

## THE STUDY OF EDUCATION, HEALTH CARE AND WELFARE SCHEMES FOR TRANSGENDER IN DISTRICT NORTH DELHI

---

Dr. Pawan Kumar\*  
Raghav Acharya\*\*

### ABSTRACT

*Transgender is the common term used for the expression, identity of transgender in the present socio-cultural context. The peculiar behaviour that differs from the norms expected from their birth or gender expression which does not match with ones assigned sex at the birth and identify them self with the transgender. The distinctiveness of transgender can be categories as transgender male, transgender female, male-to-female (MTF) and female to male (FTM). It also includes cross-dressers (those who wear clothes of the other), gender queer people (they feel they belonged to either both genders or neither gender) and trans-sexuals.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Transgender, Socio-Cultural Context, Gender Expression, Female to Male (FTM).*

---

### Introduction

In India, there are a wide range of transgender related identities which includes the Hijras, Aravanis, Kothis, Jogtas/ Jogappas and Shiv Sakthis.

In the past, they were treated with great respect. 'Hijra' is a Persian word translated as Eunuch which is used in common parlance for transgender community in India. 'Aravani' is a term used for male-to-female transgender who undergo genital modification through SRS (Sex Reassignment Surgery) or perform Nirwaan which is a traditional mode of castration. Kothi is used for those who adopt a feminine role in same sex relationships, but do not live in communes as Aravanis. Jogtas/ Jogappas found in Maharashtra and Karnataka are male to female transgender who devote themselves to the service of a particular god. Shiv Sakthis found in Andhra Pradesh are males who are considered married to gods particularly Lord Shiva. They usually work as spiritual healers or astrologers.

### Socio-Economic Profile of the Transgender

#### Types of Problems faced by Transgender

Transgender people face multiple forms of oppressions and exclusions and human rights violation in their day-to-day life. The high level of exclusion, abuse and neglect affect their self-esteem which leads to depression, anxiety, and substance abuse. The findings of the study reveal many factors directly responsible for exclusion so that the appropriate policies and program can be design to address the plight of transgender community at various levels. The following are some of major problems faced by transgender community in India:

---

\* Assistant Professor, DIET, Karkardooma, (SCERT, Education Department, Govt. of Delhi), New Delhi, India.

\*\* Resource Person/BRP, DIET, Karkardooma, SCERT, Education Department, Govt. of Delhi), New Delhi, India (ORCID iD: 0009-0004-6895-3606).



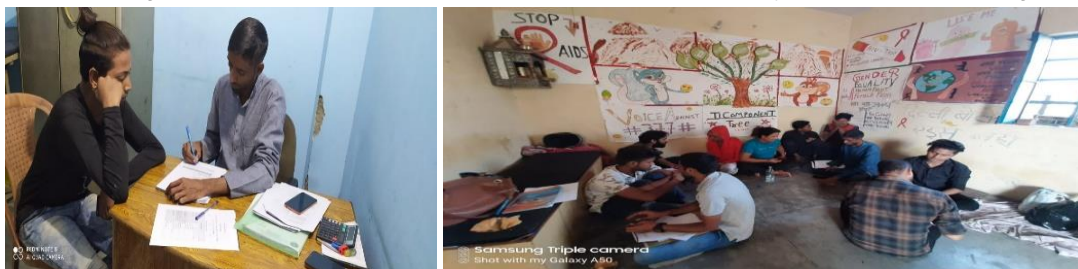
### Social Exclusion

Transgender people face high levels of stigma, discrimination, gender-based violence and abuse, marginalization and social exclusion. This restricts their access to services, diminish their overall health and wellbeing, lower their self-esteem and puts them at higher risk of HIV/STI and other diseases. Overlapping social, cultural, economic and legal exclusions push them to society's margins and restrict their mainstreaming.

### Violence and Abuse

Violence towards transgender community is very common and has been on the rise in recent years. Between 2009 and 2016 there were 2,115 documented killings of transgender people worldwide (Winter, S.2016).

Transgender children are more prone to be dropped out of at early level of their schooling.



- **Access to Education:** The majority of transgender people discontinue their education due to physical and verbal abuse and other discrimination faced in their homes and school because of their feminine behaviour. Transgender children both at school and higher education confront many barriers to access and continue education and are unable to attend school safely with their preferred name and gender identity.

