



**Social Exclusion of Minorities: An Investigation of Multi-dimensional Social Disadvantage faced by Pakistani Minorities**

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**ABSTRACT**

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Minorities as numerically inferior and culturally distinct groups are often marginalized and isolated throughout the world. The aim of this research is to understand the nature and extent of social exclusion faced by religious minorities in Pakistan. The objectives of study are; to assess the level of social exclusion among non-Muslim minorities and examine the various factors contributing to social exclusion. Additionally, it investigates the associations between these attributes of social exclusion. The questionnaire includes a series of statements and questions that cover all dimensions of the variable being measured. 220 heads of minority families were selected by employing multistage sampling. Participants were interviewed by experienced interviewers using an interview schedule. The results indicate that the majority of participants (59.1%) perceive that they experience high level of exclusion, while 26.8% face moderate exclusion, and 14.1% are at a low level of social exclusion. Hypothesis testing examines the level of exclusion faced by different minority groups. The study reveals that the Christian minority experiences higher level of exclusion compared to other minority groups such as Hindus, Sikhs, probably because they are more materially deprived. This study demonstrates the positive association between various factors contributing to social exclusion, such as material deprivation, limited access to civil rights, low social participation and political disengagement.

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## **Introduction**

Social exclusion is a term that encompasses the challenges faced by individuals who are unable to fully engage in various aspects of society, including the economy, social participation, politics, and cultural activities. The concept of social exclusion refers to a series of interconnected phenomena that emerge from various spheres of the economy, politics, and society. These processes gradually create a sense of distance and inferiority for individuals, groups, and communities from the mainstream of society and even from centers of power and resources. Estivill (2003) highlights the cumulative nature of social exclusion and its impact on marginalized populations. Deficiencies across multiple dimensions related to the concept of full citizenship and the delivery of social services are at the heart of this issue. Social exclusion, commonly understood as the state of being socially excluded, is a phenomenon that affects individuals in various ways. It involves the process of being excluded from social participation and can have significant implications for one's well-being and sense of belonging to the state. According to Gijbers and Vrooman (2007), social exclusion is at the same time dynamic and static. It is a phenomenon that undermines social justice and manifests itself in two significant ways: firstly, it undermines the principle of equality of opportunity, and secondly, it hampers individuals' ability to actively engage in politics and societal life.

Social exclusion is often mistaken for the concept of poverty at first glance. However, these two concepts are distinct and should not be conflated. Although poverty is often perceived as closely linked to social exclusion, in certain aspects, there are indeed crucial distinctions to be made. Poverty refers to a lack of financial resources, whereas social exclusion employs a broader range of factors that can contribute to the social isolation and marginalization of certain groups. These factors include limited political participation, social injustice, social insecurity, illness, geographical isolation, restricted religious freedom, discrimination, inadequate access to social rights, and low levels of social engagement (Gijbers & Vrooman, 2007; Beall & Pivon, 2005). Poverty and social exclusion are two distinct yet interconnected concepts. While poverty is generally seen as a static state, social exclusion is dynamic and characterized by various dimensions.

The distinction between social exclusion and social isolation is also an important one, with social isolation referring to the non-participation of individuals or groups in mainstream societal institutions. In contrast, social exclusion is a narrower concept that involves only those cases where social isolation is present (Liamputtong & Rice, 2021). Social exclusion is a global issue that affects numerous individuals throughout the world, and its causes often lie outside the realm of personal control. Social isolation is voluntary in nature. Social exclusion is a phenomenon where certain groups intentionally distance themselves from the established institutions of society (Estivill, 2003). There are various factors that serve as catalysts for the exclusion of certain groups. Simultaneously, individuals within these groups may willingly choose to isolate themselves. Social exclusion is a multifaceted concept that includes both a condition or outcome and a dynamic process. It refers to the exclusion and isolation experienced by individuals or groups within society. Social exclusion, as a state or outcome, refers to the condition in which people or some segments

are unable to fully engage in the social, economic, and political life of society. It is a phenomenon that restricts individuals from accessing resources, opportunities, and social interactions, thereby limiting their ability to lead a life with full social participation (Barry, 2002; Capotorti, 1998).

