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Struggling in Silence: The Effects of Deprivation on Social Behavior

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ABSTRACT

The present study examines how the Socio-economic-status is influencing on deprivation among the destitute in different age group, Bangalore with 300 samples from the various destitute centers. A random sampling method is used to collect the data. Valid and reliable SES scale and Deprivation scales measured the high, middle and low level of SES respectively. Keeping in the views of objectives and hypotheses of the study, Independent-test and One-way ANOVA statistical techniques were used.

Findings: The major findings of the study are: 1) Male destitute have shown significant increase in the level of deprivation compared to female destitute. 2). Religion has a significant impact on the level of deprivation. 3) Age is one of the influencing factors in determining the level of deprivation.

Key Words: Deprivation, Destitute, Socio-economic-status.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The traditional view of destitution is an extreme form of poverty that forces individuals to depend on social transfer such as private and public charity, aims and welfare programs from the state or non-government agencies for their survival. This view also highlights that this situation is created by a lack of ownership of relevant social and economic assets and skills of a specific

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group of people in a society.A "destitute population" refers to individuals experiencing extreme poverty, characterized by severe deprivation in basic needs like food, shelter, clothing, and healthcare, often stemming from a very low socio-economic status (SES) marked by lack of income, limited education, and unstable employment, leading to social exclusion and a lack of access to essential resources and opportunities in society; essentially, they are the most deprived within a population, facing the most extreme forms of economic hardship and social *marginalization.* Common categories of destitute people include beggars, people with disabilities, aged without family support, orphans, the sick, the mentally ill, abused children, the homeless.

The very poorest of the poor people are thus Destitute. Their situation is so worst that they are reduced to parasites for their basic requirements and face grinding hardships each day for their survival.

Socio-economic status refers to the relative position an individual, a family, or a group holds within a societal hierarchy according to its access to or power over valued goods such as wealth or social recognition and privileges (McLoyd, 1998).

"Socioeconomic status" refers to a person's social and economic position within a society, typically measured by factors like income, education level, and occupation; while a "destitute population" refers to individuals or groups living in extreme poverty, often lacking basic necessities like food, shelter, and healthcare, usually falling at the lowest end of the socioeconomic spectrum.

The Global Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index has revealed disparities in the intensity of poverty being experienced by those who are recognized as multi dimensionally poor. If a person is deprived in one fifth to one third of the weighted indicators, the index uses, they are considered

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vulnerable to poverty. If they are deprived in more than half, are identified as being in severe poverty. To weight the poverty, index the global MPI has the following indicators namely income, schooling, number of children, malnutrition level, access to electricity telephone, no radio or Mobile phone, no refrigeration, television, motorbike, inadequate flooring, open defecation to relieve themselves, no clean water to drink, no fuel to cook etc. Barbra Harris on explaining the capability deprivation speaks on two aspects. Firstly, on not being able to be dependent and secondly on not being sheltered. He explains that many homeless people have migrated to urban areas and it is in urban areas that destitute people have become visible to elites who may not have their homes to stay, hence no address which deprives them from ration/ identify card which is elementary for recurring food and social protection. This leads destitute people to go in search of new kinds of common property resources and open sites to which they gain access to sleep. In urban areas, churches, mosques, temples, railway and bus stations provide such space, thought in terms of access may be un-reliable and arbitrary and they may be expelled at any point of time. Such marginal places lack social security.

2. METHODS

2.1 Objectives of the study

- To study the level of deprivation in male and female institutionalized Destitute.
- To study the effect of religion on the level of deprivation among the institutionalized Destitute.
- To the level of deprivation among different age groups of institutionalized Destitute.

2.2 Hypotheses

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- There is a significant effect of Gender on the level of deprivation among institutionalized Destitutes.
- Religion may have significant impact on the level of deprivation among institutionalized Destitutes.
- The age will have a significant impact on the level of deprivation among institutionalized Destitutes.

