



A STUDY ON THE AMELIORATION OF THE LIVELIHOOD OF TRANSGENDERS IN COIMBATORE DISTRICT

Dr. M. Revathi Bala

Associate Professor & Head, PG & Research Department of Commerce, Kongunadu Arts and Science College, Coimbatore .

Introduction

Transgenders are the marginalized sections of the community. They face stigma from the society as they are treated as untouchables. There is no comprehensive national policy to provide them with employment and rights at the national level. Amelioration means to make an unpleasant situation as better due to the lack of recognition at the social, political and administrative levels of the gender identity of the transgender people. Here the lack of recognition refers to the fact that they could not be able to access the existing government schemes even otherwise if they are eligible for those entitlement and benefits. Further, the insensitivity of the Transgender is high among the police, bureaucrats and the politicians.

A rough estimation of gays, lesbians and transgenders in India is 70 million, of which the TG population is six to seven million. Another estimate pegs the TG population between 0.5 to 1 million (NACP IV, 2011). The lack of uniform and reliable data on the numbers and condition of the transgender community remains a pressing issue. It must be noted that the government has taken some noteworthy steps to address this issue, including, addition of the third gender as an option in the 2011 Census and recommendation to conduct an enumeration of the TG population in the Twelfth Five Year Plan. Though the Tamil Nadu Government, by Policy, currently provides the proper recognition and facilities to the transgender, the State Government has no policy for providing them the employment as 99% of the Transgender is involved in prostitution and begging and they lack life coping skills and technical skills. Therefore, it is the need of the hour to conduct area - specific studies and give a comprehensive research contribution to uplift the neglected transgender community.

Objectives of the study

The following are the objectives of the present study:

1. To identify the factors influencing the constraints and challenges faced by transgenders
2. To know the determinants of changes in the livelihood of transgenders
3. To find the inter relationship among the factors of constraints and challenges and the changes in the livelihood of transgenders.

Methodology

Both Primary and Secondary sources of data were collected. The personal interview and was conducted to elicit data and necessary details from the transgender respondents in the study area. The officials of Government and Non Government Agencies were also approached for gathering requisite information. As per the estimate of Aravani Welfare Society (AWS) situated at Kavundampalayam, there were **1460 transgender population** identified in Coimbatore District whereas the estimate of total population is about 25000 in the State of Tamil Nadu as per TAI's Report.

Two stage sampling technique was followed for the study, in the first stage, based on the **Purposive Sampling** method, Coimbatore was selected because of its unique characteristics. In the second stage, **Snow Ball Sampling** method was adopted to identify the TGs. By using this technique, the total population of the transgender in Coimbatore District was identified through the known group of transgender. The total sample size stood at 365, which was constituted 25 percent of the total known TG population of Coimbatore District.

Predominant factors influencing constraints and challenges

The predominant factors influencing constrains and challenges faced by the transgenders were identified through the higher order statistical tool called 'Factor analysis by principal component method'. Factor analysis primarily concentrates on reducing the numerous related variables into heterogeneous factors consisting of homogeneous variables. The results of factor analysis are presented in the table below.

Table – 1, KMO and Bartlett's Test for Constrains and Challenges

Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy		0.633
Bartlett's Test of Sphericity	Approx. Chi-Square	547.599
	df	78
	Sig.	.000

The KMO and Bartlett's test for sampling adequacy for sixteen variables were found to be 0.633 and the chi-square value of Bartlett's test for Sphericity was 547.599 (Table - 1). This clearly indicated that all the sixteen variables were different and

perfectly distributed in a normal distribution. This also emphasized that the factor analysis was suitable for sixteen variables of constrains and challenges faced by transgenders.

