CONCEPTUAL ANALYSIS ON SOCIAL EXCLUSION

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Abstract: *Social exclusion highlights multidimensional sociological aspects with profound implications. Essentially, social exclusion is caused by poverty, deprivation and unemployment. The main forms of social exclusion are based on cases concerning human race, nationality, religion, social status, ethnicity, political affiliation, belief, gender, sexual orientation, age, educational status, language, disability and other criteria. More generally, social exclusion is a relatively new concept but the discriminatory implications of social exclusion have significant negative effects and accentuate social inequalities. Social exclusion affects particular individuals, social groups or even communities due to the lack of normal and adequate conditions which involves access to health care services, education system, social services, employment status, legal rights, technological innovation, civic life, natural resources, housing, democratic rights, economic and financial environment.*

Key words: *social exclusion, discrimination, poverty, unemployment, globalization.*

1. Introduction

The main purpose of this research article is to provide a broad perspective on the negative impact of social exclusion. The basic concept of social exclusion achieved widespread increasing relevance and significance due to its global impact. In this particular sense, the conceptual framework is very important, beyond any theoretical and practical aspects. Social exclusion is a multidimensional phenomenon of great current interest with severe implications, especially in the context of globalization. However, social exclusion is a complex process which exhibits a very dynamic behaviour. Social exclusion involves multiple negative consequences taking into account the fundamental human rights. Moreover, the complexity of interhuman implications lead to a broad definition of social exclusion. Interpersonal relationships occurring between human beings in a community or social group are essential in achieving an optimal social dimension.

Dynamic analysis methods provide a profound insight into the phenomenon of social exclusion. An exhaustive approach leads to the dissemination of a variety of definitions

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and opinions on the subject. This particular circumstance is applied in order to achieve an improved level of understanding regarding the concept of social exclusion.

2. Literature review

A literature review provides a complex perspective on the chosen subject of research.

The concept of social exclusion was first used by René Lenoir - the French Secretary of State for Social Action in the Government of Prime Minister Jacques Chirac - in 1974 who highlighted fundamental issues, i.e.:

"Saying that someone is unsuitable, marginal or asocial is simply stating that in the industrialized and urbanized society of the late twentieth century, these persons due to physical or mental, behaviour or lack of psychological training, are unable to provide for needs, or require constant care, or represent a danger to others, or are segregated either by their own decision or that of the community".

Duffy (1995) argued that social exclusion represents "low material means and inability to participate effectively in economic, social, and cultural life, alienation and distance from the mainstream society." Levitas (1996) also analyzed the concept of social exclusion and asserted that it is targeting "to devalue unpaid work and to obscure the inequalities between paid workers, as well as to obscure the fundamental social division between the property-owning class and the rest of society".

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) defined social exclusion in a broad manner and suggested that it "occurs as a result of shortcomings and failures in the systems and structures of family, community and society".

Abrams and Killen (2014) investigated relevant issues regarding the social exclusion of children and have highlighted that reducing social exclusion can be achieved considering a focused approach on "how, why, and under what conditions, children and groups make decisions to exclude others, how they experience this exclusion, and how exclusion originates and changes over the course of the lifespan". Davey and Gordon (2017) have provided an interesting perspective on the definitions of social inclusion and social exclusion based on the invisibility of mental illness and the social conditions of participation.

Walsh, Scharf and Keating (2017) have conducted research on social exclusion of older persons and have obtained conclusive results. Peters and Besley (2014) have conducted a complex theoretical research on social exclusion and inclusion considering Michel Foucault's analytics and politics of exclusion, the political ecology and etiology of social inclusion, as well as other relevant aspects regarding inclusive education.

Cooley, Elenbaas and Killen (2016) also investigated relevant aspects on intergroup social exclusion in childhood and suggested that "intergroup social exclusion-exclusion of peers on the basis of group membership-is a form of prejudice". On the other hand, Bennett (2014) investigated concluding issues regarding intergroup social exclusion in childhood.

Killen, Mulvey and Hitti (2013) discussed interesting issues regarding social exclusion in childhood and suggested that "interpersonal rejection and intergroup exclusion in

childhood reflect different, but complementary, aspects of child development". In addition, Abbott and Cameron (2014) provided an original research regarding the effect of intergroup contact, empathy, cultural openness, and in-group bias on assertive bystander intervention intentions, considering certain potential mediators, namely : "empathy," "cultural openness," "in-group bias," and "intergroup anxiety."

