

AN ANALYTICAL STUDY OF TRANSFORMATION IN COMMUNITY'S PERCEPTIONS TOWARDS THE SURVIVAL OF TRANSGENDER IN FARIDABAD

Sneha Saxena, M. Com Student
DAV Centenary College, Faridabad

Dr. Imrana Khan
Assistant Professor, Dean PG Commerce
DAV Centenary College, Faridabad



Abstract

Transgender individuals in India have historically faced discrimination, exclusion, and lack of legal protections. While progress has been made through legal reforms and awareness campaigns, societal acceptance remains a challenge. This study examines the evolving perceptions in Faridabad, highlighting struggles, progress, and the ongoing fight for inclusion and rights. This study is based on primary data, where a questionnaire was framed and responses were collected from 40 respondents. This study examines the transformation in community perceptions regarding the survival of transgender people in Faridabad, utilizing both primary and secondary data. By analyzing past research and surveying 50 participants, from whom only 40 responses were received through random sampling, we ensured unbiased insights. Descriptive statistics helped simplify data interpretation, offering a more precise understanding and valuable contributions to existing knowledge. Ensuring equal rights for transgender individuals requires inclusive policies in education, healthcare, and workplaces. Awareness programs should combat stigma, and governments must enforce anti-discrimination laws. Public support, gender-neutral spaces, and equal job opportunities can foster acceptance. A collective effort by society, government, and individuals can create a more inclusive and compassionate world for transgender people.

Keywords: Transformation, Transgender, Community, Perceptions

Introduction

Discrimination based on gender is an unjust practice. In India, there was a time when people of different genders, including men, women, and transgender individuals, were treated unequally. Over time, the government of India extended equal rights to women, like the right to education and freedom. However, the question arises regarding the status of transgender individuals in society. While rights have been granted to men and women, transgender people often face discrimination and harassment. In the past, they survived in society without the recognition or protection of their rights, making their existence difficult. However, over time, perceptions have started to change.

While society has been slow to accept the transgender category as a third gender, there is gradual progress, and acceptance is slowly emerging. (Alegría, 2018). Gender discrimination, the unfair treatment of individuals based on their gender identity, has long been a pervasive issue in many societies,

including India. Historically, people of different gender identities- specifically men, women, and transgender individuals- were not treated equally. Transgender individuals have been subjected to minimization, often needing fundamental rights and opportunities available to others.

Over the years, significant steps have been taken to address gender inequality. For instance, the Indian government took exceptional steps to grant women equal rights, including access to education, freedom of speech, and protection under the law. (Huffaker & Kwon, 2016). Despite these advancements for women, the transgender community still faces numerous challenges in being recognized as equal members of society.

Transgender individuals continue to struggle with societal prohibition, discrimination, and harassment. (Day & Nicholls, 2021) For a long time, they had no legal protections and were forced to navigate life without the freedom afforded to other genders. As a result, their

everyday existence has often been marked by struggle and injustice.

However, there has been a slow yet growing shift in societal attitudes towards transgender people. The government, through legal reforms and increased awareness campaigns, has started to recognize them as part of the third-gender category, extending certain rights and protections. However, societal acceptance remains a challenge.

Many communities still hold deeply rooted biases, which makes the full integration of transgender individuals into mainstream society a problematic process. Still, progress is being made, and with time, the perception of transgender people is slowly becoming more positive, improving for greater acceptance and inclusion.

While society has been slow to accept transgender individuals as part of the third-gender category, there is a balanced movement toward greater recognition and respect for their rights. This change, while not immediate, shows promise for a more inclusive future

Table 1

S. No.	Title	Author's Name (Year)	Objectives	Findings
1.	Supporting families of transgender children/youth: Parents speak on their experiences, identity, and views.	Aramburu et.al (2018)	Aim: Existing research on transgender children and youth has overlooked the experiences of parents and caregivers, as well as the impact on their close family relationships.	Participants' accounts of their experiences revealed three key themes: 1) The family's primary focus on transgender issues; 2) Proactive, child-focused actions taken to prevent negative outcomes; and 3) The importance of self-care.
2.	"They Don't Think Like Us": Exploring Attitudes of Non-Transgender Students Toward Transgender People Using Discourse Analysis.	Robson et.al (2019)	The aim is to explore some issues raised here, that is, how laypeople construct a transgender discourse.	Findings suggest that both context and content should be considered when examining prejudice. This is important for addressing prejudice and could guide the development of anti-prejudice interventions and future measures of transphobia.
3.	A comprehensive approach to sexual and transgender prejudice.	Huffaker et.al (2016)	This article intends to present an intellectual blueprint that will direct the upcoming exploration of sexual and transgender stereotypes.	Their research indicates that individuals rely on sexual identity indicators to assess sexual orientation, and these clues enhance the clarity of determining self-

where all genders can coexist without prejudice or discrimination.

