in the margins, and thus excluded from the privilege and power found at the center'. Latin observes that-

**“Marginality’ is so thoroughly demeaning, for economic well-being, for human dignity, as well as for physical security. Marginal groups can always be identified by members of dominant society, and will face irrevocable discrimination.”**

These definitions are mentioned in different contexts and show that marginalization is a slippery and multilayered

concept. Marginalization has aspects in sociological, economic, and political debates. Marginalization may manifest itself in forms varying from genocide/ethnic-cleansing and other xenophobic acts/activities at one end of the spectrum, to more basic economic and social hardships at the unitary (individual/family) level. Of course, the forms of marginalization may vary—generally linked to the level of development of society; culturally, and as (if not more) importantly, with relation to economics. For example, it would generally be true, that there would exist more “marginalized” groups in the Third World”, and developing nations, that in the Developed/First-World nations. Indeed, there can be a distinction made, on the basis of the “choice” that one has within this context—those in the Third World who live under impoverished conditions, through no choice of their own (being far removed from the protectionism that exists for people in the First World,) are often left to die due to hunger, disease, and war. One can also add to this various minority, as well as women. Within the First World, low-income drug addicts stand out as being the most marginalized. This deliberate or chosen marginalization of people carries with it aspects of a so-called “Social Darwinism”.

To further clarify the meaning and concept let us discuss certain characteristics of marginalized groups:

Usually, a minority group has the following characteristics:

- 1) It suffers from discrimination and subordination.
- 2) They have physical and/or cultural traits that set them apart, and which are disapproved of, by a dominant group.
- 3) They share a sense of collective identity and common burdens.
- 4) They have shared social rules about who belongs, and who does not.
- 5) They have a tendency to marry within the group.

Thus, marginalization is complex as well as a shifting phenomenon linked to social status.

### **Various marginalized groups and their problems**

Most vulnerable marginalized groups in almost every society can be summarized as below:

#### **1. Women**

Under different economic conditions, and under the influence of specific historical, cultural, legal and religious factors, marginalization is one of the manifestations of gender inequality. In other words, women may be excluded from certain jobs and occupations, incorporated into certain others, and marginalized in others. In general, they are always marginalized relative to men, in every country and culture. Women (or, men) don't present a homogeneous category where members have common interests, abilities, or practices. Women belonging to lower classes, lower castes, illiterate, and the poorest region have different levels of marginalization than their better-off counterparts.

#### **2. People with disabilities**

People with disabilities have had to battle against centuries of biased assumptions, harmful stereotypes, and irrational fears. The stigmatization of disability resulted in the social and economic marginalization of generations with disabilities, and, like many other oppressed minorities, this has left people with disabilities in a severe state of impoverishment for centuries. The proportion of the disabled population in India is about 21.9 million.

The percentage of the disabled population to the total population is about 2.13 percent. There are interstate and interregional differences in the disabled population. The disabled face various types of barriers while seeking access to health and health services. Among those who are disabled women, children and age are more vulnerable and need attention.

### 3. Schedule castes (Dalits)

The caste system is a strictly hierarchical social system based on underlying notions of purity and pollution. Brahmins are on the top of the hierarchy and Shudras or Dalits constitute the bottom of the hierarchy. The marginalization of Dalits influences all spheres of their life, violating basic human rights such as civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights.

A major proportion of the lower castes and Dalits are still dependent on others for their livelihood. Dalits do not refer to caste but suggest a group who are in a state of oppression, social disability and who are helpless and poor. Literacy rates among Dalits are very low. They have meager purchasing power and have poor housing conditions as well as have low access to resources and entitlements.

Structural discrimination against these groups takes place in the form of physical, psychological, emotional and cultural abuse which receives legitimacy from the social structure and the social system. Physical segregation of their settlements is common in the villages forcing them to live in the most unhygienic and inhabitable conditions. All these factors affect their health status, access to healthcare and quality of life. There are high rates of malnutrition reported among the marginalized groups resulting in mortality, morbidity, and anemia. Access to and utilization of healthcare among the marginalized groups are influenced by their socio-economic status within society.

