

THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL STUDIES

Role of Social Worker in Social Development of Transgender

Dr. Mariya T. Cheeran

Assistant Professor, School of Management and Entrepreneurship (SME)
Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (KUFOS), Kochi, Kerala, India

Renjith T. A.

Assistant Professor, School of Management and Entrepreneurship (SME)
Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (KUFOS), Kochi, Kerala, India

George Joseph

Assistant Professor School of Management and Entrepreneurship (SME)
Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (KUFOS), Kochi, Kerala, India

Abstract:

Transgender youth are marginalized in mainstream society. Discrimination, harassment, and fear of rejection may place Trans youth at risk developmentally, emotionally, socially, and physically-experience violent assaults and attempt suicide. The present study was conducted with the aim of understanding the role of Social Worker towards the empowerment of Transgender Community. The Transgender today are more aware about their position society and they sincerely feel their bitter experiences and hurdles should be experienced the children who are undergoing certain kind of gender changes both physically and mentally. All they need is love, support and concern like any one of us. Let us practice and the message to empower the lives of Transgender.

Keywords: *Transgender Discrimination, harassment. social worker, hijra*

1. Introduction

Transgender is an umbrella term for a range of behaviors, expressions and identifications challenging the binary sex system. The term is also used as a way to identify cross-gender individuals who are not seeking sex reassignment surgery (Lev, 2004). Transgender youth are marginalized in mainstream society. Discrimination, harassment, and fear of rejection may place Trans youth at risk developmentally, emotionally, socially, and physically-experience violent assaults and attempt suicide. Parental rejection leads to low self-esteem and negative self-image. Fitzpatrick and colleagues (2005) found that Trans College students reported 32% more hopelessness, suicidal ideations, and suicide attempts than their non Trans LGB peers.

The term third transgender is used to refer to those who live as the gender not assigned them at the time of birth, without medical or surgical intervention. Transgender is the state of once gender identity" (self identification as male female, both or neither) not matching assigned gender" (identification by others as male or female based on physical and sex) Third gender has existed in the subcontinent from the earliest records and was acknowledged in Vedic culture, throughout the history of Hinduism, as well as in the royal courts of Islamic rulers. In Islamic societies they were associated with the ruling class and hired as court eunuchs. This practice became uncommon as late as the 1950s.

During the era of the British Raj, authorities attempted to eradicate hijras, which they "a breach of public decency". After independence anti — hijra law as repealed, but ti outlawing castration, a central part of the hijra community, was left intact, though enforced.

The third goal of millennium development goals aims to promote gender equality and which should be linked to rest of the millennium goals. The third gender also finds a place in this process of empowerment achieving goals.

2. Research Methodology

The present study was conducted with the aim of understanding the role of Social Worker towards the empowerment of Transgender Community and the need and importance of the role of the community in making a change in their lives.

2.1. The Following Objectives Were Framed

- To study the social Economical and Health status of the Transgender.
- To study their needs and Basic Rights denied to them.

- To study the various programmes by the Government and Non-Governmental organizations for Transgenders Community
- To study and analyse the role of social workers in empowering the Transgenders community
- To sensitize public and make the policy makers to focus in their needs and demands.

2.2. Findings

1. Fifty nine percent of responds have qualified from 5th Std — 10th Std and remaining has done their 10th class and few Graduates.
2. Seventy one percent of responds are employed and the remaining e respondents are not employed
3. Sixty eight percent of responds work in unorganized sectors like shops and in market. 14% of them work in NGO sector
4. Ninety six percent of responds are get their salaries or wages with certain kinds of difficulty
5. Eighty seven percent of respondents are paid between Rs. 2000 to Rs. 3500 which is too less a salary for them to maintain and manage everything on their own.
6. Most of the transgender are do not have the habit of saving may be due to their less income where they need to pay everything on their own without any one's support.
7. Ninety seven percent of the responds are say they chose sex work only due to poverty. Only 4% of J'E- 3DOI so.
8. Sixty four percent of the respondents say they do not have voters ID.
9. Most of the Transgender have Ration Card; this is because their names were incl in the family list when they were in Male Gender and those who do not have be of the change in gender.
10. Forty one percent of the respondents are comfortable using ladies toilet and 58% of them say-feel hesitant using men's toilet and 2% of them do not like to answer.
11. Most of the respondents know the welfare programmes for the Transgender.
12. Majority of the respondents say the attitude of the society should change. Some of them say positive attitude among them should be developed and parents attitude cooperation in uplifting their status in the society.

3. Limitation of the Study

The quality of the study is fully depends on the responses by the respondents. But they do not have any proper written documents. Some of the respondents did not participate act while answering the questions as they were very much frustrated in their life espert created an aversion towards others because in general they are teased and treated very IN the general public. They live in groups in different areas in Chennai City and do not proper residence as they are harassed by the public. It is very difficult to locate them by address as they keep changing their houses often.

