

# Understanding Marginalisation-2

## Minorities and Marginalisation

The term **minority** is most commonly used to refer to communities that are numerically small in relation to the rest of the population . For example; religious minority, linguistic minority etc.

This concept goes well beyond numbers and include issues of power, access to resources with social and cultural dimensions

The Indian Constitution recognised that the culture of the majority influences the way in which society and government might express themselves.

In such cases, size can be a disadvantage and lead to the marginalisation of the relatively smaller communities.

➤.The Constitution provides **safeguards** to religious and linguistic minorities as part of our Fundamental Rights

➤Safeguards are needed to protect minority communities against being culturally dominated by the majority and also to protect them against any discrimination and disadvantage

➤Communities that are small in number relative to the rest of society may feel insecure about their lives, assets and well-being, which may get accentuated if the relations between the minority and majority communities are fraught

➤The Constitution provides these safeguards because it is committed to protecting India's cultural diversity and promoting equality as well as justice-

## Muslims and Marginalisation



Muslims are lagging behind in terms of various development indicators such as basic amenities, literacy rate and public employment

The Muslim constitute 14.2% of Indian Population (2011 Census) and are the second majority after the Hindus but Muslims are considered as a marginalised community as they have been deprived of the benefits of the socio-economic development over the years.

Religion	Percent
<u>Hindu</u>	79.80 %
<u>Muslim</u>	14.23 %
<u>Christian</u>	2.30 %
<u>Sikh</u>	1.72 %
<u>Buddhist</u>	0.70 %
<u>Jain</u>	0.37 %
<u>Other Religion</u>	0.66 %
Not Stated	0.24 %

# Sachar Committee



A High Level committee under the Chairmanship of Justice (Retired) Rajinder Sachar was constituted by the Prime Minister's Office for preparation of a comprehensive report on the social, economic and educational status of the Muslim community of India

The committee examined the social, economic and educational status of the Muslim community in India

- The report discusses in detail the marginalisation of this community.
- The committee suggests that on a range of social, economic and educational indicators the situation of the Muslim community is comparable to that of other marginalised communities like Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Economic and social marginalisation experienced by Muslims has other dimensions too.

Like other minorities, distinct Muslim customs and practices apart from what is seen as the mainstream

Some may wear a burqa, sport a long beard, wear a fez, leading for ways to identify all Muslims– they tend to be identified differently and some people think they are not like the ‘rest of us’–thus leading to marginalisation.





This social marginalisation of Muslims has led to them migrating from places where they have lived, often leading to the ghettoisation of the community—Sometimes, this prejudice leads to hatred and violence

Marginalisation, a complex phenomenon requires a variety of strategies, measures and safeguards to redress this situation.

Marginalised communities want to maintain their cultural distinctiveness while having access to rights, development and other opportunities.

All of us have a stake in protecting the rights defined in the Constitution and the Laws and Policies framed to realise these rights. Without these, we will never be able to protect the diversity that makes our country unique nor realise the State's commitment to promoting equality for all.

▶ Thank you