

Social Exclusion and Youth Participation in Urban Margins: Evidence from Indonesian Cities

Irwan Amar¹, Zainal Arifin²

¹ Institut Dharma Bharata Grup, irwanamaridbgrup@gmail.com

² Universitas Islam Indragiri, zainalbdpn@gmail.com

Info Artikel

Article history:

Received Agu, 2026

Revised Agu, 2026

Accepted Agu, 2026

Kata Kunci:

Eksklusi Sosial; Indonesia;
Inklusi Sosial; Masyarakat
Pinggiran Kota; Partisipasi
Pemuda

Keywords:

Indonesia; Social Exclusion; Social
Inclusion; Suburban Communities;
Youth Participation

ABSTRAK

Eksklusi sosial masih menjadi tantangan signifikan yang memengaruhi kemampuan kaum muda untuk berpartisipasi secara aktif dalam kegiatan sosial, kemasyarakatan, dan kewargaan, khususnya di wilayah pinggiran kota yang mengalami transformasi sosial dan spasial secara cepat. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis hubungan antara eksklusi sosial dan partisipasi pemuda di wilayah pinggiran kota di Indonesia. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kuantitatif dengan memanfaatkan data survei yang diperoleh dari 175 responden pemuda. Data dikumpulkan melalui kuesioner terstruktur menggunakan skala Likert lima poin, sedangkan analisis data dilakukan dengan menggunakan Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) versi 25. Analisis meliputi statistik deskriptif, uji validitas dan reliabilitas, uji asumsi klasik, serta analisis regresi linear sederhana. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa eksklusi sosial memiliki hubungan yang negatif dan signifikan dengan partisipasi pemuda. Koefisien determinasi menunjukkan bahwa eksklusi sosial menjelaskan sebesar 22,2% variasi dalam partisipasi pemuda. Hasil tersebut menunjukkan bahwa keterbatasan akses terhadap jaringan sosial, peluang kelembagaan, dan sumber daya masyarakat dapat mengurangi keterlibatan pemuda dalam kegiatan kolektif. Penelitian ini menegaskan pentingnya memperkuat lingkungan sosial yang inklusif, memperluas akses pemuda terhadap ruang partisipasi, serta mengembangkan strategi berbasis masyarakat untuk mengurangi eksklusi sosial di wilayah pinggiran kota. Penelitian ini memberikan kontribusi terhadap literatur mengenai inklusi sosial dan pembangunan pemuda melalui penyediaan bukti empiris dari konteks wilayah pinggiran kota di Indonesia.

ABSTRACT

Social exclusion remains a significant challenge affecting young people's ability to participate actively in social, community, and civic activities, particularly in suburban areas experiencing rapid social and spatial transformation. This study aims to examine the relationship between social exclusion and youth participation in suburban areas in Indonesia. A quantitative research approach was employed using survey data collected from 175 young respondents. Data were gathered through a structured questionnaire using a five-point Likert scale, while data analysis was conducted using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) version 25. The analysis included descriptive statistics, validity and reliability testing, classical assumption testing, and simple linear regression analysis. The findings indicate that social exclusion has a negative and significant relationship with youth participation. The coefficient of determination shows that social exclusion explains 22.2% of the variance in youth participation. These results demonstrate that limited access to social networks, institutional opportunities, and community resources may reduce young people's

engagement in collective activities. The study highlights the importance of strengthening inclusive social environments, expanding youth access to participation spaces, and developing community-based strategies to reduce exclusion in suburban communities. This research contributes to the literature on social inclusion and youth development by providing empirical evidence from the Indonesian suburban context.

This is an open access article under the [CC BY-SA](#) license.



Corresponding Author:

Name: Irwan Amar

Institution: Institut Dharma Bharata Grup

Email: irwanamaridbgrup@gmail.com

1. INTRODUCTION

Youth participation has emerged as a critical indicator of inclusive social development, particularly in urban and suburban contexts experiencing rapid social transformation. Young people represent an important demographic group that contributes significantly to community development, civic engagement, innovation, and social change (Noori et al., 2023a; Zhang, 2023). However, opportunities for youth participation are not equally distributed among different social groups. Variations in socioeconomic conditions, access to resources, social networks, and institutional support may create barriers that restrict young people's involvement in community activities. These barriers are closely associated with social exclusion, which refers to the processes through which individuals or groups experience limited access to opportunities, relationships, and resources necessary for full participation in society. Therefore, understanding the relationship between social exclusion and youth participation is essential for promoting more inclusive and sustainable social development.

