

Quadrant II – Transcript and Related Materials

Programme: B.A (Third Year)

Subject: Sociology

Paper Code: SOD 105

Paper Title: Sociology of Marginalised Groups

Unit: 1. Introduction

Module Name: Marginalisation and Social Exclusion

Module No: 01

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Notes:

Meaning and Definition

Marginalization is a process of social exclusion in which individuals or groups are relegated to the fringes of a society being denied economic, political or symbolic power and pushed towards being 'outsiders'

Social marginalization is the social disadvantage and relegation to the fringe of society... the outcome of marginalization 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.

The Encyclopedia of Public Health defines marginalization as "to be marginalized is to be placed in the margins, and thus excluded from the privileged and power found at the centre"

In short, when a particular social group is forced to live on the fringes rather than in the mainstream, this is called marginalization.

There are plenty of examples of discrimination against the marginalized groups like SCs, STs, the disabled, women, children, senior citizens, LGBT etc. Thus, marginalized is a complex process of relegating specific groups of people to the lower or outer edge of society.

It effectively pushes these groups of people to the margin of society economically, politically, culturally and socially following the policy of exclusion. It denies a section of the society equal access to productive resources and avenues for the realization of their productive human potential and opportunities for their full capacity utilization.

B) FORMS OF MARGINALIZATION

1. Individual

In this form of marginalization an individual is excluded from meaningful participation in society. An individual is subjected to discrimination across different social institutions like family, schools, neighborhood etc and also at work places, and so on. Single parents, persons with disability, homosexuals, the elderly are marginalized individuals as most of them have little association with communities. Another example of individual marginalized is the exclusion of individuals with disabilities from the labour force.

2. Communities

Many communities experience marginalization. For example, aboriginal communities and women in many countries of the world experience marginalization. The marginalization of aboriginal communities is a product of colonization. Feminist movement is considered as a direct result of marginalization of women.

3. Global

One of the consequences of globalization is the increasing gap between rich and poor nations. Global capitalism, immigration etc have the potential to contribute negatively to the access to resources and services. This results in marginalization of individuals and groups and also of nations.

C) Dimensions of Social Exclusion

Dimensions of Social Exclusion bring out the marginalization of people in various forms

1) Political Exclusion

It includes denial of citizenship rights like political participation and the rights to organize. It denies also personal security, the rule of law, freedom of expression and equality of opportunity. Some argue that political exclusion

also involves the notion that the state is not a neutral agency but a vehicle of a society's dominant classes and may thus discriminate between social groups.

II) Economic Exclusion

It includes lack of access to labour markets, credit and other forms of 'capital assets'.

III) Social Exclusion

This can be in the form of discrimination on the basis of gender, ethnicity, age, caste, religion etc. The discriminated groups will have less access to social services and labour market.

IV) Cultural Exclusion

Here diverse values, norms and ways of living are not accepted and respected equally. This leads to the situations of stigma and discrimination.