

## **Victimization of Transgender: An Analytical Study**

**Dr.M.D.Allen Selvakumar**

Assistant Professor, Department of Criminology, University of Madras, Chennai.

### **Introduction**

Transgender is a term that includes the many ways that people's gender identities can be different from the sex they were assigned at birth. There are a lot of different terms transgender people use to describe themselves. For example, sometimes the word transgender is shortened to just trans or trans male/trans female. It's always best to use the language and labels that the person prefers. Transgender people express their gender identities in many different ways. Some people use their dress, behavior, and mannerisms to live as the gender that feels right for them. Some people take hormones and may have surgery to change their body so it matches their gender identity. Some transgender people reject the traditional understanding of gender as divided between just "male" and "female," so they identify just as transgender, or genderqueer, genderfluid, or something else. Transgender people are diverse in their gender identities (the way you feel on the inside), gender expressions (the way you dress and act), and sexual orientations (the people you're attracted to).

Indian Census has never recognized third gender i.e. Transgender while collecting census data for years. But in 2011, data of transgender were collected with details related to their employment, literacy and caste. In India, total population of transgender is around 4.88 Lakh as per 2011 census. The data of transgender has been cubed inside "Males" in the primary data released by Census Department. For educational purpose, separate data of transgender has been curved out from that.

Three major words that describes a transgender life is discrimination, disrespect and downtrodden. Even qualified recruiters are against employing them. No equality in public looked down as degraded and unworthy to live. Rejection of entry directly or indirectly at some public

---

places like hospitals, hotels malls, restaurants, dance floors, theaters, shopping complexes. raped & abused orally and physically Forced to leave Parental Home if identified as a transgender. Unwanted attention is given to their presence. People do not behave or act normal in their presence or with them calling them Names loudly like associating them with child nabbing and prostitution. After all this when we see them begging, we associate them negatively and teach the next generation to the same.

In 2012, 53 percent of anti-LGBT homicide victims were transgender women. Transgender people are four times more likely to live in poverty because of non-employability and unemployment. 90 percent of transgender people report experiencing harassment, mistreatment or discrimination on the job. Many transgender are harassed by the police. Many of them commit suicide because of reject at multiple levels.

### **Literature of Review**

Whittle et al (2007) stated that 64 per cent of Female to Male people had experienced harassment or bullying and 44 per cent of Male to Female people had experienced harassment or bullying from staff or pupils. This, they say, questions the common assumption that ‘sissy boys’ are treated worse than ‘tomboys’. They also argue that uniform regulations in schools often discriminate against trans pupils, who may be uncomfortable in the uniform of their natal sex.

Joseph and Santis (2009) states that male to female transgender women are experiencing a host of psychosocial issues such as discrimination, stigmatization, and marginalization. These challenges often limit economic opportunities, affect mental health, and may place members of this population at an increased risk for HIV infection. Factors including needle sharing and substance abuse, high-risk sexual behaviors, commercial sex work, health care access, lack of knowledge regarding HIV transmission, violence, stigma and discrimination, and mental health issues have been identified as the risk factors for the acquisition of HIV infection by members of this population.

Thomas, D.G.A., Sudha, R., &Shekhar, B. (2012) conducted the study on Transgender victimization assessed the differences and association of the demographic profile of the transgender people living in Chennai and Thoothukudi. A purposive sampling technique was

adopted. This is a non-probability sampling technique. A total of 32 transgender were selected who are currently residing at Chennai. In Thoothukudi, a total of 58 transgender were selected who were residing at that city. There is a statistically significant negative correlation found between the level of education and the victimization of the transgenders residing at Chennai( $r = -0.376$ ;  $p 0.05$  level)) and Thoothukudi ( $-0.43$ ;  $p 0.01$  level). From this, it was inferred that as the level of education increased the severity of victimization decreased among the transgender in both cities”

### **Methodology**

The present study is analytical in nature. Descriptive research design was selected for this study. For the present study snowball sampling method was used. 100 transgender were analyzed in this present study. The study was carried out in Chennai city. The primary and secondary data was used in this present study. Primary data were collected from the respondents by means of personal interview using structured interview schedule. Observation method also applied to collect the supplementary information. The Objectives of this study is to know the socio-economic condition of the transgender, to find out the problems faced by the transgender in Chennai.

