



INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH JOURNAL OF HUMANITIES AND INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

(Peer-reviewed, Refereed, Indexed & Open Access Journal)

DOI : 03.2021-11278686

ISSN : 2582-8568

IMPACT FACTOR : 5.71 (SJIF 2021)

A LIGHT ON THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF THE TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY IN INDIA

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DOI No. **03.2021-11278686** DOI Link :: <https://doi-ds.org/doilink/12.2021-16199993/IRJHIS2112015>

Abstract:

Gender is very important aspect of human being. Generally, socially and biologically gender is classified into male and female categories. Each gender has special and different characteristics. The important thing about gender is the society and people are expected to behave and express themselves in particular ways that's socially pre-determined gender role associated with their biological sex. Transgender are subjected to social exclusion, discrimination, lack of education facilities, lack of medical facilities, and lack of job opportunities. Generally they lived in separate community called 'Hijrahood'. However, those who do not get into the culture of 'Hijrahood' and gain entry in mainstream jobs face another battle in itself in contemporary circumstances. The purpose of this study is to examine the problems faced by transgender community in the society by various ways such as in the field of primary to higher education, opportunities in employment, political and social pressure in day to day life, and various other serious issues. The socio-economic conditions and feelings of transgender is briefly studied in this research paper.

Keywords: Transgender, Socio-economic status, Hijras, Exclusion, Facilities, Problems

Introduction:

Third gender or Transgender is defined as the people whose gender identity is different from the gender they were thought to be at the birth. In other words, we can say that, transgender are viewed as “neither male nor female” having content both of both. So they are facing number of problems ranging from social exclusion to discrimination unemployment lack of education facilities lack of medical facilities and so on transgender community is among the most marginalized and vulnerable community in the country transgender is also known the name of kinnar, Hijra and third

gender etc. According to last census which was conducted in 2011, the total population of transgender community was 4.88 Lakhs in India. The majorities of transgender people have join up themselves in begging and paid sex for their livelihood. Social isolation, lack of healthcare support system, discrimination, and absence of daily income has left the transgender community is distressed in India. , we are also witnessing several issues faced by the community of transgender people due to their lost livelihood opportunities. They are not socially privileged to operate within the online world as they are predominantly dependent on social interactions and functions such as weddings or baby showers. Henceforth, the restrictions on movement during the Covid-19 lockdown have multiplied the struggles and challenges faced by the transgender community. Transgender is mentioned in in Kama sutra, Ramayana, Mahabharata and so on. In shorts, transgender is part of society from the beginning but we didn't accept them as part of family and society in modern period. Transgender community is most vulnerable and marginalized community of society.

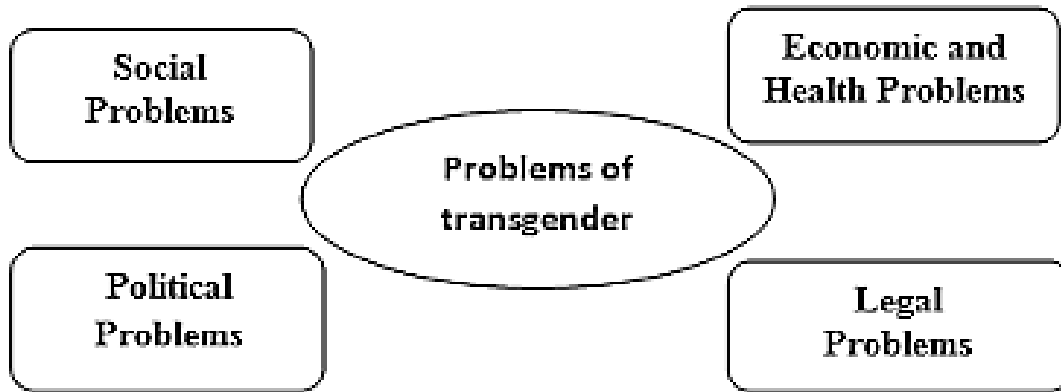
OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

- To study the socio-economic profile of transgender.
- To study the problems faced by the transgender community for their livelihood in day to day life.
- To elaborate their psychological, physical, and social differences.
- To study the magnitude of their contribution in economic development.

