

Significant Issues of Transgender People -A Empirical Study in Erode District Of Tamil Nadu

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Abstract: Gender Identity is one of the most fundamental aspects of life which refers to a person's intrinsic sense of being male, female or transgender or transsexual person. Everyone is entitled to enjoy all human rights without discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. Transgender, in India, were once treated with great respect, at least in the past, though not in the present. Transgender in Erode city experience high levels of discrimination in education, employment, legal systems, health care, housing and even in their families. The consequences of these widespread injustices are human and real, ranging from unemployment and homelessness to illness and death. This study applies Factor Analysis to identify the major issues faced by the Transgender Community in Erode city.

Key words: Transgender, Discrimination, Factor analysis.

1. Introduction

The persons belonging to the 'third sex' are defined as 'transgender' which is the state of one's gender identity, not matching one's assigned gender. Transgender persons have been documented in many indigenous, Western and Eastern cultures and societies from antiquity until the present day. Transgender people in most cities face discrimination in nearly every aspect of their lives. They experience high levels of discrimination in employment, housing, health care, education, legal systems and even in their families. Few researches in India have assessed the living conditions, social disadvantages, economic constraints, political limitations and other aspects of transgender. The major deficiency observed in their works is the lack of emphasis on the rehabilitation and empowerment of the transgender in Indian society as a whole. Now as the transgender people are recognized as third gender in the legal documents by all states and their agencies, the third gender people can move to courts of law if any of their right is violated by the state or even private persons also access to justice is the essence of rule of law.

2. Review of Literature

T.Sathya & Dr.T.Thasian[1], with the objective of studying the employment opportunities and discrimination in Chennai district, interviewed 24 transgender and it was found out that most of the transgender involved in begging and sex work sector and others involved in small scale work like vegetable sale, cookery, dance group etc. family and society neglected them due to gender transformation. Human Rights Law Network [2], it is identified that the main differences were that the group in Cuttack appeared to experience less public harassment than reported by the group at the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment and the group in Bhubaneswar and reported that they could access contraception easily – unlike the group in Bhubaneswar. Suneeta Singh, Sangita Dasgupta, Pallav Patnakar and Minati Sinha [3] highlighted that transgender people today are in a state of transition. Members of the community may see that they are isolated, and want to change this. But failing to follow the traditions of the guru – Chela system and ignoring the all-encompassing hierarchical structure may have severe personal repercussions. Nicholas M. Teich [4] opined that transpeople can try to make a disability claim when experiencing discrimination, but the Americans with Disabilities Act specifically excludes any protection for people with gender identity disorder. There are transgender kids who have gained access to the appropriate bathroom in their schools using the individuals with Disabilities Education Act because this accommodation would not be provided using any other means.

3. Statement of the Problem

Besides the Central Government declaring the transgender as third gender, their status did not improve significantly. Both the Central and the State Government have extended various welfare measures to the transgender. However, these measures have not helped to raise the standard of living of the transgender. In reality, they face many issues to lead an ordinary life. The researcher in this study has made an attempt to know the opinion

of the transgender people in Erode District on the various issues faced by them.

4. Objectives

- To understand the demographic profile of the transgender people in Erode district.
- To analyse the major issues faced by the sample respondents.

5. Methodology

Both primary and secondary data are used in the study. Primary data was collected from the Transgender people in five taluks of Erode District. Using Convenience Sampling Technique data is collected from 200 respondents. Secondary data is collected from various publications and Web resources. Factor Analysis is used to analyse the collected data.

6. Data Analysis and Interpretation

6.1. Demographic Profile of the respondents

Table 1
 Demographic Profile of the Respondents

S.No.	Variables	Category	No. of Respondents	Per cent
1	Age (in years)	<25	66	33
		25-34	80	40
		35-44	40	20
		>44	14	7
2	Educational Qualification	Primary	134	67
		Secondary	38	19
		Higher Secondary	6	3
		Graduation	10	5
		Others	12	6
3	Monthly Income (in Rupees)	<=3000	18	9
		3001-6000	104	52
		6001-9000	64	32
		>=9000	14	7
4	Livelihood	Pvt. Empt.	21	10.5
		Govt. Empt.	4	2
		Begging	94	47
		Self employed	60	30
		Sex work	25	12.5
		Others	24	12

6.2 Opinion of transgender on significant issues faced by them – Factor Analysis

Factor analysis technique has been applied to find the underlying dimension (factors) that exists among 27 variables relating to the issues faced by the Transgender Community in Erode district.

Table 2
 KMO and Bartlett's Test
 Issues faced by the Transgender in Erode District

Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy	.654
Bartlett's Test of Sphericity Approx. Chi-Square	3646.782
DF	351
Sig	.000

Level of Significance: 5 per cent

In the present study, Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) Measure of Sampling Adequacy (MSA) and Bartlett's test of Sphericity were applied to verify the adequacy or appropriateness of data for factor analysis. In this study, the value of KMO for overall matrix was found to be excellent (0.654) and Bartlett's test of Sphericity was highly significant ($p < 0.05$). Bartlett's Sphericity test was

effective, as the chi-square value draws significance at five per cent level. The results thus indicated that the sample taken was appropriate to proceed with a factor analysis procedure.