4. Implication for Social Work Intervention

The Transgender population needs to the empowered, for which societal support is essential Professional social workers can sensitize the members of the society about the rights c Transgender and ensure that the myths about them are eradicated from the society. Personality and ego state of the Transgender need to be explained to the general p through awareness campaigns, so that the prevailing stigmatization of the Transgender abolished. An understanding of the personality and ego state of the transgender population would facilitate them not being looked down upon as a nuisance to the society and in would brighten the scope of they being recognized and assisted in their effort empowerment. The social workers can also assist the transgender through personality development programmes and enable them to adhere to the norms of the society. The social workers can provide personal and vocational guidance and counseling to them and enable to be empowered.

5. Suggestions

This study helped to identify and analyze the issues among the Transgender in Chennai and the how the issues play a major role in blocking the empowerment in their lives. First of all there should be awareness among the society on Third Gender, especially parents teachers and friends and relatives should accept the Gender change and come forward to give them love, concern and moral support. This would definitely help the child to come out of the fear on der change both physically and mentally.

Government should play a major role in empowering the lives of the Transgender. The government should bring policies to empower their status. Various departments in the government like the Public Health Department, Educational Department, Social Welfare department and also Women Development Corporation and Board for State Social Welfare. .government should provide a short stay home for the children who come away from home at age of 11 yrs — 14 yrs so that they do not feel scared and uncared.

Nationalized and Private banks should come forward to give loans to the Transgender especially when they like to start a petty shop or any small scale business like Tiffin shops cloth business. This would definitely prevent them from going to sex work and infected affected by HIV and AIDS. The Banks also should come forward to give housing loans he Transgender community as getting a rented house in the city is a major problem for on. Unlike others they need to pay double the amount as rent and in spite of the double t collected they are not treated cordially by the house owners.

The basic recognition is identifying their Gender. So the problems arise while issuing Ration 11 and Voters Identity Card. It should be given to them so that they gain the dignity of consuming the products from the ration shops like any other member and be proud of voting t citizen of the Country. Seats in Educational Institutions, Publics Transport and provision toilets should be provided to Transgender as their basic needs which hurt their feelings letdown in the public.

The Transgender Community expect a decent, dignified treatment and approach from the Police Department as they feel the Police officials do not trust them and do not treat them well. Most of the Transgender expect proper legal assistance from the Law Department as few of them are interested in getting married and others who need legal assistance personally. Especially in the case of assault and violation they claim that they should be treated with dignity and get proper justice.

The Transgender as they become old, had to face lot of problems and undergo psychological depression. Mostly they are taken care by the young Transgender who give them food and shelter spent from their earnings mostly going for sex work. Government, NGOS and Age Care Organizations' like Help Age India should come forward to open Day Care Centers and. Old Age Homes for them by considering them as special focus group.

6. Conclusion

Gender roles are learned behaviors. Their roles in their social, economic and political dimensions vary across culture. Undoubtedly our society is Gender biased. The various barriers in the form of poor educational status, meek knowledge on accepting a Third Gender no counseling to the child, parents and the society and basic recognition in issuing card and Voters Identity card, Skill Training for the Transgender for their live hood and medical care and counseling while undergoing castration and especially for HIV positive among Transgender should be taken care with sincere efforts, commitment and dedication. The struggles and the barriers in their lives are becoming more challenging in b • change in their lives. The Transgender today are more aware about their position society and they sincerely feel their bitter experiences and hurdles should be experienced the children who are undergoing certain kind of gender changes both physically and mentally. All they need is love, support and concern like any one of us. Let us practice and the message to empower the lives of Transgender.

7. References

- i. Anuja Agrawal, (1999): Gendered Bodies: The Case of the 'Third Gender' in India, by, in 'Contributions to Indian Sociology'.
- ii. Conway L, (2005). "TG/TS/IS Information Links and References."
- iii. Girls, Mothers, Dowry — The women in India in Church and Society (2006) — EMS Germany.
- iv. John Money, (2001): Myself Mona Ahmed. Dayanita Singh (Photographer) and Mona Ahmed. Scalo Publishers.
- v. Lenkeit, R. C, (2004): Introducing Cultural Anthropology.
- vi. Leslie Feinberg — Gregersen, (1996): Trans Liberation: Beyond Pink or Blue. The World of Human Sexuality: Behaviors, customs, and Beliefs.
- vii. Neither Man Nor women, (1998): The Hijras of India by Serena Nanda. Wadsworth Publishing.
- viii. Patrick, Beyond He and She — A Transgender News Profile.
- ix. Preston, Laurence W, (1987): 'Aright to Exist': Eunuchs and the state in nineteenth century India.
- x. Rajesh Talwar, (1997). The Third sex and Human Rights, by Gyan Publishing House.
- xi. Su. Samuthram, (2002): Third Gender
- xii. The Trans Gender Alternatives Holly (1991) - TV/TS Tapestry Journal 59 : 31 — 33.
- xiii. Things Asian — Enoch's India's Third Gender by Nabanita Dutt.