



PROBLEMS OF TRANSGENDERS IN BANGALORE CITY – A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY

¹Dr. Marri Prema Jyothi and ²Kesarapu Govik

¹Forest Section Officer Huzoor Nagar Range, Suryapet District, Telangana, India

²Department of Sociology, University College of Arts & Social Sciences Osmania University, Hyderabad

INTRODUCTION:

Transgenders are one of the socially, economically and politically backward groups of the society. They have been officially recognized by the government of India as Third Gender very recently in the year 2014. However, the community as such is as old as our history and has been the part of our society since time immemorial. We come across certain famous transgender characters in our epics, puranas and other mythological and folk literature.

The city of Bangalore similar to that of many metropolitan cities in India has considerable number of transgender people. The city being the fastest growing city in the Asian continent has seen unprecedented growth of population over the last 25 years. A remarkable growth in the population of transgender community too has been found in the city in line with other major metropolitan cities in the nation like Delhi, Mumbai, etc.

OBJECTIVES:

The main objectives of the study are:

- To understand the rapid growth of Bangalore city population
- To elucidate the growth of transgenders in Bangalore city
- To appraise the problems of transgenders

METHODOLOGY:

The methodology employed for the present study includes data collection through many books, articles, journals, census reports, newspapers and internet sources and analysis of the same.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY:

Urbanization has been an inevitable process which influenced the growth of population in the cities. The census data on the urban growth in Karnataka in general and Bangalore city in particular reveals that the proportion of urban population in Karnataka has increased from 12.59 per cent in 1901 to an all-time high of 33.98 per cent in 2001.

The decennial growth rate during 1941-51 has been the highest ever viz., 61.19 per cent. This is due to the increase in the number of towns from 213 in 1941 to 289 in 1951 and urban population as a consequence. Similarly the urban population recorded a growth rate of 50.65 per cent during 1971-81 due to a higher number of places classified as towns and also due to higher growth rates recorded by some of the towns.

Bangalore City, Corporation with seven wards was formed in 1949 by merging two independent municipalities viz., Bangalore City, and Bangalore Cantonment. Since then, the number of wards has been on the increase due to incorporation of surrounding areas on a continuous basis and also due to the ever-increasing population of the city. In the 1971 Census Bangalore City was divided into 63 wards which remained the same



Cover Page



in the 1981 Census. In the 1991 Census, Bangalore City had 87 wards and in the 2001 Census the number of wards has gone up to 100.

The concept of urban agglomeration was introduced only in 1971. From then on the population of Bangalore Urban Agglomeration having increased considerably from 1,653,779 in 1971 to 5,686,844 in 2001 an increase of 243.87 per cent over that in 1971, sex ratio being 906 females per 1000 males in 2001.

- The Bangalore City Corporation within its municipal jurisdiction has a population of 4,292,223 accounting for 75.48 per cent of the total population of Bangalore Urban Agglomeration of which 2,240,956 are males and 2,051,267 are females.
- The decadal growth rate of population for the decade 1991-2001 for Bangalore City is as high as 61.36 per cent. This high growth rate can be attributed not only to the extension of the municipal limits of Bangalore City but also to the ever-increasing population.
- The child population in the age-group 0-6 in Bangalore City is 456,325 which constitute 10.63 per cent of the total population of the city as against 13.15 per cent in the 1991 Census.
- The sex ratio of the population of the Bangalore City has registered a slight increase from 913 in the 1991 Census to 915 females for every 1000 males in the 2001 Census. However, the sex ratio for the child population of Bangalore City has decreased from 961 in 1991 to 937 in 2001 Census.
- In consonance with the overall trend noticed in the State, the literacy rate of Bangalore City's population has increased by 4.20 percentage points in comparison to the 1991 Census. In other words 3,293,853 persons or 85.87 per cent of the population aged 7+ have returned themselves as literates as against 1,886,654 persons or 81.67 percent in the 1991 Census.
- The population in the age-group 0-6 in Bangalore Urban Agglomeration is 624,799 with 10.99 per cent of its total population. There are 938 female children for every 1000 male children in Bangalore Urban Agglomeration.
- The number of literates in Bangalore Urban Agglomeration has increased by more than fourfold from 974,067 in 1971 to 4,340,364 an increase of 445.59 per cent over that in 1971. It is interesting to note that the sex ratio among the literates has increased from 679 in 1971 to 821 in 2001. This shows the decadal trend in the increase of female literates.

