AN ANALYSIS ON SOCIAL STRATIFICATION AND DISCRIMINATION OF TRANSGENDERS IN INDIA: FOSTERING TOWARDS INCLUSIVITY

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Abstract

In a society with social stratification, it is essential to embrace our differences. However, in India, transgender individuals face a dualistic perspective regarding their identity. On one hand, they are considered a disgraceful entity, while on the other hand, they are seen as "Shiva," a version of the Hindu God. Due to the fact that transgender individuals do not conform to one gender, they are often excluded and discriminated against in society. The objective of this paper is to shed light on the social and cultural marginalisation that the transgender community faces in India and to explore the impact of discrimination on their well-being. Furthermore, this paper suggests recommendations and presents a comprehensive overview of the current state of the community. Despite the government's efforts to foster inclusivity and provide assistance to transgenders, transforming societal attitudes is crucial for a brighter tomorrow. It may require patience, but it is an indispensable endeavour.

Keywords: Transgender, Cultural Marginalisation, İnclusivity, Social Stratification.

1. INTRODUCTION

"Transgender" whose gender identity does not align with their biological sex assigned at birth. This means their gender expression and roles may differ from those typically associated with their assigned sex. It is important to treat all individuals with respect and dignity, regardless of their gender identity or expression. Their gender identity makes them unique, and they are often subjected to discrimination in society. The "National Center for Transgender Equality" defines transgender people as those who identify differently than their assigned gender at birth. (Sissons, 2021) It is possible for individuals to use "trans" as an abbreviation for transgender. The transgender community encompasses a broad spectrum of individuals who identify as trans men or women, non-binary, or genderqueer. (Surekha, 2022).

Transgender people often face widespread prejudice, discrimination, and violence due to the stigma and transphobia they experience. (Kumar, 2022) Despite having constitutional rights, they are denied basic human rights. Transgender individuals are often socially stratified on various levels, including socio-economic status, employment, health, and education. Social stratification, in sociology, refers to how society categorises individuals based on race, gender, occupation, social status, or derived power. Gender stratification refers to a type of social stratification where gender differences result in one gender being more privileged and powerful than the other. This phenomenon is observed when men are given more privilege and power than women, transgender individuals, and those who do not conform to gender norms.

Transgender individuals in our society face a plethora of complex and overwhelming challenges, ranging from physical and mental abuse to verbal harassment and unequal treatment when compared to other genders. These difficulties are especially

prevalent among socio-cultural groups like hijras, jogtas, jogappas, Sakhis, and Aradhis, who are subjected to daily discrimination and sexual harassment. It is crucial to acknowledge that these communities have a rich history, with references to napunsaka in our Vedic literature and mythology dating back thousands of years (Chatterjee, Problems Faced by Transgender Community in India:, 2018). Historically, these individuals have been held in high regard in Hindu mythology. An example of this can be seen in the Mahabharata, where the character Arjuna takes on the persona of the teacher Brihannala by cross-dressing. (Nambiar, 2018). Despite this, they have been subjected to significant discrimination and harassment from various sectors of society. Their non-binary gender identity and lifestyle are often cited as the root cause of such mistreatment. It is essential to acknowledge that individuals who identify as trans have played a significant and influential role in Indian history for nearly four millennia. Throughout the Mughal empires, trans individuals held prominent positions in court as generals, administrators, and advisors. Their respected status during this time is reflected in the accounts of many travellers who observed their involvement in managing harems within the Mughal empire. This rich and enduring history underscores the valuable contributions trans individuals have made to Indian society in diverse capacities. (Nambiar, 2018)

Unfortunately, during the British colonial period, the situation worsened with the enactment of the Criminal Tribes Act of 1871, which effectively labelled transgender individuals as criminals. Though this law was repealed in 1949, its effects continued to fuel prejudice against the transgenders. (Michelraj, 2015). Transgenders often face discrimination in employment and education, which can lead to poverty and leave them with no choice but to turn to begging or prostitution to survive. They are also at risk of violence and abuse, are frequently harassed by law enforcement, and are often denied medical treatment at hospitals.

