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## RESEARCH ARTICLE

### THE STATUS OF TRANSGENDER POPULATION IN ODISHA

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#### ABSTRACT

**Aims/ Purpose:** The present study was an attempt to study the status of transgender people who all are now in the main stream of the society. To understand social position of transgender people, to assess support system of transgender

**Methodology of study:** This screening led to the selection of articles and a secondary literature search was performed using the references cited in these selected papers transgender persons in Odisha are not ready to be identified as transgender and get officially registered due to social stigma, revealed a study. The total population of transgender in Odisha is around 70,000 of whom only 2000 agreed to be identified as transgender. Unavailability of reliable data about the demography, socio-psychological status, education and economic status, and livelihood status and opportunities of transgender has been affecting the effective implementation of welfare schemes for them. (j Kumar 2015).

**Result and Discussion:** While transgender activists estimate the numbers to be six to seven times higher, they are thrilled that such a large number of people identified themselves as belonging to the third gender. Of the total number of transgenders identified by the census, almost 55,000 are in the 0-6 population. This has come as a big surprise to the community as they did not expect so many parents to identify their children as belonging to the third gender. Over 66% of the population identified as third gender lived in rural areas, very close to the 69% of the overall population that lives in villages. The census data also revealed the low literacy level in the community, just 46%, compared to 74% literacy in the general population. Transgender or well known as Hijra in India. Many transgender people live part-time or full-time as members of the other gender.

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#### INTRODUCTION

Transgender people are individuals of any age or sex whose appearance, or behavior differ from stereotypes about how men and women are suppose to be. They are the marginal group in the society, they suffer from the lack of continuity in their identity, lack of self esteems, unwanted disturbances and struggle for basic human rights.

**Definition of Transgender:** by the Transgender Persons (protection of rights) bill, 2016 "transgender person" means a person who is neither wholly female nor wholly male; or A combination of female or male; or Neither female nor male; and Whose sense of gender does not match with the gender assigned to that person at the time of birth, and includes trans-men and trans-women, persons with intersex variations and gender-queers. Transgender community comprises of Hijras, eunuchs, Kothis, Aravanis, Jogappas, Shiv-Shakthis etc. With passing of time this community have lost their importance in the society.

Now they are Discriminated in every steps of their life from birth to till death, they are struggling to get back their identity and importance which was prevailing in the past. Now, India holding around 4.88 Lakh of transgender people which is considered as a marginalized population. Recently many scholar have shown their interest to find out the status of transgender in India. This critical review will be helping in find out both strength and weakness of the existing studies specially done for Transgender. Now, India holding around 4.88 Lakh of transgender people which is considered as a marginalized population. Recently many scholar have shown their interest to find out the status of transgender in India. This critical review will be helping in find out both strength and weakness of the existing studies specially done for Transgender

**Status of transgender people in Odisha:** Majority of transgender persons in Odisha are not ready to be identified as transgender and get officially registered due to social stigma, revealed a study. The total population of transgender in Odisha is around 70,000 of whom only 2000 agreed to be identified as transgender. Bhubaneswar to conduct the study. More than 90% of transgender persons reported that most of them were able to earn on an average Rs. 15,000.00- 20,000.00 per month. However, the leaders of the transgender group, however, had

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considerably higher income, even if they didn't work, the study said. Around 75% of the transgender had to abandon their education before they completed their standard 10. Around 20 % among them completed class XII and out of those a very few went for graduation and higher studies. Reasons for lower education level among the transgender were poverty, not going or sent to school because of social stigma attached with such children, thrown or fleeing out of their homes and then working for their survival, the study said. More than 90% of transgender persons reported that most of them were able to earn on an average Rs. 15,000.00- 20,000.00 per month. However, the leaders of the transgender group, however, had considerably higher income, even if they didn't work, the study said. The main livelihood of transgender was begging, dancing in private functions, and working as sex works. "One of the major occupations of transgender persons was to work as MSM (men who have sex with men). This being a comparatively high-paying occupation (income up to Rupee 500.00 - 2000.00 per day), transgender persons, particularly those who are younger opt of this livelihood option. This occupation, however, makes them prone of getting affected by HIV," the study pointed out. Around 75% of the transgender had to abandon their education before they completed their standard 10. Around 20 % among them completed class XII and out of those a very few went for graduation and higher studies. Reasons for lower education level among the transgender were poverty, not going or sent to school because of social stigma attached with such children, thrown or fleeing out of their homes and then working for their survival, the study said.

#### **Transgenders faces different problems in India in general:**

**Psychosocial problem:** Psychosocial problem of transgender is a major phenomenon attached with Transgender community. Majority of transgender suffered harassment at school level and in work place, rape even gang raped at the hands of the police (both railway, traffic and by the public people) particularly for begging and soliciting clients for sex work. They consider as hate and funny way they earn money by dancing and singing and was involved in sexual abuse. With respect to psychosocial problems it can be look that though all transgender didn't want to push themselves into prostitute their might be some extreme condition under which they prefer to push themselves into Sex Work

