

A Study of Opinion of the People about Transgender and Their Social Inclusion in India

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Abstract

The problems of Transgender is never seems to an end. Even, after the constitutional provisions and amendments of new laws, their conditions are getting worse. It's not government but people who exclude them socially, economically, mentally and physically from the society. Transgender is a biological condition where a person appearance and behaviour is changed than the stereotype of males and females. It is a condition where a person cannot be blamed. Still, their existence is denied and betrayed by the society. Transgender people exist and existed in every race, class, religion and culture since the inception of human race. Why people behave as they behave is an important aspect of society because human behaviour is caused and it is scientifically proved. The present paper is an attempt of the researcher to identify the opinion of people about the third gender of society and their social inclusion in Indian society. Even law cannot deny their existence in society. Its people and their perspective which is making the life of the third gender miserable.

Key Words: Transgender, Third gender, Problems, Social inclusion, Law

1.1 Introduction

The third gender of society is a part and parcel of social, cultural, economic and legal order. They are entitled to have equal right in each and every field in terms of education, employment, refreshment, entertainment, opportunities etc. In reality, the things are just opposite. They are forced to do such things which are not acceptable as far as the human approach is concerned. It is a biological trait which makes them different. They are entitled to receive all constitutional rights, but they are denied to use their fundamental rights. The most secure place for any person is their home. The problem of transgender starts from their home. They are disrespected, denied, mistreated, abused and often boycotted by their own family members. In every walk of their life, they face discrimination. Discrimination and disrespect is a major problem they face in their every move of life. The question is who is responsible for their condition – they themselves, their parents or society. Due to lack of education, unhygienic conditions and denial, the majority of the population suffers from HIV AIDS and other infectious diseases. They face legal, social, economic, cultural and legal difficulties in each and every aspect of their life. Despite of all odds, many transgender are struggling hard to improve their conditions but the examples like Kalki, Akai Padmashali, Sunitha are very few. The present research paper is an effort of a researcher to study the role of society and their opinion regarding the conditions of transgender and they should be included in society or not. If yes, what measures can be taken to incorporate their presence in society.

1.2 Review Of Literature

From the official website of Sahodari Foundation, the information was gathered and analysed about the founder who struggled a lot to bring into existence this foundation. Kalki is a transgender who consider herself a superwoman. She is a founder and director of Sahodari Foundation. As per her experience, she narrated how she was felt to feel very different in school because of being different. She was one blessed child who was accepted by her family after constant years of her efforts. But, she also mentioned how difficult it was for her to face the society and how she survived stigma and

disrespect. She also mentioned how she was teased and verbally abused by her school mates. To avoid this, she used to bunk classes and hide in a park.

In his blog Mr. Bhagirath Iyer stated the story of Akkai who is a male to female transgender. In her words, she expressed, "Being a transgender is a not easy. People laugh at you, discriminate against you. You don't have access to buses, public toilets, office spaces. But, things are changing now. Still, in her words, the strong presence of society can be felt. At the age of 12, she tried to kill herself twice as her family was not accepting her identity as a girl as he was born as a boy. After reaching her adulthood, she worked four years as a sex worker. For family, she was working as an Office assistant. After seeing the sexual violence, she was motivated to join Sangama, a local NGO. After joining, she realised the vitality and significance of educating the policy makers and the judiciary about their problems and situations. She addressed at various places and she strongly feels that it is not they, but the society which makes them feel different.

1.3 Research Methodology

The following is the outline explaining the methodology adopted for the research work –

1.3.1 Problem Statement

The problems of transgender never seem to end. In the eyes of law, they are recognised and accepted. But, they are badly denied and disrespected by the society. It is a biological distinctness which makes them different. It is scientifically accepted that they are not responsible for their condition. The Government of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu are doing well and process of amendment of laws is going on in the State of Maharashtra. But, it is felt until and unless, the society is not accepting them, the change will not be initiated for the betterment of their life. In this regard as an effort to do something for them, the present paper deals with the opinion of the people towards the community of third gender and what measures should be done to socially include them in society.

1.3.2 Objectives of the Study

The following are the main objectives of the research –

1. To study the opinion of society about transgender as far as employment, education and access to public spaces are concerned.
2. To evaluate the feelings of people about the social inclusion of transgender in society.

1.3.3 Hypothesis

1. The acceptance of society is required to socially include the third gender in each and every activity of the community.
2. The denial and disrespect is the main problem the transgender face from the society.

1.3.4 Sample Design

A sample design is a definite plan for obtaining a sample from a given population. In this research paper, the researcher used random sampling method to draw a sample of 100 respondents from the area of Nagpur division of Maharashtra State.

1.3.5 Methods of Data Collection

For the collection of data, the primary and secondary sources of data are used. The primary data is collected through questionnaire from the people of Nagpur division on random basis. While, the secondary data was collected through research papers, websites and news papers.

1.3.6 Tools Used for Data Analysis

Factor analysis was performed to determine the correlation between the variables and highly correlated variables are combined and represented by a factor.

1.3.7 Scope

The scope of the study is confined to Nagpur Division of Maharashtra State. The study helps to know the various issues related to transgender and their social status in India.

1.3.8 Difficulties Experimented

During the whole process of research, some difficulties were experienced and experimented by the researcher. Especially as far as the relevancy and accuracy of data is concerned. The topic of the research is a need of today. That's why, the data required for the processing to further draw conclusions need to be true and correct. The subject was thought to be touchy because the information desired directly related to the most important resource of their life. It was found difficult in the first instance to get correct information.