In recent years, the transgender community has made great strides in gaining recognition for their basic rights and freedoms. India, for instance, legally recognised third-gender individuals as deserving of equal rights and protections in 2014. The country's Supreme Court also ruled that everyone has the right to choose their gender, emphasising that this is a human rights issue rather than a social or medical concern. To support this group, the government was directed to provide education and employment opportunities. The striking down of Section 377 is a significant milestone for the community, removing a hindrance for corporations and stakeholders who were previously hesitant to include LGBTQ individuals. Several state governments have already taken steps to provide healthcare, transportation, and public restrooms for third-gender individuals. Even though progress has been made, many still face poverty. However, strides have been made in eliminating discrimination, securing equal opportunities and access to resources, and raising awareness in education, healthcare, and employment. Continued efforts are needed to promote inclusivity and uphold the rights of transgender individuals.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE PAPER

- The objective is to examine the various forms of stigmatisation and discrimination that transgender individuals encounter.

- To analyse the efforts of law and order to promote social inclusion.

3. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Extensive research has been conducted worldwide on the unique identity of transgender and their fight for equality and freedom of speech and expression in the socio-economic sphere, specifically regarding their exclusion in various dimensions within the context of India. Diverse scholars have attempted to define and explain the nature of the issue in their respective fields. Notably, one of the most exceptional works on transgender are:

The comprehensive paper entitled "Historical Evolution of Transgender Community in India" (Michelraj, 2015) offers a detailed examination of the growth and background of the transgender community throughout Indian history. The article delves into the community's evolution during the Mughal period, the British colonial era, post-independence, and contemporary times. During the Mughal period, transgenders held significant positions and served as political advisors and administrators within the empire. In the British era, they benefited from land and food rights provisions. Presently, the Indian government has introduced new policies and welfare schemes to ensure the social protection and well-being of the transgender community.

The paper "A Manifesto for Trans Inclusion in the Indian Workplace" (Nambiar, 2018)sheds light on the challenges faced by transgender individuals in India and provides practical solutions for corporations to support them. Embracing LGBTQ-friendly policies not only meets social needs but also yields financial and social benefits for businesses. The document concludes with a straightforward approach to trans inclusion that other companies can adopt. By prioritising inclusivity, companies can generate positive publicity, drive innovation, and increase revenue. The paper draws from the best practices of companies that have successfully implemented inclusive policies. The launch of the UN Standards of Conduct for Business report in 2017 has encouraged more companies to explore LGBTQ-friendly policies. This paper is intended to guide companies looking to make a difference and engage a broad audience interested in LGBTQ issues in India.

In the paper "Problems Faced by Transgender Community in India: Some Recommendations" (Chatterjee, 2018) Gender diversity challenges the gender binary system, including intersex, third or other genders, gender fluidity, positions outside of gender, and genderqueer. In India, various socio-cultural groups of transgender individuals, such as hijras/Kinnars, face severe discrimination and harassment, including verbal abuse, physical and sexual violence, false arrests, and denial of share in ancestral property, services, and educational institutions. This article aims to raise awareness about their struggles and provide recommendations to improve their status.

The sociological analysis paper titled "Marginalization of the Transgender Community" (Nishanthi, Marginalization of transgender community:A sociological analysis, 2016) delves into the struggles faced by transgender individuals who are often marginalised in society. They face challenges such as a lack of consistency in their identity, low self-esteem, an unwanted emphasis on their differences, and injustice at every turn. The study aims to highlight the discrimination and marginalisation experienced by transgender individuals, examine their social position, explore their everyday challenges, and assess their support systems through the lens of third-gender sociology. The study relied solely on secondary data to explore the sociological perspective of the third gender.

The article "Exploring the discrimination and stigma faced by transgender in Chennai city - A community-based qualitative study" (Gayathri Kumar, 2022) A study found that transgender individuals face discrimination and stigma in various settings, including education, employment, healthcare, and public places. Difficulties in obtaining government identity cards, bank loans, and rejection when travelling were also identified. The study calls for multilevel interventions to improve the status of transgender populations, including legal protections and inclusive measures to address social stigma, psychological pain, and economic hardship.

4. METHODOLOGY

The research adopts a mixed-methods approach, integrating both qualitative and quantitative data to provide a robust analysis of social stratification and discrimination experienced by transgender individuals in India. The methodology is designed to capture the nuanced experiences of the transgender community and evaluate the effectiveness of existing policies aimed at fostering inclusivity.

Participant Selection

A snowball sampling method was used to select participants who identify as transgender across various states in India. The aim was to include a diverse array of participants in terms of age, socio-economic status, education, and cultural background to ensure a representative understanding of the community.

