



Social Inclusion of Transgender Population in India - Common People's Perspective

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ABSTRACT: Gender is a human social system of differentiation by sex for roles, behaviors, characteristics, appearances, and identities. Third gender is a broad term used to describe those whose gender, gender identity, or gender expression is in some sense different from, their assigned birth sex. India is now moving towards accepting the third gender in the society. It is happening with help of court's verdict. The objective of our paper is to find out common people perspective on this matter as well as factors behind the opinion of general people about inclusion of 'third gender' in mainstream society. Our analysis, done through primary data, shows the acceptance of the third gender in society very much depends on demographic characteristics of people. All the respondents are in favour of Supreme Court verdict but for social acceptance or reservation, the answers are different. Therefore, if the objective is to include transgender population into the mainstream society in a country like India, court verdict is definitely not enough. We have to identify the cluster of population who are still having discomfort in this respect and make them understood.

Keywords: Transgender, third gender, mainstream, demography, Supreme Court's verdict.

I. INTRODUCTION

Gender is a human social system of differentiation by sex for roles, behaviors, characteristics, appearances, and identities. Third gender is a broad term used to describe those whose gender, gender identity, or gender expression is in some sense different from, their assigned birth sex. Transgender may include those who identify as being transsexual, crossdressers, androgynous, bi-gender, no-gender or multi-gender, and a growing number of people who do not identify as belonging to any gender category at all. For some third gender individuals, the discomfort with social gender role is accompanied by a profound sense of mismatch of the physical body to their internal bodily experience. This body dysphoria causes significant distress, negatively impacts daily functioning and well-being, and requires medical services in order to realign the body with the self.

1.2 Objective-

India is now moving towards accepting the third gender in the society. It is happening with help of court's verdict. The objective of our paper is to find out common people perspective on this matter as well as factors behind the opinion of general people about inclusion of 'third gender' in mainstream society.

1.3 Literature review

There is very little research on 'transgender. Most studies on the transgender population focus on medical aspects of gender identity and not the psychosocial identity of the individual. The medical research is pathological in nature. Non-medical research emphasizes the need to look at the person as unique with a gender identity.

Some research of transgendered people from both a medical stance and a psychosocial perspective. Some paper analysed the identity-focused aspects of research and non-medical models of identity development for transgender people. Seil (2004) discussed the diagnosis and treatment of transgendered patients. Docter and Fleming (2001) looked for further identify the components of transgenderism in their study. Lawrence (2004) got a different connection between sexual orientation and gender identity.

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Schaefer and Wheeler (2004) looked closely at the guiltiness of many transgender people feel in relation to their cross-gender tendencies. Carroll and Gilroy (2002) completed additional examination of a counselor's role with transgender patients. Nuttbrock, Rosenblum, & Blumenstein, (2002) found positive identity support is crucial to negate many mental health issues that are associated with being transgender. Lev (2004) wrote a book to help practitioners work with transgender people and their families. Bilodeau, (2003); Devor, (2004) created some models to explain transgender identity development. There are not many models for transgender identity. Bilodeau and Renn (2005) has given a new transgender theoretical models, especially those focused on college students.

There are researches on the above areas about 'transgender'. But, there is almost no researche done on social acceptance of 'transgender' population.

1.4 Methodology-

We collected data from 72 respondents of two different cities in India. Kolkata and Jaipur are selected to get the respondents. Those cities are chosen because of their differences. These are located in two extreme position of India. Kolkata is located in East and Jaipur in far west. Socio-cultural background is also different. Historically also these are far apart.

1.4.1. Brief description of the two cities

Jaipur is the capital and largest city of the Indian state of Rajasthan in Northern India. It was founded on 18 November 1727 by Maharaja Jai Singh II, the ruler of Amer after whom the city is named. As of 2011, the city has a population of 3.1 million, making it the tenth most populous city in the country. Jaipur is also known as the *Pink City of India*. The city of Jaipur was founded in 1727 by Jai Singh II, the Raja of Amer who ruled from 1688 to 1743. As of 2011, Jaipur had a population of 3,073,350. According to census of 2011 the population of the Jaipur Metropolitan area is 3,646,590 making it the 10th largest city of India. The Hindu population accounts for 78%, Muslim 18.6%, Jains 2.3% and others 1.0%. While 47.49% people lived in rural areas, 52.51% lived in urban areas. 87.27% males and 64.63% females were literate. The sex ratio was 898 females per 1,000 males. In addition to its role as the provincial capital, educational, and administrative center, the economy of Jaipur is fueled by tourism, gemstone cutting, the manufacture of jewelry and luxury textiles, and information technology. Jaipur is a major hub for arts and crafts.

