

CAUSES AND IMPACT OF EXCLUSION IN SOUTHERN PUNJAB

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Abstract

The aim of this paper is to investigate causes and impact of exclusion in Southern Punjab. It has been witnessed that Pakistan as a whole is still an underdeveloped country where people are suffering from all kinds of exclusion i.e. on social, political, economic and ethnic levels. Though Punjab is considered to be the most developed and prosperous province of Pakistan but the fact is that the development in the province is uneven, in equal, and disproportionate. The areas known as the Southern Punjab are the glaring example. It has been observed that the people of this region have been suffering from the abuses of exclusion in general while as a particular case women of the area are subjected to such exclusion which is rather worse, because the male have to face such exclusion which is the product of the general condition of the country whereas the roots of exclusion faced by females are outdated customs.

Key words: *Exclusion, Causes, Impact, Southern Punjab, Pakistan*

Introduction

The Southern Punjab since long has been subjected to such political, social and economic conditions which have caused all types of exclusion among the people of the region in general and the female member in the society in particular. It is an underdeveloped area comprising of slums still coping with challenges of

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modernization. Because of the lack of facilities at local level people have been politically, socially and economically exploited whereas unequal distribution of resources has created unrest among them. It is believed by the majority of the people of Southern Punjab that they have been deprived of equal economic opportunities while the upper regions of the province are enjoying a lot of facilities. For this reason the masses of the area feel that politically and socially exclusion has been the main reason of their deprivation.

Characteristics of Exclusion in Southern Punjab

The deep rooted exclusion at social, economic and political levels has become the fate of southern Punjab. This exclusion is creating the class differences among the people living in these areas, the problems of caste, occupational differences which include specification of profession for specific class and people, Land owner's behavior with their servants and Beradri system which does not allow the people to create social contacts with each other all these factors are the characteristics of exclusion as well (Gazdar, 2007)

Moreover the women are deprived of their rights and are subject to all type of exclusion. This exclusion includes the religious differences too on the basis of beliefs of different people belonging to different religious sects such as, Sunni, Shia and the minorities as Hindus and Christen. Exclusion in Southern Punjab does not allow people to prosper. There are many reasons out of which following are the main hindrances which do not allow raising their status to a better level.

- Lack of opportunities to move out of poverty
- Inability to participate in the political process of their region
- Inability to have or get better health, education employment and conditions
- Lack of resources to afford the cost of social networking, little to exchange and reciprocate
- Inability to participate in different social activities
- Stigma of poverty as basis for exclusion
- The exclusion of women, including rigid gender segregation based on the ideology "Purdah" and rigid definition of public and private spheres.
- Exclusion of rural migrants, refugees from the wider society and the public sphere on the basis of ethnicity and social identity.
- Caste and Beradri system, the traditional adoption of forefather's occupation, do not allow them to think high.

- Lastly the in born fear, violence and vulnerability, low caste problems and the unequal status of women do not permit them to come out or to fight with against the prevalence and impact of exclusion.

Methodology

This research is based on qualitative method. Primary data have been collected in the form of interviews and the reports of local government of the Punjab and international organizations. Secondary data was collected from the research work of scholars. The respondents were from general public and the elected members of UCs from rural and urban areas of Dera Ghazi Khan, Lodhran, Multan, and Muzaffargarh in Southern Punjab.

Causes of Exclusion in Southern Punjab

There are many causes of exclusion in Southern Punjab

1. Exclusion due to Poverty

Poverty is basically a state in which the ability of individuals or groups or to use power to the advantage of their families and community is weekend or blocked. The same type of exclusion is being faced by the people of the southern Punjab which does not allow them to make their living standard better. The said poverty condition also restricts the choice of profession available to them. As the economic aspect of the people of this area is concerned the access to resources is monopolized by the private agencies for their personal benefit which badly undermines the public goods. The people develop grievances against their exclusion as citizen of the state fixing total responsibility on the part of the state machines. As a consequence of that they are forced to break away from public life.

The people living in remote areas and weak groups like Kachi Abadi residents, fisher folk and other are driven by their inherently localized problems. Which cause poverty and then the exclusion? It has made the people morally, financially and socially bankrupt.

