

Attitude of West Bengal Citizens towards the inclusion of transgender students in education

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ABSTRACT:

The subject of research is to investigate the attitude of West Bengal citizens towards the inclusion of transgender students in education. The three purposes for which I have studied are - to explore the attitude of the West Bengal Citizens towards Transgender students' inclusion in education, to compare attitude of rural and urban West Bengal Citizens regarding Transgender students' inclusion in education, to compare attitude of Male and Female West Bengal Citizens towards Transgender students' inclusion in education. The quantitative research method has been used for the study. The results I obtained through the self-constructed attitude scale are - there is no difference between the attitudes of rural and urban West Bengal citizens in the inclusion of transgender students' in education. And there is no difference between the attitudes of male and female West Bengal citizens in the inclusion of transgender students in education. 73% of students are Strongly Agree and 26% of students are Agree with the thought that it should be useful to educate transgender students. 23% of citizens are Strongly Disagree, 61% of citizens are Disagree and 14% of citizens are Agree with the thought that a negative impact may be created for general students if transgender students are enrolled at general school. 50% of citizens are Strongly Agree and 49% of citizens are Agree with the thought that the transgender students should be provided the same opportunities like general students in the field of education. 53% of citizens are Agree, 39% of citizens are Strongly Agree and 8% of citizens are Disagree with the thought that the transgender students should be educated with the general students at school. Therefore transgender children need to be included in general school with normal boys and girls.

Keywords: Transgender Students, Inclusion, Education & West Bengal

INTRODUCTION:

Education is the essential part of our lives. At present time people are to face with different problems to be adapted with the society without education. Besides teaching men and women, there is a need to educate the transgender people. We use the acronym LGBTQ to describe the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender queers community. The very well known "Hijra" community is also living on margins socially, educationally, economically, psycho-socially and psycho-sexually. They are also fighting for hundreds years for their identity and rights. In 2014, the Supreme Court of India established the foundation for the rights of transgender persons in India by recognising 'transgender' as the 'third gender' and laying down several measures for prohibition of discrimination against transgender persons and protection of their rights. The transgender community is not yet aware of education. The thoughts of transgender people are till at

backward position socially and emotionally than the thoughts of general people. Most transgender people are separated from their families. As a result, transgender people drop out of school. Again, many times the parents of transgender people do not enroll to their school. Article 21A states that the education of all students from the age of six to fourteen years is free and compulsory which is their fundamental right. So one of the students in all classes refers to transgender students.

There is 4,87,803 transgender people in India (According to the Census of 2011). Of these, 54,854 are children between the ages of 0- 6 (According to the Census of 2011). The literacy rate of transgender people in India is 56.07% (According to the Census of 2011). The total number of transgender people in West Bengal is 30,349 (According to the Census of 2011). Of these, 2,376 are children between the ages of 0- 6 (According to the Census of 2011). And the total literacy rate of transgender people in West Bengal is 58.83% (According to the Census of 2011).

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY :

The objectives of the present study are:

- 1.To explore the attitude of the West Bengal Citizens towards Transgender students' inclusion in education.
- 2.To compare attitude of rural and urban West Bengal Citizens regarding Transgender students' inclusion in education.
- 3.To compare attitude of Male and Female West Bengal Citizens towards Transgender students' inclusion in education.

HYPOTHESIS:

In order to test the objectives, the following hypothesis were formulated:

Ho1: There is no significant difference in attitude towards Transgender students' inclusion in education among rural and urban West Bengal Citizens.

Ho2: There is no significant difference in attitude of male and female West Bengal Citizens towards Transgender students' inclusion in education.

METHODOLOGY:

A brief description of the methodology of the study has been presented below:

Research Design:

Quantitative research method has been used for the study of attitude of West Bengal Citizens towards transgender students' inclusion in education.

Tools:

A self-constructed attitude scale was developed and applied for collecting the relevant data. Content validity is done during initial stages of tool development. The main method to assess content validity is through expert judgment. For content validity researcher requested two experts to review the questionnaire and assess each item based on 4 criteria including relevancy, clarity, simplicity

and necessity. West Bengal citizens were supposed to rate the agree level by using the four level Likert Scale (1 – strongly disagree; 2 – disagree; 3 – agree, 4 – strongly agree).

