

# Social and Educational Issues of Transgender

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## Abstract:

Transgender or 'they' is not the word limited to persons whose genital are combined but it is a comprehensive term of person whose gender expression, identity or behavior varies from the standards expected from their birth sex. Several transgender personalities fall under those group including transgender male, transgender female, male to female and female to male. It also includes cross dressers (those who wear dresses of others), gender queer people (they feel they belong to both the genders of they do not belong to any gender) and transsexuals. A total of 4,87,803 transgender were plotted in India in census 2011. In all states, only Uttar Pradesh is having 1,37,465 transgender in total. Having this numeric position the main source of income or occupation of these populations are singing, dancing and asking for the money at different occasions like marriage, festivals and birth of child. Probably they do not play any role in the economic development of the society as well as the country, while they have more efficiency than other gender. This paper will discuss the social and educational status of transgender in reference to higher education with some issues of their social and educational adjustment. Further provides some useful suggestions to promote and situate them in the main stream of the society.

**Key words:** Gender, Transgender, Social and Educational Adjustment, Higher Education.

## Introduction:

Whenever we acquaint with the word like as transgenders, Hijaras, Kinners, Gays etc. so what images appears in our mind? The image that appears are the groups of people wearing saaries and clapping or singing 'badhai-song' on marries or on a birth of a child or asking for money with smiling, irritating face at the platforms and bus stands. Off course, there is no doubt that such type of similar figures would appears in our mind but apart from this, in the present scenario, some transgenders like, Manobi Bandypadhyaya( India's first transgender college principal), Shabnam "Mausi" Bano (Elected member of the Madhya Pradesh State Legislative Assembly from 1998 to 2003), Laxmi Narayan Tripathi (Hindi film actress and Bharatanatyam dancer), Madhu Kinnar (won the Mayoral election of the Raigarh Municipal Corporation), Kamla jaan (the first women transgender Mayer), Nartaki Natraj (first transgender to receive sangeet natak award), Sudha TAI(first transgender to receive honorary doctorate in 2014), Transgender swapna (first transgender I.A.S. aspirant) etc. has blurred the above traditional images of transgenders and reproduced a new brightened image of transgender evolutionally. This above statuses appears true because of nurturing in same environment like as a successful non-transgenders.

The universe is looking so attractive with all its greeneries and sceneries; these are all highly possible only because of the appreciation and promotion of human being. People may also differ by colour, religion, language and native and even by gender. Understanding the differences and accepting the reality with encouraging everyone will lead life more awesome. Like the primary and secondary gender men and women looking forward in all the aspects especially in education. On the other hand the differentiated transgender community also tries to move with them and grabs to get the basic and advances knowledge through higher education.

Universal declaration of human rights states that, “Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental states. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.”

On the behalf of article published on 13 may 2014 in times of India, the total population of transgenders in India is 4.9 lacks, but some organizations governing for the transgenders like *Sahodari Foundation* and *Naj Foundation* has mentioned their numbers are 6-7 times i.e. 30-35 lacks. Having these counts, the main source of income or occupation of the transgenders are singing, dancing and asking for the money at different occasions like marriage, festivals and birth of child. They does not play any role in the economic development of the society as well as the country, while they generates a few virtues and allots of vices in the society for example difference between boy and girl by behaving and asking more money on the birth of boy child.

Education provides people’s better adjustment with the social and other environments, but due to lack of education and proper awareness, transgenders are enabling to adopt normal society for survive and also enable to become an active part in the development of the country. These peoples are deviated from the main and central path of the society. They take believes in making and adopting their own closed community and do some works that are not acceptable in the normal society. In this accepted individual path many times they become a source of harassment also. India have also some unbreakable norms and laws for the education of the transgender. But due to lack of awareness on these laws, lack of knowledge on their right to attain the education etc. they are excluded.

