Transgender: Are the Invisible and Vulnerable?

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Abstract

Transgender is a universal word applied to various individuals, behavior, and groups involving tendencies to deviate from the normative gender roles. The transgender person was socially disadvantaged, economically deprived, and politically disenfranchised. As the transgender lives in the most unhygienic conditions, they are prone to various diseases. Few transgender studies report that discrimination in access to health care is associated with numerous poor health outcomes, including a higher prevalence of HIV infection, substance use disorder, and suicide attempts too. A close analysis of various reports and discussion with community and stakeholders suggest that transgender are most uneducated or undereducated, become reluctant to continue schooling. They no longer need to beg on roads and go for prostitution. As a majority of them are abandoned by their families and thrown out of their homes, separate nursing homes should be constructed for the transgender community in order to provide the family less transgender individuals with shelter and security during the last days of their lives.

Keywords: **Transgender, Invisible, Vulnerable, Violation, Harassment, Discrimination, Medical, Depression, Protection, Rights**

Introduction

Transgender individuals are variedly called in different places though they are essentially irritable dressers. Sometimes they are referred to as "transvestites", "drag queens" or "drag kings". In Tamil Nadu, transgender are identified as Aravani and New Delhi labeled as Kinnars. Other current synonyms for transgender include "gender variant", "gender different" and gender "non-conforming." The transgender person was socially disadvantaged, economically deprived, and politically disenfranchised (Venkatrama Raju,2015).

Gender Identity

Transgender is a universal word applied to various individuals, behavior, and groups involving tendencies to deviate from the normative gender roles. Transgender persons can identify as homosexual, bisexual, pansexual or polysexual; some may consider conventional sexual orientation labels inadequate, or inapplicable to them. Transgender people may also identify several places on either the traditional transgender continuum, or the more encompassing continuums which developed in response to the significantly more detailed studies done in recent years (Arun Irengbam, 2011). It was observed that gender identity is a person's intrinsic sense of being male, female or another gender. Transgender refers to individuals whose gender identities differ from the sex recorded at birth, whereas transgender describes individuals whose gender identities align with their recorded sex at birth. Gender non-conformity and gender incongruence are terms similar in definition to transgender; both of these terms encompass the idea that gender identity and gender expression can appear as a spectrum instead of a dichotomy.

While there are distinctions among gender in congruence, gender non-conformity, transgender, and transsexual, any of these forms of expression may or may not be associated with gender dysphoria (JF Strauss and RL Barbieri, 2013).

Transgender: A Socially Disadvantaged and Economically Deprived Community

As the transgender lives in the most unhygienic conditions, they are prone to various diseases. Few transgender studies report that discrimination in access to health care is associated with numerous poor health outcomes, including a higher prevalence of HIV infection, substance use disorder,and suicide attempts too. For a very long time since they have been left without from public and private health services, they frequently help to quacks (promotion of fraudulent or ignorant medical practices), and thus, the prolonged illness starts. Hence, the doctors, health care specialists,and policy makers must come forward and take charge. The transgender community requirement more over is educated about personal hygiene and various other health related issues as early as possible. Worse health and well-being persist, and high rates of discrimination and violence continue near extremely control transgender people's life. Generally, the following are the issues faced by the transgender community.

Table 1: Issues of Transgender Community

Lack of educational facilities	Exclusion from livelihood and employment opportunities
Unemployment	Inadequate right to involvement in community decision-making route
Lack of shelter	Low level of poverty
Lack of medical facilities like HIV care and hygiene	Discrimination and ignorance
Depression	Carrier of several communicable diseases such as HIV
Hormonal pill abuse	Alcohol and drug use
Tobacco and alcohol abuse	Exclusion from Economy
Problems relating to marriage	Limited entry to collectivization

Property	Limited rights to citizenship
Electoral rights	No protection from violence
Exclusion from family and society	Exclusion from livelihood and employment opportunities
Limited entry in the education sector, health services, and public spaces	Limited right to participation in community decision making process

Societal Challenges of Trans People in India

It is significant to situate transgender people in our cultural and social moment to understand the unique difficulties faced by transgender people in India. In 2011, a national census carried out to estimate the transgender population in the country. The Census reports showed the total number of transgender people in India to be around 4.9 lakh. (Nagarajan, 2014) Activists insist that this estimate is conservative because transgender people may also identify as female or male (within the binary) and may not record themselves as transgender. Apart from this, the 2011 census revealed that 52 percent of transgender people surveyed face violence from the police (Times of India, 2016). Violence and extortion is often proficient by transgender people in sex work by clients and even the police due to the criminalization of sex work in the country (Chakrapani, Newman and Noronha, 2018). In reality, even transgender people who are not soliciting are thought to be involved with sex work and are arrested by the police - this does not require a warrant to arrest or search. Anti-beggary laws also penalize the traditional livelihoods of the transgender community. The Indian government publishes annual statistics about crimes against men and women, but it does not do the same for transgender people. A survey piloted by the Swasti Health Resource Centre (A Bengaluru-based non-profit group) interviewed 2,169 transgender people from Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. It revealed that 40 percent of transgender people had experienced sexual abuse in India before turning 18. It begins as early as age 5 and continues even after childhood (Chaturvedi, 2017) Spouses/partners are also perpetrators of violence towards a transgender person - they are often not seen as victims of domestic abuse.

Educational and Social Status of the Transgender Community in India

No formal education for transgender is popular in the Indian context. They had been depriving of family and school environments, transgender, discontinue their education and risk their future career opportunities. A close analysis of various reports and discussion with community and stakeholders suggest that transgender are most uneducated or undereducated, become reluctant to continue schooling. The average qualification is secondary (Matric) or senior secondary level. The enrolment is significantly low, and the dropout rate at the primary and secondary level is still very high. In India, particular states work for the furtherance of transgender. Tamil Nadu is an only one state which has successfully pioneered transgender inclusion by introducing "The Transgender Welfare Policy". The Transgender community expressions humiliation and perception and therefore has rarer opportunities as compared to others.

Conclusion

Despite of being recognized as 'third gender' in the year 2014, the transgender individuals failed to receive complete social acceptance and still fight for their individual visibility,which is misplaced in the faintness of transgender community as a whole. They continue to remain a discriminated and ostracized social class. In the end, because of such condition of the transgender community in society, they remain more prone to gender violence. By providing the required amount of security and creating an environment of respect for them, India can successfully fight the battle of HIV/AIDS of transgender individuals. Efforts should be made to bring them to the mainstream society and provide them with a decent education, job, medical facilities, etc. They no longer need to beg on roads and go for prostitution. As a majority of them are abandoned by their families and thrown out of their homes, separate nursing homes should be constructed for the transgender community in order to provide the family less transgender individuals with shelter and security during the last days of their lives.

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