Kolkata is the capital of the Indian state of West Bengal. Located on the east bank of the Hooghly river, it is the principal commercial, cultural, and educational centre of East India, while the Port of Kolkata is India's oldest operating port. As of 2011, the city had 4.5 million residents; the urban agglomeration, which comprises the city and its suburbs, was home to approximately 14.1 million, making it the third-most populous metropolitan area in India. Kolkata's recorded history began in 1690 with the arrival of the English East India Company, which was consolidating its trade business in Bengal. As of 2001, around 0.81% of the city's workforce was employed in the primary sector (agriculture, forestry, mining, etc.); 15.49% worked in the secondary sector (industrial and manufacturing); and 83.69% worked in the tertiary sector (service industries). As of 2003, the majority of households in slums were engaged in occupations belonging to the informal sector; 36.5% were involved in servicing the urban middle class (as maids, drivers, etc.), and 22.2% were casual labourers. According to the 2011 census, 76.51% of the population is Hindu, 20.60% Muslim, 0.88% Christian, and 0.47% Jain. The remainder of the population includes Sikhs, Buddhists, and other religions which accounts for 0.45% of the population.

1.5 Hypothesis-

- 1) Whether the responses about 'inclusion of third gender in society' varies between those two cities.
- 2) Whether the responses about 'inclusion of third gender in society' varies with different socio-economic, demographic parameters.

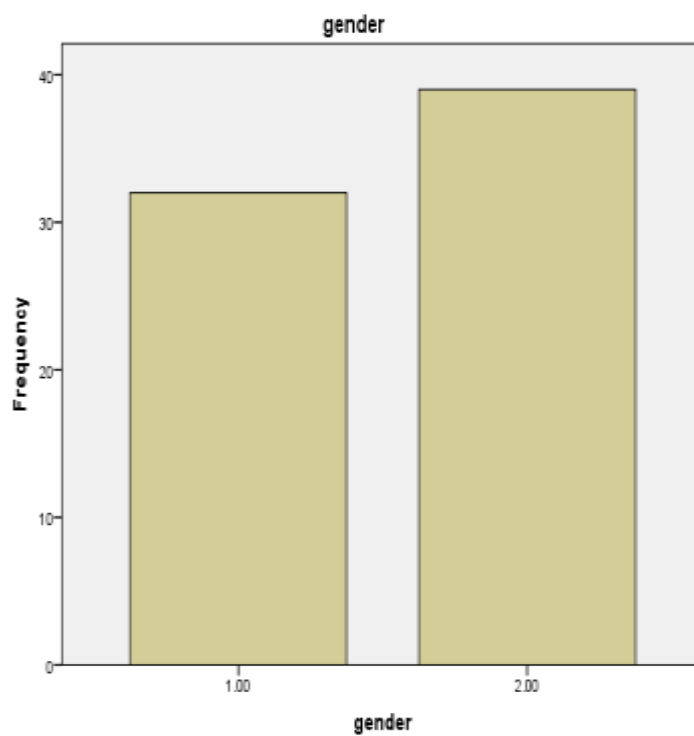
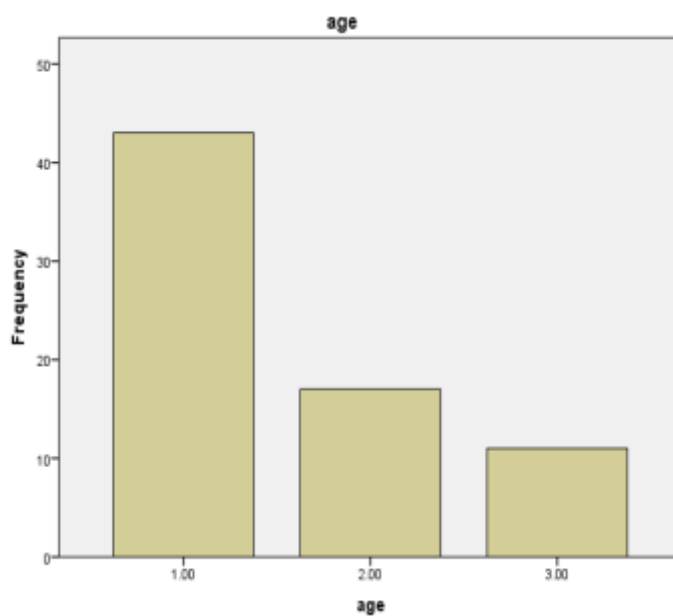
Here, we fixed the parameters as 'age', gender', education' and 'occupation'.