Social exclusion, a complex and ever-evolving issue, involves a range of social interactions and structural obstacles that restrict individuals from achieving sustainable livelihoods, personal growth, and equitable participation in society. The creation or perpetuation of poverty and inequality, as well as the limitation of social participation, are among the potential consequences associated with it. Social exclusion is an issue that can affect any individual; however, certain groups, including religious minorities, ethnic communities, and women, often find themselves particularly vulnerable to the perils of social exclusion (Levitas et al., 2007). It is widely recognized as both an outcome and a process, making it a significant area of interest for researchers and policymakers alike. Social exclusion is a multifaceted issue associated with a range of factors, such as demographics, economics, social dynamics, and individual behaviors. Consequently, individuals from specific backgrounds and with particular experiences often face a higher likelihood of being excluded from society. Social exclusion poses a significant risk to certain individuals and communities, with the burden being disproportionately borne by those who are already economically disadvantaged (SPRU, 2004). The hazards of social exclusion extend beyond individuals to encompass the well-being of both the state and society at large. It affects individuals in various ways, for instance, through discrimination, insecurity, and underachievement in education and the labor market. Those who experience social exclusion often face challenges such as low income, poor housing, a lack of self-esteem, and increased stress levels. Additionally, it can have detrimental effects on their overall health and well-being, as well as hinder their ability to integrate into society.

There are various outcomes of social exclusion at the individual as well as societal level. Social exclusion has an impact on the individual's sense of ownership of the state. When specific segments of society are marginalized and left out, it has detrimental consequences. The exclusion of certain individuals often results in their voluntary social isolation. Inevitably, societal disintegration becomes a reality. In the diverse societies of today's world, the presence of social exclusion poses significant challenges. When certain groups face marginalization, the consequences can be far-reaching, impacting various aspects of community life, from a low degree of social cohesion and increased crime rates to heightened fear and insecurity. Additionally, political disengagement, limited mobility, and a lack of normative integration further complicate the issues (Myck, Waldegrave, & Dahlberg, 2021). Social exclusion can have far-reaching consequences for individuals, leading to a range of negative outcomes, such as material deprivation. Determining the precise and causal relationship between various factors and social exclusion poses a significant challenge. Social exclusion can have a complex relationship with various factors. In particular, it is noteworthy that certain variables can serve as both a cause and a consequence of exclusion. Solanki, Choudhury, & Das (2020).

## **1.2 Minorities of Pakistan and Social Exclusion**

The term 'minority' refers to a specific group of citizens who find themselves in a numerically

inferior position and hold a non-dominant position within the state. These individuals may possess distinct ethnic, religious, or linguistic characteristics that set them apart from the majority. United by a shared sense of solidarity, they are driven by a collective desire to not only survive but also achieve equality with the majority, both constitutionally and culturally. Across the world, minority groups face significant disadvantages, as power tends to be concentrated within the majority. In a minority context, Pakistan is no exception. In Pakistan, being a member of a minority group is often determined by factors such as religion (Faruqi, 2011). While there are various other factors that determine minority status, one is having a religion different from Islam (Jivan & Jacob, 2012). Pakistani minorities, comprising approximately 4 to 5 percent of the country's overall population, play a significant role in the diverse fabric of Pakistan. Pakistan is home to a diverse array of religious minorities, including Christians, Hindus, Ahmadis, Sikhs, Parsis, Zikris, Bahais, and Kalasha. According to the latest population census, the Muslim community constitutes a significant majority of 96 percent of the total population. Hindus and Christians make up 1.6 percent each, while Ahmadi's account for 0.22 percent. The remaining 0.07 percent is comprised of various other religious groups, including Sikhs, Parsis, and Buddhists (Sajida et al., 2022).

The definition of citizens in Pakistan, as determined in the country's constitution, categorizes individuals into two groups: Muslims and non-Muslims. Non-Muslims refer to individuals who do not fall within the category of Muslims. There are certain factors in the course of China's history that resulted in a heightened level of social vulnerability for marginalized groups. This manifested in various ways, such as limited access to education, job opportunities, and adequate healthcare (Faruqi, 2011). Since Pakistan is a poor country, minority individuals not only bear the burden of living in a poor and non-welfare state but also face the additional hardship of being a member of minority groups. These challenges the country faces include terrorism, political underdevelopment, religious sectarianism, and extremism. In certain situations, the vulnerability of minority groups becomes significantly heightened. Pakistan's flag is a symbol of the nation's diversity, with the white color representing the non-Muslim minorities within the country. The constitution of Pakistan, in line with the vision of its founder, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, upholds the principles of equality, protection, and freedom for all minority groups, but there are certain social, political, cultural, and historical factors that make the minority population vulnerable and marginalized (Lak, Yasin, & Khan, 2022). Emerging non-tolerant attitudes in society make minorities even more threatened. Minority individuals, especially Christians, often experience restricted access to white-collar jobs while being limited to menial roles (Nazeerudin, 2012).

