

An Analysis Of Transgender Status With Special Focus To West Bengal, India

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ABSTRACT:

Transgender people are a marginalised section of society and are not considered equal to the rest of the population. All the states in the country have successfully adopted the inclusion principle. Students who identify as transgender are also recognised in the National Education Policy 2020. In the current Indian context, people are compelled to engage in begging, handclapping to attract attention, performing sex acts as a means of subsistence, etc. Still, today's society does not care about the suffering of transgender people and embraces their inner feelings. Due to various social stigmas, parents are also refusing to help their children. Transgender people are mistreated and treated like outcasts in public settings. In this paper, an analysis of transgender status with special focus to West Bengal has been discussed.

Keywords: Transgender, education, India, people.

INTRODUCTION:

The goal of the current study is to comprehend the understudied area of concern regarding the socioeconomic and educational views of the transgender community in West Bengal. The present research study is intended to find out: "What is the education level of the transgender community in West Bengal? What is the socio-economic status of the transgender community in West Bengal? What are the challenges to education and the socio-economic development of transgender people? The term socio-economic status in the present study is defined in terms of occupation, family type, health condition and habits, parental interaction, social participation and social adjustment, income per month, home

environment, and material possessions of transgender persons. [1-3] Combining all these elements, I have categorised the socio-economic class as upper socio-economic class, upper middle socio-economic class, lower middle socio-economic class, and lower socio-economic class. [4-7] The education in the present study connotes the level and type of formal education received by transgender people. It can range from no formal education to higher education as well as technical education. [8, 9] The transgender people in the present study are those who were born with physical sex that does not fit with their male or female bodies.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

A research methodology encompasses the systematic approach and methodologies used to ascertain and scrutinize relevant information pertaining to a certain research topic. Researchers use a systematic approach to construct their study in order to effectively accomplish their goals via the utilization of certain research tools.

Research Design:

The present study is quantitative and qualitative in nature. Statistical tools have been applied in the quantitative study. Opinions of transgender people in the form of qualitative data have been gathered. Hence, in this research, mixed methods have been applied.

During the study period, I visited study areas in West Bengal and collected samples for the research through simple random sampling. In this sampling method, each item in the population has an equal and likely possibility of being selected in the sample. Random sampling is a method of choosing a sample of observations from a population to make assumptions about the population. The random sampling method uses some sort of random choice. It is a time-consuming and expensive method.

Sampling Plan & Sample Size:

The random sampling method is a sampling method in which each item in the population has an equal chance of being selected in the sample. A simple random sampling plan has been used for this research.

Sl. No.	Districts	Initial Sample Size	Final Sample Size
1	North 24 Parganas	34	29
2	South 24 Parganas	36	32
3	Malda	81	76
4	Murshidabad	40	33
5	Jalpaiguri	35	30
Total		226	200

After final screening, the 26 samples were rejected. So, the final sample size was 200.

Data Collection Source:

Primary data is a type of information that researchers directly gather from primary sources using techniques like experiments, questionnaires and interviews.

Sources of original data are selected and adapted to meet the demands or specifications of a particular research project. Prior to selecting a data collection source, it is important to determine the research's goal and its intended audience. In this research, primary data sources were used.

Some common data collection methods include surveys, interviews, observations, focus groups, experiments, and secondary data analysis. The data collected through these methods are analyzed to draw findings & conclusions about the research work.

Research Tool :

Interview Schedule:

In this research, questions have been designed for Interview Schedule. Questions are used to collect demographic information, personal opinions, facts, or attitudes from respondents.

Data Analysis and Interpretation:

Data analysis and interpretation are essential for finding answers to research questions. Data analysis means studying and organising data to discover inherent facts. It involves

editing, coding, classifying, and tabulating the collected data. Bar diagrams and pie charts are extensively used to demonstrate the statistical data. Bar diagrams represent information using a sequence of bars, while pie charts represent information in circular form.

DATA ANALYSIS, INTERPRETATION, RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

The socio-economic status of the transgender community within the selected study areas has been analyzed and interpreted.