According to **WHO**, Gender refers to the socially constructed characteristics of women and men – such as norms, roles and relationships of and between groups of women and men. It varies from society to society and can be changed. While most people are born either male or female, they are taught appropriate norms and behaviors – including how they should interact with others of the same or opposite sex within households, communities and work places. When individuals or groups do not “fit” established gender norms they often face stigma, discriminatory practices or social exclusion – all of which adversely affect health. It is important to be sensitive to different identities that do not necessarily fit into binary male or female sex categories.

Transgender is a global term of the people whose gender identity dose not conforms to the sex they were assigned at the time of their birth. Sex is different from gender. Sex refers to genitalia and gender is a society constructed definition to differentiate between a man and women.

### **Transgenders in India:**

In India, there is wide range of transgender related personalities which includes the Hijras, Arvanis, Kothus, Jogtas/Jogappas, ShivSakthis. Some years ago, they were treated with high respect. ‘Hijras’ is a Persian term translated as enough which is used in comman parlance for transgender communal in India. ‘Aravani; is a term used or male to female transgender who experienced genital transparent through sex reassignment surgery or perform Nirwaan which is a old- fashioned mode of castration. ‘Kothi’ is used for those who adopted a famine role in same sex relationship, but do not live in communities as Aravanis. Jogtas/Jogppas found in Maharastra and Karnatka are male to female transgender who devoted themselves to the services of God. Shive Shaktis were found in Andhra Pradesh are males who are considers marries to Gods particularly Lord Shiva. They generally work as spiritual healers or astrologers.

A total of 4, 87,803 transgenders were plotted in 2011 census of India. In all states, Only Uttar Pradesh is having 1,37,465 transgenders in total , more than 28% of the nation’s transgenders belong to U.P. state. Andhra

Pradesh has 43,769 (with 9% of the total) transgender, standing at second position. Maharashtra which has 40,891 transgender (with 8% of the total) standing at third position. Only two transgender people belong to Lakshadweep has last position.

As per the record mentioned in census for the literacy rate, overall performance of the transgender are only 56.07 % and Mizoram tops in the list with highest of 87.14%. Further Kerala holding 84.61% and Daman & Diu with 75.51% stands at second and third position in the list respectively. Uttar Pradesh recorded only 55.80% of literacy rate and Bihar stands at last with 44.35% of the transgenders being literate.

### Status of Transgenders in India as Per Census 2011

(As per population top five and below five states)

S. No.	State	Transgenders	Child(0-6)	Literacy rate
	<b>India</b>	<b>487,803</b>	<b>54,854</b>	<b>56.07%</b>
<b>Top five States</b>				
1.	<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>	137,465	18,734	55.80%
2.	<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>	43,769	4,082	53.33%
3.	<b>Maharashtra</b>	40,891	4,101	67.57%
4.	<b>Bihar</b>	40,827	5,971	44.35%
5.	<b>West Bengal</b>	30,349	2,376	58.83%
<b>Below five States</b>				
S. No.	State	Transgenders	Child(0-6)	Literacy rate
5.	<b>Sikkim</b>	126	14	65.18%
4.	<b>Daman and Diu</b>	59	10	75.51%
3.	<b>Andaman and Nicobar Islands</b>	47	5	73.81%
2.	<b>Dadra and Nagar Haveli</b>	43	5	73.68%
1.	<b>Lakshadweep</b>	2	0	50.00%

Source: census report, 2011.

Apart of this above I would like to admire a state Odisha which is an only state to build up special resolution for the welfare of the transgender and third gender of the country. The step was taken to improve their social and economical status the move has also been taken and keeping the Supreme Court's order to recognize transgender as a legal third gender. Odisha has become the first state in the country to provide food grain, pension plans, health schemes, education system and housing loan benefits to the transgender community, thus including them in the below poverty line category.