Suburban areas provide a unique context for examining the relationship between social exclusion and youth participation. Unlike urban centers that generally offer greater access to educational institutions, employment opportunities, public facilities, and social networks, suburban communities often experience uneven development patterns (Chen et al., 2022; Lewinnek, 2005; Santina et al., 2024). Rapid urban expansion may generate new forms of socioeconomic inequality, spatial segregation, and unequal access to public services. In Indonesia, suburban areas surrounding major cities have experienced significant demographic and economic transformations due to urbanization, migration, and infrastructure development. While these changes may create new opportunities, they may also produce exclusionary conditions that particularly affect young people with limited social and economic resources, reducing their ability to actively participate in community life.

Social exclusion among youth is a multidimensional issue that extends beyond economic disadvantage. It includes limited access to education, employment opportunities, digital resources, community participation, and social recognition. Young individuals experiencing exclusion may face challenges in developing social relationships, expressing their perspectives, and engaging in collective decision-making processes. As a result, social exclusion can weaken youth agency, reduce their sense of belonging, and diminish their willingness or capacity to participate in community development activities. Consequently, youth participation should be understood not only as an individual behavior but also as an outcome influenced by the social structures and environments in which young people live.

Previous studies have emphasized the importance of social inclusion in strengthening youth engagement. Supportive social environments, inclusive institutions, and meaningful

participation opportunities encourage young people to become more actively involved in civic and community activities. Conversely, exclusionary conditions may discourage participation by creating feelings of marginalization, limited social belonging, and reduced trust toward community institutions. However, much of the existing literature has concentrated on youth experiences in metropolitan areas or developed-country contexts, while empirical evidence regarding suburban youth in developing countries, particularly Indonesia, remains limited. This gap indicates the need for further investigation into how social exclusion shapes youth participation within suburban communities undergoing rapid social and economic transformation.

This study aims to analyze the relationship between social exclusion and youth participation in suburban areas of Indonesia. Specifically, this research examines whether different dimensions of social exclusion significantly influence the level of youth participation within suburban communities. The study contributes to the existing literature by expanding discussions on social inclusion, youth development, and urban sociology through empirical evidence from the Indonesian suburban context. Furthermore, the findings provide practical implications for policymakers, community organizations, and social institutions in developing inclusive strategies that enhance youth participation and prevent the emergence of new forms of social marginalization among younger generations.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 *Social Exclusion*

Social exclusion is a multidimensional concept that explains how individuals or groups experience limited access to social, economic, political, and cultural opportunities. Unlike poverty, which primarily focuses on income deficiency, social exclusion emphasizes broader structural and institutional barriers that restrict participation, resource access, and social relationships. Among youth, exclusion may affect education, employment, social networks, digital access, and community engagement, thereby weakening their sense of belonging and participation. Suburban areas provide an important context for examining this issue because rapid urbanization and uneven development may create disparities in access to services, opportunities, and social resources, influencing young people's ability to participate actively in community life.

2.2 *Youth Participation*

Youth participation refers to the active involvement of young people in activities, decision-making processes, and initiatives that influence their lives and communities. It represents an important element of democratic development, social cohesion, and community empowerment by enabling youth to develop leadership, social relationships, and collective responsibility. Meaningful participation requires opportunities for young people to express opinions, influence decisions, and exercise agency. However, youth participation is influenced by various factors, including social capital, institutional support, accessibility, and socioeconomic conditions. In suburban areas, disparities in infrastructure, opportunities, and community resources may create barriers that affect young people's ability to engage actively in social and civic activities.

2.3 *Theoretical Framework*

This study is grounded in the social exclusion framework, which explains that participation inequalities emerge from multidimensional barriers affecting individuals' access to resources, relationships, and opportunities. The framework is complemented by social capital theory, which highlights the role of trust, social networks, and community connections in facilitating youth engagement. Within this perspective, youth participation is shaped not only by individual motivation but also by the extent to which social environments provide support and opportunities for involvement. Therefore, this study proposes that higher levels of social exclusion are associated with lower levels of youth

participation, as exclusionary conditions may limit young people's social, economic, and civic engagement in suburban communities.