### **1.3 Rationale of the study**

This study examines social exclusion experienced by non-Muslim minorities living in Sargodha District and factors associated with the exclusion. Chugtai (2013) concludes that minorities in Pakistan, due to their heightened vulnerability to social inequalities and injustice, have become increasingly disengaged from various aspects of societal life, including social, political, and economic activities. The problem demands immediate attention due to its significant negative impacts on societal integration (Faruqi, 2011). The sociological exploration of social exclusion of minorities and its underlying causes remains largely ignored in Pakistan. This study is an effort to

empirically operationalize the concept of social exclusion, along with studying its determinants within the Pakistani context. In Pakistan, the study of minority communities often centers on the pervasive issues of discrimination and violence they face. A certain group's social disadvantages have largely gone unnoticed. This study investigates the degree of marginalization that some groups in society experience.

#### **1.4 Objectives of the Study**

1. To investigate social exclusion in the backdrop of various demographic variables
2. To study the level of social exclusion on a culturally grounded scale
3. To study the 'material deprivation' as a predictor of social exclusion of minority populations
4. To explore 'limited access to social rights' as a predictor of social exclusion
5. To explore the relationship between various predictors of social exclusion

#### **2.1 Literature Review**

The World Bank, European Union, OECD, and UN use various measures and indicators to examine absolute deprivation, relative deprivation, and inequality in global development and economic analysis. These organizations, each with their own methods and frameworks, aim to investigate and address global poverty and inequities. The global financial institution, the World Bank, uses several measures to measure absolute deprivation and inequality. The World Bank measures global poverty and deprivation by analyzing income, education, health, and access to essential services (Bak, 2018). Data collected by the World Bank informs policy decisions and activities to reduce poverty and promote inclusive development. The European Union, with many member states, studies absolute and relative deprivation using various methods. The European Union analyzes income disparity, social exclusion, and material deprivation to understand its diverse population's socio-economic issues. This information forms the basis for policies and initiatives to promote social cohesion and reduce disparities in Europe.

The UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) provides a deep understanding of social exclusion measurement. It discusses the many issues of quantifying and assessing social exclusion. Social exclusion—the systematic marginalization and deprivation of individuals or groups from full participation in social, economic, and political spheres—is complicated and difficult to measure. The study identifies social exclusion indicators' concepts and features. These indicators help researchers and policymakers understand social exclusion's many facets. This article explains the foundations behind social exclusion indicators and their important qualities that make them excellent tools for studying and addressing this issue. A full study of social exclusion must include objective and subjective aspects (Bak, 2018). Scholars contend that a full knowledge of social exclusion requires both reliable, quantitative evidence and firsthand accounts. Objective social exclusion analysis requires empirical evidence that can be quantified and verified through rigorous research methodologies. This method helps researchers uncover and quantify exclusion indicators such as economic inequality, resource scarcity, and unequal opportunities.

Scholars identify patterns, trends, and structural causes of social exclusion by using an objective perspective. However, social exclusion victims' subjective experiences are equally important. Subjective investigation examines the lives, feelings, and perspectives of social outcasts. Researchers can better comprehend social exclusion by including victims' perspectives and experiences. This approach recognizes people's unique circumstances and the human impact of exclusion on well-being and belonging (Levitas, 2006; Duffy, 1995). Researchers have focused on social exclusion, a complex and multifaceted issue, by combining objective and subjective viewpoints. Exclusion from economic, social, and civic life is interrelated. These factors are interconnected and contribute to social exclusion. Social exclusion has been intensively studied and regarded as a complicated issue and the consequence of many factors. This perspective recognizes that social exclusion is caused by a convergence of various, connected deprivations across dimensions. These categories include individual traits, exclusion drivers, and local circumstances. By understanding social exclusion's complexity, scholars and policymakers have worked to understand its causes. They realize that socially excluded people often face many risks and disadvantages that reinforce each other. Economic insecurity, insufficient education and healthcare, prejudice, and social isolation are examples of these dangers. Additionally, both societal and structural factors as well as individual traits contribute to social exclusion. Systemic inequities, discrimination, and unequal resources and opportunities can be drivers. The combination of individual and structural factors causes social exclusion (Wang, Kwan, & Hu, 2020). To conclude, social exclusion is a complicated product of individual traits, exclusion drivers, and local contextual circumstances. Researchers and policymakers can better understand social exclusion and devise focused interventions by investigating these dimensions.

