

Reduced Inequalities: A study on Perceptions, Challenges and Socio-Economic Effects

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Abstract- Increased inequalities have become one of the most burning international problems of the 21st century. The gap between various groups in society is still increasing due to economic inequalities, social exclusion, inequalities in access to education, medical care, jobs, and discrimination on the basis of gender, caste, ethnicity, and level of income. Sustainable Development Goal 10 focuses on eradicating inequality within and among nations by achieving inclusive development, equal opportunities and social security. This paper will examine the perception of the people about inequality, the critical areas where inequality has been experienced, and the effectiveness of the measures in place to reduce the gaps. The research measures the awareness, experiences, and attitudes of the respondents on income inequality, education inequality, gender inequality, digital divide and social inclusion using primary data obtained using structured questionnaires. The results suggest that the level of awareness is high but there are still some gaps in the implementation, outreach of policies and the level of equal access to the resources. The paper demonstrates the necessity of more robust policy frameworks, inclusive economic policies, and community-based interventions to employ sustainable and equitable development.

Index Terms- Poverty, income, economic disparities, social exclusion, social mobility, inclusive development, social perception, declined inequalities and sustainable development goal 10.

I. INTRODUCTION

Inequality is a complex issue, which influences the economic development, social cohesion and human development. It manifests itself in different ways including inequality in incomes, inequality on gender, inequality in education, inequality in healthcare, and unequal access to technology. Such inequalities cannot allow people to fulfill their potential and prevent the development of society as a whole.

Globalization and technological changes have generated opportunities in the recent decades, though they have also helped increase income disparity between the skilled and unskilled workers. The marginalized communities are usually not part of the economic growth which further provides a cycle of poverty and social exclusion.

To have successful development, reduction in inequalities is paramount. In the process of equal distribution of resources and opportunities, the societies will be stronger, more active, and stable. Governments, institutions and civil society have to collaborate so that development benefits are experienced by all groups of people in the society, especially the most vulnerable groups.

This study analyzes the opinions of the people concerning the inequalities and whether social and economic systems in place are responsive to them.

OBJECTIVE OF STUDY

A vital part of sustainable development and social advancement is reduction of inequalities. Income, educational, employment, healthcare, and social opportunities disparities keep on increasing regardless of economic growth and policy interventions. Such inequalities inhibit social mobility as well as denying people the opportunity to realize their potential.

This research is proposed to investigate the citizens attitude towards inequality and the efficiency with which the reduction efforts are undertaken. The research problem should be to gain a perception on how people consider inequality in their everyday lives and what solutions they think can be used to bring about a more equitable society.

The aims of the study are as follows:

- To determine the degree of awareness of the various types of inequality in the society.
- To examine the social attitudes regarding the severity and reasons behind inequality, such as unemployment, discrimination, and unequal access to education and resources.
- To determine the degree of awareness on government programs and policies to diminish inequalities.
- To establish the most prevalent forms of inequality that are practiced or witnessed by respondents.
- To investigate whether people think that current actions are successful in decreasing inequality.
- To investigate potential policy options and social transformation that can encourage inclusive growth and equal opportunities.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Inequality has been greatly observed in economic, social, and policy aspects. Many researchers and global organizations have analyzed the differences in income, social exclusion and unbalanced access to opportunities.

The World Bank (2022) writes that income inequality is still growing in most developing and developed countries despite economic growth. The growth of an economy is not enough to assure equal wealth distribution. The unemployment, inadequate access to education, and discrimination are all structural barriers that promote persistence of inequality.

According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP, 2023), inequality is multidimensional. It is not just limited to income but covers the gaps in education, healthcare, gender equality, access to digital technology, and political involvement. Along the same lines, the Human Development Reports add that inequality in access to capabilities does not allow a sustainable development and social mobility.