Socio-economic status of the transgender Community:

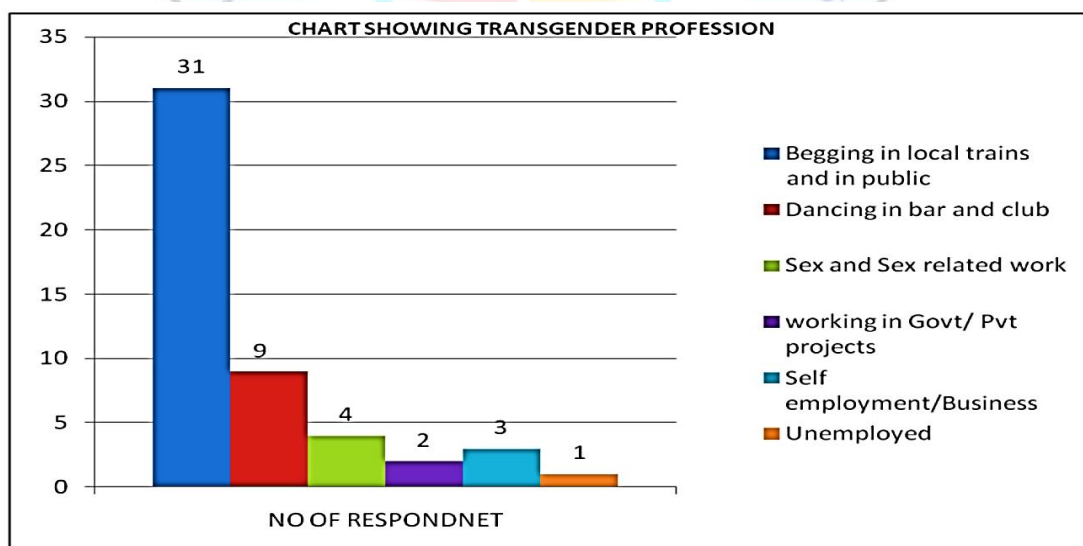
Transgender community is one of the most vulnerable communities in the India as well as in the world. Transgender community has a very long history. Constitution of India declared transgender as gender but till the date they are struggling for their identity and livelihoods. In India, transgender autobiography and biography give us a lot of inside information about transgender and their mental and physical pain.

Transgender are extreme form of exclusion from basic dignity and human rights. The crimes against transgender increased in recent period in United States of America. The Indian society is not prepared to agree to take transgender community as a part of family and society. The accepting behaviors of parents towards their LGBT children are protective against mental health risks. During the stage of adolescence family and society does not accept to their child as transgender. LGBT young adults who reported low levels of family acceptance during adolescence were over three times more likely to have suicidal thoughts and to report suicide attempts, compared to Transgender community in India does not enjoy the equal rights. Male and female of the society enjoy the special status in the society as compared to transgender. The social awareness and educational campaigns are very essential to uplift the standard of living transgender community and society's attitude towards them.



Several people in transgender communities were found hungry and unable to sustain themselves in day to day life. During the covid-19 pandemic social distancing protocols, restrictions in travelling, and curfews were adversely impacted lives. The government didn't show the interest in vaccination of transgender community. The transgender community runs a moment in Tamil Nadu state to get various documents such as voter cards, ration cards and passports. Tamil Nadu government gives a special status to third gender and looking into issues such as primary and higher education, opportunities of jobs, income generation activities and security measures for the transgender community. The social system is essential to take care of their humiliation and work towards accepting transgender as part of the society. To succeed this finish, transgender rights must be implemented in the society properly and with the help of law and literature together can cover the way for this social change. Approximately 2 million transgender people are estimated to be worst affected in India by the move taken by the government in the form of lockdown because most of them earn their livelihood on the streets.

