

# Exclusion Measurement of Different Social Groups: Methodological Preliminary Work and Empirical Results

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Today social exclusion is the process of displacement of a person to the periphery of public life and deprivation to participate in life as a result of poverty, lack of basic competences or discrimination. Traditionally representatives of the LGBT community, people with HIA, extremists, former prisoners, people with mental illnesses and migrants are considered to be subject to exclusion. However, social exclusion is a difficult phenomenon to measure and interpret. This article intends to perform an empirical study and measurement of the exclusion degree by using a questionnaire survey in relation to the above-mentioned groups based on three components of exclusion - moral, economic and political. As a result, we describe proprietary methodology of social exclusion measurement and present the results of Russian student social image regarding the exclusion from social life of each of the studied groups. According to the results, former prisoners are the most excluded group and elderly people the less excluded group and extremists are the most morally excluded group including drug addicts, the politically excluded, former prisoners and the economically excluded. It was found that there are several features of the manifestations of exclusion for each group and these are also described in the article. The results of the study will be of interest to sociologists working in the field of methodology, as well as specialists in the humanities who are concerned about the problem of social exclusion.

**Key words:** *Social exclusion, moral exclusion, economic exclusion, political exclusion, LGBT community, extremists, people with HIA*

## **Introduction**

According to the European Commission definition of 2004, “social exclusion is the process of displacement a person to the periphery of public life and deprivation to participate in the life in consequence of poverty, lack of basic competences or discrimination” (Saponov D.I., Smolkin A.A.,2012). Key dimensions of definitions include who is excluded (e.g. minority versus majority, poor versus rich), how they are excluded (e.g. economic versus social, involuntary versus voluntary) and why they are excluded (e.g. individual versus structural causes) (Macleod, C., Ross, A., Sacker, A., Netuveli, G., & Windle, G.,2017). However, the issue of sociological study and measurement of social exclusion is still very controversial.

Basically, all scientific works written on the topic of exclusion in Russia are focused on the factors of exclusion and particular social groups (Chukreev P.A.,2010; Maksimova S.G., Nevayeva D.A.,2015; Eflova M.Yu.,2014; Nevaeva D. A.,2014; Ushkova I.V., Kireev E.Yu., 2017; Punluekdej, & Srisorn, 2017), but there has been no comparison where attitudes to different groups has been made. A comparison of the social and legal support of different groups of the population will make it possible to identify and evaluate the national characteristics of social policy (Schmidt V.R., 2004; Yi, Kai. Hsieh and Chia-Nung Li. 2018), so this research can be a preliminary stage in reforming social policy in Russia in relation to certain social groups.

## ***Research Objectives***

The aim of the study is the pilot project implementation of a research method to measure social exclusion and to obtain data on attitudes to Russian social groups who are at risk of social exclusion.

## ***Significance of the Study***

The results of the study will be of interest to sociologists working in the field of methodology as well as specialists in the humanities who are concerned about the problem of social exclusion.

## **Literature Review**

### ***What is social exclusion?***

From a legal viewpoint discrimination is “a violation of the rights, freedoms and legitimate interests of a person and a citizen, depending on their gender, race, nationality, language, origin, property and official status, place of residence, attitude to religion, beliefs, affiliation with public associations or any social groups” (Saponov D.I., Smolkin A.A.,2012). In the

psychology field, exclusion is a form of social repression of a person or a group where the goals are to obey, restrict access to resources, establish power and control (Kirichenko K., Sabunaeva M., 2012, Rezaei, 2017, Amatyakul, Sarun., and Polyorat, Kawpong. 2017). However, there are arguments against a narrow understanding of social exclusion. If we speak about “economic” understanding of social exclusion it can be noted that such a model does not consider one important factor, namely, the availability of peoples’ various resources which are able to neutralize poverty to some extent (Saponov D.I., Smolkin A.A., 2012). In such a way the sociological consideration of exclusion includes both a legal and psychological understanding of exclusion but the problem of measurement arises.

Social exclusion consists of two components: deprivation and discrimination. In a sociological context, deprivation is discussed as a feeling of uselessness and the deprivation of a person or a group in comparison with others. The phenomenon is explained by the tendency of society to distribute social benefits based on the presence of certain qualities and abilities of the individual. Discrimination is a process that promotes the alienation of a person from social institutions (does not allow them to go through social integration), as well as depriving them of any rights. The research task here, is to find indicators that will allow holistic study of both phenomena and process.

### ***Social Exclusion Measurement***

Saponov D.I., Smolkin A.A. analyzed the data of the article “Gender differences on the impacts of social exclusion on mortality among older Japanese: AGES cohort study” and created an integral table of measurement of social exclusion, see Table 1 below.

**Table 1.** Social Exclusion Measurement

Research	Social Exclusion Measurement
European Commission (2002) “non-monetary indicators from EUROSTAT”	Lack of ownership Lack of long use subjects Bad living conditions Lack of goods of prime necessity Failure to pay current bills
Bradshaw, Williams, and Levitas (2000)	Poverty / Lack of goods of prime necessity Lack of access to the labor market Inability to use the service industry Non-involvement in social relationships
Burchardt, Grand, and Piachaud (2002)	Consumption Production Political involvement Social interaction
Choffe (2001)	Exclusive in the following areas: Income Employment Household

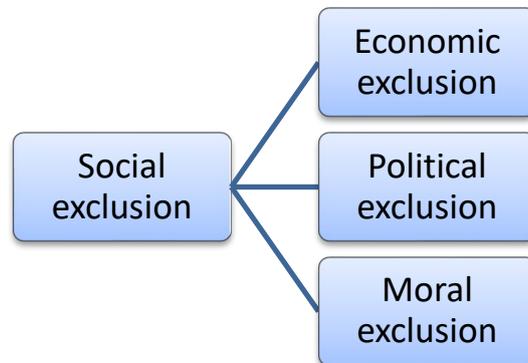
	Health Family Culture
Percy-Smith (2000)	Economic exclusion Social exclusion Political exclusion Social environment exclusion Personal exclusion Spatial exclusion Group exclusion
Tsakloglou (2003)	Exclusion in the following areas: Services Durable goods Goods of prime necessity

The approach to measuring social exclusion using the typical dimensions of the concept, summarised as material deprivation and social isolation, is very widespread (Loktieva I.,2016, Uzoma, Anyanwu. Ignatius. 2017, Dewi, N. I. K., Astawa, I. P., Siwantara, I. W. and Mataram, I G. A. B. (2017)).