According to the Asian Development Bank, (2002) causes of poverty are mainly the outcome of various factors which are mutual inter related hence operate as reinforcing agent among themselves. The main causes of poverty in Southern Punjab are;

- i. Poor management,
- ii. No access to top resources,

- iii. Weak capacity of Public sector,
- iv. Inadequacy of justice,
- v. Fiscal policy,
- vi. Unemployment,
- vii. Land tenure system,
- viii. Structural system of society,
- ix. Low standard of human development and
- x. Ethnic and sectarian conflicts.

2. Exclusion due to Unemployment

The next cause of exclusion in Southern Punjab is unemployment. An unemployed person is forced to live a life of humiliation and is deprived of the other comforts which the other members of society are enjoying themselves.

There are too many causes of unemployment in Southern Punjab. The first and the foremost are under developed or inefficient system of agriculture. It affects the ratio of unemployment directly or indirectly. (Farooq,2010)

There are two main factors which are responsible for the unemployment in agriculture sector. The first one is the use of new technology; the advanced mechanical methods of harvesting have decreased the demand for the manual labor. Moreover redundant labor cannot be engaged in any other economic sector because of illiteracy rate or the low level of education. People are not skilled and cannot work in factories hence always remain within the vicious circle of poverty.

Effects of Unemployment and Reasons of Exclusion

- The young generation is too passionate and is inclined to different social evils and diseases which lead them or rather convince them for suicide
- Authoritative groups are dominant in society
- Ratio of Juvenile delinquency is on increase
- Young people are energetic and if they are not provided with the better and positive activities their energies are use in negative activates such as indulging in smuggling and selling heroin etc.
- Social chaos in the society is rapidly increasing which is the cause of unemployment of youth and ultimately resulted in form of exclusion.(Akram et al 2012)

3. Exclusion due to Class Distinction

Another important reason for exclusion is class distinction in Southern Punjab. People are divided into four classes in Southern Punjab

- Upper Class
- Middle Class
- Lower Middle class
- Lower Class

Upper class includes feudal lords, land lords and the big business men; middle class includes small business owners land lords having not too much land and the people who are providing civil services by doing different jobs. Lower middle class includes the common people adopting common jobs and the people doing ordinary business which cannot cope with the increasing rate of inflation and are living from hand to mouth and lastly the lower class which includes laborers, sweepers and the people doing other odd jobs and the beggars.

In Southern Punjab class distinction is given too much importance. The upper class has the hold on society and lower class is dependent on upper class to get their living. Upper class does not allow them to raise and take an active part in society so their living standard never improved. The poor are not allowed to send their children to schools; the feudal do not facilitate their servants to educate their children. They have the common notion that if these poor people will get education, they will become aware of their rights as well, they can get good jobs as well, and so there is a risk for them that one day they'll be standing in competition with them.

In Southern Punjab this class distinction is causing social, economic and political unrest among the masses. Because of this reason Southern Punjab is far behind in development in comparison with the upper Punjab.

4. Occupational Groups (Kammi)

The people living in the villages of the area are divided and further cross divided into different classes in line with their economic, social and professional status. Among them are the land lords who traditionally connected with their inherited occupation called "Zamidara", they live on their own farms which is the common tradition in villages, But on the other hand the people who adopt or are connected with other occupation, such as barber, carpenter, cobbler, blacksmith, weaver, potter, muesli (Laborer, sweeper etc. are called as Kammi) depend on the upper class for their living. These people are landless and remain obliged to the landowners for the living throughout their lives and generations because they inherit this "Kammi" nature and status. On the other hand the "Beradri" system also develops the gulf between land owner class and services providing class, which progresses and resulted in the form of exclusion.(Usman, 2013). So these

(Kammi) people have been socially excluded not only at present but since centuries. They are restricted to evolve social contacts such as they are allowed to marry out of their Beradri because of the compulsion that the upper class does not like to mix up with them. In this way a “Zamindar” becomes more authoritative to suppress the lower class. They get used to listening “yes sir” and do not bear or hear “no” ever. The “Kammi” class is not aware of their rights hence are facing the adverse effects of social exclusion.