H1: Social exclusion has a significant negative relationship with youth participation in suburban areas in Indonesia.

3. RESEARCH METHODS

This study employed a quantitative research approach to examine the relationship between social exclusion and youth participation in suburban areas of Indonesia. A quantitative method was selected to objectively measure the relationship between variables using numerical data analysis. The study applied a cross-sectional survey design, where data were collected at a single point in time to capture current conditions and perceptions of youth regarding social exclusion and their involvement in social, community, and civic activities.

The population of this study consisted of young people living in suburban areas of Indonesia. Suburban communities were selected because these areas experience rapid social and economic changes caused by urban expansion, migration, and uneven development, which may influence patterns of inclusion and participation. A total of 175 respondents were selected using purposive sampling based on specific criteria, including being categorized as youth, residing in suburban areas, and having experience interacting or participating in community environments. The sample size was considered adequate for statistical analysis using SPSS version 25 and represented diverse demographic backgrounds to capture variations in social exclusion experiences and participation patterns.

Primary data were collected through a structured questionnaire developed based on previous studies related to social exclusion and youth participation. The instrument consisted of demographic information, social exclusion indicators (social isolation, limited access to opportunities, institutional exclusion, and social recognition), and youth participation indicators (community engagement, social interaction, decision-making involvement, and civic responsibility). All items were measured using a five-point Likert scale ranging from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree). The instrument was tested for validity using item-total correlation and reliability using Cronbach's Alpha, with values above 0.70 considered acceptable. Data analysis was conducted using SPSS version 25, including descriptive statistics, classical assumption tests (normality, multicollinearity, and heteroscedasticity), and simple linear regression analysis to examine the relationship between social exclusion and youth participation. The significance of the relationship was evaluated using the t-test with a threshold of $p < 0.05$, while the coefficient of determination (R^2) was used to assess the contribution of social exclusion in explaining variations in youth participation.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Results

a. Respondent Characteristics

This study involved 175 respondents consisting of young people living in suburban areas in Indonesia. The demographic characteristics of respondents were analyzed based on gender, age, educational background, and residential characteristics. The distribution of respondents indicates diversity in social backgrounds, allowing the study to capture variations in experiences of social exclusion and youth participation.

Table 1. Characteristics of Respondents

Characteristics	Category	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Gender	Male	82	46.9
	Female	93	53.1
Age	17–20 years	48	27.4
	21–25 years	79	45.1

Characteristics	Category	Frequency	Percentage (%)
	26–30 years	48	27.5
Education Level	High School	62	35.4
	Diploma	21	12.0
	Bachelor Degree	82	46.9
	Postgraduate	10	5.7
Length of Residence	Less than 5 years	37	21.1
	5–10 years	56	32.0
	More than 10 years	82	46.9

Source: Data Processed by Author, 2026

Table 1 presents the characteristics of the 175 respondents involved in this study. The gender distribution shows that female respondents represented a slightly larger proportion (53.1%) compared with male respondents (46.9%). In terms of age, most respondents were between 21–25 years old (45.1%), followed by those aged 17–20 years (27.4%) and 26–30 years (27.5%). Regarding education level, the majority of respondents held a bachelor's degree (46.9%), followed by high school education (35.4%), diploma qualifications (12.0%), and postgraduate degrees (5.7%). Based on length of residence, nearly half of the respondents had lived in suburban areas for more than 10 years (46.9%), while 32.0% had resided for 5–10 years and 21.1% for less than 5 years. These characteristics indicate that the respondents represented diverse demographic backgrounds, providing varied perspectives on social exclusion experiences and youth participation in suburban communities.

b. Descriptive Statistics of Research Variables

Descriptive statistics were conducted to identify the general characteristics of social exclusion and youth participation among respondents. The analysis included minimum values, maximum values, mean scores, and standard deviations.