In his wealth concentration analysis, Piketty (2014) is of the opinion that wealth inequality grows when the rate of accumulation of capital is higher than the rate of economic growth. His theory is used to describe

the economic factors of income and wealth accumulation in contemporary economies on a structural level.

The Capability Approach proposed by Sen (1999) stressed the fact that the development is to be aimed at increasing freedoms and capabilities of people, as opposed to just raising the income levels. Sen argues that inequality in the areas of education, healthcare and opportunities is a direct impediment to human development.

According to a study conducted by Stiglitz (2012), inequality undermines economic growth, lessens social trust, and causes political instability. He claims that the causes of disparities are policy failures and ineffective redistribution mechanisms.

A number of empirical studies emphasize more on macroeconomic indicators like Gini coefficient, poverty levels, and unemployment levels. Nonetheless, the recent studies focus on the value of the perception of people in the context of inequality. Based on the perception research, the lived experience of individuals has an impact on trusting institutions and effectiveness of policies.

According to the research done on perceptions of the youth, the youth adults display the increased awareness of inequality as a result of digital exposure, education, and activity on social media. Nevertheless, the knowledge about government programs is poor, which demonstrates a lack of awareness of the policies and the knowledge among citizens.

The current literature is mostly devoted to economic measurement of inequality, and to a lesser extent to the analysis of awareness, perception, and lived experiences all at the same time. Consequently, the given research fills the gap of the multidimensional and perception-based understanding of inequality and is consistent with the Sustainable Development Goal 10.

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Purpose of the Study

Learning the Nature and Dimensions of Inequality.

In the contemporary world of fast economic development, globalization and technological expansion, inequality has been a continual problem in most societies. Although the improvement in the living standards of many people is attributed to the economic development, the results have not been evenly distributed. The population is still faced with large proportions of barriers to access to education, employment, healthcare, and social opportunities. This research is meant to explore multi-dimensionality of inequality and get to know how this issue impacts people in their daily life.

Inequality does not exist only in terms of income differences. It is also characterized by disparities in access to quality education, healthcare services, jobs and social participation. These various dimensions should enable the research to bring a wider perspective of the problem and its consequences to sustainable development.

Evaluation of Public Awareness/Perceptions.

The other significant aim of the research is to evaluate the awareness level of people concerning the issue of inequality and the action that is taken to narrow it. Policies that are focused on alleviating inequality are largely dependent on social opinion. Unless individuals know government, programs or are convinced that they are working, the difference caused by these government programs might not be much.

This research aims to gather primary data through the respondents with the intention of finding their perceptions regarding:

The gravity of inequality in society.

The forms of inequality that they experience.

The causes of inequality

Governmental program awareness.

Some of the potential solutions to inequality.

Through such perceptions, the research has given some insight into the social reality of inequality and the relevance of the current interventions.

Appraisal of available Literature and Empirical evidence.

Another objective of the study is to review the available literature and empirical evidence on inequality. Various researches have been conducted

on inequality, both economically, socially and policy wise. Nonetheless, the majority of these research works are based on statistical data like income distribution, poverty levels, and data on employment.

The study is an effort to add to the current research on the subject by using the perceptions and experiences of the people. The theoretical and contextual support to the study is presented by secondary data in the form of research papers, journals, government reports, and the international publications.

Closing the Policy-Publicity Distance.

The gap between the policy initiatives and the public awareness is one of the essential objectives of this research. The governments and international bodies have launched some initiatives to curb inequality through several programs including social welfare programs, employment programs as well as education programs.

The success of such programs is however determined by the awareness of the people and their participation. In case people do not know about these initiatives, the expected benefits might not be conveyed to them. The purpose of this study is to investigate the awareness of the respondents and determine the deficiencies in communication and implementation.

Offering Policy and Social Intervention Insights.

The research also aims at coming up with an insight that would assist policy makers, institutions and social organizations to come up with better policies to curb inequality. The knowledge of the perceptions and experiences of people helps the policymakers to define what issues are the most urgent ones and formulate specific interventions.

