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Social Inclusion and Acceptance

Having understood the discrimination faced by transgender people, it is now paramount to understand and accept this community. Although most countries legally recognize transgender, in some countries like Malaysia, transgender people are not acknowledged as legal persons. Thereby, efforts are being made by organizations over the globe to provide the transgender community with basic human rights.

In India, the Supreme Court passed a judgement in 2014, wherein the government was directed to officially declare transgender people the 'third gender' and grant fundamental rights to them. Despite legal acknowledgement, in most countries, transgender people fail to receive acceptance. Acceptance, like most other things, can begin at a personal level. Even simple gestures like talking to them like regular people can boost up their confidence and make them feel accepted. Referring to them with their correct pronouns can show your respect and affirmation towards them. Children can be taught about transgender from an early age.

In society, transgender people must have equal access to housing, education, and healthcare. Many job and university application forms have included an "Other" option in place of the applicant's sex. Some countries have started to build separate toilets for transgender people. It is observed that transgender women (and men to some extent) are alarmingly more prone to HIV than the general population.

Studies need to include transgender people to better understand the causes for this which in turn would help to educate the community about how to prevent infection. Denial of human rights and deprivation of basic services are manifestations of prejudice against the transgender community. It is about time that people recognize a transgender person as a human and treat them like one.

Citation:

Divan, Vivek et al. "Transgender social inclusion and equality: a pivotal path to development." *Journal of the International AIDS Society* vol. 19,3 Suppl 2 20803. 17 Jul. 2016, doi:10.7448/IAS.19.3.2080

Discrimination, harassment, violence against transgenders

Despite the dramatic progress of the transgender movement within the last decade, leading to greater public awareness and significant legal victories, trans people still face shocking amounts of discrimination, high rates of violence and harassment. Trans people still lack recourse if they face any kind of gender identity based discrimination in housing, restaurants, medical care, voting polls and workplace.

According to a survey in 2015, it was found that nearly half (46%) of trans people were verbally harassed in the past year. More than half (54%) of trans people have experienced some form of intimate partner violence, nearly 47% of them were physically assaulted within their lifetime and one in ten were sexually assaulted in between 2014 and 2015.

This kind of violence can be fatal. Brutal murders of transgender women often occurs but it receives little response from law enforcement. Further investigation found that economic discrimination is related to trans people's experience of violence incidents and discrimination. Therefore, both hate crimes legislation and employment protections are needed for transgendered individuals.

Sources:

- <https://vawnet.org/sc/serving-trans-and-non-binary-survivors-domestic-and-sexual-violence/violence-against-trans-and>
- <https://lgbtfunders.org/resources/issues/transgender-issues/>

Citation:

Lombardi EL, Wilchins RA, Priesing D, Malouf D. Gender violence: transgender experiences with violence and discrimination. J Homosex. 2001;42(1):89-101. doi: 10.1300/j082v42n01_05. PMID: 11991568

Economic/ Financial struggles

In spite of a lot of awareness and laws, the community still faces some economical or financial issues. A survey in 2013 found out that 56% of well educated professionals from LGBT committee were facing gender discrimination in their workspace. These type of social stigma push them below poverty line in spite of being capable to work some other examples of discrimination in economical markets are LGBTQ Couples cannot open a joint account in banks, They need to purchase health policies or insurance policies individually and cannot buy it as family etc.

In 2018 World Bank Estimated that India's Economy can grow by 1.4% just by removing the discrimination they are facing in markets which means India is losing \$26 billion in year just because of this gender discrimination. Some state government took steps in order to uplift them financially as in 2019 Bihar government decided to give assistance of 150000 to transgender for sex reassignment surgery though all these developments discrimination prevails in some extent and improving them can be beneficial to them as well as country.

Sources:

- <https://knappily.com/business/india-pink-economy-377-189>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGBT_rights_in_India
- <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/527261468035379692/pdf/940400WP0Box380usion0of0LGBT0People.pdf>
- <https://www.outlookindia.com/outlookmoney/talking-money/lgbtq-people-on-going-fight-for-financial-rights-in-india-3530>

Religious influence before modern era

In history different religions have different perspective over the transgender. In hinduism they have diverse feeling over the transgender. Some people think they are bad omen and it is decline in respect, divinity to live, talk, walk around them. Some people they bring luck Inviting them for starting of any business bring a good success. In some places transgender are used source of entertainment as dancers.