Data collection

Quantitative Data Collection

A structured survey was disseminated both online and in-person with the help of local NGOs to collect demographic data, personal experiences with discrimination, access to social services, and economic opportunities. The survey included both closed and open-ended questions allowing for statistical analysis and narrative insights.

Qualitative Data Collection

In-depth interviews and focus groups was conducted to explore the personal narratives of transgender individuals. The sessions were audio-recorded and transcribed for thematic analysis. Ethnographic fieldwork was also conducted in selected communities to observe daily interactions and social dynamics affecting transgender individuals.

The research adhered to the highest ethical standards, with informed consent, assurances of confidentiality, and participants' welfare as our top priorities.

5. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Understanding gender and sexual identity is a complex matter involving physical and socially constructed aspects of identity. Transgender theory is a new approach that emphasises the importance of physical embodiment and challenges traditional ideas that maintain the oppression of specific gender and sexual identities. This theory is rooted in feminist and queer theories, which use social constructivist approaches to provide a framework for understanding the experiences of transgender and transsexual individuals. By adopting a more fluid view of gender and using preferred names instead of automatically using gendered pronouns, transgender theory offers a comprehensive framework for addressing issues of group identity and social

oppression. It not only helps in working with transgender individuals but also contributes to a deeper understanding of gender and gender identity in larger contexts. Practically speaking, this theory provides a foundation for developing appropriate interventions for personal and political empowerment, particularly for individuals with multiple, intersectional oppressed identities. Embracing transgender theory can help us create a more inclusive and supportive society for all individuals. (Julie L. Nagoshi, 2010)

6. ADDRESSING THE ISSUES OF SOCIETAL CHALLENGES DIRECTED TOWARDS TRANSGENDER INDIVIDUALS

The transgender community continues to face severe marginalisation, which ultimately results in the denial of their fundamental human rights and even violence. Due to their gender identity or sexuality, these individuals are often stigmatised and excluded by society, making it incredibly challenging for them to feel accepted and valued in their communities. Unfortunately, members of the transgender community often face exclusion from various aspects of society, including social, cultural, and economic participation. This exclusion can manifest in limited job and livelihood opportunities, as well as a lack of acceptance from society and family members (Hotchandani, 2017) . Additionally, transgender individuals may not have adequate protection from violence and may struggle to access education, healthcare, and personal care. Furthermore, they may encounter barriers when trying to access public spaces and may not have access to social security benefits. Society's stigmatisation and exclusion of their gender identity and sexuality are the main reasons for their discrimination.
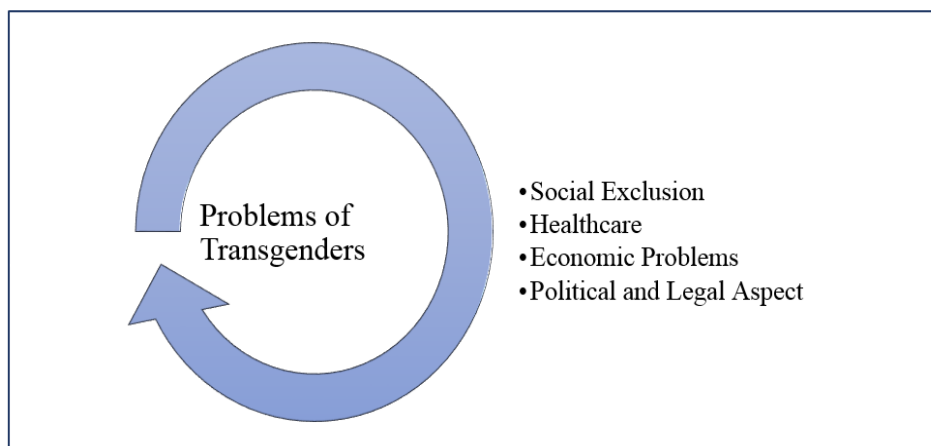

Problems of Transgenders
- Social Exclusion
- Healthcare
- Economic Problems
- Political and Legal Aspect