Condition and situation of exclusion are special aspects of social exclusion. Condition focuses on external factors and the situation is determined by “individual perception” (for example, the opinion of the population about the problem). Social exclusion in a global sense is directly related to the perceptions of individuals and social groups about each other and consequently in this research approach to social exclusion determination, respondents perceptions about other groups that are at potential risk of exclusion is measured. In this research, moral exclusion includes social interaction in any form (family, friendship, etc.), economic exclusion - the presence of property, living conditions, necessities, the ability to pay bills, access to the labour market, consumption, production, etc. and political exclusion is access to political life and freedom of expression.

This article presents a version of measuring social exclusion which combines the indicators used as listed in Table 1 below is discussed. The peculiarity and novelty of this approach is the integration of the three spheres into one and the opportunity to understand how a particular group is excluded from social life in one or another aspect, as well as in general as depicted in Figure 2 below.

**Figure 2.** Social Exclusion Scheme



It is of noted that most of the research on social exclusion is focused on respondent self-assessment on certain scales. Generally, the measurement of a multidimensional construct such as social exclusion provides methodological challenges for researchers (Mathieson J, Popay J, Enoch E, Escorel S, Hernandez M, et al., 2008, Lin, S. J., & Yang, S. H. (2017)). The study of Tikhonova describes 7 scales which were used to measure social exclusion: work, health, education and culture, communication, networks, autonomy and housing (Tikhonova N.Ye., 2003) and on this basis, the integral index is calculated. Our methodology is aimed at measuring social exclusion in relation to social groups through the eyes of other people.

### ***Social exclusion groups***

The following groups were selected in relation to which social exclusion is measured:

*The aged.* An ageing population is not only a state problem in terms of economic, political and social position but also the individual. The problem of exclusion in relation to the elderly population finds expression both in the economic aspect and in the feeling of loneliness experienced by many representatives of this social group.

*LGBT community representatives.* Sociological survey data underlines that half of the inhabitants of Russia condemn representatives of sexual minorities and that a third of the respondents do not condemn them. Tolerance is higher among Muscovites and residents of other large cities and among people with higher education, as well as in particular, women and youth (Public Opinion Foundation, 2012). The dynamic of attitudes towards representatives of this group in big cities has changed in recent times, from an “unacceptable” position to a “radical” position and while nothing threatens their life and well-being in a global sense, the social distance towards them remains.

*People with reduced capabilities (both mental and physical disorders).* Today the necessary conditions for receiving vocational education are guaranteed by law, also the right to equality

of access to education is recognized and the inclusiveness of education is declared at all levels, however access to higher education for people without disabilities has not increased. This is evidenced by the fact that the situation in the field of education has not changed for ten years for people with disabilities. With regard to employment and other areas of life, the findings are also not optimistic.

*Migrants.* In general, 21% of respondents are sure that the fact that migrants live next to them is good however 37% have the opposite opinion (Public Opinion Foundation, 2014). Trends in attitudes toward migrants in Russia demonstrate a certain level of public alertness and distancing.

*Drug addicts.* As a rule, Russians believe that people who have become drug addicts have themselves to blame for this because of thirst for thrill, idleness and “because of dissatisfaction in life” (Public Opinion Foundation, 2014). There are grounds for believing that moral exclusion will prevail in relation to this social group.

*Former prisoners.* Difficulties in dealing with the world among prisoners arise because former prisoners do not trust the legislative system and many of them disagree with their sentence. Thus, deprivation occurs because of a lack of willingness to join a system that “unfairly” deprived them of their freedom. In addition, it is argued that not only the prisoners themselves but also the families of prisoners face discrimination and disadvantages from a range of factors.

*Extremists.* One of the factors of recourse to extremism is youth exclusion. Anti-social youth from deprived social strata become socially and culturally unadapted, “drop out” of society and are not able to integrate into society. As a result they turn into aggressive avengers who through their behaviour provoke the spread of social exclusions (Kasyanov V.V., Krotov DV, Samygin S.I., 2017).

The selected groups discussed above, are at potential risk in terms of social exclusion in Russian.

## **Methodology**

### ***Sample justification***

The Peoples' Friendship University of Russia is one of the largest and most prestigious universities in Russia and its student body represents the full range of Russian students. In this study, the task is to test the method of measuring the type of social exclusion relative to all Russian students and thus the study sample is targeted.

### **Sample**

The sample is quota-sample (quotas - all faculties (13) and courses (6) of the university) of only Russian students and 460 respondents were interviewed.

