

# **VULNERABILITY TO DEPRIVATION FROM MATERIAL AND ECONOMIC RESOURCES AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION IN CHILDREN FROM PAKHTUN CULTURE**

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## **Abstract**

What could be the exclusionary effects of limited access to material resources and how unequal are these effects on children of different genders, religion and family types is the theme of this paper. Exclusion in children was significant but negatively associated with eating fresh fruit most days, sufficient cloths, sufficient pocket money, parent's secure employment, savings from family income, affordability for one week holiday, affordability for celebrating special occasions and affordability for toys. However, social exclusion was positively associated with family always running out of money. At multivariate level children of both genders were almost equally exposed to social exclusion by means of their access to material/economic resources. However, non-Muslim children and children from single parent families were more prone to exclusion due to their limited access to material resources. Securing optimal employment, efficient management of family resources, channelizing charity programs and securing children's dietary needs were suggested policy recommendations.

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**Keywords:** Social Exclusion, access to economic resources, children, gender

## **Introduction**

The term poverty as a strong ingredient of shaping human life embodies economic nature of disadvantage, grounded in application of a static set of indicators such as lack of income, access to quality health, education and housing, and the importance of the local milieu affecting people's well-being. Hence, a state of deprivation of people of opportunities

to work, to live healthy and secure lives, to learn, and to live out secure retirement life are indicators of disadvantage (Department of Social Security, 1999). Understanding the concept of social exclusion helps to analyze the dynamic process that causes the conditions of disadvantage in broader social and economic context, as against using static indicators like income and poverty which are meant for human growth, comfort, health and social dynamics (Commins, 2004). It emphasizes on the process of causing detachment of individuals or groups from the bulk and caters for a broader range of competences that people enjoy or fail to enjoy for a more productive life. Social exclusion is a condition, when a number of people suffer from a combination of linked problems like unemployment, low skills, low income, poor housing, high crime environment, poor health and family breakdown with other combined factors to trap individuals/areas in a spiral of disadvantage (SEU, 1997; and DSS, 1999). It is associated to the process of shutting out from one of social, economic, political and cultural system, necessary for integrating individuals in a society, usually shaped after denial to social relations, customs, where majority participates or sometime with physical incapability to participate as individual's un-controlling inabilities or lacking the decision power and integration to participate (Walker and Walker, 1997; Gordon et al., 2000; Burchardt et al., 2002; and Room, 1995). Social exclusion helps society in assessment of its performance and risks specifically with reference to social unity and individuals' prosperity".

The phenomena of social exclusion could easily be explained through two major facets i.e. denial to participate (as external) and inability to participate (as internal) (Barnes et al., 2006). The problem of exclusion could not be confined to old people; rather it further aggravates through disadvantage, especially in children. It is an outcome of dysfunctional institution whereby a person is forced to indecent situation, with the only solution left over is the abundance of resources along with provision of rights for properly addressing and functioning of human rights (Marsh et al., 1999).

Structural characteristics like poverty and equality are macro driving forces besides demographic labor market and social policies as further influencing factors for social exclusion (Silver and Miller, 2003; and Bradshaw et al., 2004). Moreover, social exclusion could further be explained as exclusion across more than one domain or dimension of disadvantages with extreme negative consequences appealing the quality of life, wellbeing and futuristic chances. This sort of exclusion which is usually termed as "deep exclusion" revolve around economic, social, political, neighborhood, individual, spatial and group aspects (Bradshaw et al., 2004; Miliband, 2006; and Levitas et al., 2007)

Atkinson et al. (2002) has presented social exclusion indicators with three levels. The first level comprise of rise of financial poverty, income

inequality, unemployment, low education, regional disparities in employment and long term unemployment. Level-2 explains these variables as financial difficulties in the household, unaffordability of some basic needs, unaffordability of consumer durables, disadvantageous housing conditions, poor health (life expectancy; self-perceived health status), infrequent contacts with friends and relatives, dissatisfaction with work or main activity. However, the third level, less tangible in indicating towards its dimensions has mostly been put as criteria as confinement to situational factor at each and every state independently (Gordon et al., 2000; Robinson and Oppenheim, 1998; and Stewart 2002).

The state of Pakistan in context of deprivations amongst children is below average, touching almost the alarming level. The most visible reason of this underdevelopment, with particular reference to gender, is the non-provision of benefits of economic growth ought to be trickled down to the needy masses. This factor resultantly gives birth to high mortality rate of almost 27% and with child mortality 19% high than nations of similar economic position. Moreover, 67% higher death rate has been noticed in girls as compared to boys within age bracket of 1-4 years. Illiteracy has adopted formidable shape of 24% with 32% higher in female and 16% in males. The school enrolments also depict a gender based discriminatory environment with some visible barriers to female education. The sociological studies conducted with respect to social exclusion in Pakistan identifies the social class as a major line of fragmentation within the social structure due to the prevailing feudalistic milieu in most part of the country, with further dividing factors like religion, class, caste and ethnicity. Social capital with specific relation to youngsters are facing a dire consequences in the situational aspects as reflected of community based division on ethnic grounds, where most of the benefits are only received by the upper class and the poor are forced to be at the back (SEU, 2002; Silver, 1998; SPARC, 2011; and Australian Government, 2009).