In Christianity transgender community are reffered as sin. They believed that god has created only two genders. And being a third genders are defiance of god. In the classical era over the Europe men who marries or loves a men are condemned to guilty and sentenced to by burning alive.

In Islam the men resembled women or transmen are called Mukhannathun. They were considered as heinous extension of effeminate behavior. During Abbasid caliphate these mukhannathun are used as a source of entertainment such as dancers, musicians, or comedians and also used as servants for wealthy women. As they have feminine behaviour they are considered not worthy for punishment.

Sources:

- <https://www.hrc.org/resources/stances-of-faiths-on-lgbt-issues-hinduism>
- http://religiousinstitute.org/denom_statements/transgenderism-transsexuality-gender-identity
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGBT_in_Islam

Misconceptions

Due to inadequate interaction and less awareness about transgenders there are many misconceptions around the world. Some of them were- "These types of people are basically one group". Basically they are not just one group, these people belong to a big community consisting of many different groups named **LGBTQIA**.

The main medium from which we get to know about these matters are films, tv and social media, which are mostly misrepresented about them many times from long. Films, tv are very wide. It's beyond entertainment, sometimes it motivates, sometimes it gives a message. It is impossible to deny the role of them in society. It is a mass media, there is bound to be a heavy impact on its audience. But, for many years there is misrepresentation shown about transgenders. They were distorted, and their characters were objectified and also using them as comic set-pieces. These misinterpretations were shown, which will make the audience think that those were true, and this might cause judging and undervaluing them. And some more fallacies like, These people always wear bright, flashy, and tight outfits, always horny, speak in a peculiar and sensuous way with elaborated slang. But actually those were just stereotypes, most of them just wear clothes like normal people. Just like us, speak normally with others.

Many assume that, Getting birth like them is their karma and Even these people hate their identity i.e self-hating, so most of the others treat them in an irritated and disgusting manner. Now coming to the actual fact, it's not their mistake to be born like that and no one hates their own life. Every one of us might be harming these minor communities in one way or another. Our previous generations conceived these misinterpretations due to a lack of awareness and exposure. But, we the people of modern society shouldn't repeat this.

Most of us might consider them only as a distinct group of people who beg money from people on trains, roads, etc. But years passing, many people from these communities are achieving their dreams in different sectors and becoming successful in the work they do, and also becoming role models for many like them. These things, which may increase respect towards them and change bad impressions which many of us conceive.

Sources:

- <https://www.vox.com/identities/2016/5/13/17938088/transgender-people-rights-myths>
- <https://www.hrc.org/resources/debunking-the-myths-transgender-health-and-well-being>

Realization

Nobody just wakes up and decides to be trans, it's just the way they were born. Realization of being a trans comes at an age of 3-5 years, when kids began to question their own gender identity which differs from their assigned sex at birth. Many adults don't accept them and some think it is just a phase.

In this situation the trans kids need more support as they are going through phases where they identify themselves as non-binary, genderqueer or transgender. The two choices left for them is to come out or to remain closeted for the rest of their life.

In European Union lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender survey (2012) the researchers quantified the number of global cases of closet by gathering data from more than 85,000 sexual minorities in 28 European countries. Around two-thirds (67%) of all the respondents say they often or always used to disguise the fact that they were from LGBTQ community during their high schools.

At this point of time the parents should listen to what the child has to say and then it's their turn to seek out support such as seeking advice from councillors trusted by trans communities.