**Other problems of transgender people:** The main livelihood of transgender was begging, dancing in private functions, and working as sex works. "One of the major occupations of transgender persons was to work as MSM (men who have sex with men). This being a comparatively high-paying occupation (income up to Rupee 500.00 - 2000.00 per day), transgender persons, particularly those who are younger opt of this livelihood option. This occupation, however, makes them prone of getting affected by HIV," the study pointed out. Almost 90% of the transgender persons were not living with their family and most of them are also out of their native village or town, while 40% of them are in touch with their family on phone or the. Continuous exploitation and their failure to get social respect have made them 'deviant' and 'rebellion', the study said. "Disowning, evicting, or creating a situation when the person is forced to flee his home have been common features in families with transgender children. School is another place where they are harassed most. To make the inclusion of transgender persons in our society complete, a multi-pronged approach is

required which demands participation and cooperation of almost all the wings of government," said Kumar

**Attitude towards transgender in the family and society:** They prefer to run away from the family due to tolerate discrimination or not wanting to bring shame to one's family. • Study shows that about 64% of third gender are facing mistreatment from their family members for which they don't choose to live with their family in Odisha (Pattnaik, 2014). • some of them reported that their parents were tried to kill them and physical punish them (Abbas *et al.*, 2014). • Hundred percent of the respondents claim that they face stigma and discrimination on social grounds and have excluded themselves from social participations. The main reason for exclusion can be attributed to the fear of ridicule and harassment According to a NACO (2011) survey, 41.2 per cent transgender/ hijra were not accepted by their family members due to their gender status, 75.2 per cent of the respondent's family mentioned that the transgender/ hijras status was not accepted and as a result they were forced to leave their parents' house qualitative study to find out the root cause of those discriminant attitude. Health and hiv risk in transgenders Apart from these socio-economic and political issues, hijras also face health problems such as STI/ HIV/ AIDS, sexual health, mental health, alcohol, and substance abuse UNDP (2010) The assessment findings showed HIV prevalence did not change and is still a major concern. Continued strengthening of core programmatic strategies are needed to effectively improve condom use with all partner types and to help bring sustained reductions in HIV risk in transgender and its onward transmission (Ramanathan *et al.*, 2014). Because of unsafe and unhygienic non-surgical procedures hijras develop post-operative urological complications. Pital (2006) mentions that because of the urological complications there is blockage of the urination path and reproductive tract infection and hijras go for a second operation to rectify problems associated with mutilated genitals, among Hijras/TG, the condom use during last anal sex with commercial male partners and non commercial male partners. There is lack of knowledge on the prevalence of mental illness, help seeking behaviors, pathways to mental health care, coping mechanisms and methods of dealing with stress and anxiety. Researchers are also have very less focus on the Health policies dedicated to transgender community. o Which is an emerging issues and should be tracked by research. Citizenship rights • Not only socio-economic problems, hijras also face problems in exercising their citizenship rights. • Though hijras have contested and had won local, state and national elections (Mukherjee 2004) and were Mayors and MLAs, in the absence of a national policy, they do not enjoy basic fundamental rights. Moreover those contested in elections in the woman category were turned down on the basis that they were not biological females (UNDP. No separate, transgender-specific services have been provided since the judgment. As such, the Government of India has failed on all accounts to implement the Supreme Court's judgement in NALSA. In its treatment of transgender persons, the Government of India is failing to protect their constitutional rights, as well as violating a number of international human rights instruments (HRLN, 2015). Reviewed article failed to give picture of what is the status of transgender people in special reference to Fundamental rights. o As well as each reviewed articles are unable to capture the land right of Transgender, how they acquire land how they own their house etc. There is a scope of research to understand the lag between rights provided to transgender and rest gender.

## Conclusion

Living with the identity of Transgender is very difficult in India as they are facing discriminate in every step in their life starting from their own family to the society. They are suffering from their birth to till and after death also Many of them have a low self-esteem and self-worth because of their difficult childhood. Psychosocial factors contribute to HIV risk in this group. Multiple problems are faced by Hijras/TG, which necessitate a variety of solutions and actions. The required changes need to be reflected in policies and laws; attitude of the government, general public and health care providers; and health care systems and practice. Review of research shows that while public awareness and acceptance of transgender individuals has been gradually improving in the recent decade, there is still a long way to go in ensuring that adequate services are available to this population and in fighting the discrimination, harassment and social stigmatization that they face. Countless issues are associating with the gender identity of transgender community such as discrimination, Persistence of stigma, lack of educational facilities, unemployment, lack of shelter, lack of medical facilities like HIV care and hygiene, depression, hormone pill abuse, tobacco and alcohol abuse and problems relating to marriage, property, electoral rights, adoption, Alienation from family and society, Absence of sensitivity, Insecure life, Forced sex work and begging. Social stigma includes being disempowered due to the labeling and negative generalized. The Government of India today has taken a stance and introduced several welfare policies and schemes for the transgender which would be a big step forward. These include census, documentation, issuing of the citizenship ID Cards, issuing passports along with social, economic, political transformation, housing, legal measures, police reforms, legal and constitutional safeguards to prevent human rights violations of the transgender community and institutional mechanisms to address specific concerns of transgender people. Considering the society's approach to transgenders, transgenders will not be interested to get officially identified as such. (Nayak 20180

## Implementation

The state need to set up rehabilitation centers to up bringing the affected teenagers. The rehabilitation home must engage psychiatric personnel to deal with the sensitive matters and guide the special children in asuch a manner that they feel themselves confident and whole face the world in grit and confidence. Transgender students need not pay fee the courses in IGNOU like event management, first-aid, tribal studies and life and thought of Dr. B R Ambekar (Pradhan 2018)

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