The study results can be useful in:

- Enhancing the social welfare program implementation.
- Improving access to quality education and health care.
- Enhancing equal employment opportunities.
- Enhancing awareness petitions.
- Fostering Non-discriminatory Development and Equality.

A latent aim of the research is to investigate how awareness, educational and policy interventions can play a role in inclusive growth and social equity. Inequality must be reduced to have sustainable development since it will lead to social stability, economic productivity and well-being.

The study will help in the quest towards establishing a more equal society because it will reveal the key determinants and perceptions of inequality

Research Design

The research design embraced in the study is that of descriptive research to provide an examination of the outlooks and views of the people toward inequality. The descriptive research is suitable since the study aims at describing and interpreting the current conditions and not testing a given hypothesis.

This design helps in:

- Knowledge of the degree of inequality awareness.
- Determining perceived causes and effects.
- Evaluation of the opinions on solutions.

Data Collection

Primary Data

The structured questionnaire was used as a primary source of data collected with the help of a Google Form. The questionnaire was closed ended and was aimed at capturing:

- Demographic characteristics of the respondents.
- Attitudes towards the severity of inequality.
- Inequality types as witnessed
- Causes of inequality
- Government program awareness.
- Individual encounters with inequality.
- Proposed ways of lessening inequality.

The questions were asked in simple and straightforward form to have the respondents with varying educational and work experiences

participate. The online survey helped to collect data quite efficiently and broaden the participation.

Secondary Data

The secondary data was gathered using different credible sources such as:

- Academic research papers
- Government publications
- International organizations report.

The journals and books concerning inequality and sustainable development.

These sources were theoretical and informational on the study including statistical knowledge and comparative views.

Sampling Method

The sampling technique applied in the study was convenience sampling; the respondents were sampled depending on their accessibility and their willingness to be sampled. This was done because of time restriction and availability of the data collected easily.

Convenience sampling is not the best in terms of representing a sample but it is fast and efficient in the data collection process and is also appropriate in exploratory and perception-based studies.

Sample Size

The respondents involved in the survey were 197 in number. The sample consisted of representatives of various ages, education levels and professional status including:

Students

- Employed individuals
- Unemployed individuals
- Self-employed individuals

It is this diversity that assisted in capturing different views about inequality.

Questionnaire Design

The survey had 21 close ended questions that summed up the following areas:

- Age, gender, education and occupation.
- Seriousness of inequality perceived.
- Observed types of inequality.
- Causes of inequality
- Healthcare and education role.
- Consciousness of government measures.
- The individual experiences of inequality.
- Recommended remedies to inequality.

The questions were also crafted in a manner that is easy to comprehend and respond to, which would guarantee increased response rates and correct data gathering.

Tools for Data Analysis

The data obtained were analyzed with the help of:

Percentage Analysis

The percentage analysis was made in order to determine the proportion of the responses to each question. This was useful in determining trends and patterns on the data.

Descriptive Interpretation

The results were explained with the help of descriptive interpretation in order to comprehend the general picture of the respondents about inequality.

These instruments have given the survey data a clean and systematic analysis.

Need of the study (Research Gap)

Increasing Anxiety about Inequality in Contemporary Society.

Inequality has become one of the main concerns of sustainable development in the modern world. Even though the economic growth and development have been very high due to technology, not all of society has benefitted equally in sharing the gains of development. The income, education, joblessness, healthcare, and social opportunity disparities in the large segments of the population persist. The existence of these inequalities prevents personal

potential, decreases social mobility, and forms a long-term economic and social insecurity. Consequently, inequality reduction has become a major goal of development agendas globally, especially in the Sustainable Development Goal 10.

Weaknesses of the Current Studies of Inequality.

There is a significant body of research on the topic on inequality and most of the studies had been centered on the economic indicators, specifically the income distribution, poverty and unemployment rates. Although such studies offer a very important information about the economic sphere of inequality, they usually disregard the social and psychological dimension of the problem and the sphere of experience. Inequality does not refer to income disparity only but refers to unequal availability of opportunities, resources and services.