Table 2. Descriptive Statistics

Variable	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Social Exclusion	175	1.80	4.60	3.21	0.62
Youth Participation	175	2.00	5.00	3.74	0.58

Source: Data Processed by Author, 2026

Table 2 presents the descriptive statistics of the research variables based on 175 respondents. The social exclusion variable obtained a minimum value of 1.80 and a maximum value of 4.60, with a mean score of 3.21 and a standard deviation of 0.62, indicating moderate variations in respondents' experiences of social exclusion. Meanwhile, the youth participation variable recorded a minimum value of 2.00 and a maximum value of 5.00, with a mean score of 3.74 and a standard deviation of 0.58, suggesting that respondents generally demonstrated relatively high levels of participation in social, community, and civic activities. The results indicate that variations existed among respondents while maintaining relatively consistent response patterns across both variables.

c. Validity and Reliability Testing

Before hypothesis testing, validity and reliability analyses were conducted to evaluate the quality of the measurement instruments.

1) Validity Test

The validity test was conducted using corrected item-total correlation. Items were considered valid when the correlation coefficient exceeded 0.30.

Table 3. Validity Test Results

Variable	Item	Correlation Value	Status
Social Exclusion	SE1	0.624	Valid

	SE2	0.691	Valid
	SE3	0.735	Valid
	SE4	0.672	Valid
	YP1	0.711	Valid
Youth Participation	YP2	0.756	Valid
	YP3	0.683	Valid
	YP4	0.729	Valid

Source: Data Processed by Author, 2026

Table 3 presents the results of the validity test for the research instrument. The validity assessment was conducted by examining the correlation values of each measurement item. The results show that all items measuring social exclusion (SE1–SE4) obtained correlation values ranging from 0.624 to 0.735, while all items measuring youth participation (YP1–YP4) recorded correlation values between 0.683 and 0.756. Since all correlation values exceeded the acceptable threshold, each item was considered valid and appropriate for measuring the respective constructs. These findings indicate that the questionnaire items adequately represent the dimensions of social exclusion and youth participation examined in this study.

2) Reliability Test

Reliability analysis was performed using Cronbach's Alpha.

Table 4. Reliability Test Results

Variable	Cronbach's Alpha	Standard	Result
Social Exclusion	0.842	>0.70	Reliable
Youth Participation	0.867	>0.70	Reliable

Source: Data Processed by Author, 2026

Table 4 presents the results of the reliability test for the research variables. The analysis shows that the social exclusion variable achieved a Cronbach's Alpha value of 0.842, while the youth participation variable obtained a value of 0.867. Both values exceeded the recommended standard of 0.70, indicating that all measurement items had strong internal consistency and were reliable for further analysis. These results confirm that the research instrument consistently measured the constructs of social exclusion and youth participation among respondents.

d. Classical Assumption Testing

1) Normality Test

The normality test was conducted using the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test to determine whether the data distribution met the assumption of normality required for regression analysis. As presented in Table 5, the Kolmogorov-Smirnov Z value was 0.087 with an Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed) value of 0.200. Since the significance value was greater than the threshold of 0.05, the data were considered normally distributed. Therefore, the research data satisfied the normality assumption and were appropriate for further statistical analysis using regression methods.

2) Multicollinearity Test

Because this study used one independent variable, multicollinearity testing was not required. However, the regression model was examined through tolerance and VIF values.

Table 5. Multicollinearity Test

Variable	Tolerance	VIF
Social Exclusion	1.000	1.000

Source: Data Processed by Author, 2026

Table 5 presents the results of the multicollinearity test conducted to examine whether there was a correlation problem among the independent variables in the regression model. The social exclusion variable obtained a tolerance value of 1.000 and a Variance Inflation Factor (VIF) value of 1.000. These results indicate that the model did not experience multicollinearity problems because the tolerance value was above 0.10 and the VIF value was below 10. Therefore, the regression model met the multicollinearity assumption and was suitable for further analysis.

e. Hypothesis Testing

A simple linear regression analysis was conducted to examine the effect of social exclusion on youth participation.

Table 6. Regression Analysis Results

Variable	B	Std. Error	Beta	t-value	Sig.
Constant	5.124	0.382	-	13.414	0.000
Social Exclusion	-0.438	0.071	-0.471	-6.169	0.000

Dependent Variable: Youth Participation

Source: Data Processed by Author, 2026

Table 6 presents the results of the regression analysis examining the relationship between social exclusion and youth participation. The findings show that social exclusion has a negative and statistically significant relationship with youth participation, indicated by a regression coefficient (B) of -0.438, a standardized beta value of -0.471, and a t-value of -6.169 with a significance value of 0.000 ($p < 0.05$). This result indicates that higher levels of social exclusion are associated with lower levels of youth participation in suburban communities. The constant value of 5.124 with a significance value of 0.000 indicates that the regression model is statistically significant. Therefore, the findings support the hypothesis that social exclusion negatively influences youth participation.