Futuristic vision to induct capable workforce into society demands for understanding children's problems in their voices. The research are criticized for their information based on proxy responses, where voices of children are missing and the information lack in depth to understand child's networks, relations and associated problems. The recent international approaches for studying child problems emphasize for involving children and young people's own participation by conducting research with children rather on children, where children are on foreground and their active participation acknowledged. There is a mounting need to have objective view, as how the children see their societal networks and supports around themselves, and how they want to be involved (Castillejo, 2012; James, 2007; Christensen and James, 2000; and Prout et al., 2006).

**Material and methods**

The present study was carried out in Peshawar District to determine the relationship between social exclusion and access to material/economic resources. A sample size of 500 children (12-18 years) was drawn from randomly selected seven schools and seven shopping streets through systematic sampling procedure (Cooper and Pamela, 2010).

The conceptual frame work was designed with an independent variable (access to material/economic resources, Table-1), a dependent variables (Social Exclusion in children) and gender, Religious affiliation and Family type as background variables.

**Table-1 Conceptual framework**

<b>Background variables</b>	<b>Independent Variables</b>	<b>Dependent Variables</b>
Gender Religious affiliation Family type	Access to material/economic resources	Social Exclusion in children

Keeping in view the presumed low level of understanding of children than adults, the interview schedule was constructed on dichotomous form of simple attitude scale, a sub category of rating scale. A group of attitudinal statements were pooled from available literature. The data was analyzed by using uni-variate, bi-variate and multi-variate techniques of data analysis. At uni-variate level frequencies and percentages were worked out, whereas, at bi-variate level dependent variable was indexed and cross tabbed with attitudinal statements of independent variable. At multi-variate level, both independent and dependent variables were indexed and cross tabbed to test the spuriousness of their relationship for both the gender. The variables qualified the reliability criteria for indexation i.e. Cronbach’s alpha coefficient value of more than 0.7. Chi-square test was used to test the association between the two variables. Statistical procedure devised by Tai (1978) was adopted for calculation of chi-square value.

$$\chi^2 = \sum_{i=1}^r \cdot \sum_{j=1}^c \cdot \frac{(O_{ij} - e_{ij})^2}{e_{ij}}$$

Where

$\chi^2$  = Chi-Square

$O_{ij}$  = Observed frequencies in ith row and jth column

$e_{ij}$  = expect frequencies corresponding to ith row and jth column

r = number of rows

c = number of columns

df = (r-1) (c-1) (Tai, 1978)

Condition for a chi-square test include that

1. Subjects for each group are randomly and independently selected
2. Each observation must qualify for one and only one category and
3. Sample size must fairly be large such that no expected frequency is less than 5, for r and c > 2, or < 10 if r=c=2.

Wherever, this assumption was violated in the data, Fisher Exact Test was used instead of simple Chi-square. The relationship developed by the Fisher is given in equation below (Baily, 1982);

$$\text{Fisher exact test} = \frac{(a + b)! (c + d)! (a + c)! (b + d)!}{N! a! b! c! d!}$$

Where a, b, c and d were the observed numbers in four cells of contingency Table and “n” the total number of observations.

Kendall’s Tau-b was used measure for calculating association for contingency tables. Kendall’s tau-b is most appropriate measure of association for two levels response data, where marginal distribution is uneven in 2×2 tables with many ties.

Kendall’s tau–b is expressed through formula below; (Nachmias, 1992).

$$T^b = \frac{Ns - Nd}{\sqrt{(Ns + Nd + Tx)(Ns + Nd + Tx)}}$$

Where;

$T^b$  = Kendall’s Tau-b

Ns = same order pairs

Nd = different order pairs

Tx = pairs tied on X

## Results And Discussions

### Access to material/economic resources

Resources either natural or manmade has a vital role towards meeting out the various human incumbent needs. Natural resources are God gifted, however its utilization is also needed to be passed through some mechanism of check and balance. Resources are usually measured in terms of the population size existing around, and calculated in their sufficiency to the number of persons. Increase in population is one of the detrimental factor for resources which risk for long term daring consequence, especially in a situation lacking any sound mechanism for its consumption. Economists and sociologists have come up with the notion of sustainability and population control for the coexistence of the both for a longer period of time. The access to material/economic resources, in the study area, was determined through

different items of daily usage, indicating towards the life standard of the people, either to be low or high as reflected in Table-2.