The available research is extensively based on macroeconomic indicators and statistical analytical tools that might not adequately express how individuals are feeling and viewing inequality in their day-to-day lives. Research has not been conducted yet to include the public opinion, awareness, and individual experiences in the examination of inequality.

Absence of Research on Awareness and Perception in the Population.

The other significant overlap of the current studies is the insufficient scope on the public awareness and perception of inequality and the policies aimed at its minimization. Many efforts have been made by governments and international bodies in order to curb inequality, including social welfare programs, job creation programs and education reforms. Nevertheless, the effective work of the initiatives depends much on the awareness, acceptance, and involvement of the people.

There are several clients who might not know about such programs or are not aware of their purposes and advantages. Due to this, the desired influence of such policies might not be achieved. Research that explores the perception of inequality and the awareness of the people regarding the efforts being made to curb the same is needed.

Disjunction between Policy Formulation and Implementation.

Despite governments and institutions coming up with some policies to curb the level of inequality, a disconnect is usually witnessed between the policy making and implementation. Numerous policies are formulated keeping in view a goal of encouraging growth and equality of opportunity; however, they cannot work effectively unless they are well implemented and the society involved.

In most instances, the fruits of such policies fail to reach the targeted beneficiaries as a result of ignorance, unprofessionalism or institutional aspects. This puts a gap between policy goals and the actual performance. Hence, it is worth examining how people perceive the efficacy of these policies as well as how they think whether these efforts are bearing fruits.

Nature of Inequality is Multidimensional.

The aspect of inequality is not a simple and one-dimensional issue that is limited to the disparity in income. It encompasses educational, health, job access, gender equality, social, and resource inequality. These dimensions are also linked to one another and tend to reinforce each other, forming disadvantageous cycles.

Considering the use of the example, the lack of good education can result in unemployment or low-paid jobs, which in turn impacts on the income level and can access to healthcare. Likewise, inequality based on gender may limit educational and work opportunities to women and thus creating general social and economic differences.

There are numerous studies available that concentrate on a single facet of inequality (income, or employment) and do not take into account the interdependent character of these aspects. The research on the subject of inequality needs to be conducted in a more comprehensive way.

Requirement of Youth-Based and Micro-Level Research.

Youth constitute a big percentage of the population and will be very instrumental in influencing the future labor force and society. Nevertheless, their concepts and understanding of inequality are under-represented in studies.

The majority of the literature on the topic of inequality concentrates on national or global statistics whereas less literature concentrates on how stereotypes are perceived at the micro level, specifically among students and young adults. It is significant to understand the expectations of younger generations since they are under the direct impact of such areas like the quality of education, employment, and social mobility.

Significance of Research on Perceptions.

The studies that are based on perception are a good learning experience on how people perceive inequality in their lives. These studies can be used to determine the areas where the policies might be failing to reach the target population. They also indicate how much people are aware and trusting of the government initiatives.

This research attempts to fill the gaps in the existing statistical studies by targeting the perception of the people and offer a more in-depth examination of the subject of inequality.

Conclusion of Research Gap

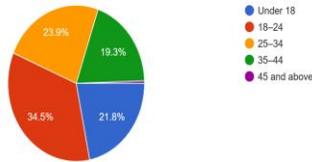
Overall, although there has been a lot of research on economic dimensions of inequality, a gap is evident in the studies related to the perception, awareness and experiences of people in this field. The research that investigates inequality as a multidimensional concept and how it is perceived by the individuals in terms of the effectiveness of the policies conducted to reduce it is also insufficient.

This research work tries to fill these gaps by examining the perceptions of the people, the level of awareness and the experience with regard to inequality. In this way, it will offer information that can help enhance more efficient policy implementation and help to attain the Sustainable Development Goal 10.