2.3 VARIABLES:

The following major variables have been used as independent and dependent variables.

2.4 Variables:

1. Socio-economic status
2. Deprivation
3. Gender

2.5 Research design:

The researcher chose a survey research design to answer the question and the purposes of the study. The survey research is one in which a group is studied by collecting and analyzing data from only a small section of people viewed as representatives of the entire group.

2.6 Population of the study

The target population for this research defined included Destitutes in Bangalore district, while the accessible population is the deprived Destitutes living in the periphery of city, living in institution which was within the reach of the researcher. In this study the accessible population comprised of 300 respondents drawn from 16 institutions, in Bangalore city.

2.7 Collection of data

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The present study on destitution covers up all the age groups ranging from 14-100 years. As this study was a descriptive one, Interview guides was opted as an important method for collecting data from the various age groups.

This Interview schedule was for the management people who were asked questions pertaining to their mode of administration.

The instrument was structured as the respondents were given the options to identify their response.

2.8 Tools for the study

Data collection is the crux of any research. Research tools play an important role in collection of reliable and valid data. Research is usually constructed through rigorous, systematic inquiry and research instruments are the tools we use to collect and structure the data thus transforming it into useful information.

The following tools were used in the present study:

1. Personal Data Schedule: will be framed to collect the information regarding the personal and socio-demographic characteristics of the sample.
2. Socio-economic status scale developed by Dr. Meenakshi (2012) to measure socio economic status of the people.
3. The Prolonged Deprivation Scale (PDS) developed and standardized by Mishra and Tripathi (1980) to measure socio-cultural deprivation

2.9 Statistical techniques used in analyzing data:

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Keeping in the views of objectives and hypotheses of the study, the following statistical techniques were applied and the purpose for which they were used independent t-test and One-way ANOVA.

3. Result and Discussion

The data collected have been analyzed using descriptive statistics such as mean, and Standard Deviation. Independent t tests to examine the significance difference between gender and age group. One-way ANOVA was applied to examine the influence of different socio-economic status, religion, age, on deprivation among institutionalized destitute.

Table.1. Mean Deprivation scores of Male and Female institutionalized destitute and results of independent sample‘t’ test.

Variable	Group	Mean	SD	t-value	p-value
Deprivation	Males (n = 118)	233.2119	31.40277	20.250	.001**
	Females (n = 182)	144.9560	40.01696		

*significant @ 0.05, **significant @ 0.01

As shown in table 1, test of significance has been done to find out the differences between male and female institutionalized destitute in their level of deprivation. The data was analyzed to examine the level of deprivation in male and female institutionalized destitutes. Independent t test revealed the presence of a significant difference between the two groups in deprivation scores ($t = 20.250$, $p = .001 < 0.01$). The result is displayed graphically in the Figure.1.

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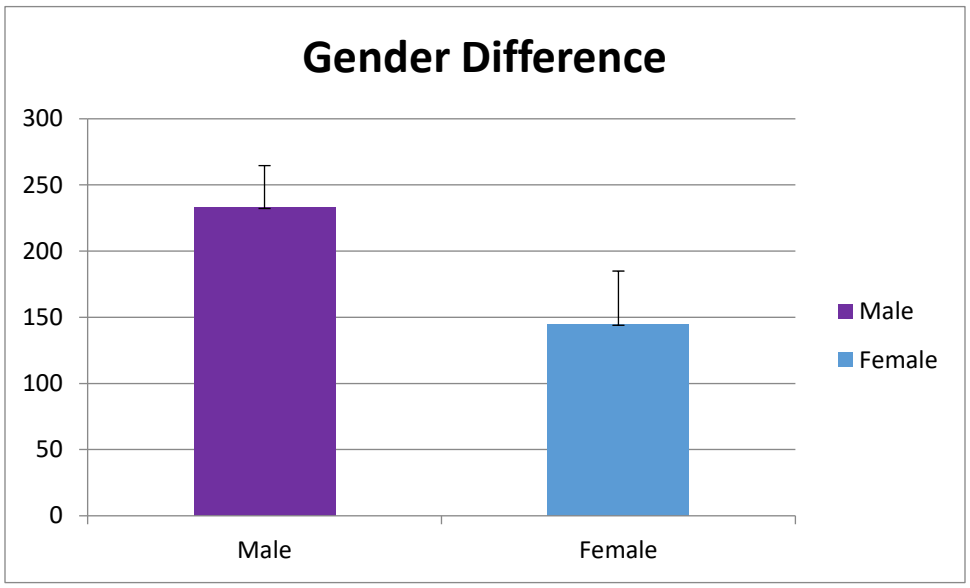