The study disclosed that a majority i.e. 57.4% respondents had access to meat three times a week, while 42.6% responded in negation. This is indicative of the fact that the availability of this basic item of food is almost in balance with little inclination towards the access end. It is imperative to mention that a big chunk of the respondents in the study area were poor and had no access to meet consumption three times a week, which is a universally declared criteria for healthy diet. Age group up to 18 years has been shown to be utilizing 20% of the total income in England mostly on their basic dietary needs. These needs are being catered through public services of Labor Party, which it showed in its manifesto 1999-2000 (Sefton, 2002). Similarly 58.8% respondents consumed fresh fruit while, 41.2% were not having access to fruit most of the days. Moreover, availability of sufficient number of cloth was endorsed by a higher proportion of respondents (66%) for their use; it is evident from the data that basic needs like food with required calories was not in abundance along with scarcity of number of cloths needed by a normal person is not per honorable standard. This act indicates towards the agonies of children with little access to these basic needs of life. Adelman et al. (2003) has also explored the deprivation mostly associated with lack of access to resources and other allied activities with its conspicuous relation with children. Deprivation is always high in children in acceding number than income poverty. This deprivation includes low intake of meat fresh fruit and insufficient clothes for both seasons (Feeny and Boyden, 2004).

Similarly, 63.2% respondents thought their pocket money was sufficient for their needs, upon the secure employment of parents it was found that 67% parents had secure employment, while, employment of 33% parents was insecure, and however, families of a great majority of respondents (82.2%) had no monthly saving in their income. It is symptomatic of restriction in taking pocket money due to the restricted employment environment, as a big chunk of respondent's parents had no permanent employment, furthermore, it could also be drawn from the data that both mode of employment, either permanent or temporary, were not sufficient enough to cater the needs of their children with little amount of saving depicted. It could be attributed that the economic situation, where the respondents were participating, were unhealthy, had little chance of upward mobility and major burden of their expenditure were over the relative families in the study area. Scarcity of the resources had always lead to the below average life standard of the individual or family, which affects the ordinary living patterns, customs and activities. Moreover, the risk of social exclusion is often associated to the factors that affect the quality of life. In

addition children care at family level is highly related to high household income. Poor families with more number of children always face denial of access to essential facilities like play, adequate meat and other peer activities (Townsend, 1979; Vinson et al., 2009; and Fisher and Bramley, 2006).

Moreover, questions concerning money, family holidays, family strength of celebrating special occasions, and family strength to afford sports and other related activities were disclosed with the information as; running almost always out of money (22.2%), family not in position to afford leisure trip for a week (84.4%), similarly, financial constraints restricted families of 82.4% and 70.2% respondents to celebrate special occasions, and afford toys for kids respectively was reported by the respondents, while on the other hand 77.8%, 15.6%, 17.6% and 29.8% expressed in affirmative to the aforementioned activities respectively. Income as a variable dictates over a family's/individual's strength through the measurement of access to certain activities beyond the enjoyment of basic amenities of life. It includes leisure time activities like celebrating special occasions, sports, outings and long recreational trips. However, economy under severe stresses is incapable of meeting out these needs of life which has far reaching effects upon the individual personalities and health like coping with depression and illness etc. It has been found that children with social exclusion and non-access to such activities or alike are more prone to the social isolation and find it difficult to compete in the job market for employment under a competitive process. If failed to encounter all these steps successfully, will lead to a situation which could emerge in the shape of poverty hit scenarios and high risk of social exclusion. Abello and Harding (2006) has associated the incapability of children with the intermittent poverty, which is responsible for exclusion. Monthly saving is symptomatic of economic efficiency at household level, which indicates towards surplus of cash, which is highly related to the fulfilment of some desires of the individuals. This could, if not existed around, lead to the curtailment of access to resources and necessary activities of life. Children basic needs are dependent on sufficient and consistent flow of services and it could only be met if a family had a sound structure of employment (Adelman et al., 2003; Wooden and Headey, 2005; and Shropshire and Middleton, 1999). Access to basic needs and participation in basic activities like access to resources including goods and services and employment are some of the basic factors negatively affecting the process of social exclusion among the children (Barnes, 2005)