Figure 1: Problems of Marginalisation of Transgender Community

a) Social Exclusion

When some families discover that their children are transgender, they prefer to shun and expel them rather than promote and support them. This is what drives them to engage in additional immoral behaviours, knowing full well that they have no family. Due to their gender identification, transgender people are frequently subjected to domestic violence from family members. Many of them begin to live a double life. Homophobia and transphobia in the family can escalate into verbal and physical abuse, resulting in young people being pushed out of their homes or opting to leave, and so, for some, leading to homelessness. Many experience prejudice or discrimination in their own families (Nishanthi, 2016). The transgender community

often feels neglected regarding the inheritance of property and adoption of children. They are treated as social outcasts and may end up begging or resorting to dance for survival. This situation is a form of human trafficking. Some individuals even turn to sex work as a means of survival. Discrimination, whether direct or indirect, can result in mistreatment and limited opportunities across various facets of life. The right to safe and suitable housing is a fundamental human right, but transgender individuals often encounter obstacles in obtaining it. Transgender individuals may suffer direct housing discrimination, like being denied a home or apartment, which can lead to homelessness. Regrettably, homelessness can have perilous consequences, including incarceration, working in the underground economy, substance abuse, HIV infection, and even suicide. Other hindrances to acquiring appropriate housing include exclusion from government housing programs, difficulty purchasing land, and challenges in renting property. (Nishanthi, Marginalization of transgender community:A sociological analysis, 2016)

The experience of transgender individuals attempting to enter public places can be fraught with challenges and discrimination. Many religious places, hotels, restaurants, parks, and other public venues have been known to reject transgender individuals outright. Accessing public restrooms can also be a struggle, as transgender individuals are often met with ridicule and discrimination when attempting to use public toilet facilities. Sadly, these experiences frequently lead to the transgender community being treated like outcasts in public areas such as railway stations, bus stands, schools, workplaces, malls, theatres, and hospitals. Such discriminatory behaviour can cause immense emotional distress and harm to those who are already marginalised and vulnerable.

b) Healthcare

It is essential to acknowledge that transgender people often experience discrimination when accessing healthcare, a fundamental human right. These obstacles can range from being treated disrespectfully or experiencing harassment to facing violence or being refused service altogether. These barriers can prevent them from receiving preventive, routine, and emergency care, along with counselling and hormone replacement therapy. In addition, limited access to contraception and a lack of separate accommodations for transgender individuals can also pose challenges to their healthcare. (Konduru Delliswararao, 2018)

Improvements need to be made in medical education and professional healthcare training to better meet the healthcare needs of transgender individuals. There is a significant lack of research in key areas of transgender health, such as the integration of transgender healthcare into medical curriculums and insufficient funding for transgender health research. (Mal, 2015; Mal, Let Us to Live: Social Exclusion of Hijra Community, 2015)

c) Economic Aspects

It is essential to acknowledge the challenges that individuals who identify as transgender face when it comes to seeking employment opportunities that are in line with their needs and preferences. Unfortunately, many members of this community are unfairly discriminated against in the job market and often find themselves with limited options. In some cases, this discrimination can even lead to individuals turning to sex work as a means of financial support. Compounding these issues is the fact that members of the transgender community often face lower literacy levels than the

general population, which further limits their social, economic, and political influence. While progress has been made in recent years to address these challenges, there is still much work to be done to ensure that every individual has access to fair and equal opportunities regardless of their gender identity. (Mal, Let Us to Live: Social Exclusion of Hijra Community, 2015)

d) Political and Legal Aspects

In the past, transgender communities were often seen as criminals, and this belief was passed down from generation to generation. The Criminal Tribes Act of 1871 was revised in 1897, under which "a eunuch was deemed to include all members of the male sex who admit themselves or on medical inspection appear, to be impotent." The local administration was required to keep a register of the names and addresses of any eunuchs who were "reasonably suspected of kidnapping or castrating children or of committing offences under Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code." Additionally, anyone who dressed or ornamented themselves as a woman in a public street, danced, played music, or participated in a public exhibition could be arrested without a warrant. Unfortunately, Hijras have also experienced harassment by police who threaten to file criminal cases under Sec-377. The transgender community underwent a significant change due to the landmark ruling in the case of the National Legal Services Authority vs. the Union of India and others. The law states that a trans individual has the right to self-identify as their preferred gender without the requirement of undergoing sex reassignment surgery (SRS). Additionally, transgender individuals, who are often socially and economically disadvantaged, should be given priority in both the workplace and educational settings. (Mal, Let Us to Live: Social Exclusion of Hijra Community, 2015)