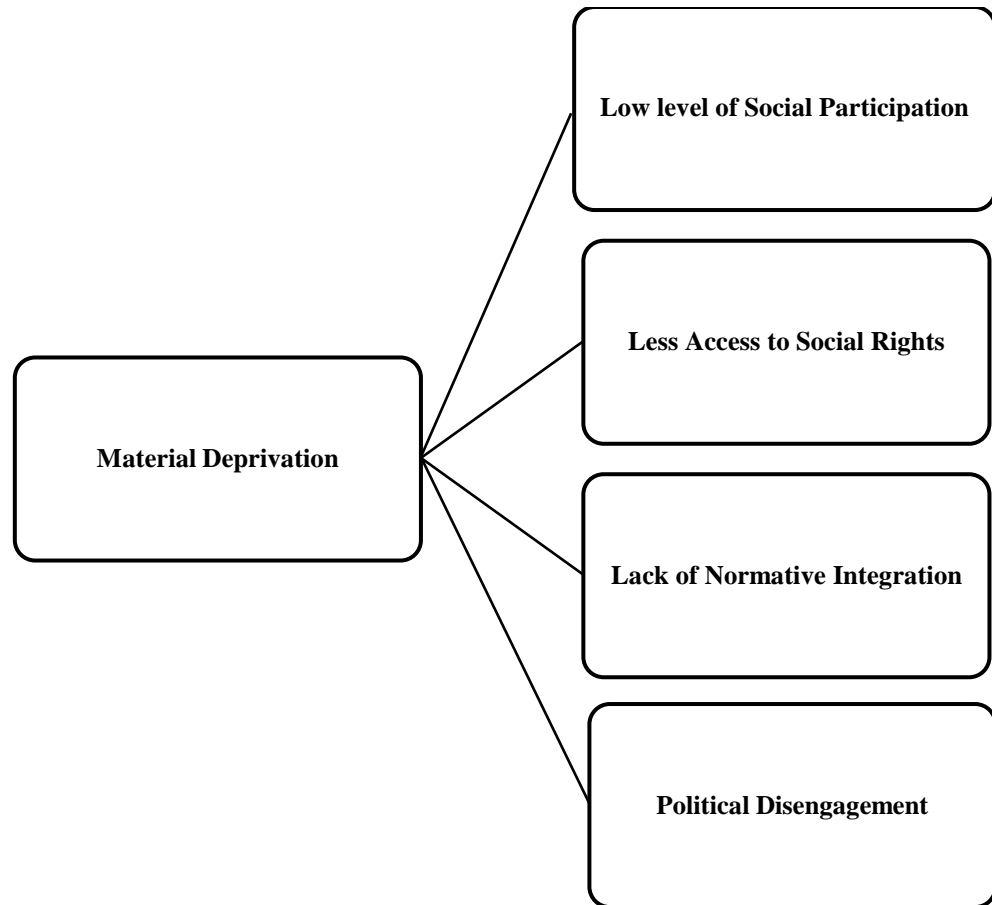
Theories posit that people have many traits that make them vulnerable to social exclusion, including race, religion, age, gender, and disability, which often affect health, education, access to resources and opportunities, and asset ownership (Chakravarty & D'Ambrosio, 2006). Identity characteristics can greatly impact a person's social experiences and prospects. The complex interaction between hazards and social exclusion factors in specific local circumstances determines individual exclusion. National, local, and regional variables shape people's environments. These drivers have a great impact on people's daily lives. National government policies, rules, and regulations affect the environment. These include economic policies that affect job availability and income distribution and environmental restrictions that affect air, water, and land quality. Social and cultural variables, including school policies, healthcare systems, and social welfare programs, also influence transportation. Factors might be structural, behavioral, or policy-related.

To better understand social exclusion, the researchers carefully selected eight indicators for each of the three categories. These indicators explain the causes of social exclusion. The researchers aim to help policymakers, scholars, and practitioners assess social exclusion by defining these indicators. Economic exclusion is characterized by income inequality, limited job prospects, a high percentage of discouraged job seekers, and denial of financial services (Vrooman & Hoff, 2013).