The phenomenon of rapid urbanization in conjunction with industrialization has resulted in the growth of slums. The sprouting of slums occurs due to many factors, such as, the shortage of developed land for housing, the high prices of land beyond the reach of urban poor, a large influx of rural migrants to the cities in search of jobs etc. In spite of some efforts by the State Governments/UTs to contain the number of slum dwellers, the growth of slums has been increasing rapidly putting tremendous pressure on the existing urban basic services and infrastructure. The existence of slums in urban areas is one of the major problems faced by almost all the metropolitan cities throughout the world and Indian cities are no exception.

One of the causes for growth of urban population has been the rural-urban migration. Lack of employment opportunities, crop failures, famines, floods and other natural calamities associated with farming and allied occupations in rural areas have forced rural population to move over to towns and cities. Consequently, the breakdown of joint families, exposure into the society, education, lack of employment opportunities in the rural areas, migration to urban towns and cities and such other changes provided opportunities for the transgenders to come out of their hitherto shells and express themselves boldly in public. However, this did not bring any improvement in their lives but, made their lives more miserable. They were rejected from their families for the



Cover Page



fear of social disrespect to the family, peer group and surrounding social environment and were left all alone on the roads.

Transgender people are individuals of any age or sex whose appearance, personal characteristics, or behaviours differ from stereotypes about how men and women are “supposed” to be. Transgender people have existed in every culture, race, and class since the story of human life has been recorded. Only the term “transgender” and the medical technology available to transsexual people are new. In its broadest sense, transgender encompasses anyone whose identity or behaviour falls outside of stereotypical gender norms. Transgender community faces many problems in their day-to-day life.

Some of such problems include;

- Understanding themselves from mis-gendered conception
- Suffer by casual beliefs and misconceptions
- Face the problem of Role conflict
- Identity crisis in public domain
- Mistrust by the people around
- Self-loathing and desperation that comes along with it
- Extremely trans-phobic representation in media
- Transgenders are deprived of the fundamental rights available to the other two sexes i.e. male and female, and are not considered as the third sex.
- They are deprived of many of the rights and privileges which other persons enjoy as citizens of India.
- The transgenders are deprived of social and cultural participation, are shunned by family and society, have only restricted access to education, health services and public spaces,
- They are restricted from rights available to citizens such as right to marry, right to contest elections, right to vote, employment and livelihood opportunities and various human rights such as voting, obtaining Passport, driving license, ration card, Identity Card etc.
- The transgender community is treated as a legal non-entity in violation of Article 14, 15, 16 and 21 of the Constitution of India.
- Transgenders have no access to bathrooms/toilets and public spaces. The lack of access to bathrooms and public spaces is illustrative of discrimination faced by transgenders in availing basic facilities and amenities.

CONCLUSIONS:

- Factors like Urbanization, Industrialization, Migration, Modernization etc, have been the root cause for the exposure of transgender people into the open society because of which they have been exposed to the hardships faced by them in leading their lives today.
- According to the Constitution of India, the transgender community is entitled to have basic rights including Right to Personal Liberty, Dignity, Freedom of expression, Right to Education and Empowerment, Right against violence, Discrimination and exploitation and Right to work.



Cover Page



- Transgenders, though human beings are not recognized as persons in violation of human rights as they are deprived of their fundamental rights as well as also other civil rights.
- Every person must have the right to decide his/her gender expression and identity, including transsexuals, transgenders, hijras and should have right to freely express their gender identity and be considered as a third sex.

REFERENCES:

1. "Fenway Health Glossary of Gender and Transgender Terms" (PDF). January 2010. Retrieved 2013-12-27.
2. "Layton, Lynne. In Defense of Gender Ambiguity: Jessica Benjamin. Gender & Psychoanalysis. I, 1996. Pp. 27–43".
3. "News From California: 'Transgender'". Appeal-Democrat/Associate Press. May 11, 1982. pp. A–10.
4. A Swenson, Medical Care of the Transgender Patient, in Family Medicine (2014): "While some transsexual people still prefer to use the term to describe themselves; many transgender people prefer the term transgender to transsexual."
5. A., R. (August 1965). "Book Reviews and Notices: Sexual Hygiene and Pathology". American Journal of the Medical Sciences 250 (2): 235.
6. Dan Savage, Savage Love: Gayed, Blacked, Transgendered (Creative Loafing, 11 January 2014)
7. Doctor, Richard F., Prince, Virginia (1997). Transvestism: A survey of 1032 cross-dressers. Archives of Sexual Behavior 26(6), 589-605.
8. E. D. Hirsch, Jr., E.D., Kett, J.F., Trefil, J. (2002) "Transvestite: Someone who dresses in the clothes usually worn by the opposite sex." in Definition of the word "transvestite" from The New Dictionary of Cultural Literacy, Third Edition.
9. Elkins, Richard; King, Dave (2006). The Transgender Phenomenon. Sage. pp. 13–14. ISBN 9780761971634.