f. Coefficient of Determination

The explanatory power of the regression model was evaluated using the coefficient of determination (R^2), as presented in the model summary. The results show that the R value was 0.471, with an R Square value of 0.222 and an Adjusted R Square value of 0.218. This indicates that social exclusion explains 22.2% of the variation in youth participation, while the remaining 77.8% is influenced by other factors outside the research model, such as family support, educational background, social capital, digital access, economic conditions, and institutional support. The findings suggest that social exclusion contributes significantly to explaining differences in youth participation, although additional factors also play important roles in shaping youth engagement within suburban communities.

4.2 Discussion

The findings demonstrate that social exclusion significantly influences youth participation in suburban areas of Indonesia. The negative relationship indicates that higher levels of social exclusion are associated with lower levels of engagement in community and civic activities. This result supports the social exclusion framework, which explains that participation inequalities emerge from unequal access to social resources, institutional opportunities, and meaningful social relationships. In suburban contexts, rapid social transformation and uneven development may intensify exclusionary experiences by limiting young people's access to supportive environments and participation spaces.

The results also reinforce the importance of social capital in understanding youth participation. Strong social networks, community relationships, and social support systems provide young people with opportunities, information, and encouragement to engage in

collective activities. Conversely, exclusionary conditions may weaken these connections and create feelings of social distance, reducing youth involvement. However, the relatively high average participation score (mean = 3.74) suggests that suburban youth continue to demonstrate engagement despite experiencing exclusion. This indicates the presence of alternative participation mechanisms, such as peer networks, informal community groups, and digital platforms, which may help young people overcome structural barriers.

From a practical perspective, these findings highlight the need for policymakers and community organizations to develop more inclusive youth development strategies. Expanding access to youth-oriented programs, strengthening community networks, providing inclusive public spaces, and increasing youth involvement in decision-making processes can help reduce exclusion and enhance participation. Overall, this study provides empirical evidence that social exclusion is an important factor affecting youth participation in Indonesian suburban communities, emphasizing the importance of creating inclusive social environments to support sustainable community development.

5. CONCLUSION

This study examined the relationship between social exclusion and youth participation in suburban areas of Indonesia and found that social exclusion has a negative and significant relationship with youth participation. The results indicate that higher levels of exclusion are associated with lower engagement in community, social, and civic activities, confirming that limited access to social networks, institutional opportunities, and community resources can hinder youth involvement. Although social exclusion explains 22.2% of the variation in youth participation, other factors such as social capital, family support, educational background, digital accessibility, economic conditions, and institutional support also contribute to shaping youth engagement. The findings strengthen the understanding of social exclusion as a multidimensional factor affecting social participation and highlight the importance of developing inclusive youth programs, expanding participation opportunities, and strengthening supportive community environments. Future research is encouraged to examine additional determinants and compare different urban and suburban contexts to provide broader insights into youth inclusion and participation dynamics.

REFERENCES

- Chen, Y., Ding, Q., & Shen, Y. (2022). Assessing accessibility and social equity of tertiary hospitals for older adults: A city-wide study of Tianjin, China. *Buildings*, 12(12), Article 2107. <https://doi.org/10.3390/buildings12122107>
- Lewinnek, E. (2005). *Inventing suburbia: Working-class suburbanization in Chicago, 1865–1919*. UMI Dissertation Services. <https://www.proquest.com>
- Noori, N., Sayes, A., & Anwari, G. (2023). The negative impact of social media on youth's social lives. *International Journal of Humanities Education and Social Sciences*, 3(1), 481–493. <https://doi.org/10.55227/ijhess.v3i1.613>
- Santina, R., Kesuma Arcaropeboka, A., Renaldy, R., Kurnia, K. F., & Hidayatullah, A. (2024). Implementation of spatial planning law in addressing environmental problems in urban areas. *International Journal of Law*, 1(2), 236–245.
- Zhang, Y. (2023). Analysis of coping mechanisms and the effects of social media on teenagers. *Lecture Notes in Education Psychology and Public Media*, 4(1), 1007–1014. <https://doi.org/10.54254/2753-7048/4/2022722>