Table 1. Age Group of the respondents:

Age (in years)	Numbers of respondents	Percentages of respondents (%)
18-30	24	12
31-40	74	37
41-50	48	24
51-60	42	21
61-75	12	6
Total	200	100

From the above table, it is observed that the highest respondents' age group was 31–40 years and the lowest respondents' age group was 61–75 years. The other respondents' age groups were 41–50 years, 51–60 years, and 18–30 years , respectively.

Interpretation: From the above table, it is evident that the majority of respondents belong to the age groups of 31–40 years, 41–50 years, and 51–60 years.

Table 2. Religion of the respondents :

Religion	Numbers of respondents	Percentages of respondents

		(%)
Hindu	132	66
Muslim	48	24
Christian	12	6
Others	8	4
Total	200	100

From the above table, it is observed that the Hindu respondents were 66%, Muslims were 24%, Christians were 6%, and 4% belong to other communities.

Interpretation: The majority of the respondents belong to the Hindu religion.

Table 3: Education of Participants:

Table 3A. Level of education of the participants

Level of Education	Numbers of respondents	Percentages of respondents (%)
No formal education	36	18
Elementary education	70	35
Secondary education	46	23
Higher secondary education	18	9
Graduation and equivalent	16	8
Post-Graduation and above	14	7
Total	200	100

From the above table, it is observed that the respondents with no formal education were 18%, elementary education was 35%, secondary education was 23%, higher secondary education was 9%, graduation and equivalent was 8%, and post-graduation and above was 7%. A poor percentage of respondents have a graduation, equivalent, post-graduation, or above degree.

Interpretation: A major portion of transgender people are not getting the flavour of higher secondary education or higher secondary education.

Table 3B. Various kinds of barriers to the formal education of illiterate respondents

Types of Barriers	Numbers of Illiterate respondents	Percentages of Illiterate respondents (%)
Poor Economic Condition	10	36
Gender related problems	20	56
Other cause	6	8
Total	36	100

From the above table, it is observed that 36% of respondents have poor economic conditions, 56% have gender-related problems, and 6% have other causes for which they were not in a position to get the flavour of formal education.

Interpretation: The above table reflect that the major reasons behind the illiteracy of transgender people are poor economic conditions and gender-related problems. The major reason is that they are not accepted by society like other sexes.

Table 3C. Various kinds of problems faced by literate respondents in school :

Types of Problems	Numbers of literate respondents	Percentages of literate respondents (%)
Gender Discrimination	110	68
Other problems	54	32
Total	164	100

From the above table, it is observed that 68% of the literate respondents face gender-related problems and the remaining 32% face other problems like social stigma in school.

Interpretation: Transgenders are the reflection of new sex in society with a major population, which is a major problem for those who have crossed either the elementary or secondary level of education.

Table 4. Residential Status:

Residential Status	Numbers of respondents	Percentages of respondents (%)
Living with own community	174	87
Own House	6	3
Accommodate with friends	4	2
Paying Guest	10	5
Ladies Hostels	4	2
Others	2	1
Total	200	100

From the above table, it is observed that 87% of respondents are living in their own community, 3% of respondents are living in their own house, 2% of respondents accommodate themselves with friends , 5% of respondents are staying as paying guests, 2% of respondents are staying at ladies’ hostels, and 1% of respondents are staying at other places. Most of them are living in their own communities. A very poor percentage (3%) are living with their own families.

Interpretation: People who are transgender face unique challenges in society, such as gender dysphoria and discrimination, which can affect their mental health and largely affect their living conditions. This is the reason behind choosing

their own community for living rather than staying at other places like a rental house, their own house, accommodations with friends, paying guests, or a ladies hostel.

Table 4A. Family Type :

Family Type	Numbers of respondents	Percentages of respondents (%)
Nuclear Family	4	67
Joint Family	2	33
Total	6	100

From the above table, it is observed that 67% of respondents belong to the nuclear family, whereas 33% belong to the joint family.

Interpretation: It is evident that the majority of the respondents belong to the nuclear family.