Caste-based marginalization is one of the most serious human rights issues in the world today, adversely affecting more than 260 million people mostly reside in India. Caste-based discrimination entails social and economic exclusion, segregation in housing, denial, and restrictions of access to public and private services and employment, and enforcement of certain types of jobs on Dalits, resulting in a system of modern day slavery or bonded labor. However, in recent years due to affirmative action and legal protection, the intensity of caste-based marginalization is reducing.

### 4. Scheduled tribes

The Scheduled Tribes like the Scheduled Castes face structural discrimination within Indian society. Unlike the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes are a product of marginalization based on ethnicity. In India, the Scheduled Tribes population is around 84.3 million and is considered to be socially and economically disadvantaged. Their percentages in the population and numbers, however, vary from State to State. They are mainly landless with little control over resources such as land, forest, and water.

They constitute a large proportion of agricultural laborers, casual laborers, plantation laborers, industrial laborers etc. This has resulted in poverty among them, low levels of education, poor health and reduced access to healthcare services. They belong to the poorest strata of the society and have severe health problems.

### 5. Elderly or Aged People

Aging is an inevitable and inexorable process in life. In

India, the population of the elderly is growing rapidly and is emerging as a serious area of concern for the government and the policy planners. According to data on the age of India's population, in Census 2001, there are a little over 76.6 million people above 60 years, constituting 7.2 percent of the population. The number of people over 60 years in 1991 was 6.8 percent of the country's population. The vulnerability among the elderly is not only due to an increased incidence of illness and disability but also due to their economic dependency upon their spouses, children, and other younger family members. According to the 2001 census, 33.1 percent of the elderly in India live without their spouses.

The widowers among older men form 14.9 percent as against 50.1 percent widows among elderly women. Among the elderly (80 years and above), 71.1 percent of women were widows while widowers formed only 28.9 percent of men. Lack of economic dependence has an impact on their access to food, clothing, and healthcare. Among the basic needs of the elderly, medicine features as the highest unmet need. Healthcare of the elderly is a major concern for society as aging is often accompanied by multiple illnesses and physical ailments.

### 6. Children

Children Mortality and morbidity among children are caused and compounded by poverty, their sex and caste position in society.

All these have consequences on their nutrition intake, access to healthcare, environment, and education. Poverty has a direct impact on the mortality and morbidity among children. In India, a girl child faces discrimination and differential access to nutritious food and gender-based violence is evident from the falling sex ratio and the use of technologies to eliminate the girl child. The manifestations of these violations are various, ranging from child labor, child trafficking, to commercial sexual exploitation and many other forms of violence and abuse.

With an estimated 12.6 million children engaged in hazardous occupations (2001 Census), for instance, India has the largest number of child laborers under the age of 14 in the world. Among children, there are some groups like street children and children of sex workers who face additional forms of discrimination. A large number of children are reportedly trafficked to the neighboring countries.

Trafficking of children also continues to be a serious problem in India. While systematic data and information on child protection issues are still not always available, evidence suggests that children in need of special protection belong to communities suffering disadvantage and social exclusion such as scheduled castes and tribes, and the poor (UNICEF, India).

### 7. Sexual minorities

Another group that faces stigma and discrimination are sexual minorities. Those identified as gay, lesbian, transgender, bisexual, kothi and hijra; experience various forms of discrimination within the society and the health system. Due to the dominance of heteronormous sexual relations as the only form of normal acceptable relations within the society, individuals who are identified as having same-sex sexual preferences are ridiculed and ostracized by their own family and are left with very limited support structures and networks of community that provide the

conditions of care and support. Their needs and concerns are excluded from various health policies and programs.

### Entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurship is the process of designing, launching and running a new business, which is often initially a small business. The people who create these businesses are called entrepreneurs. Entrepreneurship has been described as the "capacity and willingness to develop, organize and manage a business venture along with any of its risks to make a profit." While definitions of entrepreneurship typically focus on the launching and running of businesses, due to the high risks involved in launching a start-up, a significant proportion of start-up businesses have to close due to "lack of funding, bad business decisions, an economic crisis, lack of market demand, or a combination of all of these." A broader definition of the term is sometimes used, especially in the field of economics. In this usage, an Entrepreneur is an entity which has the ability to find and act upon opportunities to translate inventions or technologies into products and services: "The entrepreneur is able to recognize the commercial potential of the invention and organize the capital, talent, and other resources that turn an invention into a commercially viable innovation." In this sense, the term "Entrepreneurship" also captures innovative activities on the part of established firms, in addition to similar activities on the part of new businesses. Coming up with an idea for a product or service is not the hardest thing for startups and entrepreneurs. Building a product isn't even the hardest. Truly, the hardest part is "making it work", or in other words, getting people to like and want to buy your product, and beating the competition at the same time.

### Social Development

Social development is about improving the well-being of every individual in society so they can reach their full potential. The success of society is linked to the well-being of each and every citizen. Social development means investing in people. It requires the removal of barriers so that all citizens can journey toward their dreams with confidence and dignity. It is about refusing to accept that people who live in poverty will always be poor. It is about helping people so they can move forward on their path to self-sufficiency. Learning must start early in life. By investing in early learning initiatives, we can ensure a greater degree of success amongst our citizens. Making sure that children get a good start in their education goes a long way to increasing their success later in life. An affordable, high quality child care system is also needed for society to succeed. When people know that their children are being well taken care of, they can be more productive in their jobs. When employers have good employees their business is more likely to succeed. When businesses succeed, the economic situation of a community is improved. An investment today in good child care programs can provide many long term economic benefits for society. In addition, a safe affordable place to live is very important in helping people achieve self-sufficiency. It is the focus of family life; where families can live safely, nurture their children, build community relationships and care for aging parents. Without a decent place to live, it is difficult to function as a productive member of society. Other investments in people that contribute to the economic prosperity of society include youth programs and services, post-secondary education, job creation, promotion of healthy, active living and safe and

secure communities. To reduce poverty we need to take a social development approach and invest in our people. By investing in people we can reduce poverty.

### Conclusions

1. A person interested in growing flowers for selling in the local market, can grow local varieties in the rural areas. However, an entrepreneur who is interested in exporting flowers shall grow improved and exotic varieties of flowers for which there is a demand, in urban fringe areas, preferably near an airport. Growing the flowers under controlled conditions, harvesting, packaging and timely export are important considerations for the entrepreneur (exporter).
2. Fresh fruits and vegetables for export are grown in rural areas, preferably under organic farming conditions. These must be of improved variety, preferred by the countries abroad; collected, graded, transported, packed and stored by creating cold chain and cold storage facilities. Pesticide residues are important negative considerations which must be taken care of. Availability of irradiation facility is an additional advantage. Rural and urban entrepreneurs may form cooperatives to run such enterprises.
3. Processing of fruits and vegetables; marketing of liquid milk and milk products; meat, fish and their products etc. demand strict quality control, and cold chain and cold storage facilities. These have market potential both inside and outside the country. The rural and urban entrepreneurs may combine to form teams to run such enterprises.
4. Planting and processing of medicinal, spices and aromatic plants, tissue culture etc., have market potential both inside and outside the country. The joint efforts of both rural and urban entrepreneurs can bring good revenue for them.
5. Eco-tourism is a new area in which both rural and urban entrepreneurs can work together, to make it popular and obtain good income from it.
6. The urban entrepreneurs may specialize in retail marketing, IT-enabled services, insurance, fashion-tailoring etc. which shall earn a good profit for them.
7. Foods business is emerging as an important area of entrepreneurial venture, particularly in urban, industrial, commercial and sub-urban areas.

In entrepreneurship development, the knowledge and skill of relevant disciplines, including marketing and financial management, are combined together in the form of an integrated action plan to make an entrepreneurial venture successful.

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