### **Method**

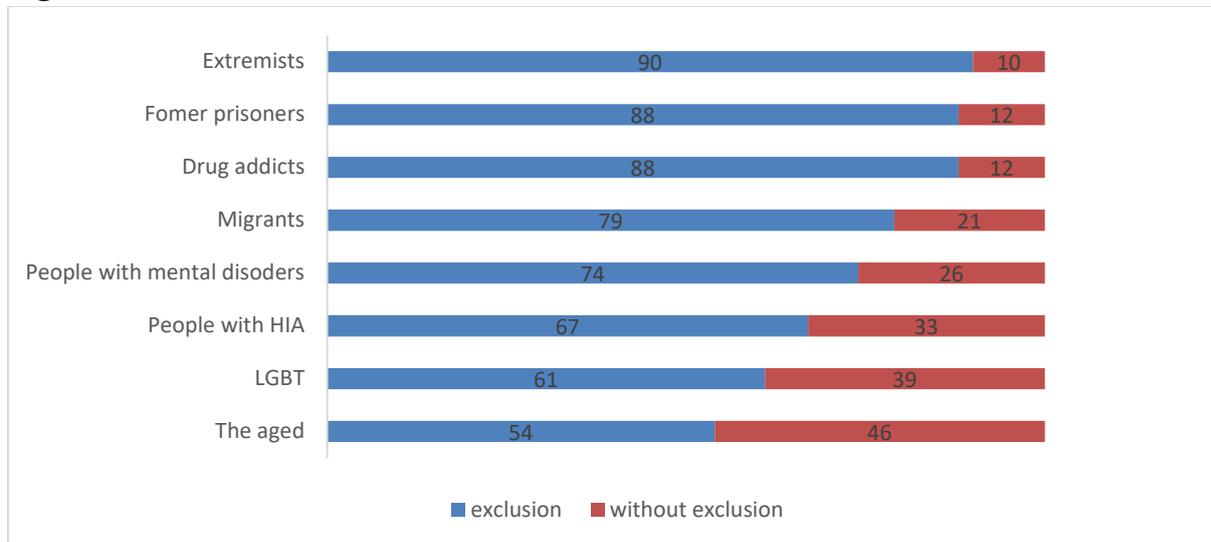
The research method used is a questionnaire survey. The questionnaire consisted of 26 questions and tested a proposed method for measurement of social exclusion degree. The method consists of a series of questions aimed at determining the moral, economic and political components of the exclusion. The Bogardus scale was used for moral exclusion assessment, two questions with ordinal scales were used for the economic one and a multiple question, allowing respondents to indicate several social groups was used for political exclusion. Each of the scales allows key variables to the type of dyad or triad, namely - the presence of exclusion, partial exclusion, or its absence to be measured.

### **Results**

#### ***Moral exclusion***

To determine moral exclusion the following research request was made: *“Select the option that best describes your feelings towards representatives of the groups listed below”* Variants from the classical Bogardus scale were proposed as options for measuring social distance: “As a close relative (for example, a marriage partner)”, “As a close friend”, “As a neighbour”, “As colleagues at work”, “As a citizen of my country”, “As a guest (tourist) of my country”, “I would not like to see him in my country”. Thus, the first two answers (readiness to accept a representative of this group as a family member or friend) were interpreted as the absence of moral exclusion, the other answers - as the presence of moral exclusion. Most respondents to expressed moral distance from extremists (90%), ex-prisoners and drug addicts (88% each), migrants (79%) and people with mental disorders (74%) and the next highest categories were people with reduced capabilities (67%), representatives of the LGBT community (61%) and lastly the elderly (54%). Figure 3 presents this data.

**Figure 3. Moral exclusion**



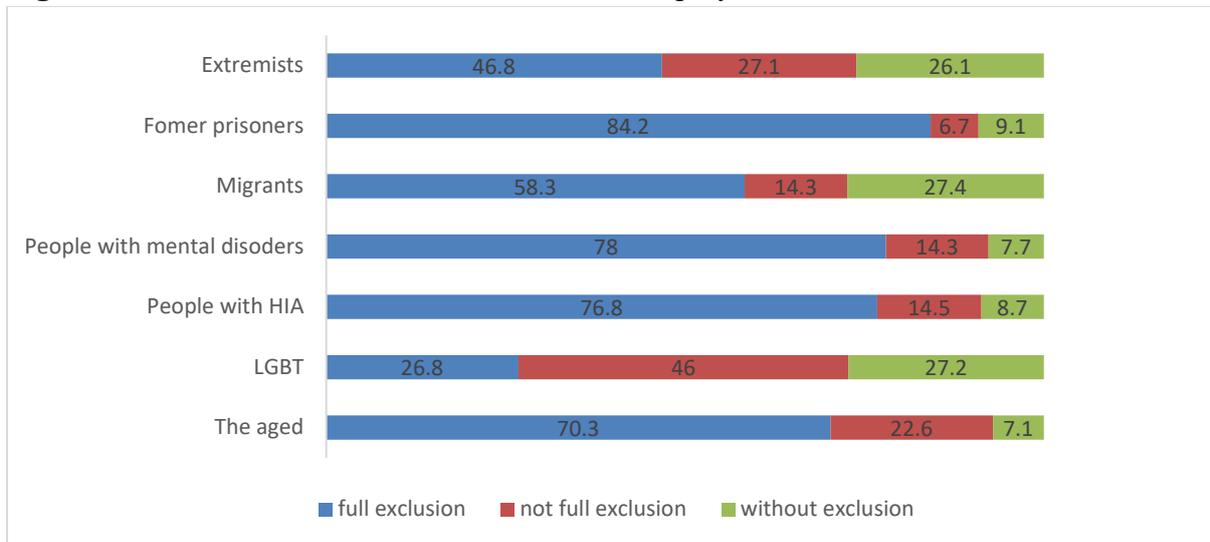
### ***Economic exclusion***

Two parameters were chosen to measure economic exclusion: the situation with employment and material security.

The request was: “*Select the option that best describes your own opinion about difficulties listed below towards each of selected groups*”. 1 - *do not feel at all*; 2 - *rather not experience than experience*; 3 - *both yes and no*; 4 - *more likely to experience than not to experience*; 5 – *experience to the full*.