Table 4B. Problem faced by respondents in family

Types of Problems	Numbers of respondents	Percentages of respondents (%)
Problem to express gender identity	160	80
Other problems	40	20
Total	200	100

From the above table, it is observed that 80% of respondents face problems expressing their gender-related identity, whereas 20% face other types of problems in their families.

Interpretation: The gender-related identity problem is a major problem for most of the respondents in the family, which is the cause of discrimination from other family members.

Table 4C. Level of Participation of Respondents in Family Decision Making:

Level of Participation	Numbers of respondents	Percentages of respondents (%)
Good	1	17
Average	3	50
Poor	2	33
Total	06	100

From the above table, it is observed that the participation level of 17% of respondents in family decision-making is good, whereas 50% of respondents' participation is average and 33%'s participation is very poor.

Interpretation: Most of the respondents' participation in family decision-making is poor due to a lack of opportunity for social stigma.

Table 4D. Level of Participation of Respondents in Family Ceremony:

Level of Participation	Numbers of respondents	Percentages of respondents (%)
Good	2	33
Average	3	50
Poor	1	17
Total	06	100

From the above table, it is observed that the participation level of 17% of respondents in family ceremonies is poor, whereas 50% of respondents' participation is average and 33%'s participation is very good.

Interpretation: Most of the respondents' participation in family ceremonies is average, as they are socially isolated.

Table 4E. Home Environment of Transgenders:

Status of Home Environment	Numbers of respondents	Percentages of respondents (%)
Poor Home Environment	3	50
Average Home Environment	2	33
Good Home Environment	1	17
Total	6	100

From the above table, it is observed that 50% of respondents have a poor home environment, 33% have an average home environment, and 17% have a good home environment.

Interpretation: Out of total respondents, 50% have a poor home environment, and very few percentages have a good home environment.

Table 5. Involvement of Transgender in Society:

Table 5A. Social Participation of Transgenders:

Social Participation Level	Numbers of respondents	Percentages of respondents (%)
Good	48	24
Average	62	31
Poor	90	45
Total	200	100

From the above table, it is observed that the social participation of 45% of respondents was very poor, whereas 31% of respondents had average participation, and the participation level of a few respondents (24%) was good.

Interpretation: Most of the respondents' participation level in society is not up to the mark

Table 5B. Participation of Respondents in Festivals, Fairs and other ceremony in Society:

Types of Social Ceremony	Numbers of Respondents	Percentages of respondents (%)
Festivals	150	75
Fairs	20	10
Other Ceremony	30	15
Total	200	100

From the above table, it is observed that 75% of respondents have participated in festivals, 10% have participated in fairs, and the remaining 15% have participated in other social ceremonies.

Interpretation: Most of the respondents' have participation in festivals compared to fairs and other ceremonies.

Table 5C. Problems of Respondents to participate in Social Gathering:

Types of Abuses	Numbers of respondents	Percentages of respondents (%)
Physical Abuse	30	33
Mental Abuse	80	50
Verbal Abuse	90	17
Total	200	100

From the above table, it is observed that 50% of respondents face mental abuse, 33% face physical abuse, and 17% face verbal abuse.

Interpretation: Due to different types of abuse, respondents face problems in social gathering. Among the different types of abuses, mental and verbal abuses are major problems for respondents.

Table 6. Types of Occupations of Respondents:

Types of Occupations	Numbers of respondents	Percentages of respondents (%)
Begger/sex worker/ Dancing in different occasion/ badhais	151	76
Small scale business, Artist, Social worker	44	22
Professionals (Doctor/ Engineer/ Professor/ Teacher/ Lawyer/ Nurses etc.)	5	2
Total	200	100

From the above table, it is observed that the begging/sex worker/dancing on different occasions/badhais respondents were 76%; small-scale business, artists, and social workers were 22%; and professionals (doctors, engineers, professors, teachers, lawyers, nurses, etc.) were 2%.

Interpretation: The majority of respondents have a very low profile as an identity in society, like Begger, a sex worker, and Dancer.