**Table-2 Frequency distribution and proportion of respondents showing their access to material and economic resources**

Attribute	No	Yes	Total
You take meat three times a week	213 (42.6)	287 (57.4)	500 (100)
You eat fresh fruit most days	206 (41.2)	294 (58.8)	500 (100)
You have sufficient number/quantity of clothes	170 (34.0)	330 (66.0)	500 (100)
You are given sufficient pocket money according to your needs per day	184 (36.8)	316 (63.2)	500 (100)
Your parents' employment is secure	165 (33.0)	335 (67.0)	500 (100)
Your family have monthly savings	411 (82.2)	89 (17.8)	500 (100)
Your family always run out of money	111 (22.2)	389 (77.8)	500 (100)
Your family can afford going away for one week holiday	422 (84.4)	78 (15.6)	500 (100)
Your family can afford celebrating special occasions	412 (82.4)	88 (17.6)	500 (100)
Your family can afford toys and sports gear for children	351 (70.2)	149 (29.8)	500 (100)

Values in table present frequency while values in parenthesis represent percentage proportion of respondents

### ***Association between access to material and economic resources and social exclusion in children***

Association between material deprivations with relation to individual's social standings in the system of social cohesion is usually perturbed by some of the influencing variables, it might include poverty, as one of the major reason for social alienation. Circumstances pertaining to economic deprivation in the early ages are the direct outcome of the total earnings of the supporting families. Well off economic unit could have higher chances of participation in the process of social activities, however, the technological advancement had put more pressure upon these economically stable units striving hard in fulfilling the felt needs in this new dimension for their off springs. Thus a more stressful scenario could be presumed for these economically viable units in monetary terms. Moreover, the already marginalized units have little chances to make a comeback as compared to the economically stable units. To ascertain the effects of the variable of access to economic/material resources was limited to few relevant attributes. Findings on experience of children regarding access to these economic resources and their association with social exclusion in them are given in Table-3 and discussed below.

Relationship between taking meat three times a week was non-significant with social exclusion ( $p=0.069$ ), moreover, Kendall's Tau-B also reflected a negative relationship ( $T^b = -0.084$ ). It is eminent from the percentage figures that meat was not taken thrice a week by a big proportion of children which may have a negative effect on their growth, however, this factor of dietary needs was not statistically significant to alienate children. Quality life is affected due to the low income, which could lead the incumbents on the poverty line to social exclusion, in the nonexistence of



participation (Vinson et al., 2009). Dietary scale is also conditional with the level of participation in the customary activities of the society. Below average families in terms of resources are often excluded from these social practices (Townsend, 1979).

On the other hand eating fresh fruit most days was found significant ( $p=0.003$ ), but in negative direction as indicated by Kendall's Tau-b ( $T^b = -0.134$ ). It is apparent here that eating fresh fruit is one of the sign of social inclusion, however, the negative sign indicate denial of access in the study area. It could be attributed to low economic strength of the respondents where they hardly bear to survive by depending on just access to their basic amenities of life. Resorting to leisure activities and taking rich food was beyond their access. Townsend (1979) and Vinson et al. (2009) have linked the exclusion amongst the children with their dietary habits based on taking meat and fruit. However, it has been found that dietary requirements such as fruit and meat consumption were not according to the required criteria and thus people got marginalized with minimum level of participation in social interaction.

**Table-3 Association between access to material and economic resources and social exclusion in children**

Access to Material and Economic Resources	Attitude	Social Exclusion			Statistics $\chi^2$ (P-Value) $T^b$
		Socially Excluded	Socially Included	Total	
You take meat three times a week	No	109 (21.8)	104 (20.8)	213 (42.6)	$\chi^2 = 3.508$ (0.069) $T^b = -0.084$
	Yes	171 (34.2)	116 (23.2)	287 (57.4)	
You eat fresh fruit most days	No	99 (19.8)	107 (21.4)	206 (41.2)	$\chi^2 = 8.968$ (0.003) $T^b = -0.134$
	Yes	181 (36.2)	113 (22.6)	294 (58.8)	
You have sufficient number/quantity of clothes	No	68 (13.6)	102 (20.4)	170 (34.0)	$\chi^2 = 26.7$ (0.000) $T^b = -0.231$
	Yes	212 (42.4)	118 (23.6)	330 (66.0)	
You are given sufficient pocket money according to your needs per day	No	80 (16)	104 (20.8)	184 (36.8)	$\chi^2 = 18.5$ (0.000) $T^b = -0.192$
	Yes	200 (40)	116 (23.2)	316 (63.2)	
Your parents' employment is secured	No	66 (13.2)	99 (19.8)	165 (33.0)	$\chi^2 = 25.5$ (0.000) $T^b = -0.226$
	Yes	214 (42.8)	121 (24.2)	335 (67.0)	
Your family have monthly savings	No	198 (39.6)	213 (42.6)	411 (82.2)	$\chi^2 = 57.3$ (0.000) $T^b = -0.339$
	Yes	82 (16.4)	7 (1.4)	89 (17.8)	
Your family always run out of money	No	98 (19.6)	13 (2.6)	111 (22.2)	$\chi^2 = 60.36$ (0.000) $T^b = 0.347$
	Yes	182 (36.4)	207 (41.4)	389 (77.8)	
Your family can afford going away for one week holiday	No	209 (41.8)	213 (42.6)	422 (84.4)	$\chi^2 = 46.01$ (0.000) $T^b = -0.303$
	Yes	71 (14.2)	7 (1.4)	78 (15.6)	