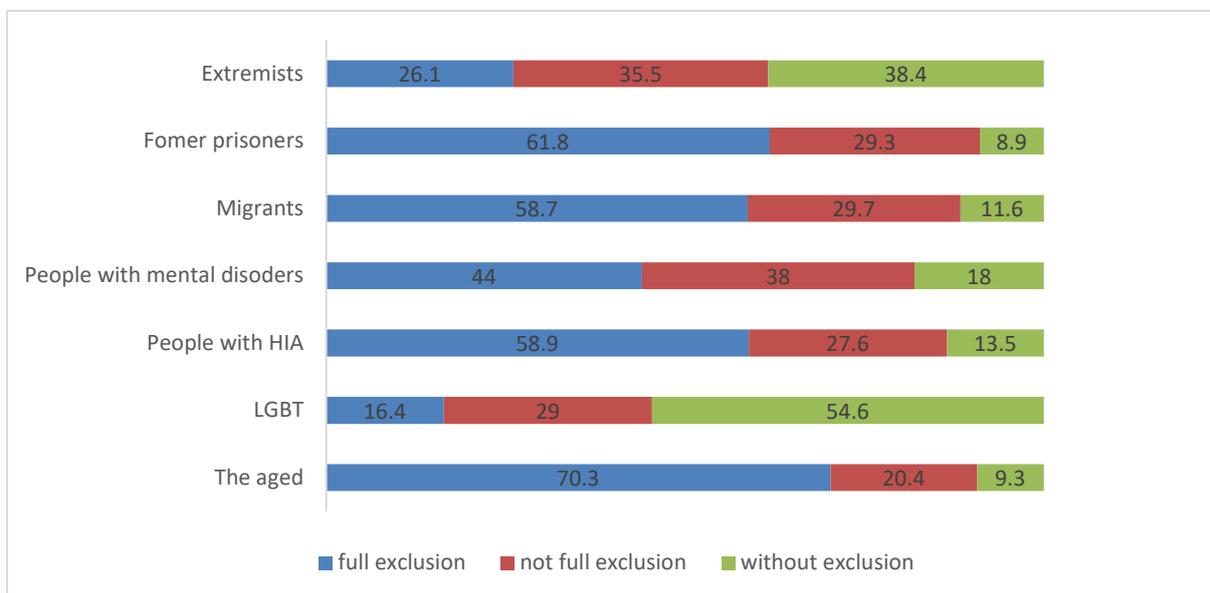
Choices 1-2 indicate no exclusion, 3 - partial exclusion, 4-5 - the presence of exclusion. According to the data, most affected by problems with employment are ex-prisoners (84.2%), people with mental disorders and people with HIA (78% and 76.8%) and to a lesser extent - representatives of the LGBT community (26.8%) see Figure 4 below.

**Figure 4.** Economic exclusion; Difficulties with employment



The results indicate that pecuniary burden respondents are inclined to believe that older people (70.3%) and former prisoners (61.8%) have more problems than extremists (26.1%) and representatives of the LGBT community (16.4%), see Figure 5 below.

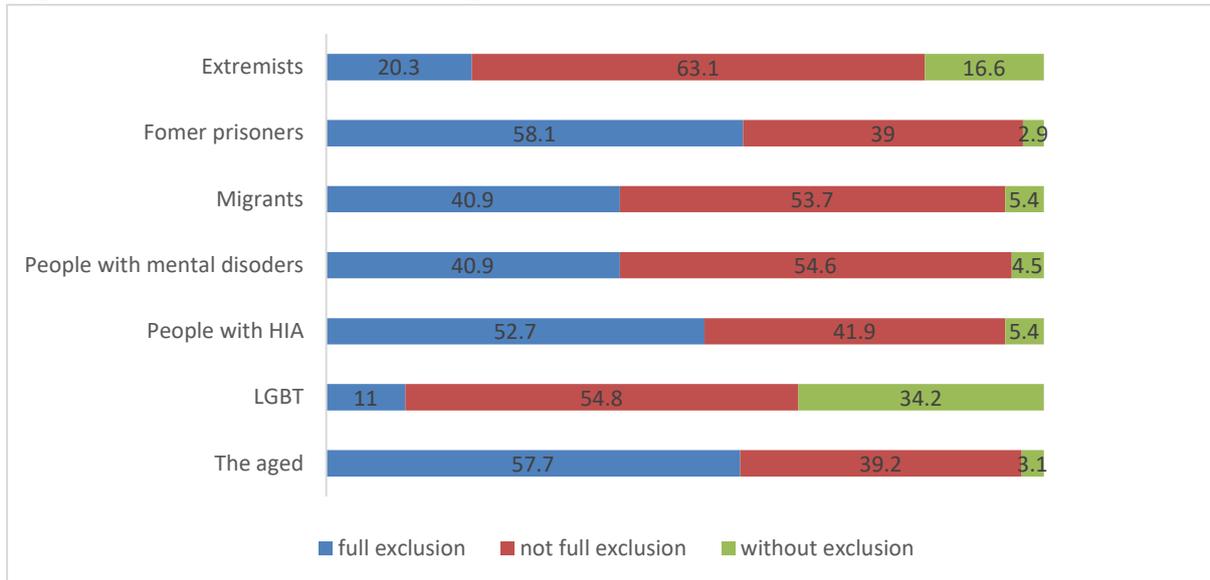
**Figure 5.** Economic exclusion. Pecuniary burdens



Based on the data presented on these two issues, an integral variable of economic exclusion was created. According to respondents, economic exclusion is most often characteristic of ex-prisoners (58.1%), the elderly (57.7%) and people with HIA (52.7%). Migrants and people with mental disorders have less problems in terms of economic exclusion (40.9% for each

group) while extremists and representatives of the LGBT community (20.3% and 11%) are le subject to economic exclusion as presented in Figure 6 below.