Findings of the Study

1) What is your age group?

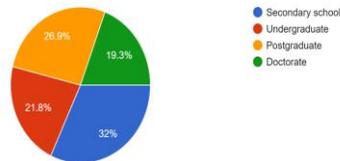
What is your age group?
197 responses



Most of the respondents are between the 18-24 age range with the 25-34 and under-18 taking the second and third place respectively. This distribution shows that the youth individuals take up the highest percentages of respondents of the study. Youth represent the most adequately represented population since they are at a very pivotal stage in life, between education and work; this implies that the issues of inequality stand out exceptionally among the younger generations. Their perceptions are meaningful as it will determine the workforce trends, economic participation as well as policy demands in future. The results also indicate that the younger ones get more exposed to the discourse about inequality due to their education, social media, and global awareness campaigns.

2) What is your highest level of education?

What is your highest level of education?
197 responses

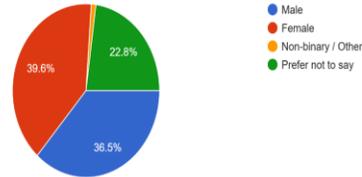


The respondents are very diverse in terms of their educational levels, with secondary school and postgraduate being the biggest. Such a diversity makes the results more credible, because the opinions are made by people that have different degrees of academic exposure and knowledge. The findings reveal that the awareness on inequality is not confined to a group of people who are less educated, but awareness transcends all levels of education. This implies that inequality is a common issue that people are exposed to irrespective of their academic background. Universal education can raise the level of awareness regarding social problems and low

education levels can indicate the level of firsthand experiences of inequality.

3) What is your gender?

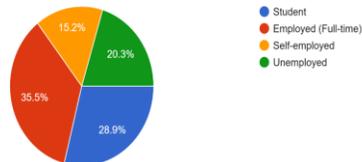
What is your gender?
197 responses



The respondents are very diverse in terms of their educational levels, with secondary school and postgraduate being the biggest. Such a diversity makes the results more credible, because the opinions are made by people that have different degrees of academic exposure and knowledge. The findings reveal that the awareness on inequality is not confined to a group of people who are less educated, but awareness transcends all levels of education. This implies that inequality is a common issue that people are exposed to irrespective of their academic background. Universal education can raise the level of awareness regarding social problems and low education levels can indicate the level of firsthand experiences of inequality.

4) What is your current occupation status?

What is your current occupation status?
197 responses

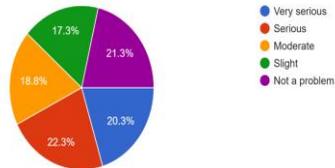


A significant percentage of the respondents work full time, then students, and non-employed persons. This is a combination of mixed economic experiences and financial stability of the participants. Workers will perceive inequality as a form of wage disparity and job opportunities and students will perceive inequality as access to a good education and future working prospects. It is also important to include in the sample the respondents who are unemployed as unemployment is strongly associated with economic

vulnerability and social exclusion. These diverse occupational experiences give us an overall picture of disparity in various situations in life.

5) How serious do you think inequality is in your society?

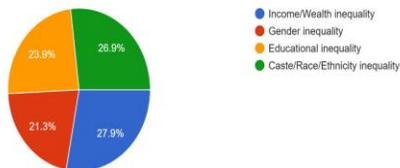
How serious do you think inequality is in your society?
 197 responses



A large segment of respondents perceive inequality as a serious or very serious problem in society. This indicates strong recognition of inequality as a major social and economic issue. However, a smaller portion of respondents believe inequality is not a significant problem, highlighting differences in lived experiences and levels of awareness. These variations suggest that inequality affects individuals unevenly depending on their socioeconomic background. The findings reveal that while inequality is widely acknowledged, its intensity and impact are experienced differently across groups.

6) Which type of inequality do you think is the most common?