Fig.1. Representing Mean deprivation scores of male and female institutionalized destitute.

3.1 RELIGION AND DEPRIVATION

Table 2. Mean and SD of institutionalized destitute in their level of deprivation according to different religious groups

Variable	Age Groups	N	Mean	SD
Deprivation	Hindu	182	200.00	49.99
	Muslim	58	233.18	38.27
	Christian	61	144.26	46.39

In Table 2, the mean and standard deviations of different religious groups in their level of deprivation scores are presented. The institutionalized destitutes from high Hindu religion have their mean deprivation score of 200.00 (SD= 49.99), for the institutionalized destitutes from Muslim religion the mean deprivation score is 233.18 (SD= 38.27) and the mean deprivation

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score of institutionalized destitutes from Christ religion is 144.26 (SD= 46.39). These results are plotted in the figure 2.

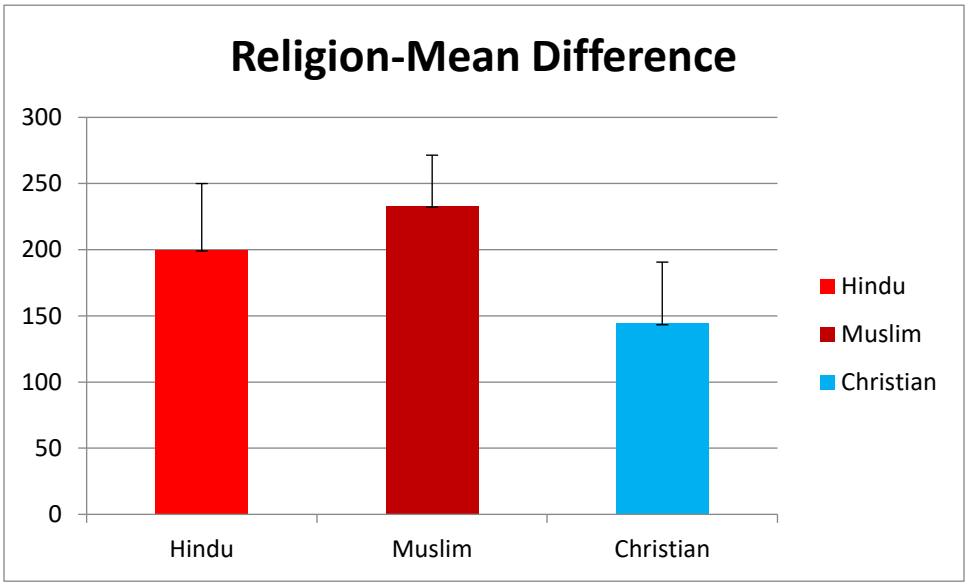

Fig. 2. Representing Mean deprivation scores of different religious groups of institutionalized destitute.

Table 3. Results of One-way ANOVA for deprivation between different religious groups of institutionalized destitute

Sources	Sum of squares	Df	Mean square	F	P
Between Groups	246146.200	2	123073.100	55.163	.001**
Within Groups	662628.717	297	2231.073		
Total	908774.917	299			

*significant @ 0.05, **significant @ 0.01

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As shown in table 3, the results of one-way ANOVA for deprivation scores between different religious groups found that there is a significant difference between different socio-economic status groups in their level of deprivation ($F_{(2, 297)} = 55.163$, $p = 0.001 < 0.01$).