In their important work, Gijssbers and Vrooman (2007) explore social exclusion as a

multidimensional phenomenon. The idea is operationalized by material deprivation, lack of access to social rights, limited social engagement, and a lack of normative integration. Low income, aid dependency, and language barriers can all contribute to social exclusion. These additional aspects exacerbate social exclusion. Low-income limits access to key resources and opportunities, causing social exclusion. Financial constraints often prevent low-income people from getting decent education, healthcare, and housing. This economic disadvantage perpetuates isolation, making it harder for people to escape social exclusion. This study shows that measuring social exclusion separately from income and work participation is valuable. This study proves that wealth, work, and unemployment only partially explain social exclusion. These factors are linked to social exclusion; however, the association is not complete. Independent of other circumstances, individual traits have been found to influence social exclusion. Health and national language competency are important considerations in this situation (Gijsbers and Vrooman, 2007; Turyatunga, 2010).

Social exclusion is an intricate and multidimensional phenomenon. It includes the deprivation or denial of resources, services, commodities, and provisions, as well as the inability to participate in normal social interactions and pursuits in the economic, social, cultural, and political sectors. It affects society's cohesiveness and fairness beyond the individual level. Policy literature identifies "social exclusion" as a multifaceted form of disadvantage. Based on this criterion, "deep exclusion" and social inclusion are difficult to separate. Social exclusion has several causes and severity levels. It has negative effects on individuals and communities. Social exclusion is well-known, yet its degree varies. Social exclusion is the process through which people or groups are excluded or denied access to social, economic, and political spheres. Deep exclusion represents exclusion that goes beyond a particular domain or level of disadvantage. It involves being excluded from numerous aspects of life, which negatively influences an individual's quality of life, well-being, and future. Social exclusion and related themes have several indices to assess and comprehend this intricate phenomenon. However, many of these indices are descriptive rather than analytical, making it difficult to understand the complex relationships between variables (Loktieva, 2016). The study of social exclusion through multivariate analysis has yielded results of varying quality, with inconsistencies in the definitions of social exclusion and the domains and indicators used in these analyses. The difference between "deep exclusion" and social exclusion, as well as their causes, is unclear. The establishment of causality in social science is difficult. A wealth of convincing social scientific evidence demonstrates that poverty is a risk factor in many exclusionary sectors. Bradshaw et al. (2004) emphasized the importance of distinguishing macro-indicators that increase social exclusion from those that affect specific manifestations of it, such as homelessness, in their seminal work. The paper emphasizes the need to identify the causes and correlates of the issue.



### 3.0 Methodology

This study's epistemological emphasis is positivism. The issue under investigation and the researcher's epistemological orientation (positivism) necessitate a quantitative research approach, as the positivist social sciences are deemed the most effective method for exploring facts objectively. Data were collected through the cross-sectional survey method. The survey method is very useful for getting access to a large number of people and studying their perspectives on specific issues. In the present study, interviews with household heads are conducted using an interview schedule. The interview schedule was prepared after a thorough analysis of the literature and a focused group discussion with stakeholders. To verify the reliability of the tool, Cronbach Alpha was used through SPSS. Alpha remained between 0.7 and 1.0, indicating that all items or statements are highly correlated and representative of a single concept. The population of the study was a minority population residing in the district of Sargodha. Multistage sampling was used to collect a sample of 220 family heads from areas where minority communities are based. Using SPSS, an index variable (social exclusion) was created. Chi square and correlation coefficient statistics were employed to measure associations between variables in the study.

#### Study Hypotheses

1. The Christian minority perceives themselves as socially more excluded than other minority groups.
2. Higher income levels are negatively associated with a high level of social exclusion.



3. Material deprivation is a strong predictor of ‘lack of social participation.
4. Less social participation’ is positively associated with less political engagement.

