



Why Do We Need Inclusion More than Any Time Before?

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May 20, 2021

Why do we need economic and social inclusion more than any time before ?

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In the light of the growing global disparities, marked by the increasing of inequality and poverty, social inclusion becomes an essential factor in the economic and social development of modern societies.

In particular, since it is an imperative strategic challenge, reducing the rate of inequality and establishing social justice have traditionally stimulated social debates within philosophical movements (Rousseau (1754), Condorcet (1793), Tocqueville (1840)), sociological trends (Durkheim (1981)) and among social justice economists (Dworkin (1978; 1981), Rawls (2003), Sen (2000)). From that time, in various analyses and writings, inequalities have become a major concern in the political economy of development. Interest in this concern is motivated by socio-economic issues.

Reducing inequalities involves the inclusion of the marginalized or vulnerable population. In this respect, it should be noted that social inclusion refers to the process by which the conditions for participation of individuals and groups are improved through "improving the capabilities, opportunities and dignity of people who are discriminated against on the basis of their identity" (World Bank 2020).

However, On the one hand, the inclusion of the marginalized requires the creation of sustained but especially inclusive growth. On the other hand, the implementation of a strategic and political imperative would be both crucial and urgent. Hence, an inclusive society involves setting the policies, strategies and, above all, innovative practices in several areas such as education, finance, housing, health, employment, etc.

In this scientific event, we are trying to analyze many challenges. The aim of this academic event is to identify the source of inequalities and inequity and more importantly to determine solutions to overcome them. Through relying on teams working on different but appropriate fields, we will start with the foundations of inclusive societies, and move to the economic and social stakes and the evaluation of inequalities.

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The underlying objective of this event is to show that reducing inequalities requires inclusion, through all its aspects and outside the tenacious obstacles that are being established such as social and institutional resistance, difficulties of objectification, irrationality of expenses and operations. These are the requirements that must be taken into consideration when societies move towards institutional, economic and social development.

Morocco, like many other developing countries, has rapidly experienced intensive growth phases, but these have had little impact on social inclusion. This configuration of the Moroccan social model gives rise to the following question "where are the benefits of growth?"

Indeed, what contributes to the exclusion of a large part of vulnerable and marginalized citizens is the perpetuation of income inequalities and inequalities related to having access to "primary" assets (education, vocational training, employment, health, housing, transportation, etc.) and gender. On this basis, we can think of a variety of factors that characterize and promote social inclusion. These obviously vary according to the period, the country, and even the territory.

The following factors can be considered: Access to basic services (education, training, health care); measures to combat gender and communities discrimination; access to infrastructure; social protection; inclusion of people with disabilities, ex-prisoners, seniors, etc.; decent work.

In the case of Morocco, the reform of social and political relations explicitly defines the framework of a model of social inclusion in the 2011 constitution. The latter is based on major principles, particularly fighting against all forms of discrimination.

- *Social inclusion a priority in situations of external shocks: The case of Covid-19 pandemic*

The evolution of disease is defined as an "epidemiological transition" where the prevention of certain pandemics necessitates the mobilization of significant financial, technical and human resources.

The epidemiological transition's effect extends beyond the realm of health and has a direct and indirect impact on the economic and social sectors, etc. Hence, the birth of the "epidemiological transition" theory studies the complex changes in health and disease

patterns, the interactions between these patterns, their factors and their demographic, economic and sociological consequences (Omran, 1971).

Indeed, the global health crisis is already becoming a major global financial and economic crisis having serious consequences on the economic growth, employment and wages. The COVID-19 epidemic affects all segments of the population and is negatively affecting members of these social groups of the most vulnerable situations, including poor people, elderly ones, people with disabilities, youth, refugees and migrants. Empirical evidence indicates that the health and the economic impacts of the virus are experienced by the poor basically due to limited movement, fewer employment opportunities, increased xenophobia or to the lack of access to health services. (United Nations, 2020). For this reason, the social crisis created by the COVID-19 pandemic must be properly taken into account by public policies as it may also increase inequality, exclusion, discrimination and global unemployment.

In short, social inclusion is key to eliminating extreme poverty and fostering shared prosperity. Similarly, including the excluded and vulnerable population is also a priority to revive the economy and to reduce the impact of the shock of the COVID-19 pandemic (World Bank, 2020). Thus, post-COVID-19 revival actions should be designed to address social gaps and basically to avoid creating new forms of exclusion.

In this context, analyzing inclusion implies answering to 4 main questions: who is excluded, from what, how, why and how to manage change?

Therefore, four axes can draw thoughtful questions and can form the basis of the debate on inclusion:

- Economic inclusion: decent employment, informal/formal sector, access to property ownership
- Social inclusion: access to education and training, access to basic infrastructure and services, health, housing, etc.
- Financial inclusion: microcredits, fintech
- Actors and processes of change

Analysis should also focus on the following aspects: gender, unemployed youth, population with disabilities, ex-prisoners, seniors, refugees, minorities etc. analysis by background/region/group, disparities and inequalities.

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