

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT OF MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES

S. Thamarai Selvi and S. Ayswarni

I MA, History, Loyola College, Chennai, Tamilnadu (Affiliated to University of Madras)

I MA, History, Loyola College, Chennai, Tamilnadu (Affiliated to University of Madras)

Correspondence: lotuspriya20@gmail.com

Abstract

The historical development of marginalised communities is a complex process shaped by centuries of exclusion, resistance, and gradual empowerment. Across regions and periods, various groups—including Dalits, Adivasis, women, religious minorities, persons with disabilities, and LGBTQIA individuals have faced systemic social, economic, and political marginalisation. This abstract traces the historical trajectory of these communities, highlighting key moments of institutionalised oppression such as caste hierarchies, colonisation, slavery, and patriarchal norms. Simultaneously, it foregrounds the enduring struggles for dignity, rights, and representation, including social reform movements, constitutional safeguards, affirmative action policies, and grassroots activism. By analysing both oppression and resistance, this study provides a critical understanding of how historical processes continue to influence the present realities of marginalised groups. The paper also explores the intersectionality of marginalisation and the evolving role of the state, civil society, and global human rights discourses in shaping inclusive development.

Keywords: marginalized communities, historical development, social justice, inclusion, human rights.