**Figure 6.** Economic exclusion; Integrated variable

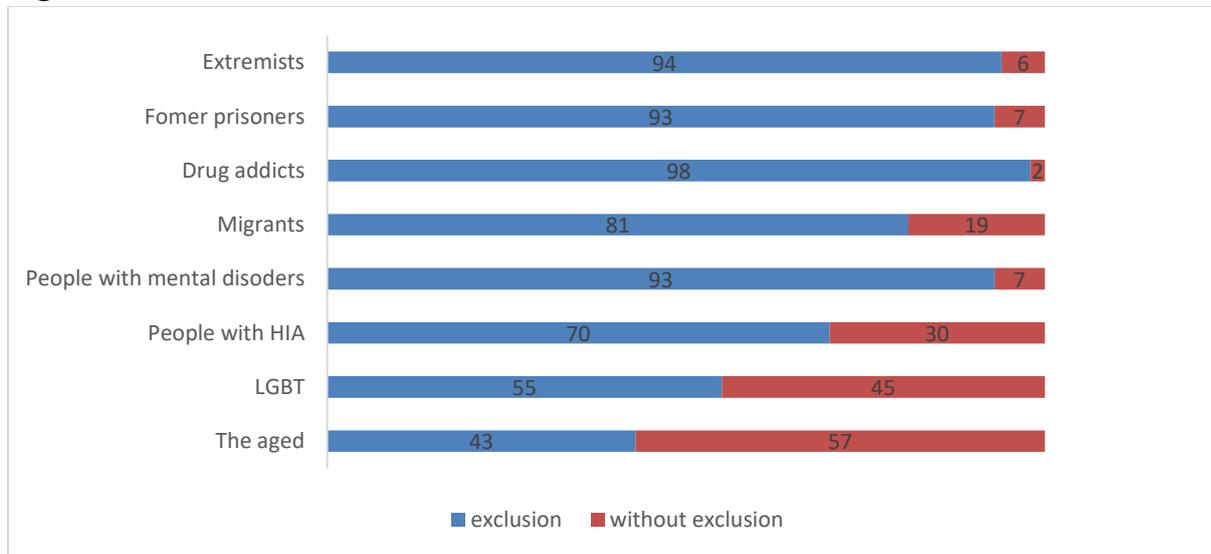


### ***Political exclusion***

A question was posed: “Imagine that there is a city, N, where absolutely anyone can take the post of mayor. As a citizen of this city, which of the following candidates would you choose? (several answers are possible)”.

If the respondent chose a representative of this group as a candidate for mayor, then it was deemed that there was no political exclusion. The results indicate that elderly people (43%) and representatives of the LGBT community (55%) are least affected by political exclusion and the maximum political exclusion is manifested in relation to drug addicts (98%), extremists (94%), people with mental disorders and ex-prisoners (93%) as presented in Figure 7 below.

**Figure 7. Political exclusion**

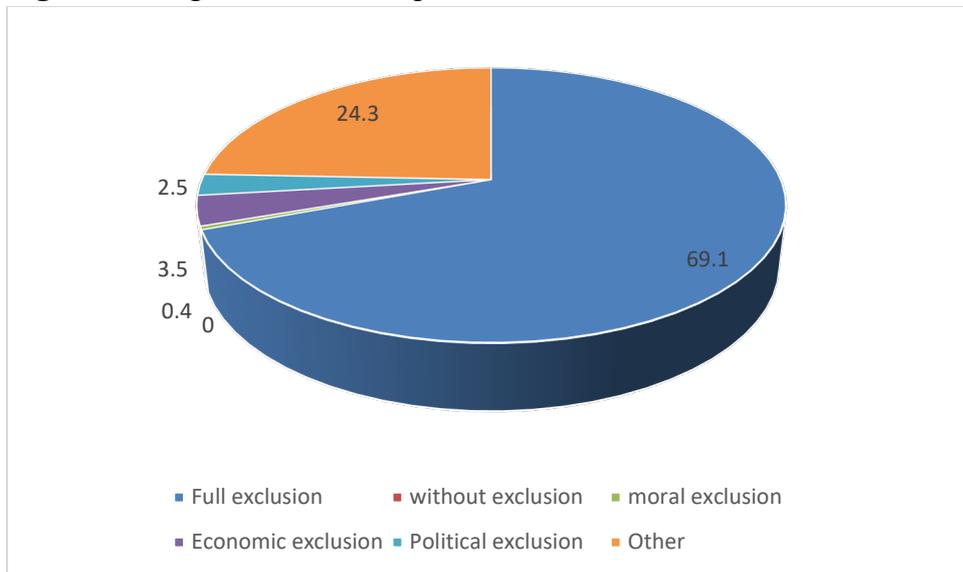


***Type of social exclusion***

To create an integral variable indicating the type of social exclusion, integral variables for moral, economic and social exclusion were used. If moral, political, and economic exclusion was established in relation to the group, then the type of integral social exclusion (“exclusion”) was diagnosed, if none were present then “the absence of exclusion” was diagnosed. If one of the types of exclusion was observed - moral, economic or political, then it was labelled with the appropriate name. The “other” category includes options when several types of exclusion are combined.

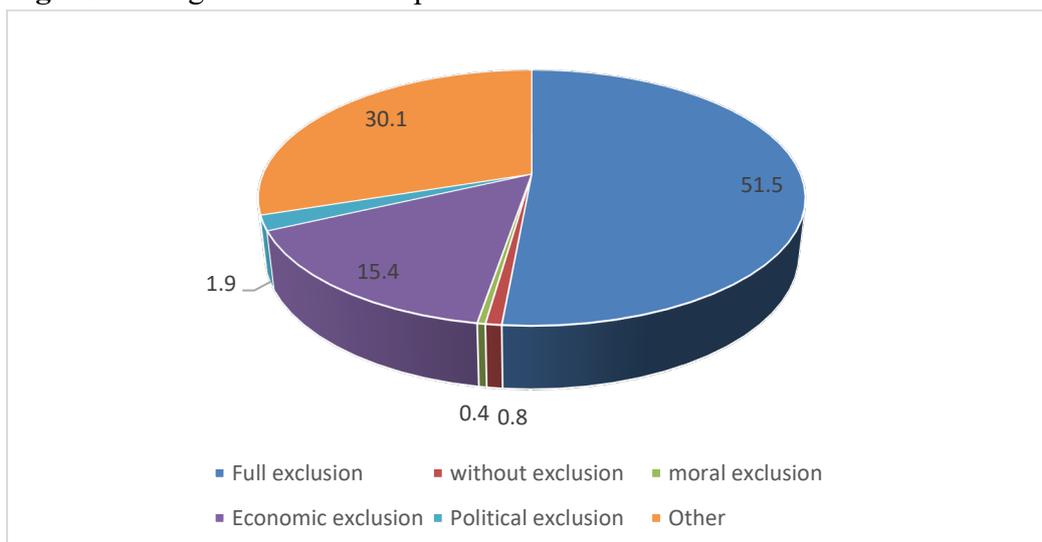
For people with mental disabilities, there is an exclusion in 70% of the cases, 3.5% is determined as economic distancing, 2.5% is political, 0.4% is moral and the rest “other” as represented in Figure 8 below.