### Lack of Access to Legal Services

There is very low level of legal awareness among the transgender population. They face sexual harassment and violence by police and other local goons but find it difficult to approach legal mechanism to seek justice due to lack of awareness about the existing legal mechanism available to provide justice and address their grievances.

### Financial Exclusion

The transgender people have not been included in financial inclusion program resulting into deprivation from modern banking practices such as digital and online banking. The awareness about the banking products and services is very low and digital transaction is almost negligible among transgender people.

### **Social Inclusion of Transgender**

- **Educate People on Gender Diversity**

There should be structured program to educate people about the transgender issues or third gender to accept, tolerate, and respect gender diversity. Parents/families should be educated and sensitized on gender-nonconforming or transgender children and the needs of their transgender children so that transgender children should live with their parents and community.

- **Improve Access to Education**

Education is the key to empower transgender people and reduce their vulnerability to social exclusion. Parents should be educated on the importance of their transgender children.

- **Promotion of Health**

The capacity of healthcare providers (HCP) on transgender health, their needs and concerns including Gender transition services should be enhanced at medical college level.

- **Legal Awareness and Education**

Considering the low level of legal awareness among the transgender people, some structured and institutionalized legal education program should be designed by NALSA. The program should cover human rights available in Indian constitution, specific rights of transgender, the issues such as legal recognition and its legal implication on gender identity etc.

- **Source of Income**

Majority of the study population belong to the age group of 18-35 years and belongs to the different caste and religion but most of them belongs to the SC/ST community. Most of them were unmarried and living with other transgender friends on rented accommodation. The literacy level among them was low and very few have completed graduation and post-graduation.

In India as well as worldwide most of the studies, survey or programmes on transgender people was focused on the life style behaviour and sexually transmitted diseases considering that they are at high-risk group and source population for HIV/STI/RTIs. The current study has been undertaken to assess the education, health care and welfare schemes for the transgender in District North Delhi with the following objective.

#### **Objectives**

- To assess the educational status of transgender in district north of Delhi
- To find out the health status and welfare scheme pertaining to the transgender
- To see the socio-economic condition of transgender

#### **Research Design**

##### **Type and Design of Study**

- Descriptive and observational study
- Study area/setting
- North district of Delhi.

##### **Study Duration**

- September to December 2019

##### **Study Population**

Transgender People residing in the district north of Delhi (Transsexuals, drag queens and drag kings, masculine women, feminine men, and others who violate normative gender laws. The term transgender also included cross-dressers, regardless of their gender identity).

##### **Exclusion Criteria**

Those who not willing to participate in the study or under 18 years of age or seriously ill.

##### **Sample Size and Sampling Technique**

- The sample size of 100 was taken for the study. Random sampling technique was used to collect data.

- (To collect the data the local NGO was contacted as they are working on the targeted intervention on HIV/AIDs with the high-risk group in the Bhalaswa Diary of north Delhi by the support of State Aids control society Delhi).

#### Study Tools and Technique

- **Tools**

Self-administered questionnaire was used to collect valid data related to their socio-economic especially the status of education and health.

Pre testing of the questionnaire was done and the feed-back taken positively to restructure the questionnaire for qualitative sampling.

- **Technique**

Interviewing the study subjects was carried out with the permission. The prior accent was taken with briefing of the questionnaire from the Transgender respondent.

#### Data Collection

The research scholar from the department of Adult continuing education and extension were involved along with the representative from the working NGOs on transgender communities has been taken into the confidence at the planning and execution level of data collection. Required number of samples was then chosen by simple random sampling.

After taking written consent from each respondent a predesigned and pre tested schedule, to assess the socio- economic characteristics, was filled up by the interviewer. During data collection, every effort was made to be non- judgmental and unbiased as the nature of the study involves sensitive issues like sex work engagement and sexual behaviors.