Silver (2007) investigated the concept of social exclusion, which the author considers to be evolving and suggested that "there are no formal exclusion thresholds to cross, as for poverty". Pfundmair, Lermer, Frey and Aydin (2015) investigated the interrelation between construal level and social exclusion and emphasized a decreased "abstraction discount effect for the consequences of social exclusion." Rutland and Killen (2015) conducted research based on a developmental science approach focused on significant issues such as reducing prejudice, discrimination and social exclusion.

3. Conceptual Framework

In spite of the multitude of views and opinions, there is no universally agreed definition of social exclusion. As a concept, social exclusion is related to the attitude of the social majority towards a marginalized or vulnerable social category, which is obviously a minority. On measurement, social exclusion reaches a multidimensional framework, both theoretically and operationally. Furthermore, a broad definition of social exclusion is fundamentally linked to the concept of poverty but these concepts are not identical and would be carefully analyzed individually.

The concept of social exclusion is not perceived in a similar way on the theoretical level. In other words, some authors are more radical in framing the phenomenon of social exclusion between certain conceptual boundaries. As a defining feature, social exclusion generally affects social groups, not individuals.

Combating poverty and social exclusion are current challenges for most of the world's countries. Social exclusion is a complex process that is based on a multitude of generating causes. Moreover, social exclusion is a process closely linked to the norms and customs of society. Inevitably, these issues sometimes generate a discriminatory attitude and lead to the marginalization of certain social groups.

Employment status is a cause of social exclusion, but it would be fundamentally erroneous to limit the conceptual analysis exclusively to this aspect. Specifically, the concept of social exclusion highlights the fact that certain social groups are systematically disadvantaged, marginalized and discriminated based on criteria such as ethnicity, religion, sex, origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, race and many others. For example, the employee status depends on the education level, certain skills, health, and many others.

In addition, assuming that social exclusion is defined more broadly, the socio-economic, cultural, ethnic, financial, and moral implications are extremely complex and cannot be ignored. Environmental conditions lead to the marginalization of certain social groups due to very heterogeneous influence factors.

Social exclusion is not the basic characteristic of people who are not employed. Naturally, employed people, even self-employed people are also affected by various

forms of social exclusion. Moreover, certain socio-economic characteristics generate social marginalization or social exclusion.

Practically, unemployment has the most serious implications due to its negative consequences on living standards, wellbeing and quality of life. The social well-being and economic development exhibit strategic importance in the context of disseminating the term of social exclusion. However, in order to better understand the concept of social exclusion we cannot ignore the interdependence and causality between certain factors of influence.

4. Causes, Forms and Consequences of Social Exclusion

Social exclusion leads to physical marginalization and segregation. The social groups affected by social exclusion are isolated towards the margins of the society. In most cases, groups affected by social exclusion live in peripheral areas. The extreme manifestation of social exclusion provides a much more serious situation as is the case of homeless people. The acts of discrimination prejudice and stigmatizing are unavoidable effects of social exclusion.

Social exclusion is a significant impediment in achieving sustainable development, economic growth and poverty alleviation. The measurement of social exclusion requires much more than a quantitative approach, but also involves a qualitative dimension. Moreover, social exclusion in the context of globalization is a significant challenge for government authorities. However, the risk of social exclusion affects both developing countries and developed countries.

The consequences of social exclusion have significant social, economic, financial, but also psychological implications. Social exclusion policy should provide a strengthened alternative according to the environment in which the individual lives. Furthermore, government programme to combat social exclusion must be based on sustainable strategies and long-term social reforms.

The severe manifestations of social exclusion have dramatic effects on marginalized social groups. In spite of the fact that, social exclusion is often associated with poverty these concepts are not similar, and their implications only overlap up to a certain point of reference. Social exclusion has overwhelming effects on the equitable access to public and private services, employment conditions, health care interventions or quality education services, social resources.

A marginalized group in society is much more exposed to criminal or violent interactions. Social exclusion is massively dissipated among various social groups such as unemployed persons, older people, and children with disabilities or people with a severe long-term health condition. People who are marginalized or excluded are very vulnerable and predictable as a potential crime victim based on behavioral characteristics or features influenced by the living environment.

5. Conclusions

Social exclusion is a multidimensional concept with significant implications, especially in the context of globalization. Poverty and social exclusion are a major challenge for each country but the multidimensional aspect of the problem is much more complex. The reduction of social exclusion is a very important goal for government authorities. However, social exclusion is still a major problem for modern societies, especially in the context of globalization.

Social exclusion is generally perceived as a social phenomenon with severe negative implications. Moreover, social exclusion is not an isolated or temporary incident. The objective of sustainable government program is based on poverty eradication and social inclusion in terms of social protection policy.

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