The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, aims to safeguard the rights and well-being of transgender individuals. They require the creation of programs and schemes that are sensitive to the needs of transgender individuals and help avoid discrimination. These provisions ensure that transgender people are treated with respect and dignity in society. The rules also include measures for non-discrimination in education and employment, as well as access to healthcare services and other welfare benefits. According to the 2011 Census, the 'other' category includes 4,87,803 people, which not only covers transgender individuals but also anyone who wants to identify their sex as 'other'.

Review of Literature

Research is based on reviewing past literature, articles, journals, and internet sources. After reviewing 20-25 articles, we identified that these articles are helpful in the research. The study period was from 2013 to 2019.

				identified gay men and lesbian women.
4.	Meanings and experiences of being transgender “A qualitative study among Transgender Youth”	Afrasiabi et.al (2019)	This exploratory research sought to explore the experiences and importance of transgender miners in their everyday communication.	The findings are grouped into four primary themes: experiences of guilt, the effort to align with God's will to earn his approval, a pragmatic commitment regarding religion, and exclusion by the spiritual environment.
5.	Exploring the needs, expectations, and realities of mental healthcare for transgender adults: A grounded theory study on experiences in Sweden	Larsson et.al (2018)	The purpose of this study was to collect perspectives among transgender people in Sweden regarding their psychological care, including their desires, beliefs, and experiences, no matter where they are in the transition process.	Greater awareness and transgender representation of individuals are essential to meet properly their emotional well-being needs.
6.	The problem of transgender marginalization and exclusion: Critical actions for human resource development	Mathis et.al (2015)	The goal of this article is to emphasize the importance of transgender experiences as central and significant concerns for personal development, outlining essential steps HRD professionals, and workers can implement to create an encompassing workplace for transgender individuals.	Incorporating discussions about trans* issues into HRD requires making them a mainstream topic.
7.	School experiences of transgender and gender diverse students in Australia	Smith et.al (2015)	They should plan and provide support about the understanding of where there could be transgender and gender-diverse learners who are not openly out.	From the list of alternatives presented, 50% of the transgender and gender-diverse students, it was found that their sexual attraction was either attracted to all genders or non-heterosexual, 17% self-identified as gay, lesbian, or homosexual, 10% described themselves as bisexual, 5% described as attracted to opposite gender, 5% unsure of their sexual orientation, 5% as varied, & 3% identified as asexual.
8.	Barriers to care among transgender and gender nonconforming adults	Gonzales et.al (2015)	The overall goal is to ensure equitable healthcare access and meet the unique needs of transsexual, adults who	The following investigation linked walls to watch through sexual identity. Our team set up that transfeminine, Gender fluid grown-ups had a higher

			are gender nonconforming.	chance of being unprotected, to maintain the ordinary healthcare provider, in addition to withholding requested forcefully health care services because it was too expensive, in comparison to non-transgender female, counterpart group carried out in this research.
9.	Transgender people, gender panics, and the maintenance of the sex/gender/sexuality system	Schilt et.al (2013)	The aim is to gain insight into the shifting basis for determining gender identity across various social spaces, particularly concerning transgender and gender non-conforming (GNC) individuals.	To prevent indictments of skewed judgment compensation, correspondents generally make an effort to furnish not fewer than two viewpoints to an explanation that customarily symbolizes commanding comprehension of the area of interest.
10.	Problems faced by Hijras (Male to female transgenders) in Mumbai concerning their health and harassment by the police	Anitha Chettiar (2015)	The objectives of this paper are to showcase compactly the socio-profitable status of Kinnar as well as to make sense of complications/hurdles experienced by them through acknowledgment of their physical complications, this excessive request hijras deal with because of the police.	The findings underscore the severe discrimination and mistreatment faced by hijras while also calling for coordinated, collaborative action to protect their human rights and promote their inclusion in society.

Objective

The fundamental goal of this research is to explore and analyze the community's perceptions of the survival and inclusion of transgender individuals in society. It aims to identify societal attitudes, challenges faced by transgender individuals, and the factors that influence public acceptance and support. Additionally, the study explores and provides insights into how these perceptions impact the social, economic, and psychological well-being of transgender individuals, ultimately contributing to strategies for promoting unity and equity.

By examining the community's views on issues such as access to healthcare, employment opportunities, and legal protections, the research

seeks to identify the barriers transgender individuals face in achieving full societal inclusion.