In the order to get more and better production they force and persuade this “Kammi” community to do more and work even harder so that the land lords may maximum their benefits while the workers get only peanuts. On top of that these poor people are always humiliated by their landowner’s, get exploited, and having no self respect are compelled to bear this exploitation. They are not too weak to understand their status as the citizen of an independent country nor do they take any interest in such kind of matters while their only purpose of life is, to serve their masters (Zamindar).

As for as education, health and their basic necessity of life are concerned the poor class has no awareness or capacity to fetch proper benefits of life nor they have too much resources to come forward and to get better status in community. This poor class has to suffer the worst effects of the economic and social exclusion.

5.Family Domination and hereditary political influence in the Southern Punjab

In spite of the fact that a good deal of change has been witnessed in the social and political sphere of Pakistan during the last 60years albeit the sustainable influence of the hereditary politics on individual and party level. The country was run by the people belonging to same stock coming one after the other like the game called musical chairs. They monopolized exercise of state power for strengthen their position among themselves while making the exploitation and exclusion of the common man as their common and agreed upon target.

The same is true for the southern Punjab. This region is the property of feudal and land lords and the same people hold the politics as well. The dominant families are Lagharis, Khosas, Darishs, Nawabs, Dastis, Jatois, Thinds, Dihars, Qureshis, Gillanis, Somoros, Dogars, Buzdars, Khakwanis, Bosans, Kanjus and Joiyas etc. Rahman, J.(2013 ,May, 08).Several Candidates Facing Close Kin in South Punjab. The Nation

The only aim of such kind of politicians is to get maximum benefit for themselves and their families. They attempt to bring any change in the power keeping in view their personal interest. They are successively elected because their constituencies are overwhelmingly populated by their Kammi, hence no one else could get elected from the area. The feudal have very strong hold on all political social and economic conditions of the regions of Southern Punjab. Thus these families as well as the capitalistic policies have become a great cause of economic, political and social exclusion in Southern Punjab.

6.Illiteracy

High rate of illiteracy has perhaps become the fate of the Southern Punjab. Education is basically the process which is required for their human development while literacy provides opportunity to get benefit from this process. The literacy level in the southern Punjab is too low to be understood. The people use only physical power and lack of education handicaps them to use mental power to attain a reasonable level of socio-economic and political development. Uneven and in equal opportunities to get education is another problem which creates disports and discrepancy in the social strata. The two third of the total population is below the literacy level because the education system is monopolized by the higher echelon.

According to UN report 08.75 million people cannot read or write. During the last many years only thirty percent increase has been made possible in the adult literacy rate. According to the recent report ensured by the World Bank 70% population of Pakistan is below the poverty line and obviously those living below this line are unable to provide education to their children of which the majority belongs to the Southern Punjab. It is estimated that only 17% girls complete their primary education while 207 million children are out of school. And almost 10.30 million children are there who do not think of going to school due to poverty and hunger. In Southern Punjab there are a few of schools in villages and the literacy percentage is very low in Southern Punjab. (Hooper & Hamid, 2003)

There are too many ghost schools in the areas of the Southern Punjab.

In an interview with the researcher Nawabzada Mansoor also endorsed the contestation that the schools actually existing are rare while the majority of them were ghost schools which exist only on paper. The schools were taken and misused while no education was imparted. (Mansoor, Mach, 2014)

Sardar Mohsin Khan Laghari added that because the teacher's appointed in far flung schools did not belong to the native areas hence they were reluctant to attend the same after long journey.

"The teachers of remote schools belong to other native towns and are reluctant to come daily to schools after doing too much travel" (Laghan, 2014)

7. Health System

Pakistan since last many years has been facing too many challenges related to this sector. Resources allocated for provided health facilities by the government are not in tune with the requirement of ever growing population. Moreover the facilities which at least can be provided are not managed in accordance with the time framework which causes loss of funds, labor and create unrest among the people.

The unfair distribution of the resources to meet the needs of the health sector is deeply based on injustice meted out to this region on social, economic, political and geographical grounds.