Table 7: Income Level of Respondents:

Income perMonth	Numbers of respondents	Percentages of respondents (%)
Upto Rs. 5000	124	62
Rs.5001-Rs.15,000	36	18
Rs. 15,001-Rs.25,000	24	12
Rs. 25,001 and above	16	08
Total	200	100

From the above table, it is observed that 62% of respondents' family income was within Rs. 5000/-, whereas 18% of respondents' income level was between Rs. 5001 and Rs.

15000/-, 12% of respondents' income level was between Rs. 15,001 and Rs. 25,000, and lastly, a very small percentage (8%) of respondents' income level was between Rs. 25,001 and above.

Interpretation: Most of the respondents' income level is within Rs. 5000/-.

Table 8. Land Holding Status:

Table 8A: Respondents' Land holding Status

Respondents' Status of Land	Numbers of respondents	Percentage of respondents (%)
Land Less	180	90
Land Owners	20	10
Total	200	100

From the above table, it is evident that 90% of respondents have no land, whereas 10% have land.

Interpretation: The majority of respondents have no land as they have a very low profile in society, for which they are financially weak.

Table 9: Property transferred from Parents to Respondents

Types of Properties	Numbers of respondents	Percentages of respondents (%)
Movable Property	10	5
Immovable Property	08	4
Both Movable and Immovable Property	02	1
None of the above	180	90
Total	200	100

From the above table, it is evident that 90% of respondents have no land, whereas 10% have movable and immovable property.

Interpretation: The majority of respondents have no land as they have a very low profile in society, for which they are financially weak.

Table 10: Causes of Alienation from inheritance property:

Causes	Numbers of respondents	Percentages of respondents (%)
Gender related issue	155	86
Other issue	25	14
Total	180	100

From the above table, it is observed that 86% of respondents have gender-related issues, whereas 14% have other issues, including alienation from inheritance property.

Interpretation: Gender-related issues are the main cause behind the alienation of inheritance property.

Table 11. Distribution of Respondents by Indebtedness:

Respondents' status based on Indebtedness	Nos. of Respondents	Percentages of Respondents
Indebtedness	32	16
No Indebtedness	168	84
Total	200	100

From the above table, it is observed that 16% of respondents' status as indebtedness person, whereas 84% of respondents have no issue related to indebtedness.

Interpretation: The majority of respondents have been identified as having no indebtedness.

Table 12. Sources of Loan :

Sources of Loan	Nos. of Respondents	Percentages of respondents
Central Govt. Scheme	02	6
State Govt. Scheme	10	31
Personal Source	20	63
Total	32	100

From the above table, it is observed that 6% of respondents' have opted for the Central Govt. Scheme for loans, 31% of respondents have opted for the State Govt. Scheme and 63% of respondents have opted for personal sources for loans.

Interpretation: Majority of respondents have opted Personal Source for loan.

Table 13. Purposes of Loan

Types of Purposes	Numbers of Respondents	Percentages of Respondents
Self-Business	15	47
Medical Issue	08	25
House Construction	05	16
Other Reasons	04	12
	32	100

From the above table, it is observed that 47% of respondents' have opted loan for Self-Business, 25% for Medical Issue, 16% for House Construction and 12% for other reasons.

Interpretation: Majority of respondents have opted loan for Self-Business.

Table 14. Freedom to Spend Money:

Freedom to Spend Money	Numbers of respondents	Percentages of respondents (%)
You	146	75
You and your partner	44	22
Family members	6	3
Total	196	100

From the above table, it is observed that 75% of respondents have the liberty to spend money, whereas 22% of respondents jointly take decisions with their partner to spend money, and the remaining 3% of respondents say that their family members take decisions.

Interpretation: The majority of respondents take decisions and have the freedom to spend money. Those who take decisions either independently or jointly with their partner belong to the nuclear family.

Table 15. Socio Economic class of Transgender:

Social Economic class	Numbers of respondents	Percentages of respondents (%)
Upper	16	8
Middle	60	30
Lower	124	62
Total	200	100

From the above table, it is observed that the upper-class socio-economic respondents were 8%, whereas middle-class respondents were 30%, and lower-class respondents were 62%.

