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Jimenez R.M. (2008). *Aproximación teórica a la exclusión social: complejidad e imprecisión del término. Consecuencias para el ámbito educativo*. “Estudios Pedagógicos”, 34(1): 173–186 (*Theoretical Approach to Social Exclusion: Complexity and Ambiguity of the Term. Consequences for the Education*)

The main objective of this article is to analyze the concept of social exclusion and to point out what the consequences are for education. To understand this concept better, the origins of social exclusion are explained, that is, the first definitions that were given of this term. They also talk about the characteristic features of this notion and place great emphasis on the difference between poverty and social exclusion since many people confuse these two terms nowadays. In addition, they describe the factors that make a collective reach exclusion and name the different groups of excluded people these days (Jiménez 2008).

The introduction of the article provides a clear overview of how the term of social exclusion is nothing new, since the first definitions of this term were developed by great figures of sociology such as Bourdieu and Parkin, Marx or Engels, among others. Each person has defined social exclusion in different ways. At the beginning, people spoke of social exclusion as if it was the same as poverty. This definition has changed over the years, but unfortunately today, there is still no clear and exact definition of social exclusion (Jiménez 2008).

Talking about the difference between social exclusion and poverty, I have understood that first of all, social exclusion is multidimensional, while poverty is unidimensional. Additionally, we talk about poverty when we refer mainly to the deprivation of material and economic resources, while we use social exclusion when we want to include the absence of participation in the economic, political, cultural, and social spheres, that is, when there is a lack of citizenship rights such as work, health, education, and housing, among others (Jiménez 2008).

On the one hand, the authors claim to have discovered the factors that generate the processes of social exclusion. These factors make it more likely that a group or individual will be socially excluded. Among them, we can find loss of employment or

unemployment; difficulty in integrating into the labor market; difficulty in accessing education and minimum educational standards; lack of housing; difficulties in the access and learning of new technologies; and poverty, referring strictly to income levels, among many others. Even so, it should be noted that unemployment is the factor that causes the greatest social exclusion, since work provides everyone with the means to earn their own living. Furthermore, dropping out of the school system, illiteracy, having a low level of education, or not mastering foreign languages can cause you to gradually fall behind in society and end up socially excluded. That is why the authors emphasize that school and education should be the most important means for social integration processes (Jiménez 2008).

In addition to the above, the authors also claim to have discovered the different categories of social exclusion. Among these categories, there are unemployment, belonging to an ethnic minority, gender, having served a sentence, or having had problems with drugs. Moreover, family background, age, and lack of access to social protection are circumstances that further intensify the risk of social exclusion (Jiménez 2008).

The conclusion of the article emphasizes that unemployment and lack of education are the two most important factors in terms of social exclusion. Therefore, school dropout and absence should be prevented with different prevention plans (Jiménez 2008).

In answer to the question of why it is important to research this topic, I believe that social exclusion is something that has been affecting different types of groups for decades, and if it is not solved, the gap between integrated and excluded groups will become increasingly larger. The more research on the factors and causes that lead to social exclusion is conducted, the more remedies and behaviors will be to deal with the situation. I recognise that it is a very difficult concept to eradicate since due to the globalized and capitalist society in which we live, there will always be people above others. But even so, I think it is possible to get that the disparities between different groups are not so large. These will be from my point of view a huge step for our society (Jiménez 2008).

In addition, since the definition is so ambiguous, each person gives a different definition of social exclusion. Therefore, depending on which article or book you read, you will have one opinion or another about the term. That is why I believe that this concept should be further examined and an exact definition should be agreed on. Moreover, as has been mentioned before, confusions of this concept with poverty are very common, and since they are different ideas with some aspects in common, it would be good to teach people from an early age the differences between them (Jiménez 2008).

Talking about the new advances, they have been able to make on social exclusion, I would say that I believe that this article does not make any new advances on it, since it is not an article in which research is done to discover anything new. It uses different definitions from multiple authors to give a more complete and accurate definition to this term and also to be able to talk about the different factors and categories that exist. In addition, as it is mentioned above, social exclusion is still very subjective today. That is why the writers of the article have wanted to make the readers notice the importance of further research on social exclusion. Therefore, I would say that the authors have

done a very good job of encouraging research in this area, as they motivate different researchers to continue the research process on social exclusion (Jiménez 2008).

On the other hand, I believe that the authors of the article have also done a successful work when it comes to defining and analysing the concept of social exclusion. Not only have they used definitions from a considerable number of authors, but they have also put them together, compared them while giving their point of view about each one. In addition to this, the difference between poverty and social exclusion is explained in a very clear way, two terms that in an article like this had to be highly differentiated, so that there would be no confusion between them. At the same time, I think they have given too much importance to the difference between these two terms, since a large part of the article is devoted to the comparison and differentiation between them, and the main point of the article is the analysis of the concept of social exclusion. From my point of view I think they could have explained the differences much more briefly (Jiménez 2008).

Regarding the organization of the article, it can be argued that it is perfectly organized, since the different topics and terms related to social exclusion are explained in different sections. The article follows coherent logic from the opening paragraphs to the conclusion. It begins by introducing the topic with a review of the existing literature on exclusion, referring to important figures in sociology such as Engels and Marx, among many others, so the opening paragraphs of the article guide readers to the topic being addressed in a simple and clear way. Then they explain chronologically how the definition of social exclusion has evolved, citing different authors, and finally, they explain in order the different factors that make a group reach such a situation of exclusion. In conclusion, I would say that there is a well elaborated and organized line of argument. On the other hand, the authors do not fail at any time to show the importance of research on this expression, since the article is based on giving more visibility and encouraging research or examination of social exclusion. In summary, the authors set the stage for the explanation of the problem of social exclusion in a good and simple orderly manner (Jiménez 2008).

With regard to the writing of the article, I think the authors use at times too long and convoluted sentences. But in general, the sentences are straightforward and can be understood quite easily. I would like to point out that the writing seemed rather long in some parts of the article that is I think that some parts of the article were longer than they should have been. From my point of view, I would have explained things more briefly, as some parts of the article can become a twiddling. For example, the part where they compare poverty and social exclusion seems too long for such a short article. The writing as a whole is very clear and well understood, as the relevant concepts are clearly and satisfactorily explained. On the other hand, the language they have used is correct, with no spelling mistakes or incorrect punctuation marks. In some cases, they have used technical terms to define some concepts. Also, it can be observed that the authors who have written the article are native speakers, that is, their mother tongue is Spanish (Jiménez 2008).

In conclusion, I recommend reading this article to people interested in knowing about social exclusion, but I think it is a more suitable article for people who know little and would like to learn more about this term. It is work that is very well explained but it is still very simple, since it explains the basics and basic concepts about exclusion. Therefore, I believe that it is not an article to be published in a scientific journal due to its simplicity. This does not mean that the paper could not be very useful for introducing the term social exclusion to students of psychology, social education, or social work in universities (Jiménez 2008).