3.2 AGE AND DEPRIVATION

Table 4. Mean and SD of institutionalized destitute in their level of deprivation according to different age groups

Variable	Age Groups	N	Mean	SD
Deprivation	21 to 40	84	123.00	20.59
	41 to 60	86	201.02	16.65
	61 and above	130	253.70	16.49

As shown in table 4.7, the mean and standard deviations of different age groups in their level of deprivation scores are presented. The institutionalized destitutes of 21 to 40 years age have their mean deprivation score of 123.00 (SD= 20.59), for the institutionalized destitutes of 41 to 60 years of age the mean deprivation score is 201.02 (SD= 16.65) and the mean deprivation score of institutionalized destitutes 0f 60 years and above age group is 253.70 (SD= 16.49). These results are plotted in the figure 4.6.

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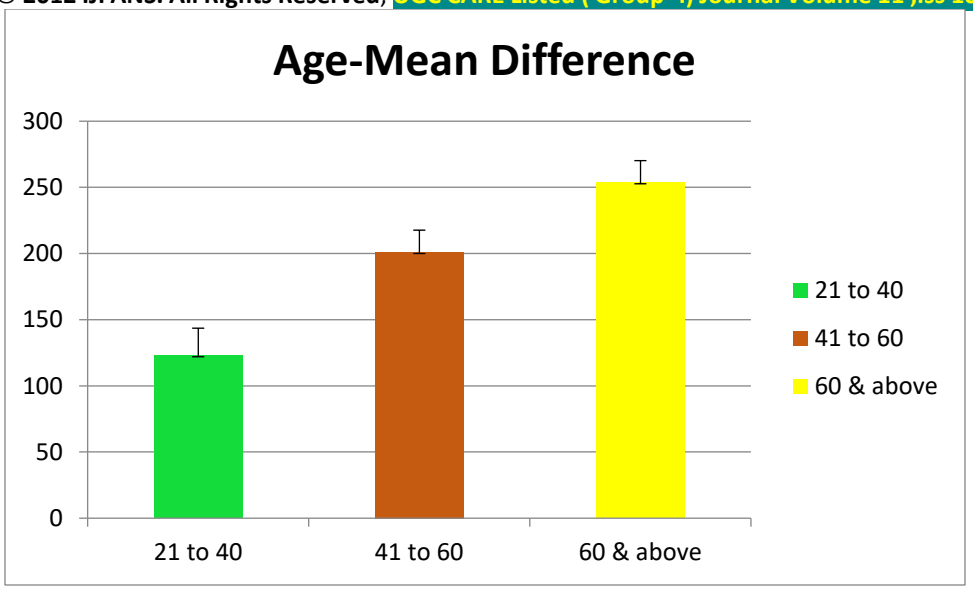

Fig. 4 representing Mean deprivation scores of different Age groups of institutionalized destitute.

Table 5. Results of One-way ANOVA for deprivation between different age groups of institutionalized destitute

Sources	Sum of squares	Df	Mean square	F	p
Between Groups	871905.141	2	435952.570	1379.290	.001**
Within Groups	93872.846	297	316.070		
Total	965777.987	299			

*significant @ 0.05, **significant @ 0.01

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As shown in table 5, the results of one- way ANOVA for deprivation scores between different age groups found that there is a significant difference between different age groups in their level of deprivation ($F_{(2, 297)} = 1379.290$, $p = 0.001 < 0.01$).

3.3 Hypothesis Testing

Hypothesis 1: There will be significant difference between males and female institutionalized people in their level of deprivation.

Gender mediates forms of deprivation, but does not produce categories of people excluded in uniform ways. Gender critique and analysis of experience in India shows that marginalization is not necessarily negative. It offers both limitations and opportunities. It is also possible for women to be included and excluded simultaneously. Inclusion is not necessarily positive, but usually has a price.