**Figure 8.** Integral variable. People with mental disorders



Regarding people with disabilities, the distribution of answers is as follows - almost half (51.5%) show exclusion in all studied areas of public life. A third (30.1%) show social exclusion in at least two cases out of three. Of interest is the fact that the respondents distance themselves to the fullest extent economically (15.4%). Substantially less distancing occurs in political (1.9%) and moral terms (0.4%) and only 0.8% showed a lack of exclusivity as depicted in Figure 9 below.

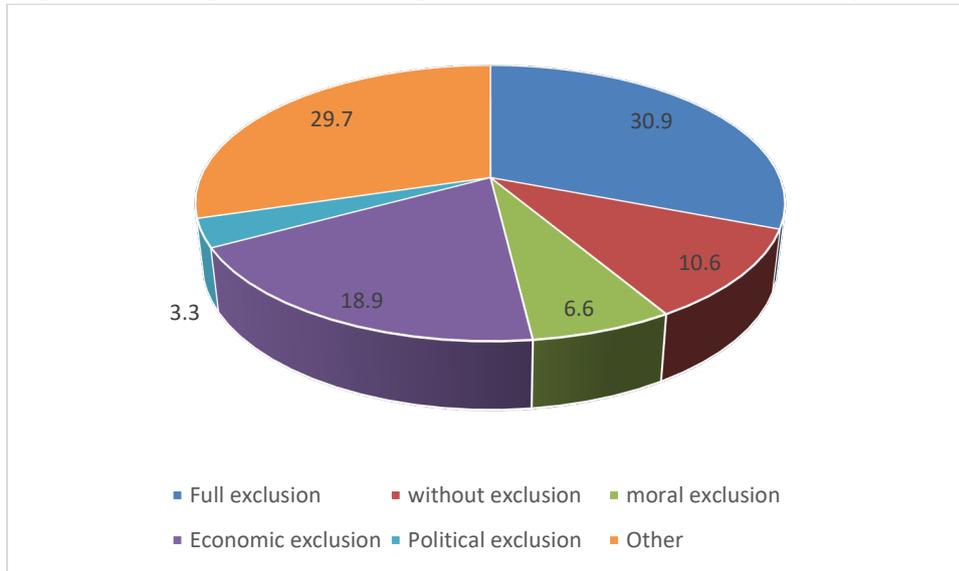
**Figure 9.** Integral variable. People with HIA



Representatives of LGBT communities are the least exposed group of social exclusion. Every tenth respondent (10.6%) does not show any exclusion at all. Accordingly, the percentage of demonstrating the presence of exclusion (30.9%) is significantly less than in other social groups

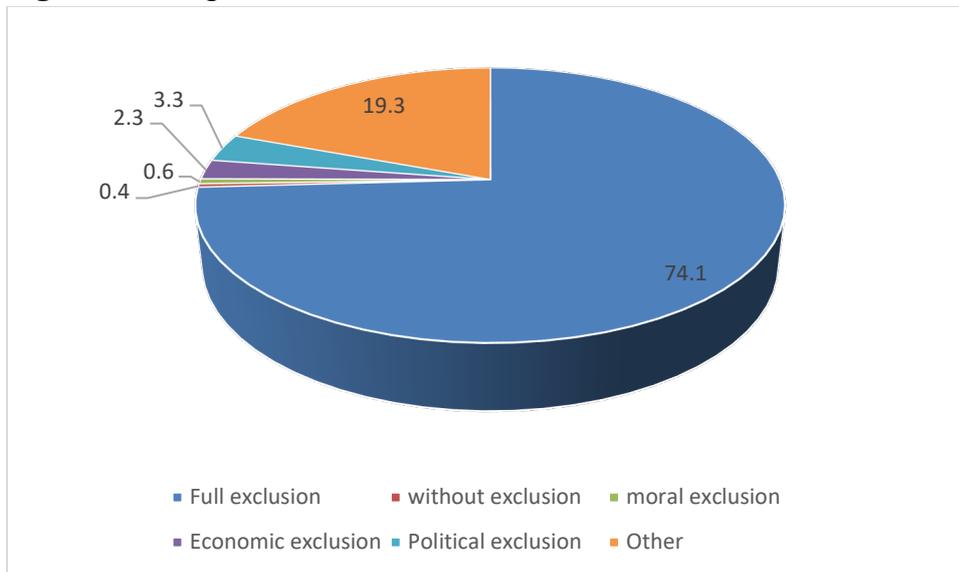
and is approximately equal to those who in one way or another show it in part (29.7%). Of further interest are the statistics relevant to distance economically (18.9%) and while less significant, morally (6.8%) or politically (3.3%) as reflected in Figure 10 below.

**Figure 10.** Integral variable. Representatives of LGBT community



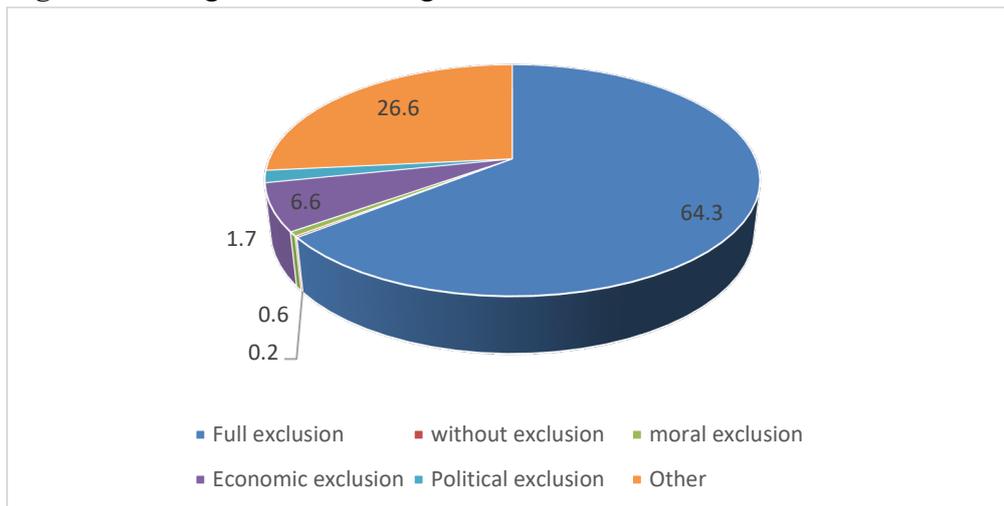
The nature of the removal from social life for extremists is as follows according to the findings. In all three of the studied areas, almost three quarters of respondents showed exclusion (74.1%). One in five respondents (19.3%) also excluded them from at least 2 spheres of public life. This is quite an important fact because individual indicators of distancing: political (3.3%), economic (2.3%) and moral (0.6%) are significantly small in comparison and only 0.4% of respondents showed a lack of social exclusion towards extremists, see Figure 11 below.