#### 4.0 Results

#### 4.0 Results and Discussion

**Table 4.1 Index Variables (Social Exclusion) Construction**

**Index variable construction:**

Variable	No. of items in Matrix Question	No. of categories in Index variable	Min. Score	Max. Score	Mean Score	SD	Alpha value
Social exclusion	76	3	29	152	110.69	33.15	.935
Material Deprivation	15	3	.00	28.00	19.4545	8.44389	.972
normative disintegration	12	3	2.00	21.00	13.5045	4.22052	.799
Less social participation	11	3	1.00	24.00	15.4773	6.73466	.898
Less access to social rights	10	3	.00	22.00	14.6909	7.05716	.886
Political Disengagement	13	3	5.00	24.00	18.3773	4.63542	.856
Discrimination being member of minority group	16	3	10.00	36.00	29.1909	5.71467	.831

Table shows the computational procedure employed for the "Social Exclusion" variable, which is the primary construct of investigation in this study. Social exclusion was measured through the identification of its five determinants, with each determinant being assessed using a specific set of questions. The data collection process involved the recording of responses using three alternative scales. A comprehensive range of 77 statements was examined, encompassing all factors contributing to social Exclusion. The index variable "social exclusion" exhibits a range of scores, with the highest recorded value being 152 and the lowest recorded value being 29. The range of scores is 123. Three distinct categories or degrees for the index variable "social exclusion" were established. The number 123 is divided by 3, resulting in the determination of class intervals for each category, with each interval being equal to 41. The social exclusion index variable can be divided into three categories. The first category represents a low level of social exclusion, with values ranging from 29 to 70. The second category reflects a medium level of social exclusion, with values ranging from 71 to 111. Lastly, the third category indicates a high social exclusion index variable, with values ranging from 112 to 152.

**Table 4.2 Association between religious identity and level of Social Exclusion**

Religious orientation	Exclusion			Total
	Low (29-70)	Medium (71-111)	High (112-152)	
Christian	4 3.3%	9 7.4%	108 89.3%	121 100.0%
Others (Hindu, Sikh, Ahmadis etc.)	27 27.3%	50 50.5%	22 22.2%	99 100.0%
Total	31 14.1%	59 26.8%	130 59.1%	220 100.0%

Chi-square = 101.26      d.f. = 2      P-value = .000\*\*

Table 4.2 illustrates the correlation between religious affiliation and the exclusion of minority groups within society. The obtained chi-square value of 101.26 indicates a statistically significant relationship (P = .000) between religious identity and the social exclusion of minority groups. The above table illustrates that a significant proportion (89.3%) of those identifying as Christians experienced a notable degree of social exclusion. In contrast, other minority groups, including Hindus, Sikhs, and others, face a moderate level (50.5%) of social exclusion. The hypothesis that Christian minorities experienced higher levels of social exclusion in comparison to other minority groups has been validated. Christians, especially those residing in Sargodha, experience higher poverty compared to other minority groups, as they face greater material deprivation and are often employed in blue-collar occupations, predominantly engaging in menial labor. Other minorities, including Hindus and Sikhs, typically perceive them to be at a moderate or medium level of exclusion. There is significant variation among Christians and other minority groups with regard to material deprivation. The responses of all minority groups exhibit a high degree of similarity with regard to the determinants of 'lack of normative integration' and 'lack of access to social rights and insecurity'. In summary, the Christian minority experiences a higher degree of material deprivation, poverty, and social exclusion compared to other minority groups.

**Table 4.3 Association between family income (per month) and respondent's' perceived level of social exclusion**

Income (Rs.)	Social Exclusion			Total
	Low (29-70)	Medium (71-111)	High (112-152)	
Up to 25000	5 8.7%	7 12.3%	45 78.9%	57 100.0%
26000-50000	6 7.9%	24 31.6%	46 60.5%	76 100.0%
Above 50000	20 23.0%	28 32.2%	39 44.8%	87 100.0%
Total	31 14.1%	59 26.8%	130 59.1%	220 100.0%

Chi-square = 12.19      d.f. = 4      P-value = .036\*  
 Gamma = -.214                              P-value = .048\*

Table 4.3 depicts the relationship between the respondents' income and their perceived amount of social isolation. The chi-square statistics (12.18) indicate a significant ( $P = .035$ ) correlation between the household income of people and social exclusion. The gamma value indicates a negative correlation between the two variables. The data indicates a negative correlation between the economic prosperity of the participants and their level of social isolation. The table demonstrates that a significant proportion (79%) of those with low income (up to Rs. 25,000) and middle income (Rs. 26,000–50,000) experienced high levels of social exclusion. On the other hand, respondents with high incomes (above Rs. 50,000) encountered moderate (32.2%) to high (44.8%) levels of social exclusion. The theory that states a negative correlation between the income level of minorities and the amount of social exclusion has been confirmed. Research on social exclusion indicates that money has a significant role in determining "material deprivation," "social engagement," and "social exclusion." Individuals with more wealth are less likely to experience social marginalization. Furthermore, the data indicates that the Christian minority tends to experience poverty and have a lower socioeconomic level, whereas other minority groups such as Hindus, Sikhs, and Ahmadis usually have more favorable economic circumstances.

