

CAUSE OF SOCIAL EXCLUSION

Social exclusion describes a process by which certain groups are systematically disadvantaged because they are discriminated against on the basis of their ethnicity, race, religion, sexual orientation, caste, descent, gender, age, disability, HIV status, migrant status or where they live. Discrimination occurs in public institutions, such as the legal system or education and health services, as well as social institutions like the household.

social exclusion is a complex and multidimensional process. Specifically, the definition adopted here recognises that social exclusion involves the lack or denial of resources, rights, goods and services, and the inability to participate in the normal relationships and activities, available to the majority of people in a society, whether in economic, social, cultural or political arenas. It affects both the quality of life of individuals and the equity and cohesion of society as a whole (Levitas et al 2007).

Four key forms of social exclusion

(Political Exclusion)	Economic exclusion
•Denial of rights, freedom of expression and equality of opportunity	•Lack of access to labour markets, credit and other capital assets
Cultural exclusion	Social exclusion
•Diverse values, norms and ways of living are not accepted or respected	Reduced opportunity and access due to gender, ethnicity, age and disability

- **Political exclusion** can include the denial of citizenship rights such as political participation and the right to organise, and also of personal security, the rule of law, freedom of expression and equality of opportunity. Bhalla and Lapeyre (1997: 420) argue that political exclusion also involves the notion that the state, which grants basic rights and civil liberties, is not a neutral agency but a vehicle of a society's dominant classes, and may thus discriminate between social groups.
- **Economic exclusion** includes lack of access to labour markets, credit and other forms of 'capital assets'.
- **Social exclusion** may take the form of discrimination along a number of dimensions including gender, ethnicity and age, which reduce the opportunity for such groups to gain access to social services and limits their participation in the labour market.
- **Cultural exclusion** refers to the extent to which diverse values, norms and ways of living are accepted and respected.

DRIVERS OF SOCIAL EXCLUSION

A. Low income

- Associated with unemployment

- Impacts on opportunities in other areas (costs)
- Disabled people are among the most low paid

B. Unemployment

- Reduces social networks and income
- Associated with ill-health, low education attainment
- Disability and perceptions of ability can reduce unemployment opportunities for disabled people

C. Education

- Predicts adult employment and earning
- Impacts on health, depression, and civic participation, interaction skills and motivation
- Affected by child and family characteristics, school factors, the relationships between parents and school, and locality factors.

D. Transport

- Restricts access to work, education, services, food shopping and sociocultural activities
- Access hindered by costs, reliability and safety
- Disabled peoples' transport options can be limited by ability to drive and the lack of accessible public transport options

E. Housing

- Poor housing and homelessness contributes to poor health and wellbeing
- * Housing is affected by its cost and people's income
- Low level of pay and unemployment experienced by disabled people can result in poor living conditions

F. Physical and mental health

- Drugs, alcohol, poor mental health and teenage pregnancy are drivers and consequences of social exclusion
- Impacts upon employment, housing, income and access to services and social networks

G. Discrimination

- Reinforces disadvantage and affects people's self-perception, self-esteem and self-confidence Features of local areas
- Crime, fear of crime, local economies and lack of social network

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