Your family can afford celebrating special occasions	No	203 (40.6)	209 (41.8)	412 (82.4)	$\chi^2 = 43.0$ (0.000) $T^b = -0.293$
	Yes	77 (15.4)	11 (2.2)	88 (17.6)	
Your family can afford toys and sports gear for children	No	156 (31.2)	195 (39)	351 (70.2)	$\chi^2 = 63.83$ (0.000) $T^b = -0.357$
	Yes	124 (24.8)	25 (5)	149 (29.8)	

Values in table present frequency while values in parenthesis represent percentage proportion of respondents

Sufficient number of clothes were found highly significant ( $p=0.000$ ) with social exclusion, however its negative value was also found as indicated by Kendall's Tau-b ( $T^b = -0.231$ ). It could be attributed to the people's high level of awareness regarding this reality of life, but on ground its nonexistence has led to the social exclusion. Moreover, sufficient pocket money to cater the needs of the day was highly significant but with negative relationship ( $p=0.000$ ; and  $T^b = -0.192$ ). This is because pocket money is needed for participating into the normal activities as parse of the situation required for high sense of participation, however, lacking money to enjoy life with peer group is one of the factor restricting them to participate. In addition Parent's employment was secured as indicated as highly significant relationship ( $P=0.000$ ) with social exclusion, however, the negative direction ( $T^b = -0.226$ ) was indicative of the fact that parents of most of the excluded children were deprived of any secure employment and their under employment or casual employment was contributing factor to their social exclusion. Deprivation in children due to income poverty result into low intake of meat, fruit and insufficient clothes for some arrangement. Moreover, low income with insecure employment along with lack of access to resources with insufficient size of material gains were some of the indicative factors of social exclusion allied with non-availability of surplus cash in hand (Feeny and Boyden, 2004; Adelman et al., 2003; Abello and Harding, 2006; Wooden and Headey, 2005).

Association of monthly family savings with social exclusion was found as highly significant but negative in relationship ( $p=0.000$ ; and  $T^b = -0.339$ ). It is emanated from the result that saving had been understood to be playing a major role in social exclusion. Highest saving rate from the total income reduces the chances of social exclusion as indicated by the negative value. Moreover, family always running out of money was found highly significant and positive ( $p=0.000$ , and  $T^b = 0.347$ ). Low income usually play a negative role in child care and in return the sense of deprivation have been felt high amongst low income families. The most obvious reason of exclusion is also associated not only with deprivation but zero savings by the concerned families. Surplus of cash is one of the indicator where some felt needs of the future could be addressed. Making money means not reconciling

to getting birthday presents and members of foreseeing to be entering into unskilled and low paid jobs (Wooden and Headey, 2005; Shropshire and Medilton, 1999; and Ridge, 2002) which proved children articulated the impact of poverty with precise boundaries of social exclusion. Moreover, a highly significant but negative relationship ( $p=0.000$ ,  $T^b= -0.303$ ) was found between family can afford going away for one week holiday. Furthermore, a highly significant but negative association ( $p=0.000$ , and  $T^b= -0.293$ ) was detected between family afford to celebrate special occasions with social exclusion. It is evident from the data that exclusion restrict the access of respondent to participate into the joy-able activities like celebrating special occasions. Shropshire and Medilton, (1999) have conspicuously spoken of non-participation into special occasions like birthdays as the resultant factor of social exclusion. Non participation in organized social activities like ceremonies, attending funerals and participation in decision making process are some other factors of social exclusion associated to the above inferences (Adelman et al., 2003). Likewise, family can afford toys and sports gears for children was found highly significant but negative ( $p=0.000$  and  $T^b= -0.357$ ) with the social exclusion. It speaks about the economic constraints associated to social exclusion where a family despite of having a desire to buy but cannot for their kids to play with. It is probably attributed to the restricting of the socially excluded persons towards the entertainment which is primarily responsible for polishing some anticipative and hidden virtues of children which could only be seen expressing once confronting a particular situation. Household poverty and lack of cash in hand usually deny the family to provide some of the instruments of entertainment to their offspring (Wooden and Heady, 2005 and Abello and Harding, 2006).