**Table 4.4 Pearson Correlation Analysis: Showing relationship between various antecedents of Social Exclusion**

Variables	Material Deprivation	Less normative integration	Low social participation	Little access to social rights and insecurity	Political Disengagement	Discrimination
Material Deprivation	1	.773**	.862**	.795**	.700**	.704**
Less normative integration	.773**	1	.816**	.728**	.635**	.670**
Less social participation	.862**	.816**	1	.829**	.740**	.756**
Little access to social rights	.795**	.728**	.829**	1	.846**	.823**
Political Disengagement	.700**	.635**	.740**	.846**	1	.764**
Discrimination being member of minority group	.704**	.670**	.756**	.823**	.764**	1

\*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

\*\*. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

### Discussion

The correlation coefficient indicates a positive relationship between the material deprivation experienced by minority groups and their limited social participation. The coefficient

value of .862 indicates a statistically significant positive association between the two variables. This implies that individuals experiencing higher levels of material deprivation are more likely to encounter limited social participation. According to the data presented in the table, the correlation coefficient indicates a positive relationship between material deprivation and the variable 'little access to social rights'. The coefficient value exhibits a positive correlation. The number 0.759 demonstrates a robust association between material hardship and the absence of social rights. Therefore, those who encounter elevated degrees of economic hardship will encounter more significant obstacles in obtaining social rights. The correlation coefficient demonstrates a positive association between low social involvement and 'political disengagement'. The coefficient value indicates a positive association. The statistics indicate a substantial link between restricted social involvement and decreased political involvement. This implies that individuals who experience a greater degree of social exclusion are more likely to exhibit higher levels of political disengagement. According to the correlation coefficient, there is a significant association between less normative integration and a lack of social participation. The coefficient value is positive. The value of .816\*\* indicates a significant correlation between less normative integration and low levels of social participation. This shows that individuals who experience less normative integration will exhibit a low degree of engagement in social activities.

### **Conclusion**

The goal of the research was to investigate the perceived level of 'social exclusion among minority groups living in District Sargodha, Punjab. For this purpose, various antecedents of exclusion were identified from a review of relevant literature. Then a set of statements was prepared to study each of those antecedents. The data was collected with an interview schedule and subsequently computed into an index variable (social exclusion). The findings indicate that out of the 220 participants, 59.1% reported a high degree of 'social exclusion', 26.8% felt a medium level of exclusion, and 14.1% experienced a low level of exclusion. The results indicate that a significant majority of the sample, namely 59.1%, perceive a high degree of social exclusion. According to the correlation coefficient, there is a link between minorities' lower levels of social involvement and their material deprivation. The value of the coefficient. The data from .862 indicates that the nature of the relationship is positive. It shows that people who suffer from material deprivation lack social participation. The findings of the correlation coefficient demonstrate that material deprivation has a positive association with 'lack of access to social rights. It can be concluded that minorities suffer disadvantages on many fronts of social life. They feel unable to equally participate in the economic, political, and social life of society. They have a certain sense of insecurities, which make it hard for them to normatively integrate into society.

### **Policy Recommendation**

Research suggests certain recommendations to policymakers for the mainstreaming for minority groups in the national mainstream.

- Article 36 of the Constitution ensures safeguards for minority groups regarding their rights, interests, and various forms of freedom, as well as their quotas in federal and provincial services. This article is somehow a non-operative part of the Constitution, as it is subject

to the availability of resources. This article should be made an active part of the constitution for its proper implementation.

- Awareness should be created in society about the rights of marginalized groups. People should also be educated about the acceptance of cultural differences among minorities.
- The state should take strict action to prevent violence and terrorism against minorities.
- Policies should be introduced to increase the economic and social participation of minority groups. Minority-majority contact is a tool to attenuate prejudice against each other. So healthy intergroup social contact at different forums should be facilitated by the government.

Minorities' voices should be given due importance in policy-making forums so that they can present their issues

**Tauqeer Ahmed Lak:** Problem Identification and Model Development  
**Nasim Ahmad:** Literature search, Methodology  
**Imrana Asad:** Supervision and Drafting

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