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Needs of the Transgenders in Chittoor District : A Case Study

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Abstract

Though, the transgender is also a part of our society, still they were denied with opportunities on par with the other people in the society. But, the issue of denial of opportunities will come under the violation of Human Rights and also leads to lagging behind to the development among a particular community. The same has been happened in case of Transgenders also. Keeping their plight in view, the Government has extended all the facilities which are being provided for the other members in the community by enacting the transgender protection bill in 2019. The government also has taken a number of measures to streamline them along with other members of the society. In spite of these measures the transgender status has not yet improved and still they are depending on their traditional roles for livelihood. Now it is time to identify the vocational training needs and the trades of training they like and support required from the government so as to enable them to undergo training and to start their own enterprises to overcome their employment and financial problems and to lead a comfortable life. With this background the present study was formulated with the objective to find out the profile of the transgender in terms of age and education, identifying their vocational needs, preferred vocational trades and support required from the government. The findings will help the planners and programme administrators to revise the existing programmes and to chalk out the new programmes.

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Introduction

The transgender is called differently in different regions as Hijras, Eunuchs, Aravanis, Jogappas, Shiv-Shakthis etc, these are part of Indian culture and enjoyed different status at different intervals of time. They are known as *Napumsaka* and it denote the absence of procreative ability. Now they have been recognised as third gender and to recognise their rights, the transgender person protection bill 2019 has been passed. As a result, the transgender has been recognised as part of our society and are entitled the right of not to be discriminated, right to educate, right to be employed, right to get medical aid,

access to services which are available for public, entitled for property and movement, to hold public offices, recognition, identity, welfare measures to rehabilitate and residence, offences and penalties for discrimination and harassment etc., All these efforts have made them entitled to lead a normal life without fear or discrimination. Apart from the above, the Union Government and respective State Governments have taken adequate measures to establish institutions for mainstreaming them.

The transgender is one of the most discriminated groups of people in the country. They are depending on begging,

dancing, as sex worker etc., for their livelihood. As per census 2011 there are 4.9 lakh transgenders in the country and among them working population is much lower than the general population and they were not able to get a job continuously more than six months in a year (UNDP 2016). No doubt that the existing welfare measures meant for general population were also applicable to this group, but in practice they were neither eliminated nor considered. In the light of the above there is a need to identify the needs of the transgenders and to redress them. For redress their needs and opportunities, there is a need to conduct a study to identify their socio-economic background and their needs. Hence, an effort has been made to review the literature so as to identify the studies made and efforts to solve their problems. The researches on transgender are scanty and very few attempts have been made. The available studies are as follows.

Subhrajit Chatterjee (2018) and Vasant More (2021) identified the problems faced by the transgender community in India and made certain recommendations to overcome them. Further Mousumi and Purnima (2019), identified the path for securing transgender rights through capability development and Gnana Kamali et.al (2021), illustrated the educational challenges of transgenders.

Sunitha Behera (2018), presented the baneful life of transgender: Case Studies of Odisha. Neethu Naik (2020) conducted a study to bring out the democratic characteristic and special distribution of transgender across the country. On the other hand, Gnana and Vijayalakshmi (2019), brought out the changing trends in socio economic conditions of transgenders in Chennai city and Yashika and Sarita (2020) analysed the socio-economic status of transgenders and the educational, occasional and development of aspirations of the transgender community (Simran Kaur Dhatt, 2016) was identified. Further the effect of globalization on transgenders in India was brought out by Reshma Elizabeth Thomas (2015),

The Review of literature demonstrated that efforts have been made to understand the status of the transgender at various angles, but few attempts have been made to identify the needs and support required by them from the Government side. Hence the present study was formulated to answer to the above with the following objectives.

The study was designed with the following objectives.

To prepare a profile of transgender in terms of their age and education and to identify the needs of the transgenders. Also to study the nature of support required by them from the Government.

Materials and Methods

The state of Andhra Pradesh has three distinct regions viz., Rayalaseema with four Districts viz, Kadapa, Kurnool, Chittoor and Anantapur, Coastal Andhra with six Districts viz, Nellore, Prakasam, Guntur, Krishna, East Godavari and West Godavari and the North coastal Andhra region consists of three districts viz, Vishakapatnam, Vijayanagaram and Srikakulam. The transgender population was estimated around 50,000 in Andhra Pradesh. Chittoor is one of the districts of Rayalaseema with a population of 44,50,032 of them 20,90,204 are male and 20,83,860 are female. A considerable number of transgenders lives in Chittoor district, especially in and around of Tirupati keeping in view of its population density and being the world famous pilgrim centre. Hence, for the purpose of the present study, Chittoor district has been selected as a locale of the study. The district is having 66 mandals with an area of 15152 Sqk.m and density of 275 per Sqk.m. The sex ratio is 997 females per 1000 male. Majority of the population are Hindus followed by Muslims (10%) and Christians(0.6%). There are 3 Municipalities Viz., Chittoor, Madanapalli and Tirupati. It is estimated that there are 500 transgender populations in the district. Of them, only 150 have been officially notified and 109 of them have received certificates. The transgenders were commonly called as Hijras. Most of them live in groups and begging is the main source of income. Though some of them are well educated, but could not secure any employment mainly due to the discriminatory practices prevailed in the community. For the purpose of the present study 50 transgender persons were selected randomly as sample of the study.