***Association between access to material/economic resources and social exclusion in children (controlling gender, religion and family type)***

The influence of gender on the respondent's access to material/economic resources and their social exclusion showed that male respondents had negative ( $T^b=-0.148$ ) and significant ( $p=0.003$ ) relationship between aforesaid variables (Table-4). The association of foresaid variables was also negative ( $T^b=-0.300$ ) and significant ( $p=0.003$ ) for female respondents. Significance value and Kendall's Tau-b coefficient value for male and female genders showed non-spurious relationship. The result indicated that respondents of both genders were almost equally restricted to economic and material resources leading to social exclusion with slighter variation in gender composition. Although female were more suffered due to poor economic accessibility than males, as indicated by the Kendall's Tau-b Coefficient value, yet the difference was negligible. Thus access to material/economic resources has universal recognition as a major contributor

to social exclusion in children irrespective of their gender. These findings are in line to the Kantor (2009) conclusion that female had restricted access to work outside the home due to the prevalent social barriers. Variation in access to resources on gender basis, although universal but with slighter inclination to female could be related to poverty and structural restrictions with differential approaches on gender basis (Attree, 2004; and Roker, 1998).

The influence of religious affiliation on the respondent's access to economic resources and their social exclusion showed that Muslim respondents had weak negative ( $T^b=-0.153$ ) and significant ( $p=0.001$ ) relationship between aforesaid variables (Table 4). The association of foresaid variables was moderate negative ( $T^b=-0.435$ ) and significant ( $p=0.010$ ) for non-Muslim respondents. Kendall's Tau-b value for Muslim and non-Muslim groups showed spurious relationship. These results disclosed a restricted access to economic resources for Muslim respondents as compared to non-Muslims. However the overall access for both communities had not any significant indicator regarding the maximum participation. It is proved that both were socially excluded, however, the non-Muslim, being minority, had a particular reference to the situation. The probable reason could be their segregation on the basis of their specific religious rituals where other members of community other than their own religion had a very limited permission to participate. It could be concluded that although poverty, gender and age are the contributing factors to the social exclusion, however, the religious phenomenon has a far reaching effect and had a decisive influence over the social participation or otherwise for an ethnic group within the larger community. The findings of Attree (2004) are in consonance to these findings where the effect of poverty needs to be analyzed in the context of child's gender, age and religious background. Although, gender, education, caste and age are important factors indicating about the deprivations, however, the religion is one of the important factors of the scenario. In addition, no education, poor houses of those belonging to religious or ethnic minorities had a strong association to social exclusion in United Kingdom (Kantor, 2009; and Adelman et al., 2003).

The influence of family type on the respondent's access to economic resources and their social exclusion showed that respondents from joint family had weak negative ( $T^b=-0.251$ ) and highly significant ( $p=0.000$ ) relationship between aforesaid variables (Table 4). Similarly, the association of foresaid variables was weak negative ( $T^b=-0.140$ ) and significant ( $p=0.030$ ) for respondents from nuclear families. However, a weak negative ( $T^b=-0.084$ ) and non-significant ( $p=0.578$ ) relationship was found for respondents from single parent families. Both the significance value and

Kendall's Tau-b value for nuclear and joint families showed non-spurious relationship. These results conspicuously indicated towards the reduction of social exclusion amongst the children from joint and nuclear family provided they had smooth access to economic resources. However, on the other hand a conspicuous inference was found regarding the children from single parent family had a greater level of social exclusion, while making access to economic resources. In joint and nuclear family the division of labor at family level is mostly attributed to relatives, parents and elders. However, in single family system the only parent had sole responsibility of earning and feeding the other family members, thus had a tremendous pressure for the economic survival with no other propositions but sending their children out for earning and contributing to the weaker economic status of the family. This tremendous pressure has fallen them a victim of social exclusion with higher chances as compared to the kids of the joint and nuclear families. These findings are in line to Whiteford and Adema (2007) who related child poverty with joblessness and single parent family. However, reduction in social exclusion is eminent with structural fluctuations at family level with reference to their occupation also. Strong economy at household level ensure minimum level of social exclusion but families with low economic profile had no other option but to face the agonies of life while discontinuing their education and starts searching for jobs for two apparent reasons i.e. strengthening family economy and reducing the distress of social exclusion (Daly and Leonard, 2002; Pocock, 2006; Ridge, 2007; and Willow, 2002).

**Table-4 Association between access to material/economic resources and social exclusion in children (controlling gender, religion and family type)**

Gender, religion and family type	Economic resources	Social Exclusion			Statistics $\chi^2$ (P-Value) $T^b$
		Socially Excluded	Socially Included	Total	
Male	Poor economic resources	112 (27.3)	96 (23.4)	208 (50.7)	$\chi^2 = 9.018$ (0.003) $T^b = -0.148$
	Economically resourceful	138 (33.7)	64 (15.6)	202 (49.3)	
	Total	250 (61)	160 (39)	410 (100)	
Female	Poor economic resources	10 (11.1)	39 (43.3)	49 (54.4)	$\chi^2 = 8.996$ (0.003) $T^b = -0.300$
	Economically resourceful	20 (22.2)	21 (23.3)	41 (45.6)	
	Total	30 (33.3)	60 (66.6)	90 (100)	
Muslim	Poor economic resources	114 (24.5)	130 (28)	244 (52.5)	$\chi^2 = 10.88$ (0.001) $T^b = -0.153$
	Economically resourceful	137 (29.5)	84 (18.1)	221 (47.5)	
	Total	251 (54)	214 (46)	465 (100)	
Non-Muslim	Poor economic	8 (22.9)	5 (14.3)	13 (37.1)	$\chi^2 = 6.61$