Every individual has the right to education, and it is the government's responsibility to ensure that everyone has access to it. This includes the transgender community, still deprived of legal status. Despite being citizens of India, they are not recognised in civil society when it comes to their culture, practices, activities, adoption and marriages. However, they do have the Constitutional right to equal protection under the law, which means that society, schools, and other social organisations have a duty to protect them from harassment, just like any other transgender community. Individuals who identify as transgender often experience significant discrimination and are denied access to social benefits and government programs. However, progress has been made in addressing these issues since the landmark NALSA verdict of 2014, which recognised transgender individuals as a distinct gender. Despite facing many challenges, transgender people are forging their own paths and receiving support from law enforcement to strengthen their community. (Pinki, 2020)

7. LEGAL RIGHTS AND PROVISIONS FOR TRANSGENDER

The transgender community in India faces numerous human rights violations, including harassment, discrimination, limited access to education and job opportunities, poverty, violence, inadequate healthcare, and obstacles in obtaining identity documents. These challenges have also acted as barriers to government welfare benefits. Nevertheless, there have been noteworthy accomplishments that have brought about positive changes in the lives of the transgender community and fostered social inclusivity. The landmark case of the National Legal Services Authority versus the Union of India and others was a pivotal moment for the transgender

community. It affirmed that individuals have the right to self-identify as the gender of their choice, without the need for Sex Reassignment Surgery (SRS). Furthermore, transgender persons are recognized as a socially and economically marginalized group, and as such, are entitled to job and educational institution reservations. The NALSA judgment of the Central and State governments mandated separate bathrooms, targeted healthcare services in hospitals, and HIV centres for trans people. It also required social welfare schemes, public awareness, and gender sensitisation. Despite being issued in 2014, these changes have not yet been fully implemented in 2018. Therefore, the NALSA judgment did not provide a complete victory for the trans community. (Shahani, 2018)

Multiple reports of the transgender rights bill have been proposed since the NALSA ruling. The most recent one, reintroduced in December 2018, includes provisions for social inclusion, financial and legal support, education, skill-building, and protection from abuse, violence, and exploitation. However, it still does not address reservations or the right to partnership and marriage. The Supreme Court has declared that an individual's sexual orientation is a fundamental right protected by the Constitution, and the right to self-identified gender identity is a crucial aspect of personal liberty and freedom. (Mehta, Analysing Transgender Rights in India, 2021)

On September 6, 2018, the Supreme Court made history by invalidating Section 377. This decision was made to protect the fundamental rights of privacy and dignity for the LGBTQ community. The ruling represents an important step forward in the legal recognition of transgender individuals and paves the way for corporations and other organizations to embrace greater inclusivity. Previously, there were obstacles in place because many people believed that Section 377 made being LGBTQ a criminal offence. With this new ruling, organisations can move forward without fear of legal repercussions and create a more inclusive environment.

The 2019 Transgender Persons Act protects the rights of transgender individuals in education, employment, healthcare, public amenities, and politics. It guarantees their property rights and the chance to request a certificate of identity. The government also offers welfare schemes for their protection and rehabilitation. Penalties are in place for offenses against transgender individuals, and law enforcement is working towards their social integration. The 2019 Transgender Persons Act protects the rights of transgender individuals in education, employment, healthcare, public amenities, and politics. It guarantees their property rights and the chance to request a certificate of identity. The government also offers welfare schemes for their protection and rehabilitation. Penalties are in place for offences against transgender individuals, and law enforcement is working towards their social integration. (Mehta, Analysing Transgender Rights in India, 2021)

8. RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

A study was conducted involving eight individuals who identify as transgender. These participants were interviewed using a semi-structured format to obtain data on their age, education, occupation, family history, societal attitudes towards them, and other pertinent details. Typically, each interview lasted for about 30 to 45 min. The purpose of this research was to gain a comprehensive understanding of their daily lives and experiences. The interviews were conducted in a formal setting, ensuring the precision
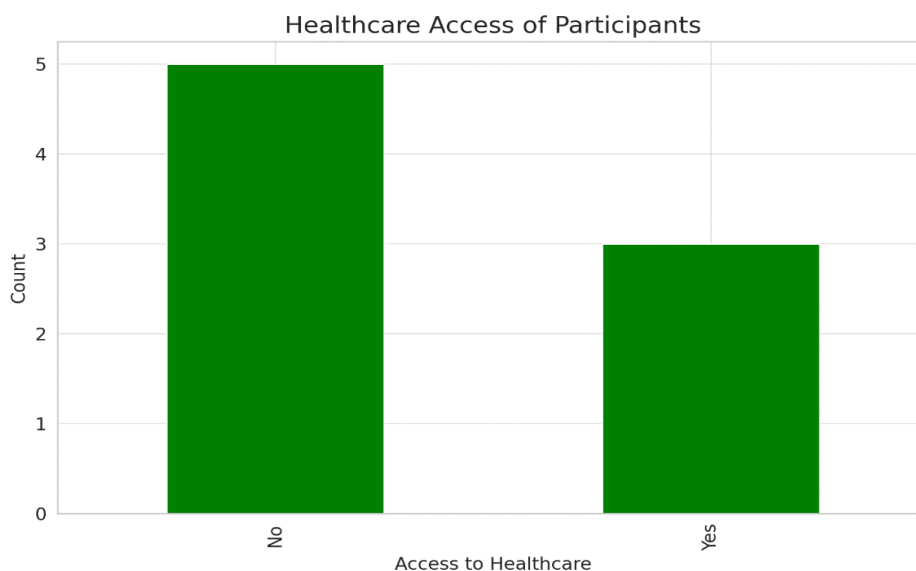
and reliability of the collected data. The study's findings are expected to provide valuable insights into ongoing research on transgender individuals.
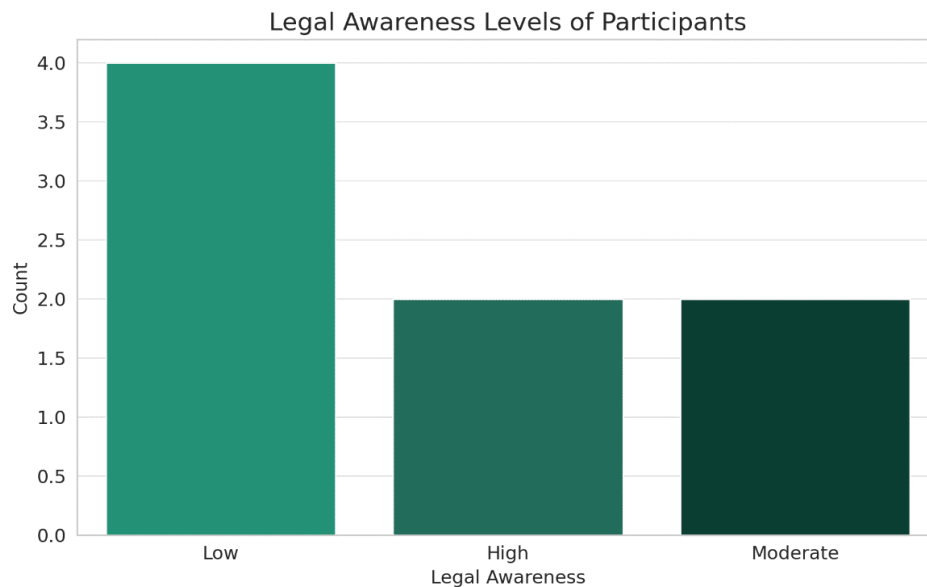
a) Profile Overview of Transgender Individuals

S. no	Name	Age	Education	Place of Living	Id Proof
1	Gudiya	35	No Qualification	Own House	Yes
2	Priya	31	Not qualified	Rented	Yes
3	Tannu	26	No Qualification	Rented	Yes
4	Manisha	29	Graduate	Rented	Yes
5	Shalu	27	No Qualification	Rented	Yes
6	Sasha	24	Completed Bachelor's	Owned	Yes
7	Reena	27	Up to Class-5	Rented	Yes
8	Niyamat	20	Pursuing B.A. (Psychology	Own House	Yes