Population:

The population of the study is all West Bengal Citizens.

Sample:

The total number of sample is 100 West Bengal Citizens.

Sampling Techniques:

The study can be followed by Probability sampling – Simple Random Sampling Technique.

Variables:

- **Independent Variable:** Selection of sample on the basis of **Gender & Locality**.
- **Dependent Variable:** **Attitude** of West Bengal Citizens regarding Transgender students' inclusion in education.
- **Categorical Variable:** Gender: **Male & Female**, Locality: **Rural & Urban**.

DELIMITATION OF THE STUDY:

The major limitations of the study are :

- 1.This research will be conducted with 100 numbers of West Bengal Citizens.
- 2.This research is delimited with in the area in the State of West Bengal.
3. This research will be conducted with these variables Attitude, Gender and Area.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY:

1. This study can be applied to know the attitude of West Bengal Citizens in the inclusion of transgender students in general school education.
2. This study can be applied to know the attitude of rural West Bengal Citizens in the inclusion of transgender students in general school education.
3. This study can be applied to know the attitude of urban West Bengal Citizens in the inclusion of transgender students in general school education.
4. This study can be applied to know the attitude of male West Bengal Citizens in the inclusion of transgender students in general school education
5. This study can be applied to know the attitude of female West Bengal Citizens in the inclusion of transgender students in general school education.

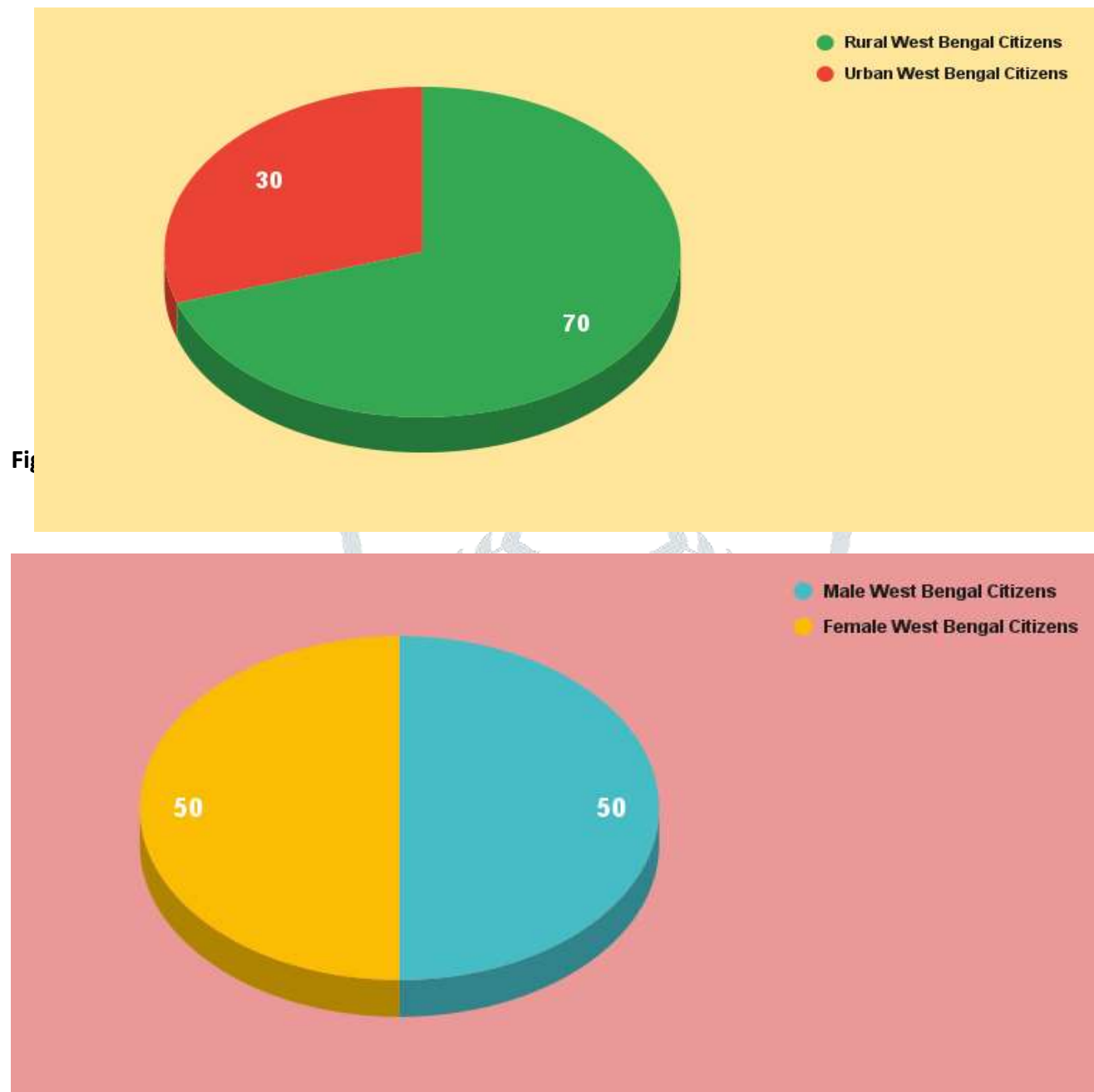
DATA ANALYSIS:**Figure- 1.Distribution of samples :Geographical area basis -**