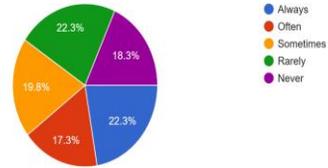
Which type of inequality do you think is the most common?
 197 responses



Income and wealth inequality is the most perceived type of inequality then education, caste or ethnicity, and gender inequality follows. This means that inequality that is most evident and tangible is economic disparities. Social and identity-based inequalities are also present and this phenomenon has pointed to the stratified character of inequality in which the disadvantage of economic status is frequently coincidental with social discrimination. The results indicate that inequality has to be reduced both economically and socially.

7) Do you believe people from poor backgrounds get equal opportunities?

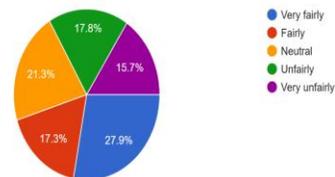
Do you believe people from poor backgrounds get equal opportunities?
 197 responses



According to many respondents, poor people are hardly or never given equal opportunities. Such a perception indicates the lack of confidence in the social mobility and equity in the society. Probably, structural obstacles like inequality to get good education, fewer job opportunities, and absence of social networks are the contributing factors to this belief. The evidence shows that poverty still restrains the opportunities and supports the long-term disadvantages so that people belonging to poorer backgrounds can hardly improve their socioeconomic state.

8) How fairly do you think wealth is distributed in your country?

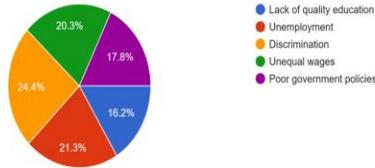
How fairly do you think wealth is distributed in your country?
 197 responses



A large percentage of the interviewees believe that there is unjust distribution of wealth in the society. This attitude indicates their dissatisfaction with the current economic structures and patterns of distribution of income. A number of respondents have the view that economic resources are being concentrated to a small group of individuals in the society that results in disparities in the standard of living. These opinions suggest the pro-redistributive policy stance and reflect social anxiety about the economic justice and equity.

9) What do you think is the main cause of inequality?

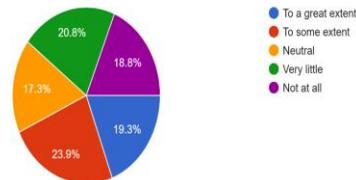
What do you think is the main cause of inequality?
 197 responses



The primary sources of inequality are found to be discrimination, unemployment and unequal wages. It proves that the respondents see inequality as a consequence of both the social exclusion and the economic situation. Discrimination restricts access to opportunities, unemployment and wage differences are directly related to the level of income. The results imply that both structural and institutional factors, and not personal deficiencies, lead to inequality, and require a holistic approach to the development of policies.

10) To what extent does education reduce inequality?

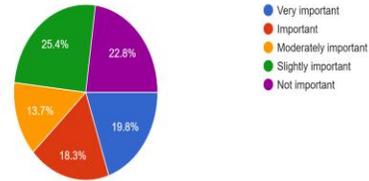
To what extent does education reduce inequality?
 197 responses



The majority of the respondents are of the opinion that education plays a major role towards mitigating the inequality through enhancing skills, knowledge, and employment. Education is generally considered an upward mobility and economic freedom. But there are also those respondents who think education is not effective enough because there are problems such as low quality education, expensive education or education that is not relevant to a job. It means that access is not enough but it is important to improve the quality and results of education to decrease inequality.

11) How important is access to healthcare in reducing inequality?

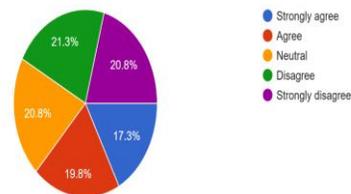
How important is access to healthcare in reducing inequality?
 197 responses



A good number of respondents attach importance to healthcare access as the latter has a direct impact on productivity and life quality. Nevertheless, a significant part of the respondents do not consider healthcare as one of the key factors, which implies that not all people are aware of the long-term impact of the relationship between health and economic inequality. Ill health may cause greater economic strains and less opportunities to work thus propagating inequality. The results show that more attention is required on the importance of healthcare in social and economic inclusion.