The total variance is then explained in Table 3, giving in detail the Initial Eigen values and the Extraction sums of squared loadings.

Table 3
Initial Eigen Values & Extraction sums of Squared Loadings

Component	Initial Eigenvalues			Extraction Sums of Squared Loadings		
	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %
1	7.227	26.768	26.768	7.227	26.768	26.768
2	3.210	11.889	38.657	3.210	11.889	38.657
3	2.359	8.738	47.395	2.359	8.738	47.395
4	1.665	6.166	53.562	1.665	6.166	53.562
5	1.501	5.560	59.121	1.501	5.560	59.121
6	1.313	4.864	63.985	1.313	4.864	63.985
7	1.178	4.365	68.349	1.178	4.365	68.349
8	1.093	4.049	72.398	1.093	4.049	72.398
9	.970	3.592	75.990			
10	.910	3.369	79.359			
11	.791	2.929	82.288			
12	.736	2.727	85.015			
13	.661	2.446	87.461			
14	.582	2.155	89.616			
15	.510	1.890	91.507			
16	.452	1.673	93.179			
17	.362	1.342	94.522			
18	.287	1.062	95.583			
19	.236	.874	96.458			
20	.212	.784	97.242			
21	.172	.638	97.880			
22	.140	.517	98.397			
23	.127	.471	98.868			
24	.114	.423	99.291			
25	.092	.339	99.630			
26	.058	.215	99.845			
27	.042	.155	100.000			

In order to provide a more parsimonious interpretation of the results, 27-item scale was then analyzed using the Principal Component method with Equamax rotation. Factor analysis attempts to identify underlying variables, or factors, that explain the pattern of correlations within a set of observed variables. Factor analysis is often used in data reduction to identify a small number of factors that explain most of the variance observed in a much larger number of manifest variables.

Eight factors were identified to have accounted maximum percentage variance. The variables X₁, X₂, X₇, X₈ and X₂₃ are grouped as factor I and it accounts for 26.768 per cent of the total variance. The variables X₁₄, X₁₅, X₂₁ and X₂₂ constitute the factor II and it accounts for

11.889 per cent of the total variance. The variables X₂₄, X₂₅, X₂₆ and X₂₇ are grouped as factor III and it accounts for 13.696 per cent of the total variance. The variables X₉, X₁₃ and X₁₈ are grouped as factor IV and it accounts for 6.166 per cent of the total variance. The variables X₃, X₄, and X₁₇ are grouped as factor V and it accounts for 5.560 per cent of the total variance. The variables X₅, X₁₀, X₁₁ and X₁₂ are grouped as factor IV and it accounts for 4.864 per cent of the total variance. The variables X₆, X₁₆ and X₁₉ are grouped as factor VII and it accounts for 4.365 per cent of the total variance. The variable X₂₀ constitute the factor VIII and it accounts for 4.049 per cent of the total variance.

Table 4
Eight Factors with their Loadings
Component Matrix^a

	Component							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
O1	.677	-.261	-.143	-.255	.089	-.100	.083	-.025
O2	.779	-.079	-.056	-.019	.184	.370	-.121	.078
O3	-.092	.637	.269	.024	.454	-.149	-.288	.132
O4	-.160	.662	.357	.017	.214	-.237	-.324	.062
O5	-.130	.374	-.052	.150	.374	-.017	.351	-.261
O6	.088	-.250	-.075	.645	-.117	-.142	-.349	-.141
O7	.588	-.303	-.068	-.218	.560	.205	-.076	.083
O8	.741	-.118	.185	-.011	.026	.355	-.214	-.035
O9	.719	.103	.137	-.031	-.387	.227	-.179	-.201
O10	.126	.366	-.225	.559	.077	.219	.279	-.238
O11	.016	.351	-.370	.302	.147	.122	-.001	.069
O12	.480	.285	-.535	.219	.282	.097	.229	-.018
O13	.516	.254	-.295	.056	-.436	.112	-.026	-.057
O14	.553	.243	.508	.096	-.118	.040	.150	-.329
O15	.828	.052	.342	-.069	-.046	.052	-.095	-.133
O16	-.202	.572	.159	-.418	-.234	-.063	.386	-.001
O17	.115	.474	-.153	-.042	.061	-.325	-.379	-.369
O18	.295	.590	-.062	-.216	-.135	.248	-.135	.110
O19	.002	.711	-.073	-.226	-.076	.306	.055	.193
O20	-.354	.045	.350	.457	-.080	.318	-.007	.493
O21	.441	-.017	.549	.203	-.039	-.291	.319	.165
O22	.696	-.091	.532	.128	.119	-.049	.126	-.103
O23	.655	-.111	.229	-.015	.286	-.077	.136	.181
O24	.670	.059	-.140	.074	-.079	-.265	.165	-.002
O25	.648	.121	-.292	.125	-.171	-.318	-.010	.350
O26	.687	.231	-.106	.166	-.217	-.261	-.034	.334
O27	.687	-.095	-.449	-.229	.089	-.244	-.010	.069

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

a. 8 components extracted.