#### Data Interpretation and Result

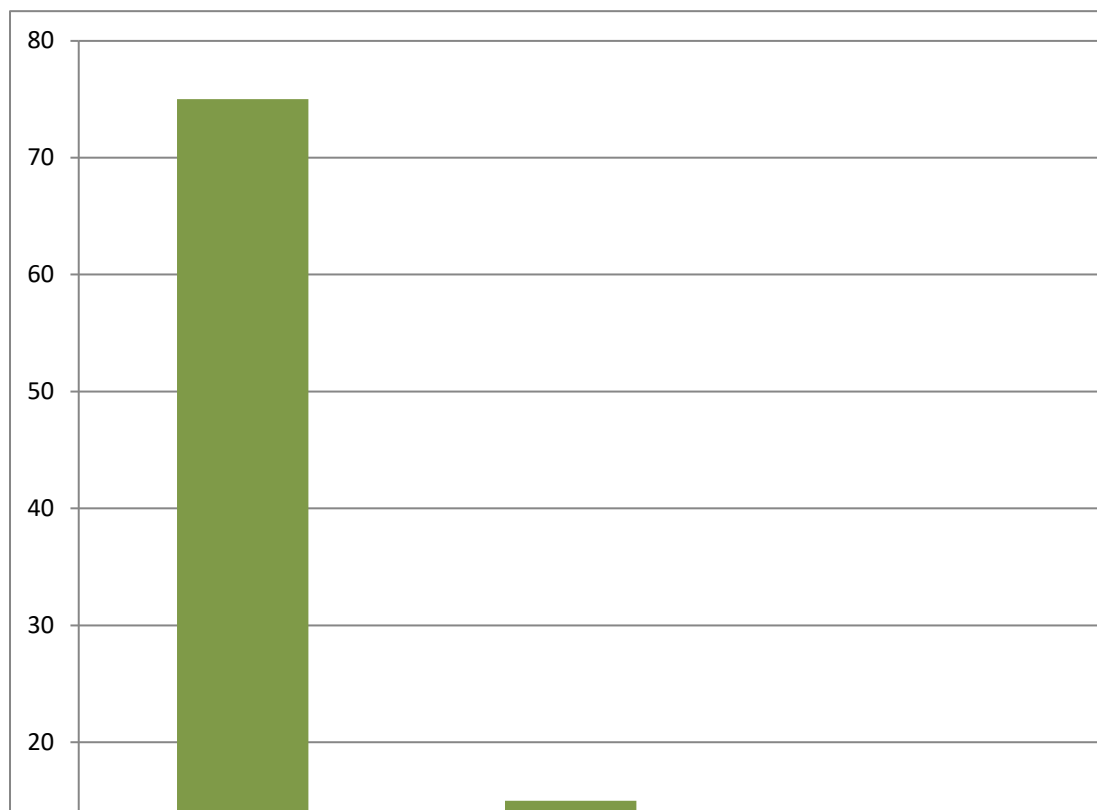
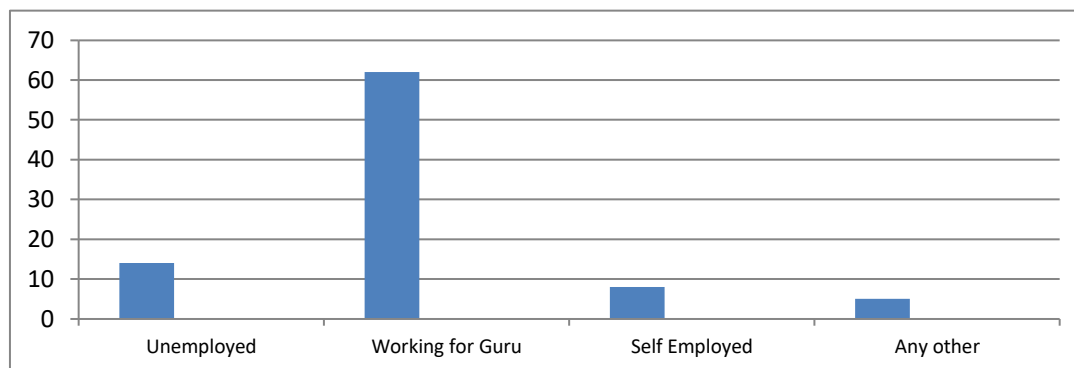


Table 1: Educational Attainment of Transgender

Table 1 The percentage frequency of responses clearly indicates that the educational attainment of the transgender is very low. The highest percentage has been shown for primary education with (75%) followed by secondary with 15% and in higher education the percentage is very minimal with 6% and 4%, means the majority of the respondent drop- out in the early grade with various socio-economic reasons.

**Table 2: Current Employment Status**



## Discussion

### Socio-Economic Profile

- **Educational**

Educational scenarios of transgender persons are very unstable. Most of them are socially and educationally back warded. Most of them are forced to earn money for their survival and don't get a chance to complete their basic education. Even after various specific Government schemes and help from different NGO's, they don't want to continue their studies. A case study on three transgender persons was conducted on the backdrop of different bills of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in India.