Table – 1.Data analysis for Ho1:

- Scoring Procedure:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
For Positive Direction Question	4	3	2	1
For Negative Direction Question	1	2	3	4

Table 1.1: Descriptive statistics of score of obtained from rural and urban West Bengal Citizens :

RURAL	URBAN
Mean =65	Mean = 64.10
Standard Error =0.859131621	Standard Error = 1.1820533
Median = 65.08	Median = 63.28
Mode = 65.24	Mode = 65.74
Standard Deviation = 7.19	Standard Deviation = 6.47
Kurtosis = 0.280156276	Kurtosis = 0.233870968
Skewness = -0.0333889312	Skewness = 0.379959599
Range = 37	Range = 26
Minimum = 43	Minimum = 53
Maximum = 80	Maximum = 79
Sum = 4550	Sum = 1923
Count = 70	Count = 30

Table- 1.2:Analysis of the result by using t- test in MS Excel:

t-Test :Two Sample Assuming Equal Variances		
	RURAL	URBAN
MEAN	65	64.10
N	70	30

S.D	7.19	6.47
t Stat	0.62	
df	98	
0.05 Critical Value(Two- tail)	1.99	
0.01 Critical Value (Two-tail)	2.63	
Ho1:Result- Null Hypothesis is Accepted at the 5% and 1% levels.		

The 't' value is 0.62. The table values be $t_{0.05} = 1.99$ and $t_{0.01} = 2.63$ with $df = 98$ as per table 1.2. Whereas, the present t value is 0.62, which does not exceed the table value of 't' at both levels of the significance. The hypothesis " **Ho1: There is no significant difference in attitude towards Transgender students' inclusion in education among rural and urban West Bengal Citizens.**" is accepted.

Table-2. Data analysis for Ho2:

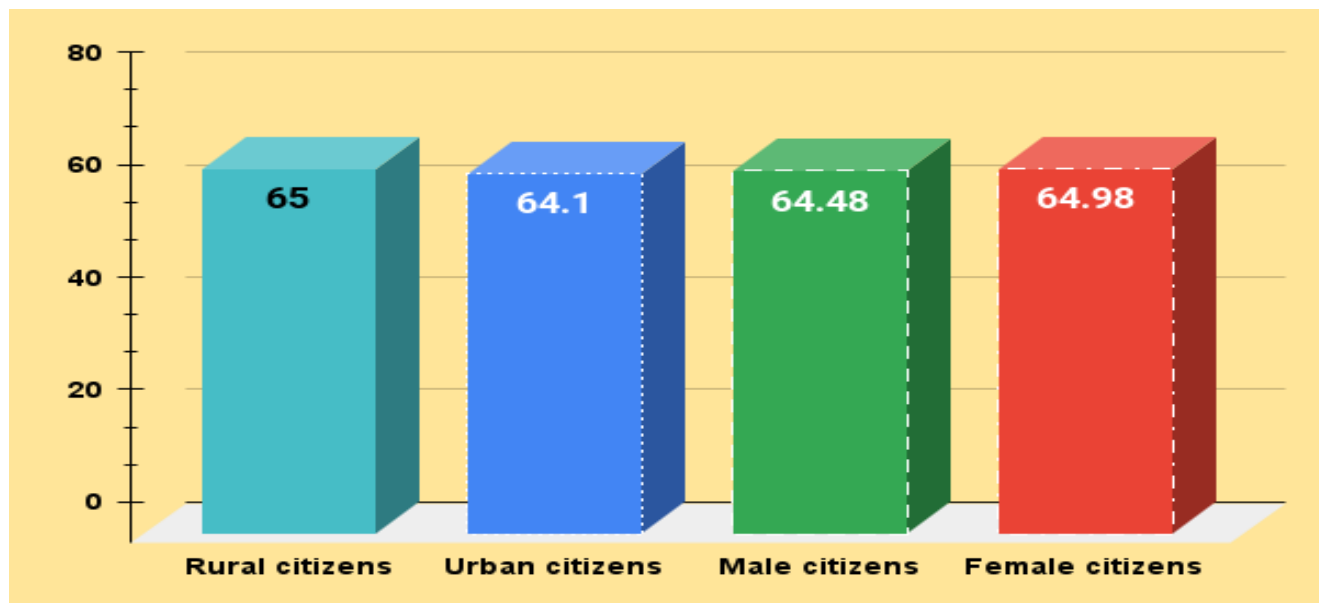
- Scoring procedure was same as done in table-1.
- Table-2.1: Descriptive statistics of score obtained from male and female Citizens:

Male	Female
Mean =64.48	Mean = 64.98
Standard Error = 0.918340896	Standard Error = 1.0479
Median = 64.5	Median = 64.59
Mode = 64.44	Mode = 63.81
Standard Deviation = 6.50	Standard Deviation = 7.41
Kurtosis = 0.09	Kurtosis = 0.25270137
Skewness = - 0.00307993158	Skewness = 0.15789473
Range = 26	Range = 36
Minimum =54	Minimum = 43
Maximum = 80	Maximum = 79
Sum = 3224	Sum = 3249
Count = 50	Count = 50

Table-2.2: Analysis of the result by using t-test in MS Excel :

t- Test :Two -Sample Assuming Equal Variances		
	Male	Female
Mean	64.48	64.98
N	50	50
S.D	6.50	7.41
t-Stat	1.39	
df	98	
0.05 Critical Value (Two tail)	1.99	
0.01 Critical Value (Two tail)	2.63	
Ho2:Result- Null Hypothesis is Accepted at the 5% and 1% levels.		

The 't' value is 1.39. The table values be $t_{0.05} = 1.99$ and $t_{0.01} = 2.63$ with $df = 98$ as per table 2.2. Whereas, the present t value is 1.39, which does not exceed the table value of 't' at both levels of the significance. The hypothesis " **Ho2:There is no significant difference in attitude of male and female West Bengal Citizens towards Transgender students' inclusion in education.**" Is accepted.