Table – 2,Communalities for Factors Influencing Constrains and Challenges

Variables	Initial	Extraction
Discrimination and Misstatement	1.000	.909
Lack of employment	1.000	.426
Lack of social support	1.000	.706
Need for creation of special welfare facilities	1.000	.401
Lesser cooperation among trans people	1.000	.476
Lack of special considerations in all sorts of job	1.000	.873
Problems in hostel facilities to pursue higher studies	1.000	.549
Lack of institutional assistances for starting business	1.000	.713
Poor socio economic background	1.000	.819
Problem of seed capital assistances	1.000	.847
Financial problems to obtain gender transformation certificate	1.000	.758
Unemployment problems	1.000	.823
Psychological stress	1.000	.868
No promotional opportunities	1.000	.899
Harassment and physical assault	1.000	.845
Struggle with the fulfillment of basic needs	1.000	.858

The communality values have indicated that out of the sixteen variables, the variable ‘Discrimination and Misstatement’ (0.909) possessed high communality value, whereas the variable ‘Need for creation of special welfare facilities’ (0.401) acquired the least value. This implied that the individual variances of sixteen variables have ranged from 50.8 percent to 90.9 percent respectively. Around 50.8 percent oscillation (90.9-40.1) was well established among the sixteen variables. This implied that all the variables have adequately represented their contribution in the formation of factors (Table - 2).

Table – 3 ,Number of Factors Influencing Constrains and Challenges

Component	Initial Eigen values			Rotation Sums of Squared Loadings		
	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %
1	4.667	29.170	29.170	4.667	29.170	29.170
2	3.330	20.810	49.980	3.330	20.810	49.980
3	2.222	13.888	63.868	2.222	13.888	63.868
4	1.394	8.712	72.580	1.394	8.712	72.580
5	1.058	6.610	79.190	1.058	6.610	79.190
6	.856	5.349	84.539			
7	.699	4.367	88.907			
8	.483	3.018	91.925			
9	.396	2.475	94.400			
10	.225	1.403	95.803			
11	.185	1.154	96.958			
12	.153	.955	97.912			
13	.115	.717	98.630			
14	.098	.615	99.245			
15	.065	.408	99.653			
16	.056	.347	100.000			

Component	Initial Eigen values			Rotation Sums of Squared Loadings		
	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %	Total	% of Variance	Cumulative %

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

The factor analysis by principal component method with varimax rotation has revealed four eigen values as 4.667, 3.330, 2.222, 1.394 and 1.058 respectively. This indicated that the eigen values greater than 1 led to the existence of four major factors with 79.109 percent of variance (Table -3). These factors were subjected to continuous varimax rotation with respect to the correlation values and component-wise segregation as given below:

Table – 4 ,Variables and Variable Loadings for Factors Influencing Constrains and Challenges

Variables / Factors	Variable Loadings
Factor 1: Social Stigma	
Discrimination and Misstatement	.689
Harassment and physical assault	.720
Lack of social support	.619
Factor 2: Financial Problems	
Lack of institutional assistances for starting business	.824
Poor socio economic background	.621
Problem of seed capital assistances	.604
Problems to obtain gender transformation certificate	.538
Factor 3: Inadequate Support	
Need for creation of special welfare facilities	.512
Lack of special considerations in all sorts of job	.497
Problems in hostel facilities to pursue higher studies	.557
Lack of Government schemes	.760
Factor 4: Lack of Growth Potential From Institutions	
No promotional opportunities	.502
Unemployment problems	.772
Struggle with the fulfillment of basic needs	.558
Factor 5: Internal Discrepancies	
Lesser cooperation among trans people	.808
Psychological stress	.573

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis.

Rotation Method: Varimax with Kaiser Normalization

Rotation converged in 8 iterations.

The rotated component matrix table indicated the variable loadings in each predominant factors of constrains and challenges faced by the transgenders. The first factor consisted of three variables which were suitably named as '*Social Stigma*'. The second factor contained four variables which were suitably called as '*Financial Problems*'. The third factor included four variables which were named as '*Inadequate Support*'. The fourth factor contained three variables which were named as '*Lack of Growth Potential from Institutions*'. The fifth factor contained two variables which were named as '*Lack of Growth Potential from Institutions*' (Table - 4).

Changes in the livelihood of transgenders

To identify the factors determining the changes in the livelihood of transgenders, Multiple Regression Analysis was applied to find out the effect among the independent variables i.e., demographic profile. Changes in the livelihood of transgenders score was taken as dependent variable.