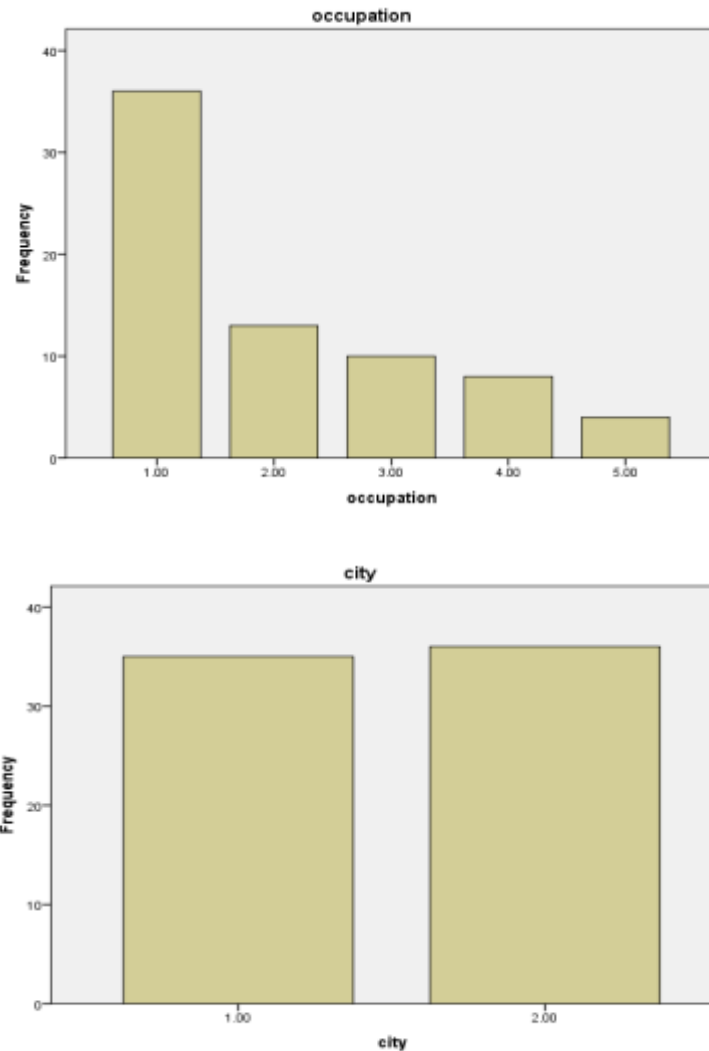
To understand respondents' view about the acceptance of third gender, we fixed the following questions-

- a) Do you have a problem with Supreme Court's recent verdict about recognition of transgender?
- b) Are you in favor of the reservation of transgender in education and jobs?
- c) Should separate schools be opened for them?
- d) Don't you think the acceptance of transgender in the society will affect our culture?
- e) According to you, have the people belonging to the "other" gender been exploited in India in the past decades?
- f) Is Supreme Court's verdict enough to give them justice and eliminate the exploitation?

1.6 Data description

		Statistics				
		age	qualification	gender	occupation	city
N	Valid	71	71	71	71	71
Mean		1.5493	2.2817	1.5493	2.0282	1.5070
Median		1.0000	2.0000	2.0000	1.0000	2.0000
Mode		1.00	2.00	2.00	1.00	2.00
Std. Deviation		.75193	.67998	.50111	1.27584	.50351





The following table shows the comparison between the independent factors in those two cities-

Group Statistics					
	city	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
age	1.00	35	1.7714	.80753	.13650
	2.00	36	1.3333	.63246	.10541
qualification	1.00	35	2.2857	.71007	.12002
	2.00	36	2.2778	.65949	.10991
gender	1.00	35	1.6857	.47101	.07961
	2.00	36	1.4167	.50000	.08333
occupation	1.00	35	1.9429	1.16171	.19637
	2.00	36	2.1111	1.38930	.23155

1.7. Model-

All six responses= F (age, qualification, gender, occupation, city)

Regression analysis is done to find out the relationship within dependent and independent factors.

1.8. Results-

(a) When question A is the dependent factor-

ANOVA ^a						
Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regressi on	.189	5	.038	.446	.814 ^b
	Residual	3.731	44	.085		

	Total	3,920	49		
a. Dependent Variable: VAR00008					
b. Predictors: (Constant), city, qualification, gender, occupation, age					

		B	t	sig
1	(Constant)	1.518	4.307	.000
	age	-.125	-1.239	.220
	qualification	.113	1.273	.208
	gender	-.129	-1.083	.283
	occupation	-.069	-1.216	.229
	city	.082	.656	.514

(b) When question B is the dependent factor-

ANOVA ^a						
Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	1.284	5	.257	1.007	.425 ^b
	Residual	11.216	44	.255		
	Total	12.500	49			
a. Dependent Variable: VAR00010						
b. Predictors: (Constant), city, qualification, gender, occupation, age						

		B	t	sig
1	(Constant)	.920	3.680	.001
	age	-.055	-2.784	.037
	qualification	-.097	1.397	.169
	gender	-.002	-.021	.984
	occupation	-.006	-3.154	.079
	city	-.048	-.499	.621