The findings of the study have shown that the hypothesis is accepted since there are gender differences found between male and females institutionalized destitute. The hypothesis says that there will be significant difference between males and female institutionalized people in their level of deprivation. The findings have revealed that male institutionalized destitute have shown greater level of deprivation compared to female institutionalized destitute. Males have to work outside to secure his family and fulfill the needs all the times. In India, people show more concern towards female destitute and help them to construct their lives. This leads to more secure feeling in females and they feel less deprived compared to males.

Hypothesis 2: Age will have a significant impact the level of deprivation among institutionalized people.

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The findings of the study have also shown the age is one of the significant factors which effects on deprivation. The hypothesis formulated to study the effect of age on the level of deprivation is accepted since there is a significant difference between different age groups of institutionalized destitute. Institutionalized destitute of 60 years and above age group have shown a greater level of deprivation compared to other age groups. This could be caused by many circumstances, such as they grow older and older their physical strength will be decreased and not able to work to earn money to fulfill their daily needs. Carelessness of the society is also one of the aspects where older people feel more deprived than others. These factors affect negatively on their minds and become more deprived than others.

The institutionalized destitute of 40 to 60 years of age group has shown that moderate levels of deprivation. These people are physically capable of doing work and earn monetary benefits to live satisfactorily in the society. But still they are sidelined due to economic constraints and pushed in to deprived. Another age group of institutionalized destitutes who are 21 to 40 years have shown low level deprivation. Since they are in adulthood, they are capable of physically challenged work and earn monetary benefits to satisfy the daily needs. This kind of opportunities decreases the level of deprivation and they feel secure and happy.

The findings of the study are in accordance with previous studies which were carried out to find the impact of age on social deprivation. Diehl et al (1996) have concluded that older institutionalized destitute are more prone to have high levels of deprivation as compared to other age groups because of poor economic conditions. Another study conducted by Balachandran et al (2007) has revealed that elderly men and women exhibit low level of life satisfaction due to high level of deprivation.

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Hypothesis 3: Religion will have significant impact on the level of depression among institutionalized people.

In the World Happiness Report (Helliwell, Layard & Sachs, 2012), religion was modelled as an external factor (community-based factor, rather than lifestyle) which can have a positive effect upon wellbeing and provide a buffering function (protective mechanism for personal wellbeing) in the face of stressful life events.

The results of the present study have shown that institutionalized destitute of Christian have shown low level of deprivation and institutionalized destitute of Muslim have shown that the high level of deprivation. On the other hand, institutionalized destitute of Hindu religion have shown moderate level of deprivation. It indicates that the religious values of each religion people have and the opportunities they receive to survive in the society. Destitute of Islam religion have shown high level of deprivation due to many factors. In which one of the most important factors is poor economic background. They might not get sufficient economic earning opportunities to earn monetary benefits. It leads to high level of deprivation. In Hindu religion also many people from poor and middle socio-economic status and shown that moderate level of deprivation. These findings indicate that the hypothesis is accepted which says that 'Religion will have significant impact on the level of depression among institutionalized people'.

3.4 Major findings of the study:

1. The findings of the study: gender differences in the level of deprivation have shown that male destitute have shown significant increase in the level of deprivation compared to female destitutes.
2. The results of the present study have also shown that religion also has a significant impact on the level of deprivation. The findings have shown that institutionalized

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destitutes of Muslim (Islam) religion have shown higher level of deprivation compared to destitutes of Hindu and Christ religion. Institutionalized destitutes of Christ religion have shown low level of deprivation compared to other religious groups.

3. The present study has shown that age is one of the influencing factors in the level of deprivation. The results have shown that destitutes of 21 to 40 years of age group has shown low level of deprivation compared to other two groups (such as 41 to 60 years and 61 years and above). The age group of 61years and above has shown increased level of deprivation and 41-to-60-year age group has shown moderate level of deprivation.

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