Figure-3: Graphical representation of mean score of rural & urban citizens and male & female citizens.**INTERPRETATION & DISCUSSION:**

1. 73% of students are Strongly Agree and 26% of students are Agree with the thought that it should be useful to educate transgender students.
2. 61% of citizens are Strongly Agree, 31% of citizens are Agree and 8% of citizens are Disagree with the thought that a transgender student is just like other ordinary people.
3. 24% of citizens are Strongly Agree, 40% of citizens are Agree and 33% of citizens are Disagree with the thought that there is a need of Certificate to transgender students about to admit them at general school.
4. 32% of citizens Strongly Agree, 59% of citizens are Agree and 6% of citizens are Disagree of the thought that there is a need of preserving seats for transgender students in each school.
5. 51% of citizens are Strongly Disagree, 39% of citizens are Disagree and 5% of citizens are Agree and 5% of citizens are Strongly Agree with the thought that the transgender students should not be educated.
6. 23% of citizens are Strongly Disagree, 61% of citizens are Disagree and 14% of citizens are Agree with the thought that a negative impact may be created for general students if transgender students are enrolled at general school.
7. 50% of citizens are Strongly Agree and 49% of citizens are Agree with the thought that the transgender students should be provided the same opportunities like general students in the field of education.
8. 67% of citizens are Disagree, 19% of citizens are Strongly Disagree and 13% of citizens are Agree with the thought that the transgender students are not interested in study.
9. 53% of citizens are Disagree, 23% of citizens are Strongly Disagree, 18% of citizens are Agree and 6% of citizens are Strongly Agree with the thought that there is a need of separated classroom for transgender students.
10. 53% of citizens are Agree, 39% of citizens are Strongly Agree and 8% of citizens are Disagree with the thought that the transgender students should be educated with the general students at school.

11. 56% of citizens are Disagree, 22% of citizens are Strongly Disagree, 17% of citizens are Agree and 5% of citizens are Strongly Agree with the thought that the transgender students will not be able to fraternize with the general students of the school socially.
12. 54% of citizens are Disagree, 23% of citizens are Strongly Disagree, 18% of citizens are Agree and 5% of citizens are Strongly Agree with the thought that the special school should be constructed for transgender students without enrolling them at general school.
13. 56% of citizens are Agree, 25% of citizens are Strongly Agree and 17% of citizens are Disagree with the thought that the transgender students should be provided special opportunity and advantage to be admitted at general school.
14. 66% of citizens are Agree, 20% of citizens are Strongly Agree and 11% of citizens are Disagree with the thought that the transgender students are deprived from the proper education of general school.
15. 55% of citizens are Agree and 43% of citizens are Strongly Agree with the thought that the co-operation of the classmates is need to continue the study of transgender students.
16. 53% of citizens are Agree, 43% of citizens are Strongly Agree with the thought that the parents of transgender students should be aware and provide consultation for the inclusion of transgender students in school.
17. 54% of citizens are Agree and 40% of citizens are Strongly Agree with the thought that the transgender community should be aware about to enroll transgender students at school.
18. 51% of citizens are Strongly Agree and 43% of citizens are Agree with the thought that the society needs to be aware about the inclusion of transgender students at general school.
19. 56% of citizens are Strongly Agree and 41% of citizens are Agree with the thought that the Government should take useful steps about the enrollment of transgender students at general school.

CONCLUSION :

Judging from all aspects, there is no significant difference in attitude towards Transgender students' inclusion in education among rural and urban citizens of West Bengal. And there is no significant difference in attitude of male and female citizens of West Bengal towards Transgender students' inclusion in education. 73% of students are Strongly Agree and 26% of students are Agree with the thought that it should be useful to educate transgender students. 23% of citizens are Strongly Disagree, 61% of citizens are Disagree and 14% of citizens are Agree with the thought that a negative impact may be created for general students if transgender students are enrolled at general school. 50% of citizens are Strongly Agree and 49% of citizens are Strongly Agree with the thought that the transgender students should be provided the same opportunities like general students in the field of education. 53% of citizens are Agree, 39% of citizens are Strongly Agree and 8% of citizens are Disagree with the thought that the transgender students should be educated with the general students at school. 53% of citizens are Agree, 43% of citizens are Strongly Agree with the thought that the parents of transgender students should be aware and provide consultation for the inclusion of transgender students in school. 54% of citizens are Agree and 40% of citizens are Strongly Agree with the thought that the transgender community should be aware about to enroll transgender students at school. Therefore transgender children need to be included in general school with normal boys and girls. The transgender community and parents need to be made aware of the need for inclusion of transgender children in general schools.

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