Interpretation: Most of the respondents belong to the lower class.

Table 16. Diseases of Poor Health Respondents:

Name of Diseases	Numbers of respondents	Percentages of respondents (%)
Condyloma acuminata	3	60
Condidal balanopos thitis	2	40
Perianal Intertrigo	0	0
Total	5	100

From the above table, it is observed that 60% of respondents have Condyloma acuminata and 40% have Condidal Balanopos thitis.

Interpretation: Most of the respondents have Condyloma acuminata disease.

Table 17. Health Awareness

Health Awareness	Numbers of respondents	Percentages of respondents
Yes	96	48
No	104	52
Total	200	100

From the above table, it is observed that 48% of respondents have health awareness, whereas 52% have no health awareness.

Table 18. Grand-in-Aid received by respondents from government and non-government organizations

Sources of Grant	Numbers of Respondents	Percentages of Respondents
Only Central Govt.	41	21
Only State Govt.	49	24
Only N.G.O.	62	31
Both Central and State Govt.	13	6
Both Central & State Govt. and N.G.O.	35	18
	200	100

The above table demonstrates that 21% of respondents received central government aid, 24% received state government aid, and 31% received NGO aid.

Interpretation: More or less all respondents have received aid from government and non-government organizations.

Table: 19 Consciousness of Respondents about their legal rights:

Type of Respondents	Numbers of Respondents	Percentages of Respondents
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Conscious Respondent	51	25
Unconscious Respondent	149	75
	200	100

From the above table, it is observed that 25% of respondents are conscious of their legal rights, whereas the remaining 75% are not.

Interpretation: The majority of respondents are not conscious of their legal rights.

Table 20. Membership of Transgender Association achieved by Respondent

Membership of Transgender Association	Numbers of Respondents	Percentages of Respondents
International Association	3	1
National Association	13	7
State Association	62	31
Local Association	81	40
None of the above	41	21
	200	100

From the above table, it is observed that 1% of respondents are members of International Association , 7% are members of National Association , 31% are members of state association and 40% are members of local association .

Interpretation: Except for 21% of respondents, all respondents are members of the Transgender Association. 40% of respondents are members of a local association.

CONCLUSION:

The present study can help transgender people become aware of the needs and importance of education. Education can help them live a better life. The study can help the common people, the transgender persons, get aware of different policies and provisions for transgender people related to their education, empowerment, etc. that have been provided by the Government of India as well as the Government of West

Bengal. This study can help transgender people present their problems related to education, social, and economic issues in a more systematic manner, and it can be used during mass petitions for their demands related to education and employment. The study can facilitate understanding that a good education can help a transgender person get a good job and earn a good salary, but it may not give them a good social status. Thus, society here plays an important role. This study can facilitate school administrators, authorities of different educational institutes, teachers, and teacher educators to find out different barriers to getting transgender education and also help to make different plans to remove different barriers. Along with this, the study helped to identify effective strategies for providing quality education without discrimination. The study can help to make the institute gender-neutral and have proper common rooms for students. The study can teach the educational institute how to maintain confidentiality related to gender identity and gender expression among all the students. Teachers and other staff members can keep in mind the proper pronunciation of the name for the person who has chosen gender identity. The present study showed the path to teacher education institutes that provide proper education on gender inclusion, especially transgender issues, during the in-service course so that students will be acquainted with their future profession. This study can be helpful to different stakeholders in implementations of different schemes for the education and socio-economic development of transgender. The study was also helping the educational functionaries to design and develop different schemes for the upliftment of transgender community. This study can be helpful for different non-government organisations working, especially for the education and socio-economic development of marginalised groups. The study can provide guidance on how to plan and design different educational experiences for the upliftment of the transgender community. The study showed that if the government provided scholarships, free text books, free hostel accommodations, and other basic facilities at a very low rate for students belonging to the transgender group, it would be necessary to stop drop-outs and make higher education and professional education accessible to the community.

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