Source: Primary Data

The data presented in the table offers a brief overview of individuals who identify as transgender. Among them, six are younger than 30 years old, and two is over 30 years old. Three are deemed qualified, while others were not.
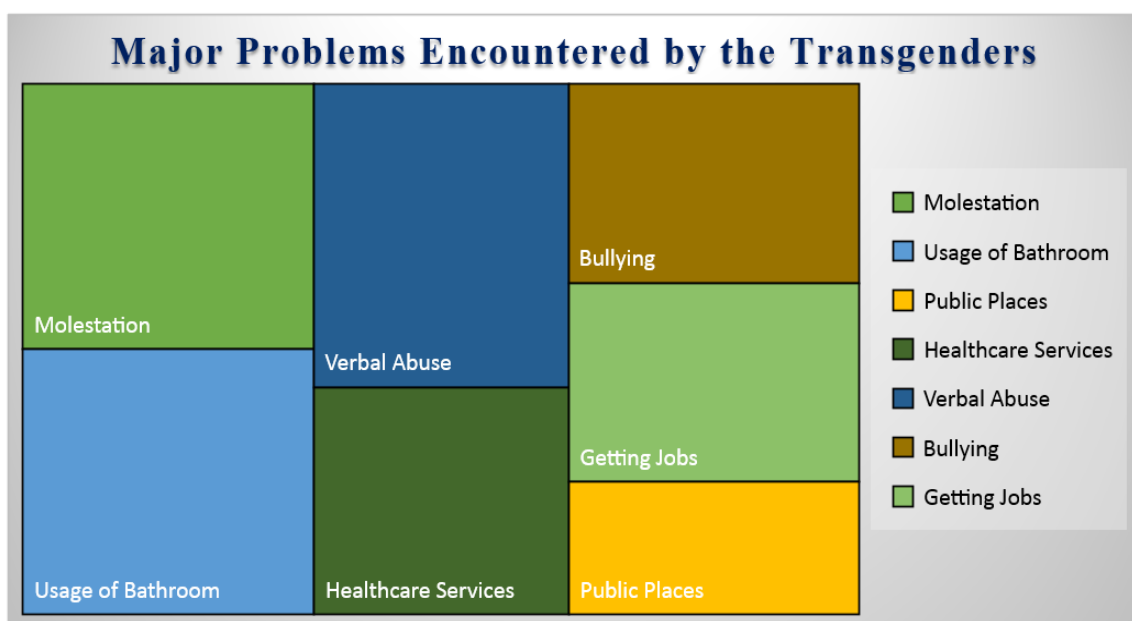

This visualization serves to underscore the healthcare disparities faced by the transgender community in India. It highlights a critical area of concern where basic healthcare needs are not being met for over half of the participants in this study. The diagram acts as a stark visual representation of the need for improved healthcare access and resources for transgender individuals, pointing towards a gap in social services that is essential for their well-being. The lack of access to healthcare not only signifies potential discrimination and social exclusion but also raises concerns about the overall health and quality of life for these individuals.

Legal Awareness Levels of Participants

In the analysis, it was discerned that legal awareness among the surveyed transgender individuals varied considerably, as depicted in the Figure. The tallest bar represented 'Low' legal awareness, indicating that the majority (50%) of participants had limited knowledge of their legal rights and the support structures available to them. This deficiency in legal understanding is a significant barrier to seeking justice and leveraging legal protections that are vital for their social and personal welfare. Meanwhile, a smaller proportion of participants demonstrated 'Moderate' to 'High' levels of legal awareness, suggesting pockets of the community are more informed, possibly due to the efforts of advocacy groups and non-governmental organizations. This distribution underscores the need for targeted legal education initiatives to elevate the overall legal literacy within the transgender community.

b) Challenges Encountered by Transgenders

Source: Primary Data

The presented table offers a comprehensive overview of the societal challenges faced by the respondents. Topping the list is the issue of molestation, closely followed by frequent occurrences of problems related to the use of bathrooms and verbal abuse at metro stations, bus stops, and red lights. Discrimination at healthcare centres and public places, such as temples and malls, is also a cause for concern. Lastly, respondents reported experiencing obstacles in securing employment due to their gender identity.

According to a recent study, transgender individuals face a great deal of discrimination and stigma in various settings, ranging from education and employment to healthcare and public places. The study highlighted the experiences of several participants, including Reena, Gudiya, Manisha, Tannu, Sasha, Shalu, Priya and Niyamat. Regrettably, Reena, Gudiya, and Manisha, shalu, Priya were forced to leave their homes due to their families' non-acceptance, finding refuge and support in Delhi. Meanwhile, Niyamat and the rest was fortunate enough to receive support right from the start from her family and friends. However, Niyamat also revealed that she encountered more challenges and instances of prejudice within the LGBTQIA+ community than among individuals who identified as heterosexual. Of note, Gudiya is a respected figure in her community, and both Gudiya and Niyamat come from an upper-class transgender community, whereas Reena and Manisha hail from a lower-class transgender community.