### **Results and Findings**

The study is an attempt to know about the life struggle and problems that the transgender people face on daily basis. All the respondents have a different story and that makes us believe that their life is not as simple as it looks on the outside. They belong to different age groups, community, religion etc. Majority of the respondents are illiterate which also makes half the number of respondents engage in begging and the remaining few literate and drop out respondents working as sex workers, daily wages etc. The highest numbers of the respondents also have a monthly income of 21,000-30,000 followed by different amount of incomes. A bit more than half the respondents had a normal childhood and the rest of them did not have a normal childhood because of their cross gender. The age of realization about being a cross gender for most respondents was above the age of 14, the others realize between the ages of 07 to 14 years. According to this present study the respondents have identified their gender in different ways like dressing up like a girl, behaving like a girl, urge to be a girl etc. In the time of realization the respondents had mixed emotion like scared, confused, happy, blank etc, because more than half of the respondent's family did not accept their cross gender and asked them to leave the house or they

themselves left and the other number of respondent's family accepted them as they are. Among the total number of respondents there are few people who did not confess their gender to their family and ran away from house without a word because they were scared that their family would not accept them. The present study also tells us that they do not have siblings or relatives of cross gender. Half of the respondents have been living an independent life between 6 to 10 years others either live an independent life below five years or above 10 years. The findings also show that more than seventy five percent of respondents have got themselves operated by gender operation. The study also says that none of them face any kind of side effects or health problems in their body due to their gender operation. The age of the respondents who have got themselves operated in between different age groups from 18 years to 30 years. Most of the respondents cost of gender operation lies in between 61,000-70,000, followed by 50,000 to 60,000, the least number of respondents cost of gender operation lies above 70,000. The respondents have got themselves operated in different parts of India from which majority of them have operated in Mumbai and the remaining respondents have operated in different places like Bangalore, Delhi etc. Three-fourth of the respondents did not get any kind of financial support from their family, and the remaining respondents have got financial support from family, friends and same gender people. All the transgender people have faced a lot of problems like abusive language, sexual abuse, and loneliness. Half of the respondents have faced most of the problems because of their family did not accept. They have suffered a lot in life and few look back at those incidents and break down very often while few have moved on. Above half the percentage of respondents have not been in any kind of relationship and the rest of the percentage have either been in love and broke up or married and divorced. In this present study half of the respondents have tried committing suicide, they have used different methods for committing suicide like suffocation, medication etc. They have been rescued and gone through proper medication and rehab. The reason for their thought of suicide is due to various aspects like loneliness, gender discrimination, no proper job opportunities which led to low economic state and leads to poverty. Among the respondents there are people who consume alcohol and there are even people who consume both alcohol and tobacco. Among fifty respondents twelve of the respondents consume alcohol, six of the respondents consumes both alcohol and tobacco. Most of them have consumed it for pleasures and needs. And as far as brothels almost half of the respondents have been in prostitution for sexual and economical needs among which few have been forced to get into brothels. All the Transgender people have faced harassment problems like sexual, verbal, physical and also hate crime. They have been teased and discriminated based on their gender and also been assaulted for various reason. There are also a few people who have indulged themselves into physical fights and have been arrested for various reasons like physical fight, robbery etc. And ten percent of the respondents have also been into robbery. Each and every transgender person has

faced problems due to hate crime at one or the other point in life. Hate Crime is defined as any incident, which may or may not constitute a criminal offence, which is perceived by the victim or any other person as being motivated by prejudice or crime. Some say that they are not been identified as a gender itself and that they are at times when they are been treated like untouchables or diseased. Almost all the respondents have accounted that they do not get any kind of Government benefits and do not really bother about Government Benefits

### **Conclusion**

Transgender experience high level of physical abuse and face various forms of discrimination. It forces them to consume alcohol. They are also at an increased risk for suicidal tendency. The societal approach towards the transgender to be changed and many programmes and facilities for the transgender are not attaining overall by them. Government sector and non-government sector should provide effective programmes towards the people to change this scenario. Proper education, family support, proper guidance and adequate employment will uplift the transgender life.

### **References**

1. Joseph P. De Santis, HIV Infection Risk factors among Male to female transgender persons Male-to-female, 2009
2. Jonathon W. Wanta and Cecile A. Unger. Transgender Health. Dec 2017.
3. K. Delliswararao and C Hangsing, Socio-Cultural Exclusion and Inclusion of Transgenders in India , 2018.
4. Lombardi et al Transgender Experiences with Violence and Discrimination 2001
5. Routledge, Study of Trans Health Schonfield and Gardner, 2008.
6. Hastings Wyman, Transgender and Bisexual Issues in Public Administration and Policy, 1969
7. Tissy, T.M., Monograph on clan cultural of Hijras: An exploration to gender identity and status of Hijras inside and outside Gharanas. Centre for research-projects. Christ University Bangalore, 2013.
8. Samia Addis, The Health, Social and Housing Needs Of Lesbians, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Older People, 2009.

9. Simon Brodbeck Gender and Narrative in the Mahabharata 2007
10. Gayatri R, With respect to sex: Negotiating Hijras Identity in the south.. Chicago University of Chicago press, EBook library, 2010.
11. Lombardi et al. "Transgender Experiences with Violence and Discrimination 2001
12. Nanda S, Neither Man nor Women: The Hijras of India Belmont, California: Wadsworth publishing company, 1990.
13. [www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1300/J082v42n01\\_05](http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1300/J082v42n01_05)
14. [www.liebertpub.com](http://www.liebertpub.com)
15. [www.books.google.co.in](http://www.books.google.co.in)
16. [www.census2011.co.in](http://www.census2011.co.in)
17. <https://www.plannedparenthood.org/learn/gender-identity/transgender>