Changing Trends in Socio-Economic Conditions of Transgender in Chennai City

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Abstract: The term Transgender (TG) is generally used to describe those who transgress social gender norms. The third gender in India has emerged as a strong fashion in LGBTQI rights. Transgender people come from all walks of life and experience many of the same socio-economic problems as other people. This means that every organizational policy and procedure may impact the experience of Transgender people. In contemporary times, the government of India introduced many welfare policies and schemes to improve the Socio-economic economic conditions and constitutional safeguards for the TG people. This paper focuses on the social inclusion of TG's in India and provides an overview of the current situation regarding community engagement. The present study is an empirical study in which socio-economic conditions of the TG's were extracted by using an interview schedule. Fifty-five respondents were selected in Chennai city through a non-probability sampling method using snowball and convenience technique. Data collected were analyzed using SPSS. It is clear that after the landmark judgment of the Supreme Court for the acceptance of TG as 'third gender' have given them recognition in the society. Levels of representation to voice out their needs have increased. To conclude, society needs to take care of the social stigma towards TG community and give them a chance to stand equally and to participate together in the process of community development.

Keywords: Constitutional Provisions, Socio-economic Conditions, Transgender (TG), LGBTQI

I. INTRODUCTION

Transgender persons had been part of Indian society for centuries. There was historical evidence of recognition "third sex" or persons not confirmed to male or females' gender in near the beginnings writings of ancient India. The concept of tritiyaprakrite or Napumsaka had been an integral part of the Hindu mythology folklore, epic and early Vedic and puranic literature.

A Mughal period

Hijras played a famous role in the royal court of the Islamic world particularly in the Ottoman Empire and the Mughal rule in medieval India. They row to well-known positions as political advisors, administrators. Hijras were considered as clever, trustworthy and fiercely loyal and had free access to all specs and solutions of populations, thereby playing a crucial role in the politics of empire-building in the Mughal era. The Hijras also occupied their positions in the Islamic religious institutions especially in guarding the holy places of Mecca and Medina.

The person of trust they were able to influence static decisions and also received large amounts of money to have been close to kings and queens and thus Hijras frequently state the role of their status in the period.

B British period:

At the beginning of the British period in Indian subcontinent hijras used to accept protection and benefits by some Indian states through entry into the hijra community. Furthermore, the benefits incorporated the provisions of land rights of food and a smaller amount of money from agricultural households in the exact area which were ultimately removed through British legislation because the land was not inherited through blood relations.

C Colonial rule:

Through the onset of colonel rule from the 18th century onwards, the situations changed drastically. Accounts of early European travelers showed that they were repulsed by the sight of Hijras and could not comprehend why they were given so much respect in the royal courts and other institutions. In the second half of the 19th century, the British Administration vigorously rough to criminalize the Hijras community and to deny them the civil rights Hijras were considered to be separate tribes in different parts of India by the colonial administration. The criminal tribe's act 1871 included all Hijras who were considered in kidnapping and castrating children and dressed like women to dance in public sphere the punishment for such activities was up to two years imprisonment and a fine or both. The pre-partition history influences the vulnerable circumstances of Hijras in this contemporary world.

D Contemporary period:

Transgender in India is possibly being the most well-known and popular third type of modern world. Supreme Court declared for transgender as the third gender. The third gender in India has emerged as a strong fashion in the LGBT rights. In the contemporary time, the government of India introduced so many welfare policies and schemes such as census, documentation issuing of the citizenship ID cards, issuing passports, social, economic developments and constitutional safeguards for the transgender people. In recent years, transgender people around the world have made tremendous strides towards achieving legal recognition.

II. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

1. To explore and understand the Socio-economic status of transgender.

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2.To identify the effect of government schemes on the socio-economic conditions of Transgender.
3.To critically analyze the changing trends in developmental aspects of Transgender.

III. METHODOLOGY

A Research setting:

The researcher conducted the study in different areas of Chennai. The study area is Chennai because most of the Transgender people migrate to urban areas in search of social acceptance and livelihood. So, the availability of Transgender people is more in urban areas than in rural areas. Transgender people live as a group and they form a community with their members.

B Research design:

The research design of the present study is explorative because the researcher attempts to explore the socio-economic conditions of transgender and relate with the government schemes which improved the social identity of Transgender with the help of a structured questionnaire applying survey method. On the other hand, the study also tries to validate the 2014 judgment for acceptance of transgender as a third gender and provides identity in society.