The role of the government in society is very important. However, research has shown that many people are not aware of the different programs and services offered by the government. These people are often excluded from society because of their appearance. Fortunately, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) provide valuable support to those struggling to find employment or other basic needs. The study found that NGOs are primarily involved in providing training and helping people find jobs. It is essential for society to show compassion towards those in need. Some respondents in the study area reported difficulties in public spaces and incidents of harassment. The role of the government in society is very important. However, research has shown that many people are not aware of the different programs and services offered by the government. These people are often excluded from society because of their appearance. In India, individuals who identify as transgender are now officially recognised as a third gender, with their fundamental rights protected by law. However, the effective implementation of policies and laws is essential for the upliftment of this marginalised group, as their current status remains deplorable.

9. DISCUSSION

The primary goal of this study is to delve deeper into the experiences of individuals belonging to the transgender community, who were born with ambiguous biological sex. Upon conducting research and analysing the gathered data, it has become evident that these individuals all share similar accounts of their daily lives. However, they face pervasive discrimination, which not only poses a significant threat to their survival but also creates a host of problems for them.

Despite several legal provisions introduced by the government, achieving equality for all remains a daunting challenge for both the government and the people of India. Therefore, it is imperative to initiate interventions that not only strengthen legal protection but also introduce inclusive measures to tackle specific transgender issues

through multilevel interventions. By doing so, we can address the challenges faced by the hijra community and ensure that their rights are protected and they are granted equal opportunities to thrive in society.

The varied levels of legal awareness within the transgender community not only reflect individual disparities but also point to systemic issues in the dissemination of legal information. Despite constitutional protections, the lack of widespread legal knowledge impedes the community's ability to assert their rights and challenge discrimination. Furthermore, the discussion highlighted a correlation between higher legal awareness and improved access to healthcare and employment, suggesting that legal literacy is intricately linked to broader socio-economic empowerment. Participants with higher awareness levels often cited support from community groups or NGOs, indicating the effectiveness of collective action in raising legal consciousness. The findings also suggest that legal awareness is crucial for navigating and accessing government welfare schemes, which many participants were unaware of or found inaccessible. Stigmatization not only dissuades individuals from accessing legal aid but also exacerbates their marginalization from mainstream legal systems. It is imperative for future policies to address these cultural barriers and ensure that legal resources are inclusive and sensitive to the needs of the transgender community. Factors such as education, caste, and economic status intersect with gender identity, influencing an individual's legal knowledge and their ability to seek justice. Therefore, any intervention aimed at improving legal literacy must be multifaceted and cognizant of these intersecting identities to be truly effective.

10. CONCLUSION

The transgender community in India represents a unique subculture that coexists with the heterosexual family. However, there exists a disconnection between their social roles, gender identities, sexual orientation, and life histories. A study focusing on four transgender individuals, and share their experiences, reveals the social discrimination from their family and society. Despite the challenges, transgender try to reconstruct their sense of self by developing a committed relationship with their community members and taking care of vulnerable children. Although they mostly identify with a feminine identity, the cascade of rejection and discrimination from an early age has a significant impact on their lives, leading to lesser education, privilege, empowerment, polarization, and "othering." The study emphasizes the need for qualitative studies using in-dept interview and secondary approaches to explore societal roles, relationships, unmet needs, and administrative decisions regarding their care and safety. The current Indian government recognizes the importance of including all identities in society, including the transgender community. Efforts have been made to promote inclusion and normality for the transgender community, with the government emphasizing the need for tolerance, respect, and recognition of all groups. In recent years, progress has been made in recognizing the rights of the transgender community. In 2018, the legal acceptance of the third gender was a significant step forward. Furthermore, in 2019, transgender women were granted the right to record their marriage under the Hindu Marriage Act. There is also an ongoing debate regarding the legalization of marriage and adoption rights for both the transgender and LGBTQIA+ communities. It is important to note that the law mandates respect and honor for diverse communities and groups in society, and any failure to do so is a

violation of the law. The government is making efforts towards greater inclusion, tolerance, and acceptance.

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