	<b>resources</b>				<b>(0.010)</b> <b>T<sup>b</sup> = -0.435</b>
	<b>Economically resourceful</b>	21 (60)	1 (6)	22 (62.9)	
	<b>Total</b>	29 (82.9)	6 (17.1)	35 (100)	
<b>Joint</b>	<b>Poor economic resources</b>	50 (23)	54 (24.9)	104 (47.9)	<b><math>\chi^2 = 13.63</math></b> <b>(0.000)</b> <b>T<sup>b</sup> = -0.251</b>
	<b>Economically resourceful</b>	82 (37.8)	31 (14.3)	113 (52.1)	
	<b>Total</b>	132 (60.8)	85 (39.2)	217 (100)	
<b>Nuclear</b>	<b>Poor economic resources</b>	68 (28.5)	64 (26.8)	132 (55.2)	<b><math>\chi^2 = 4.68</math></b> <b>(0.030)</b> <b>T<sup>b</sup> = -0.140</b>
	<b>Economically resourceful</b>	70 (29.3)	37 (15.5)	107 (44.8)	
	<b>Total</b>	138 (57.7)	101 (42.3)	239 (100)	
<b>Single Parent</b>	<b>Poor economic resources</b>	4 (91.1)	17 (38.6)	21 (47.7)	<b><math>\chi^2 = 0.310</math></b> <b>(0.578)</b> <b>T<sup>b</sup> = -0.084</b>
	<b>Economically resourceful</b>	6 (13.6)	17 (38.6)	23 (52.3)	
	<b>Total</b>	10 (22.7)	34 (77.3)	44 (100)	

Values in table present frequency while values in parenthesis represent percentage proportion of respondents

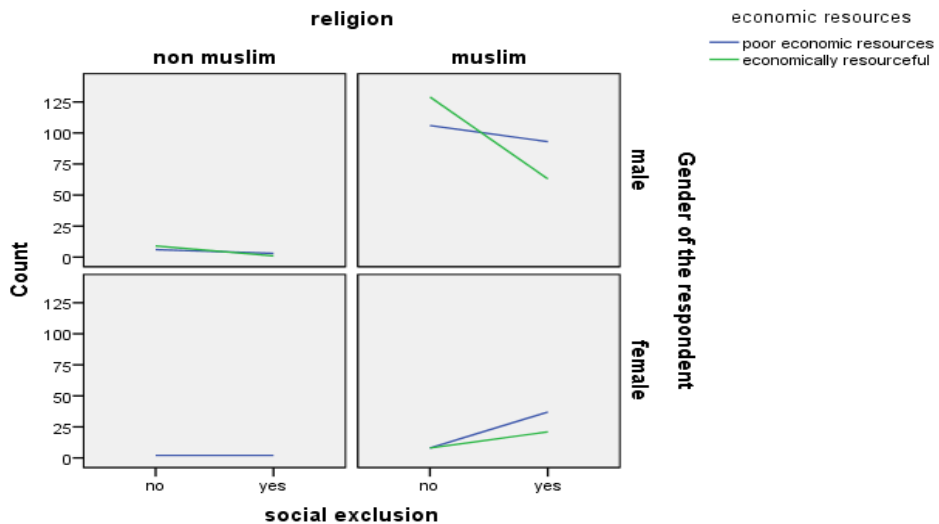
### ***Interaction of access to economic resources, gender, religion and family type in social exclusion of children***

Exclusionary effects of interaction of study variables are reflected in figure-1 and 2. The result made it evident that Muslim female children class was most vulnerable to social exclusion on the scale devised for this study, especially those Muslim girls having poor access to economic resources (figure 1 bottom right). Conversely, there was a visible drop in social exclusion among male, Muslim children with good access to economic resources; however, decline in social exclusion among Muslim boys, with the difference of having poor access to economic resources, was quite mild (figure 1 top right). Exclusionary effects of access to economic resources were not variable among non-Muslim children of both genders (figure 1 top and bottom left).