In the current study rotation factor analysis is performed to measure the opinion of the respondents on various issues faced by the

Transgender Community in Erode City. The significance of relationship between the variables is depicted in the following table:

Table 5
Rotated Component Matrix
Issues faced by the Transgender Community in Erode City

	Component							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
X1	.501	.229	.361	.080	-.250	-.098	.013	.353
X2	.728	.198	.227	.407	-.078	.118	-.051	-.010
X3	.053	.047	-.045	-.105	.866	.130	.151	-.085
X4	-.185	.097	-.047	-.007	.857	.008	.136	-.057
X5	-.073	.111	-.186	-.244	.176	.564	.183	.138
X6	-.127	.028	.114	.114	-.001	.102	-.781	-.066
X7	.904	.104	.074	-.034	-.056	-.008	-.038	.138
X8	.588	.349	.096	.522	-.049	-.053	-.126	-.023
X9	.182	.375	.207	.761	-.075	-.049	-.035	.129
X10	-.103	.107	.021	.152	-.016	.801	-.091	-.070
X11	.017	-.245	.167	.062	.163	.515	-.022	-.091
X12	.337	-.051	.396	.076	-.034	.691	.052	.163
X13	-.029	.029	.441	.596	-.137	.197	.053	.128
X14	.031	.767	-.013	.387	.095	.118	.066	.106

X15	.399	.615	.216	.468	.074	-.087	-.019	.158
X16	-.406	.103	-.026	.031	.135	.012	.759	.077
X17	-.140	-.066	.107	.213	.534	.136	-.086	.511
X18	.095	-.058	.199	.513	.302	.126	.416	-.018
X19	-.044	-.166	.076	.333	.309	.240	.615	-.155
X20	-.170	.003	-.137	-.047	.096	.025	-.080	-.862
X21	.009	.784	.293	-.122	.016	-.075	.001	-.176
X22	.351	.817	.112	.134	.022	-.024	-.111	.017
X23	.532	.502	.307	-.058	.013	-.017	.014	-.006
X24	.160	.344	.569	.129	-.096	.152	-.031	.251
X25	.142	.107	.851	.148	.007	.066	-.060	.050
X26	.105	.252	.795	.259	.106	.060	-.029	-.034
X27	.453	-.010	.619	.072	-.132	.014	.006	.442

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis. Level of Significance: 5 per cent

Rotation Method: Varimax with Kaiser Normalization.

a. Rotation converged in 12 iterations.

Eight factors extracted together account for 72.398 per cent of the total variance (information contained in the original 27 variables). This is considered good, because the researcher was able to economize on the number of variables (from 27 variables the researcher have reduced them to eight underlying factors), while the data lost was only about 27.602 per cent of the information content

(72.398 per cent is retained by the eight factors extracted out of the 27 original variables). Since the idea of factor analysis is to identify the factors that meaningfully summarize the sets of closely related variables, the rotation phase of the factor analysis attempts to transfer initial matrix into one that is easier to interpret. Equamax rotation method is used to extract meaningful factors.

Table 6
Summary of Rotation Factor Analysis
Opinion on Issues faced by Transgender in Erode District

Factors	Variables Included in the Factors
F1 – Issues relating to denial of basic needs	Denial of right to proper childhood, Fear of others seeing me as the wrong sex, Denunciation of basic needs by the State, Rejection of Ration Card by the State, Absence of consultation from authentic clinical behavior scientists for SRS
F2 – Health-related Issues	Living in slum / non-fair area, deprivation of basic health facilities, Non-availability of competent health professionals and medical counselors, Absence of appropriate analysis in the medical centres and laboratories
F3 – Social Issues	Non-inclusion of name under ‘other category’, Molestation and physical harassment problems, Police atrocities, Negative portrayal of third gender in the media
F4 – Issues relating to Self development	Rejection of loan and subsidy for self employment by the State, Contradiction of procuring livelihood through Self Help Group initiatives by the State, Physical Health Disorder
F5 – Family-related Issues	Discriminated from family members with respect to food and shelter, Discriminated from family members with respect to health and nutrition, Substance use including drug and liquor
F6 – Issues relating to Livelihood	Discriminated from family members with respect to educational facilities, Incongruity of procuring livelihood through begging by the State, Community disagreement of procuring livelihood through sex work, Non-compliance of procuring livelihood through blessings by the State
F7 – Issues relating to diseases	Denial of employment opportunity by community members, Sexually transmitted diseases including HIV / AIDS, Mental health disorder
F8 – Issue relating to Suicide attempt	Suicidal tendency

7. Conclusion

The state government should be encouraged to constitute regional welfare boards for the transgender in order to implement various welfare schemes. Loan, subsidy, entrepreneurship

development, personality development, leadership development and other opportunities should also be created for the transsexuals. These may facilitate the transgender to improve their socio-economic status in par with others.

8. References

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