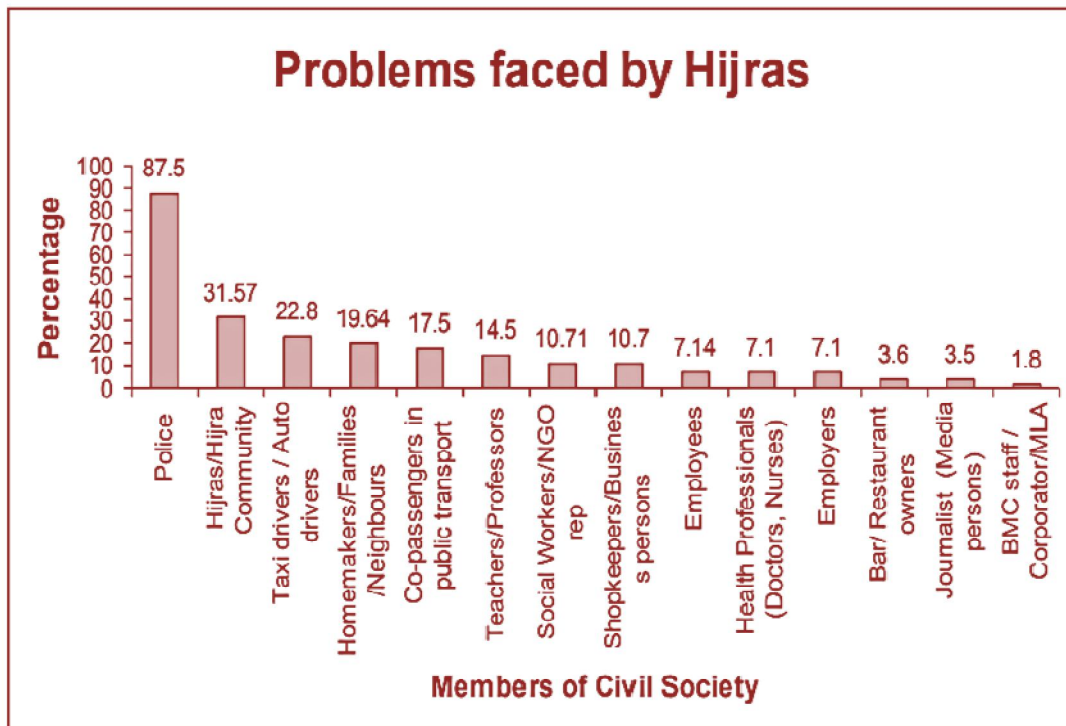
Figure 01: Percentage wise distribution profession of Transgender Community



The majority of the transgender community has knowledgeable problems caused by the police from respective police stations of the area, railway police or traffic policemen some time. Transgender communities are going through several of social security issues in his day to day life. Many transgender run away from home when they felt the family will not accept them as a transgender. If they are not able to earn then they face lots of problems to get employment opportunities. So, they started begging in public place or in the trains, works in sex related works, dancing in the club or bar, participate in social ceremony, become a self-employed or do hard work and become a government employee etc.

Transgender community has been always faced discrimination in the society. Often people used to consider their name as abusive words. Even they are deprived of the basic rights which are given to the citizens of India. They have been subjected to discrimination, suppressed and ignored. But there was a turning point when this community got recognition as a ‘third gender’. There was a common story among the people of the transgender community that if they start growing as male i.e. the gender, they have at their birth then they look different from the people of the same sex and if they start growing like the female counterpart as their characteristics looks like them they become the victim of sexual harassment, molestation and trafficking.

Figure 02 : Problem faced by the transgender or Hijras community (in %)



Conclusion:

All human being must be treated as human. Transgender are also human being. So they must be treated as human being. Transgender are human beings. So, legally and logically all human rights

must be applicable to all people of transgender. According to constitution of India, all people have the right to live with dignity in the society irrespective with their gender. But transgender not only discriminated by the people of society also they discriminated and suppressed by the government employee. In one research paper it is found that one hijra have been raped and even gang raped by the police in local train in Mumbai. Many times transgender faces very inhuman treatment in the hospitals, schools and colleges, theaters, Bus and trains, social ceremonies or in many public places. Public word itself shows its public then why some genders are discriminated in public places that are the question. This was not answered by the society from billions of the years. 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. Transgender community is one of the most vulnerable communities in the society. Transgender must be treated as human being is a need of hour.

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