



EDUCATIONAL STATUS OF TRANSGENDERS PEOPLE IN WESTERN TAMILNADU

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ABSTRACT :

The present study was explored to find out the educational status of transgender people. Survey method was conducted on a purposive sample of 200 Transgender people in Dharmapuri, Salem and Coimbatore districts, Western Tamil Nadu. Data was analyzed by t-test. Findings indicated that there is no significant difference in the educational status of transgender people in respect of locality and age group. Results also found that there is significant difference in the educational status of transgender people with regard to monthly income and family acceptance.



KEYWORDS : Educational Status, Transgender People.

INTRODUCTION

Transgender people are individuals of any age or sex whose appearance, personal characteristics, or behaviors differ from stereotypes about how men and women are “supposed” to be (Satashivam 2012). Transgender people have existed in every culture, race, and class since the story of human life has been recorded. Only the term “transgender” and the medical technology available to transsexual people are new. The Literal meaning of transgender is “beyond gender.” Transgender and trans-identified are umbrella terms to represent a wide range of gender identities and expressions (Wikipedia). A transgender or trans-identified individual is a person whose gender identity, outward appearance or gender expressions transcend culturally defined categories of gender. Transgender fall under the LGBT group (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) (Athreye). The life of transgender people is a daily battle as there is no acceptance anywhere and they are ostracized from the society and also ridiculed.

They face high levels of stigma in almost every sphere of their life such as health, schools/colleges, employment, social schemes and entitlement. Extreme social exclusion diminishes self-esteem and sense of social responsibility. The community needs to be included in the mainstream development program of the country and be protected from all forms of abuse and exploitation. Transgender is not a term limited to persons whose genitals are intermixed but it is a blanket term of people whose gender expression, identity or behavior differs from the norms expected from their birth sex. Various transgender identities fall under this category including 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 sexual. In India, there are a wide range of transgender related identities which includes the Hijras, Aravanis, Kothis, Jogtas/Jogappas, Shiv Sakthis.

NEED AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Transgender Education is becoming alarming force to consider within the educational world and they are not only involved in education for survival, but to satisfy their inner urge of creativity and to prove their capabilities. Educated Transgender is contributing to a great extent to the social transformation and in the future, it will be seen that more Transgender venturing into areas traditionally dominated by Normal Men and Women. As the visibility of transgender people increases it is time to help them join the main stream of society.

In order to achieve this objective it is necessary to understand the Educational issues and challenges they face as well as examine the prevailing attitudes in the society. A major challenge in the Educational process has been motivating the transgender to actively demand Educational rights and services. There has been some progressive steps taken to improve their quality of Education but this has come after years of crushing social stigmatization, abuse and general derision from the wider community. The study will also empirically examine the possibility of making a shift in the attitude by dealing with some of the unexpressed fears towards this Education. Discrimination is the anti-thesis of equality, and it is the duty of all right minded citizens to drive away discriminatory practices from all walks of life (Shukla, 2011).

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To find out the significant difference in the educational status of transgender people based on locality, age group, monthly income and family acceptance.

HYPOTHESES

- There is no significant difference in the educational status of transgender people in terms of locality.
- There is no significant difference in the educational status of transgender people in terms of age group.
- There is no significant difference in the educational status of transgender people in terms of monthly income.
- There is no significant difference in the educational status of transgender people in terms of family acceptance.

METHODOLOGY

Survey method was adopted in the present study. 200 Transgender People was selected for this study from Dharmapuri, Salem and Coimbatore districts of Tamil Nadu State. Educational Status of Transgender People Scale developed by the investigator.

DATA ANALYSIS

Table 1: Educational Status of Transgender People of based on Background Variables

Variable	Locality	N	Mean	SD	df	t-value	Result
Locality	Rural	82	13.34	2.32	198	1.42	Not Significant
	Urban	118	13.76	1.85			
Age Group	Below 18 Years	111	13.52	2.03	198	0.51	Not Significant
	Above 18 Years	89	13.67	2.10			
Monthly Income	Below 10000	99	14.00	1.86	198	2.82	Significant
	Above 10000	101	13.18	2.18			
Family Acceptance	Accepted	70	16.91	3.32	198	2.21	Significant
	Rejected	130	15.90	2.91			

From Table-1, the calculated t-values 1.42 and 0.51 are lesser than the table value (1.96) at 0.05 level. Hence it is concluded that there is no significant difference in the educational status of transgender people in terms of locality and age group.

Table-1 also shows that the calculated t-values 2.82 and 2.21 are greater than the table value (1.96) at 0.05 level. Hence it is concluded that there is significant difference in the educational status of transgender people in terms of monthly income and family acceptance.

CONCLUSION

The third gender is treated like an animal in the investigation process by the police officials, many testimonies have been heard of the abuse by police from the gay and transgender people sect in the society. As the Transgender people are vulnerable, weaker and falls in the minority section in the society they are more prone to the abuse whether in custody or outside while they live in society. The Transgender people also a part of the society, their emotions also want to respect in this society.

Even today, they remain socially excluded, living on the fringes of society, in ghettoized communities, harassed by the police and abused by the public. Most make a living by singing and dancing at weddings or to celebrate child birth, many have moved to begging and prostitution. In 2003, the Hon'ble High Court of Madhya Pradesh upheld the order of an Election Tribunal which nullified the election of a Hijra, Kamala Jaan, to the post of Mayor of Katni, on the ground that it was a seat reserved for women and that KamlaJaan, being a 'male' was not entitled to contest the seat. It is submitted that all the citizens of India have a right to vote and to contest elections. But in the electoral rolls only two categories of the sex are mentioned – male and female. This is unfair to the third sex of India as they are deprived of their statutory right to vote and contest elections.

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