**Figure 11.** Integral variable. Extremists



Attitudes toward the migrant social group is similar in distribution to people with mental disabilities. Similarly, many respondents (64.3%) show exclusion in all three areas, where a quarter (26.6%) show exclusion in two of three cases. However, there is a significant difference among distancing across one of the three areas - it is mainly economic (6.6%). Significantly less distanced morally (0.6%) or politically (1.7%). Respondents whose attitude expresses the absence of exclusion by analogy are at only 0.2% as reflected in Figure 12 below.

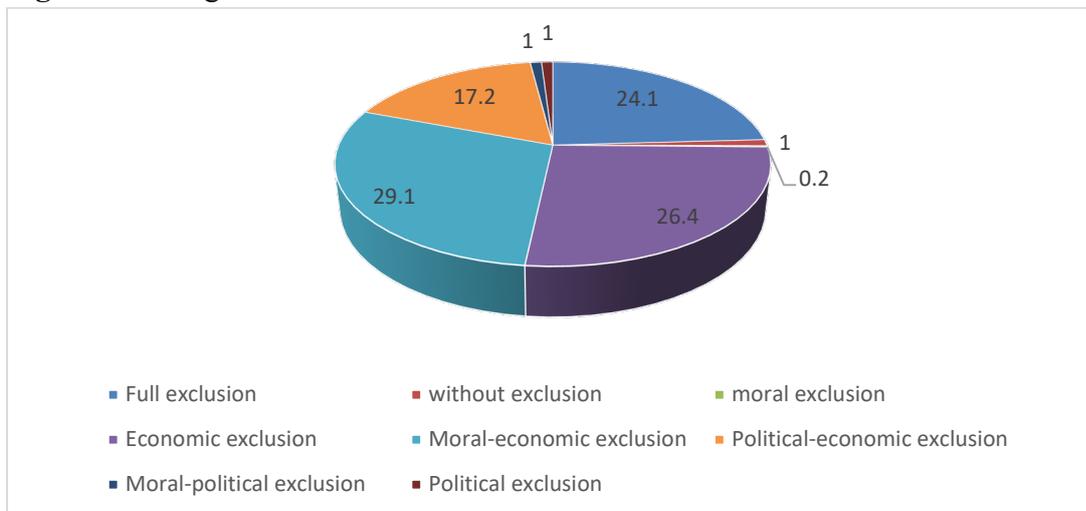
**Figure 12.** Integral variable. Migrants



The most ambiguous is the distribution of respondents regarding one of the most popular social groups. A significant proportion (29.1%) distance themselves from the elderly in moral and economic terms and a smaller number distance themselves exclusively in the economic sphere

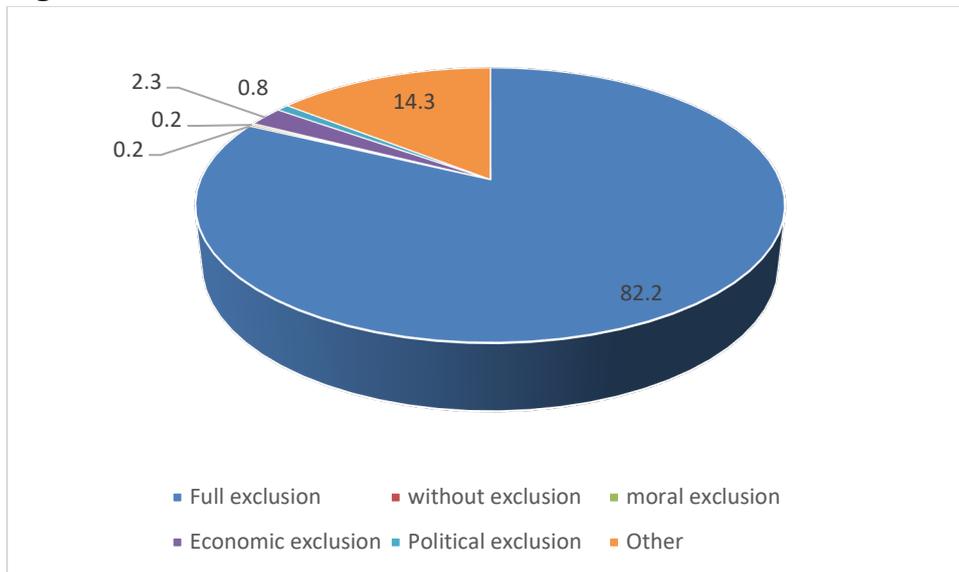
of life (26.4%). Almost every sixth (17.2%) respondent shows political and economic exclusion. It is important to note that other areas of public life are virtually unaffected. Those who showed a moral political exclusion (1%) were as many as those who distanced themselves exclusively politically (1%) and there were even fewer morally distant respondents (0.2%). In all three cases almost a quarter of respondents demonstrated a type of exclusion (24.1%). Surprisingly, the number of people who showed no exclusion is relatively small (1%) and these results are reflected in Figure 13.

