1.2: **TYPES OF MARGINALIZATION**

To be marginalized is to be distanced from power and resources that enable self-determination in economic, political and social settings. Though there are various types of marginalization, we identify some broad types, such as social, economic, political, educational and psychological marginalization.

**Social Marginalization**

Marginality is both ascribed and acquired in a social setting. The experience of marginality arises in a number of ways. For some people, those severely impaired from birth, or those born into marginal groupings (e.g., untouchables or low castes or Dalits in Indian caste system, members of ethnic groups that suffer discrimination - the Romans in Europe, indigenous people in Australia, and on the American continent, African Caribbean people in Britain), this marginality is typically life long and greatly determines their lived experience.

For others, marginality is acquired by later disablement or by changes in the social and economic system. As global capitalism extends its reach, bringing more and more people into its system, more communities are dispossessed of lands, livelihoods, or systems of social support.

People who are socially marginalized are largely deprived of social opportunities. They may become stigmatized and are often at the receiving end of negative public attitudes. Their opportunities to make social contributions may be limited, and they may develop low self-confidence and self-esteem. Social policies and practices may mean that they have relatively limited access to valued social resources such as education and health services, housing, income, leisure activities, and work. The impact of marginalization, in terms of social exclusion, is similar, whatever the origins and processes of marginalization, irrespective of whether these are located in social attitudes such as, towards impairment, sexuality, ethnicity, and so on or, social circumstance such as closure of workplaces, absence of affordable
housing, and so on. Different people will react differently to marginalization depending on the personal and social resources available to them.

Another problem is that people born in a marginalized community lack the required social and cultural capital to participate in mainstream development processes. Their social networks are weak and vulnerable. Lack of social capital deprives an individual of access to resources, such as, economic, educational and cultural and other support systems. This creates social isolation and limits their participation in the development process.

**Economic Marginalization**

Economic marginalization as a process relates to economic structures, in particular, to the structure of markets and their integration. To the extent in the markets that some individuals or groups engage in are segmented from the others in general, these individuals can be said to be marginalized from the rest of the economy. Segmentation and exclusion may, however, have non-economic and non-financial origins, for example in discrimination by gender, caste, or ethnicity. Here, integration takes on a broader meaning. People who are experiencing marginalization are likely to have tenuous involvement in the economy. The sources of their income will vary. These experiences affect men and women differently and vary with age. Poverty and economic marginalization have both direct and indirect impacts on people's health and wellbeing.

Economic marginalization can be conceptualized as outcome or as process (or structure). Marginalization can be a static description or a dynamic characterization of how things are moving. Marginalization as the worsening position of some relative to the average, the question is whether economic inequality is one the increase. Income inequality is indeed on the increase within countries, however, the picture on income inequality between countries, and on non-income inequality is much less clear.
**Political Marginalization**

A marginalized population is a group of people that is excluded from full participation in society. Political marginalization includes the withholding of political rights, economic opportunity and social integration. Populations can suffer marginalization on both the political level and the more informal social level. Politically sanctioned modes of marginalization include prohibiting a certain group from voting or holding public office. Blacks in the United States and Jews in Germany are two of the most famous examples of marginalized populations.

Political marginalization does not allow the group to participate democratically in decision making, and, hence, they lose their right to every social, economic, and political benefit. Political empowerment is one of the most important tools for accessing other social and economic privileges. In every society, lack of political empowerment affects large sections of people, including women, ethnic minorities, migrants, disabled persons, elderly, etc. So far as gender is concerned, we find that participation by women is minimized across the globe. It is men who hold power and lead politics around the world. This is true at all levels of power in politics, whether it is party leadership, elected offices, appointed offices, or at policy making levels. This is a particularly acute problem in third world countries, where women's participation in political affairs is mostly linked with the dominant, male-oriented social cultural and religious environment. This kind of marginalization is also felt by ethnic minorities, migrants, disabled persons, elderly, etc.

Marginalization can also take the form of social ostracism. This can affect the livelihood of marginalized populations when the ostracism results in restricted work and educational opportunities.
**Educational Marginalization**

The right to education is universal and does not allow for any form of exclusion or discrimination. However, both developing and developed countries face challenges guaranteeing equal opportunities to all in accessing education and within education systems. Marginalized groups are often left behind by national educational policies denying many people their right to education. People who are marginalized are very likely to be subject to multiple layers of discrimination that is they belong to more than one marginalized group. Non-discrimination and equality are key human rights principles that apply to the right to education.

It is widely acknowledged that education has an important role to achieve a greater degree of social justice. The educational institutions are expected to equip children to the bet of their ability for securing a meaning full place in society and thus fostering process of developing are egalitarian society. However, a large number of children in India are still excluded from the educational system and hence cannot participate meaningfully in the economic, social political and cultural life of their communities.

**Psychological Marginalization**

Marginalization also brings the risk of some more psychological ideological threats. The first of these is the definition of one’s identity by others: The ideological definition of one’s marginalized identity in the interest of the dominant groups in society. All the social movements representing oppressed and marginalized groups have pinpointed and offered critiques of the phenomenon.

Young (2000) defines marginalization as exclusion from meaningful participation in society, partly because the labour market does not accommodate them proving to be one of the most dangerous form of oppression. Marginalization has the ability to cause severe material
deprivation as well as in its most extreme form can exterminate groups. Minority groups such as individuals living with disabilities (Physical or mental), women, racial minorities, aboriginal communities, elderly individuals’ single mothers and homosexuals all face marginalization due to dominant discourses within the structures of society. Material deprivation is the most common result of marginalization when material resource such as food and shelter, one unfairly dispersed in society, along with material deprivation marginalized individuals are also excluded from services programs & policies.