In Southern Punjab facilities provided by the government are not compatible with of people living in these regions. Government allocates inconsiderable amount of funds to be spend in the regions of Southern Punjab, which is not sufficient even for the needs of health management and to establish health care system for the people. Advanced machinery is rare in district hospitals of Southern Punjab and for the serious disease like cancer; cardiac and kidney failure people have to move to upper Punjab for their treatment, which becomes too much expensive and people have to face problems. Southern Punjab is not only underdeveloped area but is largely populated area too. There is the dire need of making health measures in order to lessen the death rate but the reason are evident which hinder to make solution to these problems. (Ali, 2000)

In Pakistan only 33% of the population lives in the range of 5km from health facilities. (Ministry of Health, 1993) It is the proven fact that when the population expands at a distance of that more than 5 km from Basic Health Unit (BHU), it results in low utilization of health facilities.

Given the availability of (BHU) or (RSC) at every 5 km, people of rural areas are still devoid of health facilities, because seldom attended by the doctors. Poor and illiterate people are unaware of the facility provided to them while the doctors and other staff take advantage of their weaknesses and remain off from duty.

The second reason of not having access to (BHU) is lack of roads and lack of transport facility. It causes death among women during child birth. The babies suffer from different diseases like typhoid, tetanus, Malaria, diphtheria and expire even before reaching their first birthday.

Though some doctors are running private clinic and hospitals in these areas but the problem still remains because the poor's cannot afford their charges. In this way all these people living in remote areas are the victim of exclusion.

8. Gender Exclusion

Gender exclusion is very much obvious in southern Punjab. Women's rights are not being given to them. They are deprived of the right to seek education which is their basic right. The men exploit their rights and they are considered inferior to men. They don't have the right to express their opinion as well and always depend on the decisions of their fathers, brothers or husbands. The male attitude is not solely responsible for the condition of women but the government is also responsible for not having provided education facilities to girls so that they may improve their lot. Women are deprived of the health facilities due to the lack of female staff. The women of such areas are uneducated conservative and orthodox; hence do not only allow men to administer their health disorder. According to the Journal of Pakistan medical association "69% women are the victim of violence at the hands of their husbands, fathers or brothers. According to a report 90% women have to face domestic violence. It includes physical mental and emotional violence too. (Komal, 2013)

In Southern Punjab the ratio of Gender exclusion is more as compared to other regions of Pakistan. Here the women are murdered for subject to various kinds of violence like honor killing, karokari, wanni and watasatta. They are compelled to face the wrath of their in laws for bringing fewer items in dowry. As the consequence of that the women commit suicide or they are murdered by their in laws, while it is reported that she died because of blast of domestic gas. It is interesting to note that such accidents are met invariably by daughter-in-laws and not by the daughter of the in-law. (Komal, 2013)

Besides this the poor women are frequently raped by the landlord and other influential of the community. Wani, watasatta, and other brutal customs like "Karokari" are always applied to women.

In Southern Punjab most of the people are poor but in such a situation only the women have to sacrifice. They give sufficient food to their children and their

husbands while they themselves remain hungry. 70% women are suffering from the problem of under nutrition. Such kind of women at the time of reproduction is subject to high risk along with the newly born. In Pakistan every year almost 30,000 women expire during child birth or due to the complications during pregnancy. The main reason for all these problems are the lack of medical facilities and the poor health condition of women. This type of violence is rather dangerous because it involves the loss of two lives both the baby and the mother. (Komal, 2013)

In Southern Punjab women are also deprived of their hereditary rights. It has become the culture in these regions to divide whole of the property among the male only. The reasons behind is lack of knowledge and the ancient practices which these people are not ready to modify. The women being already an excluded gender can't even think of fighting for their share in the inherited property and it becomes their fate to live a dependent life for good.

It is still another custom in Southern Punjab that the girls are married in too young age. So after their marriage they have to work hard in the field with their husbands while in some cases the husbands stay at home and they have to go to earn living to bring up the children.

