

A Review of Intersectional Barriers to Participation in Social Movements

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Abstract: *Participation in social movements is widely recognized as a vital mechanism for democratic engagement and social transformation; however, access to such participation is unevenly distributed across social groups. This review paper examines intersectional barriers that limit participation in social movements by analyzing how overlapping identities such as gender, race, caste, class, disability, ethnicity, and migration status shape experiences of inclusion and exclusion. Drawing on intersectionality theory, the review synthesizes interdisciplinary scholarship to demonstrate that structural inequalities, economic precarity, cultural marginalization, digital divides, and state repression operate simultaneously rather than independently. The findings reveal that marginalized individuals often encounter compounded constraints, including limited access to resources, leadership exclusion, heightened surveillance, and internal movement hierarchies that reproduce dominant power relations.*

Keywords: Intersectionality, Social Movements, Participation Barriers