

The Indian Third Gender- An Over View

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Introduction

The terms third gender or third sex are used to describe individuals who are neither male nor female and form a certain different section or gender in a society that promotes three or more genders to co-exist. Initially Indian census has never recognized the third gender, i.e., transgender while collecting census data for years. In the Census of 2011, data of transgender were collected in the category of “Others” under Gender with details related to their employment, literacy, and caste. According to the census of the total population of transgender to be around 4.88 lakh. Such a society will redefine the concept of gender, widening its boundaries, and introducing three main categories, i.e., male, female and androgynous or the third gender.

Government of India and Third Gender

The Rights of Transgender persons Bills 2014 was passed by the Rajya Sabha and introduced in Lok Sabha. The bills deals with the different aspects like social inclusion of Transgender their rights and entitlements, financial and legal aids, education and skill development and prevention of abuse, violence and exploitation of transgender.

On 29th oct 2014, the University Grant Commission (UGC) issued a circular to all the vice Chancellors of the Universities requesting them to include a column for Transgender community in all applications forms.

The Indian Government took bold steps to recognize transgender as a separate gender for the first time in the country and named it as Third Gender. Finally it is recognized the rights of transgender people and treating them as equal to other Indians. The number of transgender identified by the census is almost 55,000 are in the age group of 0-6 population (Census,

2011). This has come as a big surprise to the community as they did not expect so many parents to identify their children as belonging to the third gender. During the voter registration process only 28,341 people registered as belonging to the third gender, said KalkiSubramaniam, transgender rights activist and founder of the Sahodari Foundation. Anjali Gopalan of Naz Foundation said that even the current figure of 4.9 lakh was on the lower side as it was unlikely that the number of people declaring themselves as transgender would ever give an accurate figure. (Times of India May 30, 2014) In India over 66% of the population identified as third gender lived in rural areas, very close to the 69% of the overall population that lives in villages. The census data also show the low literacy level in the community, just 46%, compared to 74% literacy in the general population.

The highest proportion of the third gender population, about 28%, was in Uttar Pradesh followed by 9% in Andhra Pradesh, 8% each in Maharashtra and Bihar, over 6% in both Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal and well over 4% in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Odisha. Rajasthan accounted for over 3% of the total transgender population and Punjab for 2%. The proportion of those working in the transgender community is also low (38%) compared to 46% in the general population. Only 65% of the total working population are main workers — those who find work for more than six months in the year — compared to 75% in the general population.

Problems of Transgenderin India

The Transgender belong to the marginalized group of the society which faces legal, social, cultural and economic difficulties. The problems face by the Transgender community in India includes.

1 Discrimination: Discrimination is one of the major problem of Transgender. They are facing various types of socio-eco discrimination in terms of employment, education, justice, entertainment etc.

2. No social respect in the society: because of their identity as Transgender. The people in society not respect the transgender. Some of the people fear due their body language. Many people make the fun of transgender because they don't know the actual facts about them. But except in few cases like after the birth of a child their blessings are very lucky for the new baby. Newly wedded couple also take their blessings. Community

3. Child Nabbing : This community always searches for those babies. Infants/children who are born as a transgender. If they know they try to nab the child from their parents.
4. Prostitution: They are force to entered in the profession of prostitution by their community, friends, relatives, many times parents also involved.
5. Force to leave the home: Once their identity is identified, they are forces and pressurize to leave the home by the society because the society treats them as abnormal.
6. No social status in the society: They are face physical and verbal abuses in the society. The people insulting, punishing, abusing or cursing them. They are restricted the entry in religious places, Limited access to public places like hotels, theatres, restaurants, parks etc.
7. Lack of educational facilities: like normal people , they are not allowed to take education in schools, colleges. They are treated differently in terms of education.
8. HIVAIDS Problems: Most of the Transgender belongs to lower socio-eco status and have low literacy level. It seeks to have improper health care, No proper living condition. Many of the transgender living in slum areas.
9. Human trafficking: Transgender belongs to the most neglected group.
- 10.Social Exclusion: Transgendersocially excluded from participating in social, cultural and economic life. They are excluded from Economy, employment and livelihood opportunities. Lack of protection from violence, Excluded from society and family, Lack of social securities, and No decision making power.Rights of citizenship.

Conclusion

There is need to reform the third gender community of India. The Government must planned and adopted inclusive approach for Transgender for their better survival. Legal and the law enforcement systems need to be empowered. The Government policies have been implemented properly which is beneficial to them. The Government policies more focused on Health care, education, credit facilities, and employment opportunities for Transgender which helps to getsocial identity in the society.

References

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