It is observed that male is much powerful and is exploiting the rights of women in Southern Punjab. Whether the women is mother, daughter or wife she is being exploited and has no right of liberty and opinion for herself. Such kind of women has been facing exclusion from centuries.

9. De-Excluded (Tribal area) Areas of Southern Punjab

The world is on its way to rapid and speedy development whereas different regions are also undergoing a preparative change to trace with the global change. Advance scientific methods are being used to make this world a global village. Moreover on normative side the process of socialization has also been accelerated. If carefully examined the Southern Punjab in general and the tribal area of the region in particular is far behind the other area of the country and the world. A fact these areas are administered under special arrangement because the government machinery has still not pretreated in these areas.

The tribal areas are still practicing their old customs and traditions and the feudal and Sardars are taking advantage of this things, the poor are uneducated, unskilled so depending on one other for their economic survival. There is the system of severe deprivation for all in general and subjugation and oppression for women in particular.

Causes of Exclusion in Tribal areas of Southern Punjab

- Among the villages in Tribal area only 4% of the villages have health centers. The natives of other villages where these facilities are less and far away, they mainly depend on different kinds of treatment based on superstitions and fatal maladies are increasing rapidly and death rate is increasing as well.
- Very fewer number of villages in Southern Punjab are availing the facility of good and clean water, while the rest lack this facility and bucket system is common there. Water is carried from far well or ponds in buckets which contain germs and even they have to use this water sparingly for household use, drinking and bathing. Often the animals and people get water from the same place which is the cause of containing germs.
- Sanitary conditions are worse in almost all villages of Tribal area. Open toilet system is common there. Streets are unpaved. Garbage is thrown outside near house, animals feed upon this garbage and germs spread through this reason. Sewerage is not carried through pipelines which is also dangerous for the health of the people.
- Transport facilities are not found in far villages due to the lack of transport facilities people cannot get access to other facilities in outside the villages. People have to travel on foot. Lack of health facility and lack of transport facility combined cause the suffering for the people. In case of emergency patient cannot be shifted to nearby town hospitals immediately. Only transport available there is difference kinds of carts driven by animals.
- Baloch customs are very backward and hence the people are not broad minded. They do not give rights to women. Women are not given share in property; even they are deprived of their basic needs of food and clothing. Even women are being victimized because of so called traditions like wani. The women are being sold as the men consider them as their property. This gender discrimination is so much entrenched in tribal areas of Southern Punjab and in this way they are excluded from the society and state law.
- Unemployment is another issue of the people of slum areas and villages, mostly the people depend on farming.