Furthermore, it will assess the role of education, media representation, and policy changes in shaping attitudes and fostering an environment of greater empathy and understanding. This study aims not only to shed light on the current state of transgender inclusion but also to propose actionable recommendations for improving the support system and creating a more inclusive society for all gender identities.

Scope Of Study

This study was conducted in the Faridabad area, focusing on understanding the community's perceptions regarding the survival of transgender individuals. The study is based on

primary data, where I have framed a questionnaire and collected responses. I have received a total of 40 responses, which provides a valuable snapshot of public opinion in this specific region. The sample size, though relatively small offers insights into how local communities view issues surrounding transgender rights, recognition, and inclusion. Through this research, I aim to contribute to a better understanding of the social dynamics at play and highlight areas where further awareness and support might be needed. Additionally, the responses gathered will serve as a basis for concluding the overall attitudes toward transgender individuals within Faridabad, providing context to broader national or global trends.

Methodology

Our research methodology involved the utilization of both secondary and primary data to ensure a comprehensive analysis and strong findings. We began by reviewing existing research papers and analyzing their data. It allowed us to build a strong foundation for our study by understanding previous findings and including them in our framework. The secondary data provided valuable insights and served as a reference point to arrange our research objectives with existing knowledge.

For primary data collection, we designed and distributed a questionnaire. A total of 40 valid responses were received, forming the main dataset for our analysis. To ensure unbiased results, we employed a random sampling technique, allowing each participant an equal chance of being selected. The collected data was anatomized using descriptive statistical styles. This approach enabled us to effectively summarize and organize the data, simplifying the interpretation process. Descriptive statistics provide an overview of key trends, patterns, and characteristics of the dataset, which is critical for drawing meaningful conclusions.

Data Analysis & Interpretations:

In the data analysis, 74.4% of respondents are female, and 25.6% are male. Among these, 87.2% fall within the age group of 20-30 years, while the remaining participants are distributed across the age groups of 30-40, 40-50, and 50 and above. Additionally, 82.1% of respondents attained higher education qualifications,

highlighting a highly educated sample population.

When asked about familiarity with transgender individuals, 79.5% of participants reported being familiar with transgender individuals, while 20.5% were not. This suggests that a large majority of respondents have had some exposure or understanding of transgender people, which may influence their views and perceptions. In terms of interaction, 56.4% of respondents have interacted with transgender individuals, whereas 43.6% have not had such interactions, indicating a significant proportion of individuals have direct experience engaging with transgender people.

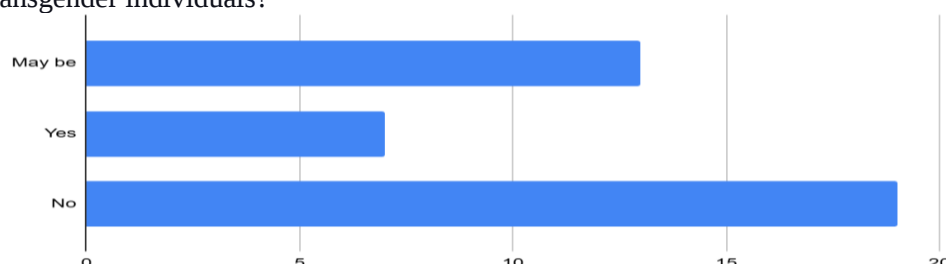
Regarding perceptions of media portrayals of transgender individuals, 18.9% of the respondents feel that the media portrays transgender people fairly and accurately. In contrast, 32.4% believe that the media portrays transgender individuals not fairly and accurately, and 48.6% are unsure, revealing a mixed view of how transgender individuals are represented in the media. This uncertainty may suggest that many respondents might be lacking sufficient exposure to diverse media portrayals or might be unaware of the nuances in such portrayals.

Finally, 79.5% of respondents indicated that their attitudes toward transgender individuals have become more positive over time, while 20.5% stated that their attitudes have remained the same. This shift toward more positive attitudes may reflect broader societal trends toward acceptance and awareness of transgender issues. It's also noteworthy that the percentage of individuals whose attitudes have remained the same is relatively small, which may suggest that attitudes are evolving in response to growing visibility and dialogue about transgender rights and inclusion.

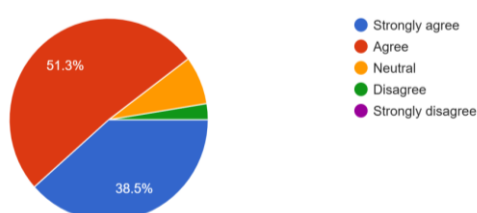
In terms of general support for transgender rights, a notable proportion of respondents expressed strong support for policies aimed at protecting transgender individuals' rights, including access to healthcare, employment, and legal protections. This further underscores the changing attitudes within society, which could have significant implications for future policy and advocacy work.