Government of India has provided following provisions for transgenders:

- In the 2011 census, 4000 transgender people had registered themselves in the 'others' category.
- In the year 2014, the transgenders were recognized as a legal third gender by the Supreme Court which ordered the government to provide the third gender with quotas in jobs and education.
- On April 24, 2015, a bill for the transgenders was passed in the Rajya Sabha which sought equal rights for the community. The bill was later adopted through a voice note.
- Members of the transgender community will be given BPL card.
- The BPL cards will give them access to a number of social benefits under various government welfare programmes.
- The benefits include, 'free housing, pensions loans to start up their own businesses and 100 days of paid work annually' and
- The community will also be entitled to 5 kg of food grains every month.

### Some other Social and Educational Issues:

As per the article published in University news, a weekly journal of higher education states that, 80% of the trans students feels insecure at schools because of their gender expression. 41% of the trans gender have attempt suicide. 58% of the trans students have experienced verbal harassment in the year 2015. One of five trans people have faced homelessness at some point in their lives. One of eight Tran's people have been ejected due to being trans gender. Taking all these facts in mind some issues can be discussed as:

**Family:** Family is the first nearest place to grove up a child. Most of the Indian families do not encourage if their child starts to behave like cross gender role. Therefore the members of the family start to jeopardize beat and lambast their own sibling for behaving like cross gender. Some parents may reject and throw out their children for crossing the gender norms and also not satisfy the role of a male child. Many parents give up their transgender children due to shame. Lastly these avoided transgender came out form the home and form their own committee like HIjras and Kinnars.

**School:** School is the second formal place to grove up a child. Gender based harassment and violence may be common in schools it will affect all the students, not just those who are transgenders. Teachers having a transgender student in their class it can provide inclusive learning atmosphere to prevent the need for such involvements. When students are harassed by the gender, their learning process often takes a backward step.

**Society:** Afterward, society is the main place to live majestic life. But at this place they are facing a lot of challenges includes lack of livelihood, lack of social welfare schemes, lack in skilled education, lack in health issues, lack in funding etc., social exclusion background is quite increasing to highlight the issues and problem of the transgender people across the country. We have to notice that, transgenders have been excluded even though they are present in great majority in population means we are avoiding an important part social economy.

**Some boosting points for transgenders:** There are some useful steps that should be necessarily taken consideration by our governments and all members of our country itself, That is:

- First off all, we have to follow the provisions given by Indian government and Supreme Court for transgenders as mentioned above in this paper.
- Every state government should have to make laws to ensure admission of transgenders in school, colleges and universities.

- There should be a proper leadership of transgender issues involved in textbooks that's why they never feel excluded.
- There should be a fresh and unbiased environment at school, college and universities. This will provide proper adjustment protocol to all transgender students.
- With adequate identification of that gender we have need to make suitable our self also with them, that will help them to adopt main stream of the society.
- As UGC, recommended we have to organize awareness programs timely to aware non –teaching peoples and guardians of transgenders.
- As like woman education there should be a transgender education in our curriculum.
- There should be a guidance and counseling program for the transgender students and peoples.
- Need to stand some reliable and valid NGO's to protect and help them as their need.
- In schools, colleges and universities many committees for male and female students are exist like that there should be a committee for transgenders also.
- And finally, we have to change our attitude towards them and feel the reality that ***they are 'they' because of nature's way.***

### Conclusion:

All things that are necessary for us transgender should have also. Education also taught us to respect each every transgender and we should learn to work together to reimburse the gender gap. We have to provide all other parallel environment and opportunities to them without any biasness because they have proper right to achieve that. Creating a well mounted and inclusive education and social system everyone should stand up for each other, even they are third gender. Planning is more essential to protest and protect the transgender against the social exclusion, but it does not mean that we can safe guard them in every situations. Also with the help of better awareness about their constitutional rights and laws, we can attract them in the main path of the society, make them flexible member to grow up for our country. We know that many people are standing in the front line on these issues and show their positive attitude towards the transgenders but aside of this whether we are an educator, supervisor, counselor, parents, or anyone else, needs to learn how to support the transgenders more efficiently. During this entire journey of reform we have to keep in mind that ***Only Nature chooses who will be the transgender and no individuals are able to choose it.***

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