**Figure 13.** Integral variable. Seniors



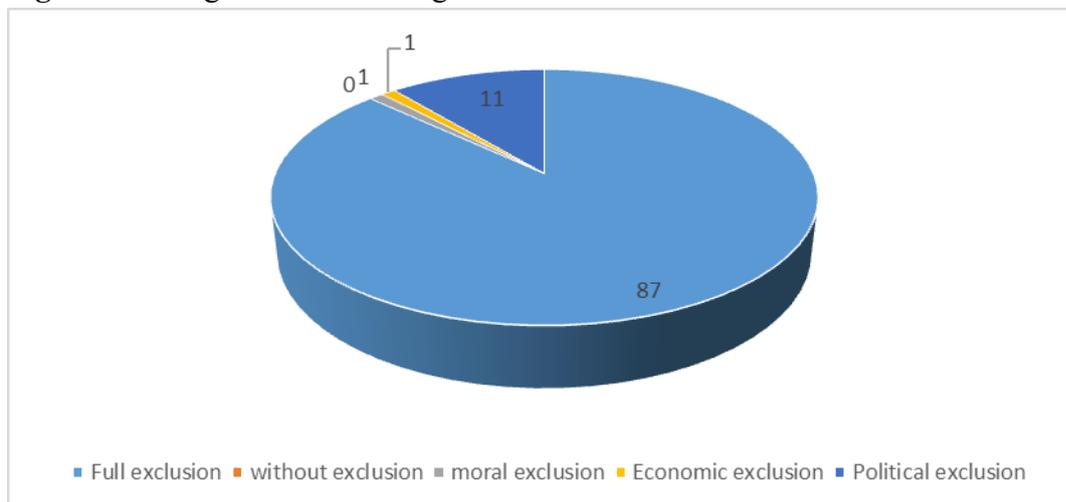
Former prisoners are one of the most vulnerable groups for social exclusion as 82.2% demonstrate the presence of social exclusion in relation to them even though only 0.2% showed its absence. It is important to note that those who in one way or another show exclusivity (14.3%) is significant in comparison to those who express it in certain areas of public life. Thus, according to Figure 14 below, 2.3% are distanced economically, 0.8% politically and 0.2% morally.

**Figure 14**



The most susceptible exclusion groups can be attributed drug addicts and this is evidenced by the results presented in Figure 15 below. Most of the respondents (87%) demonstrated a form of social exclusion. It is important to note the trend in which respondents are more prone to political distance (11%) than to moral (1%). The percentage of those who lack it is relatively small (1%) and this is reflected in Figure 15 below.

**Figure 15. Integral variable. Drug addicts**



## Discussion

An analysis of the results obtained during this study of moral exclusion reveal that it is inherent in all social groups. The least expression of moral exclusion can be seen in relation to the elderly (54.1%). LGBT representatives and people with disabilities are subject to slight exclusion from society (60.6% and 67.4% respectively). Extremists (89.6%) and former prisoners and drug addicts (88%) were the most susceptible to it. It is also of note that neither the psycho-type nor the sex affect the manifestation of moral exclusion to these groups since the indicators within these categories are similar to each other. As for religion, this factor was significant and representatives of different religions have a different attitude towards the studied groups (atheists and Buddhists are most loyal to them).

According to the results of the analysis among all the listed social groups, drug addicts became the most vulnerable for political exclusion (only 2% of the respondents supported them). Extremists (6%), ex-prisoners and people with mental disorders are also among the "vulnerable" (7% respectively). Migrants are much less prone to political exclusion (19%) as well as people with disabilities (30%). The most protected groups were representatives of LGBT (45%) and the elderly (57%). It should be noted that among the respondents, both girls and boys equally expose these social groups to political exclusion which in turn tells us that this factor does not affect the existence of exclusion. Regarding religion, it was concluded that religious people are more likely than non-believers to demonstrate political exclusion towards LGBT representatives, extremists and drug addicts. The impact of the psychotype and course of study on the presence of political exclusion was also analyzed. In general, it can be noted that the established connection is insignificant and has the nature of exceptions and not rule.

Analyzing obtained data, it can be concluded that such social groups as former prisoners, the elderly and people with disabilities (58.1%, 57.7% and 52.7%, respectively) are most exposed to economic exclusion. The average economic distancing is expressed for migrants (40.9%) and people with mental disorders (40.9%). The representatives of LGBT communities are the least affected by economic discrimination – 34.2%. It is also worth noting that from analysis of such factors as gender and political views, the following conclusions were made: both girls and young people, as well as people of liberal and conservative views, equally experience economic exclusion to these social groups.

As might be expected, each group is subject to social distancing, but in varying degrees. The group in which absolute social exclusion is inherent is drug addicts (87%). Behind them are former prisoners, whose figure was 82%. It is noteworthy that every 10th respondent does not experience social exclusion in relation to members of the LGBT community, while this indicator in relation to other groups varies from 0 to 1%. It is also of note that the analysis of the "elderly" identified additional types of social exclusion which were part of the "Other"



category (moral-political, moral-economic and political-economic) due to the ambiguous nature of the exclusion.

Comparing the data obtained as described at the beginning of the article from the results of Russian polls, we were surprised to find that the integral indicator of social exclusion of members of the LGBT community is significantly less than, for example, for former prisoners or extremists. So it turns out that the perception of social groups depends on the context and the comparative aspect allows revelation of a number of unusual things.

### **Limitations of current research**

The limitation of our study is that it describes exclusively the views of the student youth of Russian society. Evidently, if another group of Russian society (not student youth, workers or retirees) were interviewed, or youth from other countries, the results would differ significantly. At the same time it can be stated that the developed methodology of this research allowed a rather sensitive gradation of measuring social exclusion. Also, the measurement of social exclusion according to our methodology is subjective as it relates to the study of social representations. However it is proposed from these study results, that social representations form an element of public opinion and objective phenomena.

### **Conclusion**

This study accomplished two research tasks - 1) to establish the different degrees of exclusion to different social groups and 2) to develop the a research based method of measuring social exclusion, which consists of three components (moral, economic and political), and can become an alternative to a purely economic consideration of the nature of social exclusion. In future studies, it is planned to focus on the reasons for the existence of a particular type of exclusion to the selected target social groups. Another direction for future study could be the comparison of level of social exclusion in various regions of Russia. The most interesting future direction is the use of the methodology proposed in this article for the study of exclusion in Russia compared to other countries.

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