Research Device

Keeping in view of the objectives of the study, the investigators have developed a simple schedule to collect the required data from the sample transgender people. The schedule consists with the information on Age, Education and the initial changes that have taken place among them and the needs, nature of support required from the government for sustaining themselves etc., Care was taken that the schedule be designed to collect both the quantitative and qualitative data.

Data collection

The research tool thus designed was administered to the selected sample of the study. The transgenders are living in groups in certain pockets of the area. The investigators with the help of district administration concerned with transgenders contacted the transgender and explained to them about the nature of the study and the type of information to be provided. The selected transgenders have readily accepted to contribute to the investigators. The investigators have circulated the schedule to the transgenders who are capable of responding to the schedule. In case of those who are low educated not able to answer, the investigators personally administered the schedule and recorded their responses. It has taken about 30 minutes for collecting the information from each sample.

Analysis of the data

The information thus collected was pooled together and analysed keeping in view of the objectives of the study. Simple statistical techniques like percentages were used to analyse the data qualitatively to draw the picture of the profile of the transgenders. Further the needs of the transgender as per their area of living, nature of support sought from the government were also segregated and analyzed. The investigators based on the need pattern and the support sought have provided certain suggestions to mainstream the transgenders. The details of the findings of the study and conclusions drawn and suggestions made are presented below.

Profile of the Transgenders

In order to assess the profile of the transgenders, the information on education and age was collected and grouped them. The educational levels of the sample indicates that half of the sample are low educated and not even completed the school education. On the other hand, one fifth of them have completed intermediate course. Surprisingly one fourth of the sample are highly educated i.e., graduates, post graduates, double post graduates and professional degree holders. The age wise classification shows that majority of the sample is

younger in age group and 18% of them above 31 years of age. The personal characteristics clearly show that the sample are educated, professionally trained and younger in age group.

Vocational training needs

The transgenders in spite of their level of education, the possibilities of getting employment are remote due to cultural reasons. The other possibilities for them to have sustainable income are the service sector. In order to get employment in the service sector requires the hands-on training. Keeping this in view, the transgenders were asked to identify the preferred sectors of vocational training trades. Further they were given option to identify any number of trades. The trend of the identification of the preferred trades shows that half of the sample have identified two trades followed by three trades (28%), four trades by 16% and 8% with single trade. The trend shows that the majority of the transgenders preferred more than two trades. The reasons explained by them indicate that competencies in more than one trade will enhance their chances of employment opportunities. This clearly indicates that the transgenders are willing to go for decent work by leaving their traditional occupation of begging, dancing etc.,

The vocational choices preferred by the transgender indicates that majority of them (42%) preferred to get training in hotel management followed by Tailoring (40%), Fashion designing (34%), Driving (30%), Computer Training(28%), House Keeping(26%), and Beautician(24%). In addition to the above, a few members have preferred training as security guards (16%), Saloon Shop management (12%), Saree rolling (12%) and Care Taker(8%).

The trends clearly show that these are the sectors where the Transgenders can accommodate themselves and community may also not be aver to receive the services from them. Hence it is suggested that the authorities to conceive the training programmes to them in groups and provide financial support so as to enable them to start their own enterprise.

Table.1 Education and Age of the sample

S.No.	Character	Groups	F	%
1	Education	Literature	9	18
		High school educated	18	36
		Intermediate	10	20
		Graduation	4	8
		Post-Graduation	3	6
		Professional	6	12
2	Age in Years	Less than 20	9	18
		21 to 30	32	64
		31 and above	9	18

Table.2 Trades of vocational training preferred

S.No.	Trade of training	F	%
1	Driving	15	30
2	Security guard	8	16
3	Beautician	12	24
4	Saloon shop	6	12
5	Sari Rolling	6	12
6	Fashion designing	17	34
7	Tailoring	20	40
8	Hotel management	21	42
9	Computer training	14	28
10	House keeping	13	26
11	Care taker	4	8

Table.3 Government Support sought by the sample

S.No.	Nature of support	F	%
1	Pension	18	36
2	House Plot	16	32
3	Social Recognition	1	2
4	Housing	16	32
5	Further Education	2	4
6	Loans	4	8
7	Employment	5	10
8	Vocational Training	1	2
9	Self-Employment	3	6
10	Ration Card	4	8

Support sought from the Government

After identifying the vocational training needs of the transgenders, they were asked to indicate the type of

support sought from the Government. The responses revealed that the popular support sought is provision of Pension followed by the allocation of house plots and

assistance for construction of the houses. In addition, transgender was also seeking the employment, Ration cards, Loans from the banks and Support for Self-Employment and social recognition from the Government.

The profile of the transgender shows that they are younger in age group and educated. They desire for further education and vocational training. so as to acquire skills and competencies to enter into the world of work. The nature of support sought by the transgender is a clear indication that they require support for their sustainability to avoid the dependency on the others. It is true that majority of the transgenders are isolated from their families and living with other transgenders as groups either in the outskirts of the residential areas or the places where they were accepted. It is also true that they were demanding the government to allocate house plot or housing so as to lead a comfortable life.

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