Sources:

- <https://www.fatherly.com/health-science/what-age-do-transgender-kids-know-trans/>
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- <https://medium.com/age-of-awareness/being-transgender-isnt-a-choice-3b03c5b197ba>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2016/jul/10/transgender-stories-people-think-we-wake-up-and-decide-to-be-trans>
- https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra-eu-lgbt-survey-main-results_tk3113640enc_1.pdf

Discrimination

Discrimination against LGBTQ community at school

School experience can be particularly difficult for LGBT students, who often struggle to make sense of their identities, lack support from family and friends, and encounter negative messaging about LGBT people at school and in their community. Discrimination and bigotry against transgender students take various forms, including restricting bathroom and locker room access, limiting participation in extracurricular activities, and curtailing other forms of expression. Many LGBT youth have organized gay-straight alliances (GSAs), which can serve as important resources for students and as supportive spaces to counteract bullying and institutional silence about issues of importance to them. However, these clubs continue to encounter obstacles from some school administrators that make it difficult for them to form and operate. The transition from school to college posed a particular challenge for some of the LGBT young people we heard from, with some feeling forced to go back into the closet, and others struggling in a sometimes non-inclusive environment. This, combined with reduced accountability for their attendance and engagement, led some LGBT young people to leave education altogether.

Workspace Discrimination

The analysis after a survey of 935 LGBT adults in May of 2021, indicates that employment discrimination against LGBT people continues to be persistent and widespread. 45.5% of LGBT workers reported experiencing unfair treatment at work, including being fired, not hired, or harassed because of their sexual orientation or gender identity at some point in their lives. Around 57.0% of LGBT employees who experienced discrimination or harassment at work reported that their employer or co-workers did or said something to indicate that the unfair treatment that they experienced was motivated by religious beliefs. Transgender employees were also significantly more likely to experience discrimination based on their LGBT status than cisgender LGB employees. Then there is the verbal abuse too. Two-thirds of LGBT employees reported that they have heard negative comments, slurs, or jokes about LGBTQ people at work. Many LGBT people avoid discrimination and harassment in the workplace by not being out to their supervisor and co-workers. Half (50.4%) of LGBT employees said that they are not open about being LGBT to their current supervisor and one-quarter (25.8%) are not out to any of their co-workers. Many LGBT employees reported engaging in "covering" behaviours in order to avoid harassment or discrimination at work, including changing their physical appearance; changing when, where, or how frequently they used the bathroom; and avoiding talking about their families or social lives at work. Some of the respondents reported engaging in these covering behaviours because their supervisors or co-workers explicitly told them to do so.

Sources:

- <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/publications/lgbt-workplace-discrimination/>
- https://www.stonewall.org.uk/system/files/shut_out_2020.pdf
- <https://www.hrw.org/report/2016/12/08/walking-through-hailstorm/discrimination-against-lgbt-youth-us-schools>

Gender & Politics

Gender is also related with politics, if we talk with respect to India, we see that most of the politicians are men, and representation of women is very less and if we talk about transgenders their representation is negligible. In fact, no any transgender MP elected yet till now. Let us see the gender wise data of MPs in Lok Sabha since Independence.

Year	Male	Female	Transgenders	Total
1952	-	-	-	489
1957	472	22	0	494
1962	463	31	0	494
1967	491	29	0	520
1971	497	21	0	518
1977	523	19	0	542
1980	514	28	0	542
1984-85	500	43	0	542
1989	514	29	0	543
1991-92	496	38	0	543
1996	503	40	0	543
1998	500	43	0	543
1999	494	49	0	543
2004	498	45	0	543
2009	484	59	0	543
2014	482	61	0	543

In 2019, Lok Sabha elections, with 78 seats, women make up 14.6% of the members of the new Lok Sabha. Four transgender candidates also fought elections independently. The **Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)** was the only party to field a transgender nominee, but none of them won a seat.

Most of the political parties don't give tickets to transgenders, also people don't prefer to elect any transgender, trans people are facing a lot of **social discriminations**, we need some kind of **affirmative actions** for them.

Since the 2014 Lok Sabha polls, the Election Commission of India (ECI) included '**others**' category for transgender voters also, earlier only **male and female** was there, this is a progressive step.

Clause (3) of Article 243D of the Constitution ensures participation of women in **Panchayati Raj** Institutions by mandating not less than one- third reservation for women out of the total number of seats to be filled by direct election and number of offices of chairpersons of Panchayats. We need some similar type of **affirmative actions** for transgender people also in order to improve their status in society.

Sources:

- <https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=105124>
- <https://www.outlookindia.com/website/story/india-news-why-must-indian-parliament-reserve-seats-for-transgenders/363008>