Table - 5 ,Regression Coefficient for Determinants of Changes in the Livelihood of Transgenders

Variables	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		Std. Error	Beta		
Constant	1.838	5.371		.342	.732
Age	6.151	.716	1.374	8.586	.000
Educational Qualification	-4.653	.741	-1.319	-6.278	.000
Occupation	2.237	.587	.375	3.813	.000
Category	.946	.563	.103	1.679	.094
Monthly income	3.680	.675	.704	5.449	.000
Undergone for special surgery to live as TG	14.877	2.530	1.410	5.881	.000
Living Pattern	4.730	.976	.514	4.847	.000
Government support	4.898	.674	.427	5.924	.000
Member in Aravani association	-3.627	1.156	-.424	-3.138	.002
Entrepreneurial activity undertaken	-.778	.164	-.221	-4.738	.000

Individually, the regression coefficients indicated that Age, occupation, category, level of monthly income, undergone the special surgery to live as TG and living pattern have positively associated with the changes in the livelihood of transgender. It was revealed that these variables were changed the livelihood of transgender. The variables such as educational qualification, member in Aravani association and entrepreneurial activity undertaken have negatively associated with the changes in the livelihood of transgender.

Inter-Relationship Among The Factors Of Constraints And Challenges And Changes In The Livelihood Of Transgenders

Constraints and challenges faced by the transgenders have strong influence on livelihood of transgenders. Therefore, it was essential in a research to measure the nature of relationship among the related variables. So, an attempt has been made to find out the relationship among factors of constraints and challenges and livelihood of transgenders. Karl Pearson's coefficient of correlation has been employed to identify the inter-relationship among these variables. It was the convention that if significant value was lesser than 0.05, the correlation was to be considered as significant. The values of the Pearson Correlation ranged from -1 to +1 with negative numbers represented a negative correlation and positive numbers represented a positive correlation. The closer the value was -1 or +1 indicated stronger the association between the variables.

Table – 6,Inter-Relationship among Factors of Constraints and Challenges and Livelihood of Transgenders

Factors	X ₁	X ₂	X ₃	X ₄	X ₅	X ₆	X ₇	X ₈
Social Stigma (X ₁)	1							
Financial problems (X ₂)	.585**	1						
Inadequate support (X ₃)	-.233**	-.402**	1					
Lack of growth potential from institutions (X ₄)	-.239**	-.304**	.396**	1				
Internal discrepancies	.461**	.413**	-.152**	.293**	1			
Social transformation (X ₅)	-.010	-.048	-.012	-.048	-.224**	1		
Opportunities for	.611**	.456**	-.551**	-.207**	.356**	.148**	1	

livelihood (X ₆)								
Recognition of the society (X ₇)	.711**	.443**	-.125*	-.514**	-.076	.074	.415**	1

** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed)

* Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

The above table showed that social stigma, financial problems and inadequate support were not significantly correlated with social transformation. It indicated that the lack of social transformation led to social stigma, financial problems and inadequate support to the transgenders. Therefore, it was concluded that all these variables were statistically significant at 5% level and there was a significant relationship among factors of constraints and challenges and livelihood of transgenders.

Conclusion

Raising voice against the discrimination of transgenders became prominent for the past two decades. Though the constitutional rights, Universal declaration of Human Rights and Other international forums focus on 'recognition to transgender', the discrimination is out the control of all these efforts and forces. Though the Tamil Nadu State Government provided serious concern to ensure welfare of this community, the constraints faced by the TGs were multiplying due to lack of employment, social stigma and constraints prevailing in the implementation of legal rules.

References

1. Norton, A., Conway, T and Foster, M., 2001, 'Social Protection Concepts and Approaches: Implications for Policy and Practice in International Development', Working Paper no. 143, Centre for Aid and Public Expenditure, Overseas Development Institute, London.
2. Social protection for a changing India (Vol. 1 of 2): Executive summary. (2011), Report from the World Bank.
3. Chakrapani, V. (2010). Hijras/Transgender Women in India: HIV, Human Rights and Social Exclusion. Issue brief published by UNDP-India. http://www.undp.org.in/sites/default/files/reports_publication/TG-issue-brief.pdf
4. GOI (2012) <http://planningcommission.nic.in/plans/planrel/12appdrft/approach12plan.pdf>