12) Do you think technology access affects inequality?

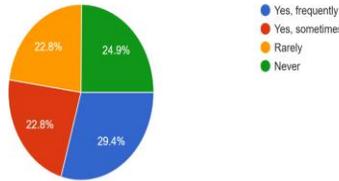
Do you think technology access affects inequality?
 197 responses



There are some controversial views on whether access to technology has any effect on inequality. Those respondents who acknowledge that absence of access to digital practices and the internet may restrain learning and working opportunities are in the minority, with others being indifferent or opposed to it. This implies that there is partial knowledge about the digital divide. With the rise in the significance of technology in contemporary economies, the disparity in access may expand some of the existing social and economic disparities, especially to the underprivileged populations.

13) Have you personally experienced any form of inequality?

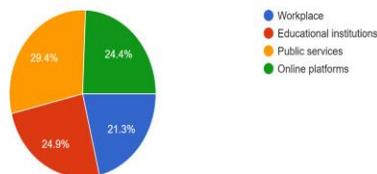
Have you personally experienced any form of inequality?
 197 responses



Over 50 percent of the respondents admit that they experienced inequality personally on a regular or a regular basis. This goes to confirm that inequality is no longer a hypothetical notion but a fact that many people live with. These experiences can be in forms of discrimination, unequal compensation, restricted opportunities or unfair treatment in institutions. Observed inequality impacts individuals, increasing the level of social and economic policy concern and shaping perceptions on social and economic reforms.

14) Where do you most often observe inequality?

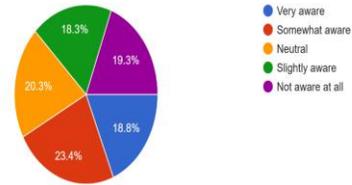
Where do you most often observe inequality?
 197 responses



The most frequent areas where respondents can see inequality are in the fields of public services and schools and colleges, then in the workplaces and online. This implies that inequality is instilled in the normal systems that have direct impact on the lives of individuals. Service delivery and access institutional failures are a major cause of perceived inequality. The results indicate that combating inequality has to be done not only by institutional reforms but also by economic ones.

15) How aware are you about government programs aimed at reducing inequality?

How aware are you about government programs aimed at reducing inequality?
 197 responses



Just a mediocre percentage of the participants are familiar with government initiatives to mitigate inequality. This means that there is poor communication and insufficient outreach to policy initiatives. In cases where good programs are in existence, ignorance can make beneficiaries fail to access the programs. The results emphasize the role of enhancing the dissemination of information and community involvement in order to make inequality-reduction policies successful.

IV. FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

Demographic Profile of the Respondents.

The sample consisted of 197 respondents who were different in terms of their age, educational background, sex, and occupation. A high percentage of them was in the age group of 18-24, which means that there was a high participation of youth. The inclusion of the students, employed and unemployed and self-employed people is what gave it a varying point of view. This heterogeneity enhanced the relevance and representativeness of the results.

Inequality as a Social Issue Awareness.

The majority of the respondents believe that inequality is a serious or very serious problem in the society. This is an indication of a great awareness of the masses about the social and economic inequities. Nonetheless, a less high number of people consider inequality as a slight problem, which means that people have different experiences. These differences indicate that inequality has a disproportional impact on people.

The majority of common forms of Inequality.

The most perceived forms of inequality turned out to be income and wealth inequality. Educational, social, and gender-based inequalities were also cited by the

respondents as a big issue. It demonstrates that inequality is not restricted to the economic factors only. It is distributed on various social and institutional levels.

Equal Opportunities and Social Mobility.