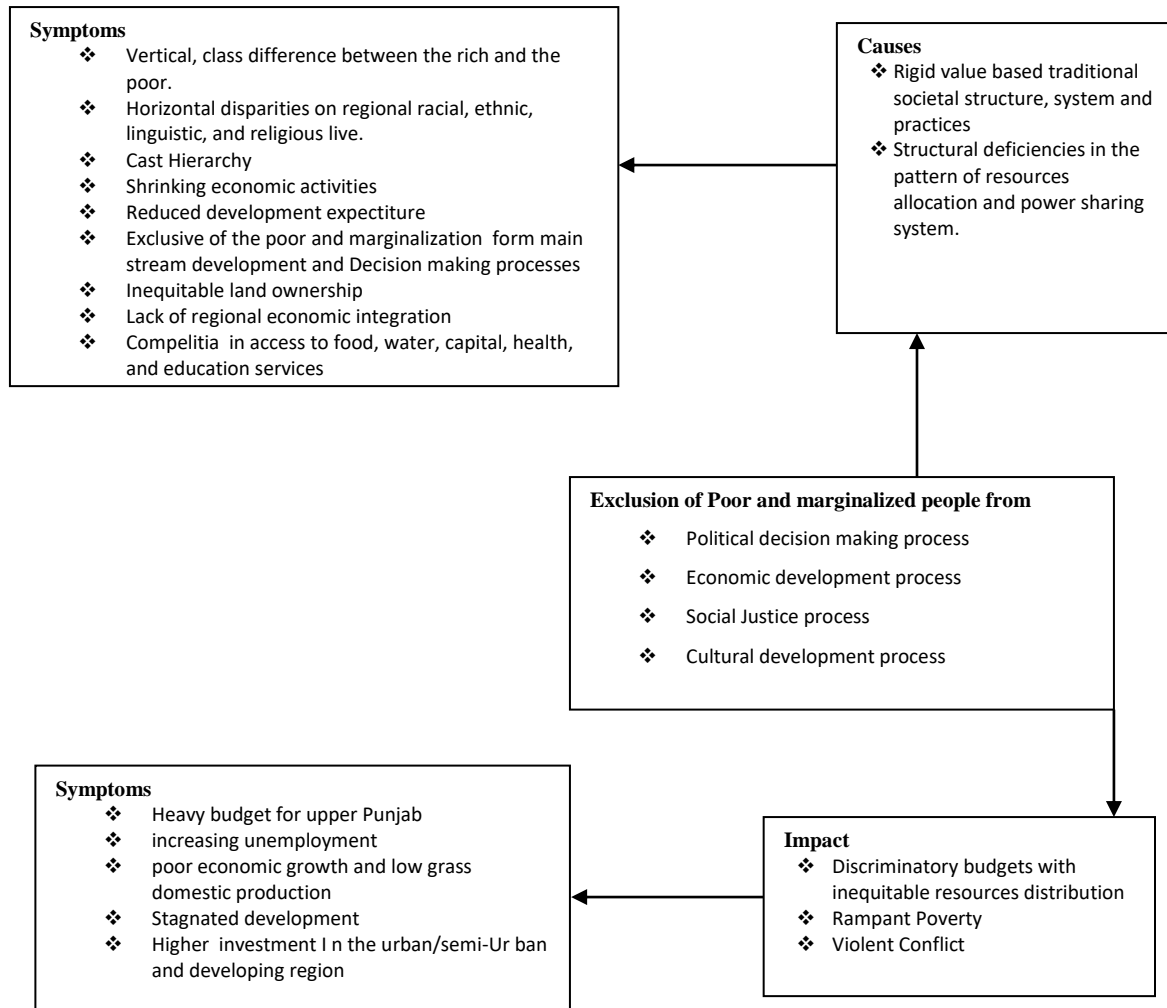
Almost all members of the house hold are involved in farming. Women help their husband in fields, to feed animals and poultry. Their methods of faming are also out dated which do not give them much income. Some people have shops. They start their business with very little amount, while does not give them better output and they remain in the same economic condition. Few get jobs in military force and are recruited on border. In this way they are forced by the Sardars to do what they want for their benefit.

Politically these tribal areas are excluded because the people have no other choice but to vote for the feudal and other influential that enjoys the monopoly over political and economic power. This is because people are illiterate, no facilities of education are there, they are not aware of their rights even, in this way their fate only depends on the Sardar, and whatever they spare for them they accept it. So these tribal areas are suffering from political social and economic exclusion.

Southern Punjab is facing social, economic and political exclusion since long and for the purpose of this study since the establishment of Pakistan. All the facilities on behalf of the government are given or rather bestowed upon the people of upper Punjab. Because of this reasons Southern Punjab could not develop yet.

The people living in the areas of Southern Punjab do not like the people of upper Punjab. They think upper Punjab is exploiting their rights. Pakistan is an agricultural country and mainly the income of the country is based on the agriculture of the Southern Punjab. Though these areas are fulfilling the maximum needs of the country still they are subject to all types of exclusion.

Chart Showing the Causes and Impact of Exclusion



Source: Anand Aditya (2007) the inclusive state Reflection on reinventing Nepal
SAP- Publishing House, p.8

Conclusion

The people excluded socially are facing exclusion in the form of deprivation in almost all aspects of life, such as education, health facilities, employments etc. These excluded people are forced to live the life which is full of miseries, if they

are not getting their basic needs properly how they can play their part for the development of their country. Excluded communities are not only facing deprivation regarding the basic needs rather in legislative structure they are not been given equal rights. These excluded groups are facing poverty, illiteracy, low mortality and low standard of life and lack of basic necessities than the other communities, not facing exclusion.

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