Exclusionary effects of interaction of access to economic resources, gender and family type have found the female of both joint and nuclear families with poor access to economic resources as most prone to social exclusion. However, such members of this group who have fair access to economic resources are less likely to be excluded on the scale devised (Figure-2 bottom middle and left). However, male from joint and nuclear family having good access to economic resources were most unlikely to be excluded; similarly, those male children from nuclear family, despite of their poor access to economic resources, were less likely to be excluded (figure 2 top left and middle). Conversely, all those male respondents belonging to

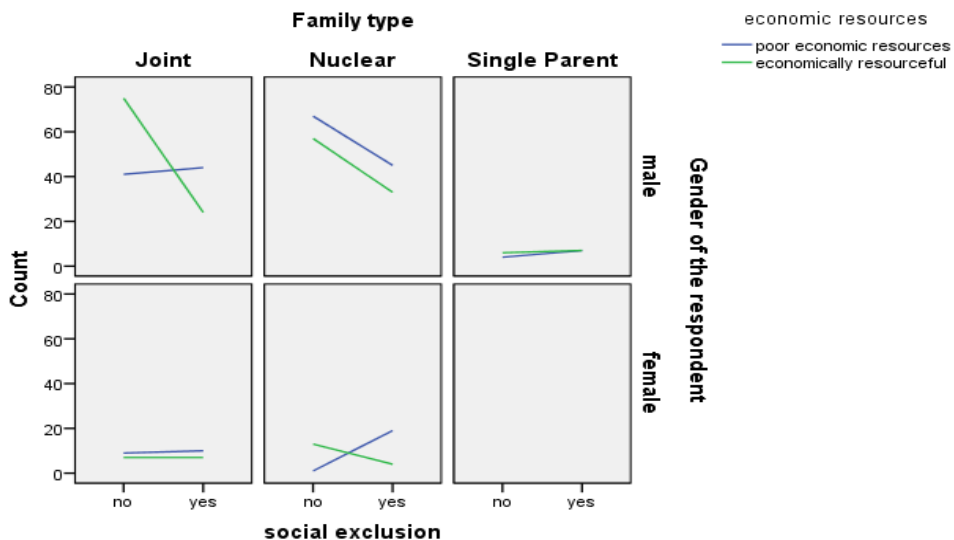
single parent families, irrespective of state of their access to economic resources, good or poor were more prone to social exclusion. Fahmy et al. (2009) also listed similar associates of multiple disadvantages including situation of employment, educational accomplishment, tenancy of accommodation, family type, matrimonial standing, age set and sex. Low educational attainment and unemployment were particularly influential in deep exclusion. The patterns of association of these variables with social exclusion are complex and may vary with life stages and social standings. It was reported that solitary, separated and widowed persons and their dependents were more prone to disadvantage. Whereas, children, women, low skilled, rental tenants, uneducated and retired people are more exposed to ill effects of deprivations. Despite of serious efforts the incidents of exclusion could not be controlled to desired level and remained persistent over time.

**Figure-1 Interaction of access to economic resources, gender and religion in social exclusion of children**



result based on primary data collected from 500 children

**Figure-2 Interaction of access to economic resources, gender and family type in social exclusion of children**



result based on primary data collected from 500 children

**Conclusions and recommendations**

The main objective of this research study was to probe into the effects of children’s limited access to material/economic resources on extent of their social exclusion in Pakhtun culture, particularly its gender, religious and familial based variations. The findings of the present study suggest that deprivation from material and economic resources are among the major contributors to social exclusion among the children in the study area. Deficiencies of finances for basic needs, and availability of monetary reserves for financial security at household level, as sub categories of main variable, are the major predictor of social exclusion, followed by provision of leisure activities, securing parent’s employment and providing basic facilities to children. Moreover, the manifestations of social exclusion in children can be reduced by securing their biological and socio-economic needs at family and community level. The data strongly supported the theory and upkeep the domain of access to material/economic resource, as outlined under B-SEM model, was decisive in determining and explaining social exclusion in children. However, it was established by this study that this domain was non-spurious in its exclusionary effects based on gender. Therefore, it is concluded that deprivations among children due to access to material/economic resources had determining influence on social exclusion among children. The extents of influence of these domains in social exclusion of children in Pakhtun culture were equal in its effects, especially with respect to gender. However, the exclusionary effects of poor access to



economic resources were particularly harsh on children from single parent families.

Establishment of a welfare based governance to ensure employment for all, and guarantee at least a minimum level of income at household level that is sufficient for the basic needs of all family members, especially the children and most deprived single parent families, besides educating families for managing their resources in an efficient way to avoid economic deficits. More importantly, the dietary needs of the children needs to be secured. It could be met through channelization of different charity programs like “Zakat” etc. Special attention is needed on part of different NGOs working on the child welfare needs, to design future strategies both in short and long-term for mitigation of social exclusion. Moreover, overcoming gender and religion based disparities in the society were some of the policy recommendations in light of the study.

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