(c) When question C is the dependent factor-

ANOVA ^a						
Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	1.284	5	.257	1.007	.425 ^b
	Residual	11.216	44	.255		
	Total	12.500	49			
a. Dependent Variable: VAR00010						
b. Predictors: (Constant), city, qualification, gender, occupation, age						

		B	t	sig
1	(Constant)	1.498	3.330	.002
	age	-.222	-1.776	.083
	qualification	.110	.901	.373
	gender	.075	.484	.631
	occupation	-.003	-.041	.967
	city	.009	.057	.955

(d) When question D is the dependent factor-

ANOVA ^a						
Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	6.378	5	1.276	1.948	.110 ^b
	Residual	24.226	37	.655		
	Total	30.605	42			
a. Dependent Variable: VAR00012						
b. Predictors: (Constant), city, qualification, gender, occupation, age						

		B	t	sig
1	(Constant)	-.348	-.436	.666
	age	.287	1.374	.178
	qualification	-.020	-.098	.923
	gender	.143	.531	.599
	occupation	-.080	-.700	.488
	city	.883	3.075	.004

(e) When question E is the dependent factor-

ANOVA ^a					

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	1.141	5	.228	1.828	.131 ^b
	Residual	4.745	38	.125		
	Total	5.886	43			
a. Dependent Variable: VAR00013						
b. Predictors: (Constant), city, occupation, gender, qualification, age						

		B	t	sig
1	(Constant)	1.736	5.232	.000
	age	-.115	-1.280	.208
	qualification	.020	.225	.823
	gender	.007	.063	.950
	occupation	.038	.797	.430
	city	-.360	-2.891	.006

(f) When question F is the dependent factor-

ANOVA ^a						
Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	2.001	5	.400	1.272	.293 ^b
	Residual	14.156	45	.315		
	Total	16.157	50			
a. Dependent Variable: VAR00014						
b. Predictors: (Constant), city, qualification, gender, occupation, age						

		B	t	sig
1	(Constant)	1.366	2.837	.007
	age	.138	1.010	.318
	qualification	-.103	-.783	.038
	gender	-.151	-.889	.079
	occupation	.003	.044	.965
	city	.341	1.864	.469

1.9 Analysis-

Above regression results could help us to analyse that some demographic characteristics which may lead to have different thoughts in people's mind about acceptance of the 3rd gender.

a) Our 1st question was, 'Do you have a problem with Supreme Court's recent verdict about recognition of transgender?'

Here, the regression result is not significant. None of the independent factors are showing any statistically significant association. It is because, all the respondents have said 'no' to the answer.

b) 2nd question was, 'Are you in favor of the reservation of transgender in education and jobs?' Here, factors 'qualification', 'age' and 'occupation' are showing strong statistically significant association. All of them are having negative coefficients. It means, with the increase in age, qualification and with more stable occupation; people are in favor of the reservation. But the respondents of lower age and qualification as well as with occupation of less stable nature are not in favor of such reservation.

c) The question 'should separate schools be opened for them?' is also having significant relationship with some demographic characteristics. Respondents of higher age want separate school for them.

d) The 4th question has significant relationship with 'age' and 'city'. Respondents of higher age said 'yes' to the question 'Don't you think the acceptance of transgender in the society will affect our culture?' Here we notice different responses from the two different city-dwellers. 'Yes' was the major response from Jaipur while 'no' was the major response from Kolkata.

e) 5th question which was 'According to you, have the people belonging to the "other" gender been exploited in India in the past decades?' not showing significant regression result as almost everyone said 'yes' to the question.

f) We got interesting association for the 6th question. The question was 'Is Supreme Court's verdict enough to give them justice and eliminate the exploitation?' Here we got strong association with 'qualification' and 'gender'. More qualified respondents and women respondents think that the verdict is not enough.

II. CONCLUSION

Analysis shows the acceptance of the third gender in society very much depends on demographic characteristics of people. All the respondents are in favour of Supreme Court verdict but for social acceptance or

reservation, the answers are different. Old people who are stable in career, are in favor of reservation. But young people don't want reservation for the third gender people. The question of reservation creates a feeling of competition in their mind. While responding the question of open up of a separate school for them, people of higher age said 'yes'. It might be due to the fact that they are not so much open-minded as the young respondents. While answering the question whether accepting transgender could affect the culture, we got different responses from the two cities. Respondents from Kolkata don't think acceptance could affect the culture, but Jaipur have thought the opposite; though the demographic features of our respondents from both the cities are almost identical. It might depend on the nature of the city. Being more cosmopolitan in nature, Kolkata seems to be more modern and with broad mentality.

Therefore, if the objective is to include transgender population into the mainstream society in a country like India, court verdict is definitely not enough. We have to identify the cluster of population who are still having discomfort in this respect and make them understood. Government should take initiatives to change those people's mentality towards transgender people. Then only, court's verdict could be successful.

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