1.4 Data Analysis And Intrepretation

For the purpose of data collection, a structured questionnaire was prepared to seek information on different aspects of opinion of society towards the third gender of society. After collection of data, the analysis was made by the researcher by applying factor analysis.

Table 1 Demographic profile of respondents

Demographics		Measuring Group	Frequency	Percentage
Gender	Male	44	44	44
	Female	56	56	56
Total		100	100	100
Age	20-30	10	10	10
	30-40	32	32	32
	40-50	36	36	36
	Above 50	22	22	22
Total		100	100	100

Education qualifications	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
SSC	08	08	08	08
HSC	15	15	15	23
Graduation	42	42	42	65
Post- Graduation	35	35	35	100
Total	100	100	100	
Occupation	Student	08	08	08
	Employee	35	35	43
	Business	27	22	70
	Professional	17	17	87
	Others	13	13	100
Total	100	100	100	

Table 2 General questions about the topic

Population of Transgender found in the vicinity	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
Yes	88	88	88	88
No	11	11	11	99
Never consider	01	01	01	100
Total	100	100	100	
Respondents see them -				
As a part of society	42	42	42	42
Threat to society	02	02	02	44
Not a part of society	06	06	06	50
Never thought	50	50	50	100
Total	100	100	100	
Respondents feel they are responsible for their condition				
Yes	06	06	06	06
No	94	94	94	100
Total	100	100	100	
If no, why society exclude them -				
Because of their biological characteristics	35	35	35	35
Physical appearance	32	32	32	67
Behaviour	27	27	27	94
Any other reason, please mention.....	-	-	-	-
Total	94	94	94	

Table 3 Awareness among respondents about the laws and bills passed by the government to socially include transgender –

Responses	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
Yes	57	57	57	57
No	43	43	43	100
Total	100	100	100	

Table 4 Opinion of respondents regarding the fair step of government to socially include them in normal life.

Responses	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
Yes	50	50	50	50
No	06	06	06	56
Don't know	44	44	44	100
Total	100	100	100	

Table 5 Opinion of respondents to appoint deserving transgender in their company if they own or will own –

Responses	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
Yes	48	48	48	48
No	52	52	52	100
Total	100	100	100	

Table 6 If not, why –

Responses	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
Transgender cannot work	10	10	10	10
Society will make fun	08	08	08	18
Transgender will spoil the atmosphere	24	24	24	42
Society will exclude the company also like them	10	10	10	52
Total	52	52	52	

Table 7 Opinion of respondents regarding the participation of transgender in elections, employment, education etc.

Responses	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
Disgusting	02	02	02	02
Good	44	44	44	46
Revolutionary movement	46	46	46	92
Should not happened	08	08	08	100
Total	100	100	100	

Table 7 Measures to socially, mentally and physically improving the conditions of transgender in society.

Responses	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
Awareness among people	22	22	22	22
People should accept them	21	21	21	43
Equal opportunities to them	36	36	36	79
Proper medical facilities	15	15	15	94
Not in a favour of this question	06	06	06	100
Total	100	100	100	

Table 8 Opinion of respondents regarding giving them equal opportunities in every field.

Responses	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
Yes	94	94	94	94
No	06	06	06	100
Total	100	100	100	

If No, why -

Responses	Frequency	Percent	Valid percent	Cumulative percent
No, they are different	02	02	02	02
No, they don't deserve	02	02	02	04
Let them leave on their condition	02	02	02	06

They are responsible for their fate	00	00	00	06
Total	06	06	06	

Findings

The community of transgender is facing lots of problems. The problem is not within them but it's in the thinking of people who are living in society. The questionnaire was prepared to know the view of the people towards the third gender of society. The following findings is drawn after analyzing data –

1. Most of the respondents find transgender people around them and some see them as a part of society. While, some never thought about them.
2. People feel they are not responsible for their condition. But, because of biological characteristics, physical appearance and behaviour they are excluded from society.
3. Majority of the respondents are aware about the government efforts to socially include the transgender in society and they feel it is a fair step.
4. The question was also asked about appointing the deserving transgender in your company. Most of the respondents feel they should not be appointed because they will spoil the atmosphere of the company.
5. About the participation of transgender in elections, employment, education, most of the respondents feel it is a revolutionary movement. The government has also made laws and passed bills to socially include them in society.
6. About improving their socially, mentally and physical condition, respondents feel that the provision of equal opportunities must be made for them like the normal gender because they are liable to get the equal opportunities in each and every field.

Conclusion

The life of transgender in a country like India is very struggling. We can't even begin to understand the pain and plight of transgender. Living a normal life for them is a challenge. Whether it is a time of filling a form when there is not 'other' or 'third gender' option in gender section or struggle in getting job as they don't fit in either of the binary gender. Many times they are judged on the basis of their physical appearance.

To be honest, we all are a group of people who know the meaning of respect, equality and opportunity, but there are many times just or intentionally unintentionally we hurt the transgender by simply ignoring or laughing at them. We as a society have been failing to accept, acknowledge and create a respectable space for the transgender in our world. Though, India is an independent country, though they are struggling to live a respectable and free life. With the advent of bills and constitutional provisions, there is a hope that the people will change their opinion towards the third gender.

The acceptance of society is must to socially include them in society. The denial and disrespect actually affect their self-esteem and position in an adverse way. Their social inclusion in public spaces from whichever to third gender is necessary.

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