According to many respondents, it is a fact that poor people hardly ever or even never get equal opportunities. This is an indication of low trust in social mobility and equity. This is supported by structural obstacles like access to education and employment opportunities in an unequal manner. The results indicate that there is a continued disadvantage to the less advantaged groups of people.

Equity in the process of Wealth Distribution.

The respondents had mixed opinions concerning the wealth distribution. Although some considered wealth to be fairly distributed, many saw it as unequal or quite unequal. This means discontent with the prevailing economic systems. It is also an indication of fear of concentration of resources in a small portion of the society.

Main Causes of Inequality

The causes of inequality were stated to be discrimination, unemployment and unequal wages. It was also reported that poor government policies and absence of quality education are cited by the respondents. These aspects bring out social and economic origins of inequality. The findings suggest that structural and institutional factors cause inequality.

Education, Healthcare and Technology role.

The education process was also considered to be a significant device of lessening inequality. Nevertheless, others respondents noted its ineffectiveness because the quality and accessibility are problematic. There was a divergent perception of the role of healthcare and technology, which implies the different awareness levels. This indicates that there should be improved knowledge on the effects of these factors on inequality.

Personal Experience and Inequality Areas.

Over fifty percent of the interviewees said they had encountered some type of inequality. Inequality was more prevalent in the field of public services, educational facilities, the workplace, and over the internet. This implies that inequality exists in day to day systems and interactions. It does not only focus on the economic aspects of it.

Government Program and Policy Measure Awareness.

Government programs targeting inequality reduction were identified to have moderate to low awareness. Most of the respondents had a partial or even no knowledge of such initiatives. This implies that there is a disconnect between policy-making and awareness to the population. It implies that better communication and outreach work is required.

Choice of Preferred Solutions and Future Outlook.

Respondents saw a raise in minimum wages, better access to healthcare, better education, and employment opportunities as some of the solutions. There was a mixed opinion on equal pay and government spending on welfare which had different policy opinions. Majority of the respondents felt that it is an obligation of everybody to reduce inequality. Nevertheless, most people had a hope that they can decrease inequality in the future.

V. CONCLUSION

The research on lower inequalities identifies that inequality still remains a significant social and economic issue in various quarters of the society. The answers of 197 respondents suggest that individuals with different age groups, levels of education, and professional backgrounds accept inequality as a severe problem. The prevalence of the younger respondents is indicative of the rising consciousness of the young people toward social and economic inequalities and especially in such sectors like employment, education and distribution of wealth.

Income and wealth inequality became the most noticeable variance of inequality, the second was educational inequality, and lastly, social and gender inequality. A great number of respondents consider that people with poor backgrounds are not given

equal opportunities and this does indicate lack of confidence in social mobility. Discrimination, unemployment, and unequal wages were found to be the main causes of inequality and both economic and social systems were exploited as having led to the inequalities.

The research also indicates that education is being widely viewed as one of the major instruments of decreasing inequality since it equips individuals with knowledge and skills as well as opportunities of upward mobility. Nonetheless, the issue of quality and accessibility of education is an indication that developments should be done to make education effective. Government awareness programs on inequality reduction were reported to be moderate to low, which shows lack of awareness between the policy formulation and its meaning to the people.

According to the respondents, the best solutions were increment of minimum wages, better access to healthcare, better education, and more employment opportunities. These are aimed at enhancing living standards and opportunities that are critical towards inclusive growth. The results also indicate that individuals consider inequality reduction as a joint government-organization-community-individual responsibility.

Although most of the respondents realized that inequality was a critical issue, most of them had hope that it could be alleviated in the future. This optimism is the confidence in the policy changes, social consciousness and social action. To conclude, inequality must be dealt with on a broad scale that involves improved education, equitable employment policies, enhanced social welfare schemes, and higher awareness to the masses. Through the concerted efforts and proper implementation of policies, the transition to a more balanced and inclusive society can be made according to the Sustainable Development Goal 10 goals.

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