

Welcome to the T.Y.B.Sc. (Honors) Course in Home Science. Today will be talking about the subject of Human Development and will be dealing with the paper titled Child Rights and Gender Justice. We'll be talking about Module 3 and the name of this module is disadvantage, deprivation, and social exclusion.

In this module we will cover what is a disadvantage, what is a social disadvantage? What is deprivation? What is exclusion? and the various groups that fall under these categories.

At the end of this module, the student would be able to understand and differentiate the various categories of people facing discrimination in India and identify groups that may belong to these categories.

First we will talk about what exactly is a disadvantage.

Now people have described disadvantage differently, but it just basically means not having the advantage of something. OK, so in other words, it is an unfavorable circumstance or a condition that may reduce the chances of someone's success or their effectiveness. For Example, if you talk about a child who is disabled, it is an unfavorable circumstance and that child has some kind of condition which reduces his chance of success in

some particular field. For Example, a child who has a vision impairment or is blind or has a condition which reduces their chances of succeeding in any tasks that require their eyes, for example reading, and therefore they are taught using a different system of Braille.

So that is the child's disadvantage only in the time when the child is trying to read

It also means having some characteristic or the absence of that characteristic, which puts a person in an unfavorable position in relation to someone else or in relation to something else. For example, a child who does not know English.

So the absence of knowing English puts him or her in an unfavorable position, if they are in an English medium school. If that child is not in an English medium school, suppose that child knows Konkani Marathi and is in a Konkani or a Marathi medium school, that will not feature as a disadvantage. But when the same child is put in an English medium school, then the child will be disadvantaged because he does not have the characteristics of knowing the language English.

What is a social disadvantage? Now we have a different number

of people who have defined social disadvantage, but some of the easier to understand definitions we would look at.

Keach et al. had in 1967 talked about the socially disadvantaged child as the product of a multi-problem family environment. Please note those words. The family of the child has a variety of problems which goes against the child's capacity and willingness to learn. So because of the problems in the family,

The child's capacity to learn decreases and the child's motivational willingness to learn also goes down.

For example in families where either the father or the mother is abusing alcohol, it creates a family situation where the father or the mother is drunk, may beat the family. Members may react in anger to anything and everything, and it creates an environment in the house with the child doesn't feel like living there. The child doesn't feel like going to school and studying because everyone knows that his father or mother is an alcoholic and he lives in that kind of a situation.

The child is being thrown out or certain kind of punishments are being meted out where the next day you can see scratches on the child's

body or whip marks, or you know some kind of instrument that has burned the child. Again, it doesn't create a good environment for the child to learn. Sometimes in families where there is parental discord, you know parents almost going for a divorce where the father is hitting the mother or abusing or or in various ways torturing the children in that house. So this does not create an environment in which the child can learn and it decreases also the child's mental capacity for learning because in order for learning to happen or for you to have a good life, you have to have some peace of mind.

Then we have Kalusmeer and Ripple, who in 1971 talked about poor homes and also certain schools which are not responsive to children. You know they are very strict schools, or sometimes they're very following only a particular way of teaching and learning, or schools in an environment which is of the Lower social-economic strata, say a slum neighborhood, or an impoverished neighborhood. These Are conditions which could contribute to social disadvantage, so extreme poverty. Being in a neighborhood like for example in Mumbai, you would talk about the largest slum in Asia which is Dharavi.

So living in an environment like that could put you at a social disadvantage. And then we want to say that those who have been subjected to any racial prejudice, meaning depending on which race you were coming from, so for example, if you looked at the history of the US, there was a huge racial divide between what they called African Americans who they termed as Blacks, which is now considered a derogatory term and the Caucasian Americans or the Whites. So there was a cultural and ethnic prejudice, and there was a bias against him. Any crime was committed and a blackperson was seen around the scene, he was first labeled as possibility of being the criminal. But even if the criminal was a white person, he would be looked at last, and the black person will be looked at first, so a lot of racial disadvantage and they are disadvantaged because of their identities as members of a group that is not looked at positively without any regard for their individual qualities. For example, after 9/11 happened in the US and everyone started talking about terrorists and them coming from Afghanistan and other such countries, Muslims all over the world started to be targeted just because of their religion.

Muslims in the world faced a huge social disadvantage after 9/11 because of their identity as member of a religious group of Muslims without any regard to their individual qualities. They have may have been the best in the community, serving the communities for so many years. You know contributing a lot. Those Muslims may have been the ones who have rescued people from the World Trade Center and you know, lost their own lives.

They could have been firemen or police or anybody, but no because of their race because of the cultural prejudice that was in the minds of people and because of them being belonging to that group of religious minorities, they were also labeled as, and had a disadvantage in society.

Then we look at the concept of deprivation - to be deprived of something is to either not have something or to have something taken away from you or not have access to it at all.

OK, so if I'm deprived of education, it means I'm not given an education. I cannot afford to have an education, or for some reason I am out of the education system. So it is the damaging lack of material benefits, material things which you can see tangible

things like money, food, so these are material benefits which are considered to be basic necessities of life, food, shelter, clothing, drinking water, clean drinking water.

So a deprivation meaning to be without all these material benefits. So this could represent children who are living in extreme poverty. If you look at that picture of the child sitting on the railway tracks, he doesn't have a proper roof over his head.

If he wants clean drinking water, he will have to go to the public tap and find some drinking water, but who knows whether it is clean. Children living on the street, homeless children, they are seriously deprived of all these benefits. Deprivation is also the consequence of a lack of income. Having low income, very low income or having no income at all, no money to fund yourself and have access to other resources also which are denied, they altogether can be seen as living in extreme poverty.

Then we look at the concept of social exclusion. When you are denied an equal social opportunity to a certain group or certain section of society is denied something, then they are socially excluded. It refers to the exclusion of certain

groups of people from access to things which all of us take for granted. Like we open the tap, we get water. We go in the kitchen, we find food. We go to the market, we can buy whatever we want because we have some money in our pockets. But there are certain groups that are excluded from certain areas like you know, there are certain shops which will only cater to people from certain castes. There Are certain places which only allow, say people who belong to a particular status and elite status.

Examples of these groups could be minorities like

Dalits, the tribals, widows who are sometimes excluded from certain places.

As commercial sex workers today, you can also look at the LGBTQ community. Those who are slightly sexually deviant or sexually different from others, like gays, lesbians, you can look at nomadic tribes which are moving from place to place.

Whether they are excluded from the ability to obtain certain schemes in a particular state. Child labour, street children and a lot of people would come under the category of social exclusion.

Now you could probably take some time out after listening to this and going through this video to make a list of groups of people

in India who you think would fall under these categories, disadvantaged, deprived and excluded. And you will realize that a lot of the groups that we talked about today will come under more than one of these categories. They will be disadvantaged and also deprived, deprived and also excluded. Or they may be fitting in all three groups. This is just to make you aware of the different kinds of disadvantage deprivation, an exclusion that exists in India and how many people may be facing these kinds of discriminations on a regular basis. So please try to do this activity, it will be helpful to you in your learning. Thank you very much. You can refer to these links for any more information.