- **Lack of Market Skill**

One of the serious gaps in our education system is the absence of a skill-based education opportunity, especially at the secondary level. In India, as the children move to the higher classes the learning gap increases especially among weaker section/disadvantaged groups, which either results into the higher dropout or creation of an unproductive workforce with little skill to sustain in the Job market.

- **Monthly Income**

Around 50 percent members of the transgender community survive on a monthly income of Rs 6000 or less by the survey while 28.53 percent of the surveyed had a monthly income between Rs. 8,000 and Rs between Rs. 5,000 and Rs.10,000 a month the yearly income is between 2 lakhs to 3 Lakhs. The main source of their income is begging at red-light of the traffic or collecting Badhai on socio-cultural occasion.

- **Unemployment Rate**

While 20 percent of the transgender were unemployed, Majority of them work for their guru and engaged in badhai and begging. A majority of the people who were employed had not disclosed their distinct sexual identity before society of in any official records.

- **Discrimination**

Research shows that 90 percent of transgender people report experiencing discrimination in the workplace, and 26 percent report having lost their jobs due to bias. Considering the needs and preferences of transgender people is an important aspect of creating an inclusive corporate culture.

- **No Bank Account**

Moreover, respondents spoken to did not have a bank account or PAN card, they were excluded from schemes of the government in absence of these document. With Ayushman Bharat and the State health scheme health cards linked to BPL ration cards, the community has been deprived of health benefits too in the absence of ration card.

### Recommendations

- To find out the general solution of the problems arising in educationally backward transgender persons (TG), the following actions may help in improving the access:
- Free and compulsory education up to the age of 14 is the responsibility of the State. The fulfilment of this obligation is critical for the improvements in the educational conditions of the transgender community.
- Policies may be formulated at the state- and/or district-level to include the transgender community under Economically Weaker Section category to provide them necessary benefits as per the Right to Education Act.
- Sensitization towards Transgender/ Hijra should be included in student counselling at schools. The transgender community feels that it is very essential to create an opportunity for students to interact with trained counsellors as they experience gender dilemmas very early in their lives.
- The helpline can be established to work as primary crisis management centres to record the complaints of any harassment of transgender persons at their workplace and report it to the concerned agencies for necessary actions.
- The government may also provide fee-waiver, fee-reimbursements, scholarships, free textbooks, free hostel accommodation and other facilities at subsidized rates for students belonging to this group in order to make higher education and professional education accessible by the community.
- A telephonic helpline can be set up to provide the information regarding opportunities related to employment, jobs, existing schemes of the government, financial schemes of banks.
- In some aspect, Inclusive education plays an important role for transgender persons. The government should give emphasis on a transgender person's education.

### Conclusion

In the history of India, right from the Criminal Tribes Act of 1871, the transgender community was categorized as "criminals" who were "addicted" to committing serious crimes. They were arrested for dressing in women's clothing or dancing or playing music in public places, and for indulging in gay sex. After Independence, the law was repealed in 1949, but mistrust of the transgender community has continued. This has pushed the transgender to the margin without any serious effort to their mainstreaming. The Indian legislation have made no serious attempt to integrate this group in the mainstream population. Despite receiving some recognition and social acceptance very recently, TGs remain an ostracized and differentiated social class in India.

### Limitations

There is a chance of self-selection bias as no specific method was applied to confirm the transgender ship of study population.

### Scope of the Study

We hope that this study will be welcomed by transgender people and they will feel that their voices have been heard. We also hope that the findings of the study will sensitise public bodies and other service providers to commit resources for further understanding and better inclusion of the mental health needs of transgender people. Additionally, we expect to motivate the decision makers to implement changes for improving health and wellbeing outcomes of the transgender population.

### References

1. [http://164.100.47.193/Refinput/New\\_Reference\\_Notes/English/final%20Problems%20and%20welfare%20of%20transgeneders.pdf](http://164.100.47.193/Refinput/New_Reference_Notes/English/final%20Problems%20and%20welfare%20of%20transgeneders.pdf)
2. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1806166>
3. [http://ncsl.niepa.ac.in/nishtha/face-to-face/NISHTHA\\_Leadership\\_Package\\_English.pdf](http://ncsl.niepa.ac.in/nishtha/face-to-face/NISHTHA_Leadership_Package_English.pdf)
4. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1598423>
5. <https://sbmurban.org/storage/app/media/pdf/swachh-bharat-2.pdf>
6. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1648221>
7. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1776156>