C Sample design:

Because of lack of information about the exact location of Transgender, it is difficult to apply a probability sample design, thus Snowball sampling technique has been used by the researcher. The researcher started the initial investigation through a known transgender and from each respondent the researcher obtained the contacts of other transgender people residing in Chennai. Thus, total samples of 55 respondents were identified using the above-specified technique for the study.

D Tool used to collect data for research:

The researcher has taken quantitative data to get appropriate information from the sample population. The questionnaire consists of 38 questions, which provides the information related to the Socio-economic conditions of the respondents. The researcher collected the data using both questionnaires as well as interview schedule method.

E Types of data:

The researcher used both primary and secondary data to gather information concerning the research topic and research objectives. The primary data were collected using a survey questionnaire. The researcher has taken data from Transgender residing in Chennai. The secondary data comprises of research articles, newspapers, and net sources.

F Tools for representation:

Tables and figures/charts were used for study as well as for the outcome of various analyses which is appropriate for research objectives.

G Tool for analysis;

The study is quantitative; percentage analysis was used to analyze using SPSS software.

H Limitation:

The study is limited to the transgender who residing in Chennai urban city. Quantitative data was collected only from the transgender who were below 60 years. Only male to female (MTF) transgender were included in the study.
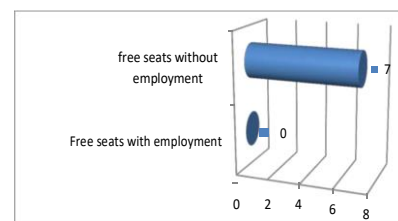
IV. FINDINGS

1) 72.7% of transgender people have Aadhar card because the government had made it a mandatory document.
2) Majority 56.4% of transgender are in the age group of 20-30, it shows that respondents have gained confidence to reveal themselves as transgender in youth stage.
3) The majority of 80% of respondents have their family support it shows that transgender people are not completely stigmatized from the family level. 11% of respondents said that social status becomes the major factor for not having their family support.
4) 98.2% of respondents said that they did not have any self-help group formation and the government does not provide any funds to start small scale business.
5) 87.27% transgender does not get free government seats in college. The reason identified is that they did not complete their secondary education or they have less awareness about the scheme.

Table 1. Availability of free seats in government college with level of employment opportunity in government sector.

S.no	Availability of free seats	Level of employment opportunity		Total
		Yes	No	
1	Yes	0	7	7
2	No	1	47	48
Total		1	54	55

Figure 1, shows that Correlation of availability of free government college seats with level of employment opportunity in government sector infers that respondents dint get any free seats and employment opportunity in government sector.

6) 60% feel that they have got equal responsibility in the workplace after the Supreme Court judgment for acceptance of transgender as third gender.
7) 83.6% said that lack of family support becomes the major factor to fall into deviant activities like begging, prostitution.

8)49.1% of the respondents feel that they have been recognized in society after the judgment, 40% welcomes that judgment for recognizing them as third gender, 9.1% like to be recognized as female instead of calling them as third gender.

Table 2. Reason to fall into deviant activities.

S.No	Reasons	frequency	Percentage%
1	Lack of family support	46	83.6
2	Lack of education	4	7.30
3	Lack of self-respect	3	5.50
4	Lack of job opportunity	1	1.80
5	none	1	1.80
	Total	55	100

V RECOMMENDATIONS

- Include a curriculum in schools about Transgender, just to respect diversity.
- Media responsibility, to promote stories, who boldly address that his/her son is transgender.
- Government can use transgender as brand ambassadors for social awareness and welfare programs.
- Professional counseling for children and parents where they able to understand the difference and the reason behind the transsexual.

V CONCLUSION

Social aspects of transgender were identified with their level of family support, educational level, and income level. It is clear that after the landmark judgment of the supreme court for the acceptance of transgender as Third gender have gave them recognition in the society. Level of representatives to voice out their need is increased; stigmatization level has been decreased. For the past 3 years after the judgment, their social identities have improved in society and they were also aware of their rights and welfare measure. From the analysis, transgender like to have gender neutrality rather than having gender equality in the society. The respondent feels that a lack of family support and awareness becomes the major factor to fall into deviant activities. If parents understand the biological and psychological changes of transgender people, the negativity towards them can be eliminated in the society. In general, it is important to understand the feelings and mental status of the transgender community. People need to understand that feelings are diverse after all everyone is a human being. Transgender community has a right to behave and live as and how they are and express their feelings without any fear. The society needs to take care of social stigma towards the transgender community and give a chance to stand equally and participate together in the developmental process of the community.

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