Results/Findings

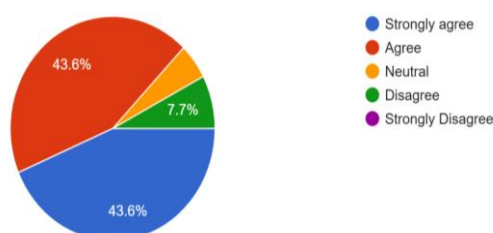
- Do you believe society provides enough resources to support transgender individuals?



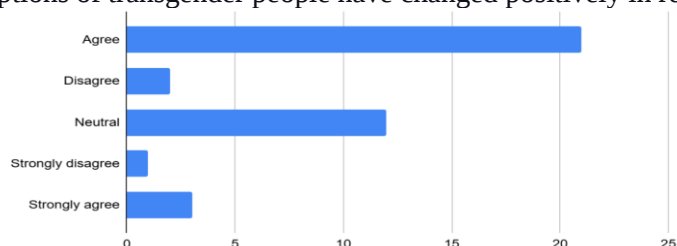
- In your opinion, do transgender people face significant challenges in society?



- Do you believe transgender individuals should have the same rights & opportunities as others in society?



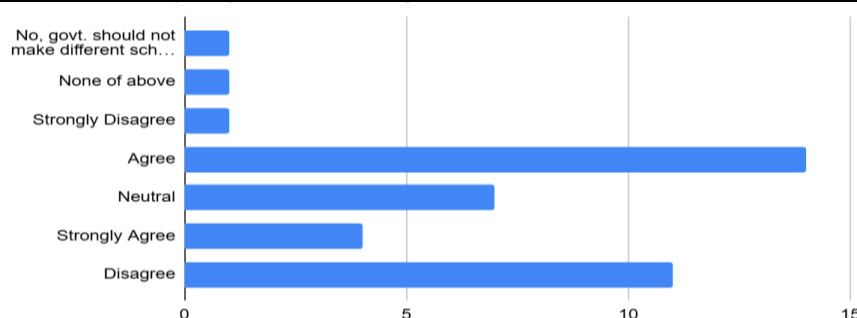
- Community perceptions of transgender people have changed positively in recent years.



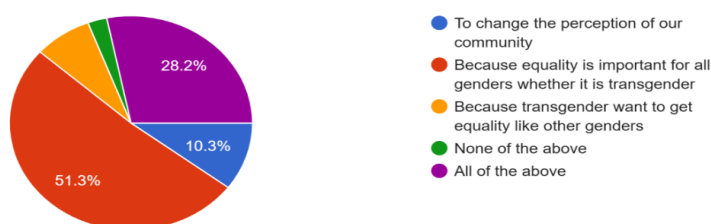
- People can better support equality and the smooth survival of transgender in the community.



- The government has provided facilities & resources equally to the transgender.



- Why is transgender equality important?



Suggestions

Transgender individuals, like all genders, deserve equal rights, respect, and opportunities in society. To foster a more inclusive world, schools and workplaces should implement educational programs and training about gender identity and diversity, helping to reduce, is essential for their integration into society. The government plays a significant role by supporting transgender rights through policies that ensure equal treatment and respect from all members of society. This support should include gender-neutral bathrooms, legal protections, and equal opportunities in all aspects of life. Public awareness initiatives can help people understand the challenges faced by transgender individuals, encouraging empathy and acceptance. Lastly, society must support transgender people by treating them with dignity, offering resources for their well-being, and fostering an environment of equality and inclusion. Ultimately, when society, government, and individuals work together to respect and accept transgender people, we can build a more compassionate and unified world.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the fight against gender discrimination in India has made significant progress, especially in recognizing the rights of women. However, the situation for transgender individuals remains complex. Despite legal advancements and the recognition of a

Transgender person and the provision for certain rights, transgender people continue to face widespread societal discrimination and marginalization. The lack of full societal acceptance and the persistence of deeply ingrained biases present significant challenges in their journey for equality.

While the legal acknowledgment of transgender individuals like intersex and that provisions made from certain protections are positive developments, true societal inclusion goes beyond the law. It requires a shift in public attitudes and the dismantling of stereotypes and prejudices that continue to hinder their full participation in society. This transformation will take time, but the progress seen so far, both legally and in terms of social awareness, is a hopeful sign.

Ultimately, the path forward requires a collective effort from the government, society, and individuals to create a more inclusive environment for people of all genders. With ongoing advocacy, education, and a commitment to equality, the vision of an association in which every individualist, without considering sexual identity, behaves towards having nobility, and admiration can become a reality. The journey is far from over, but the momentum towards a more just and inclusive India is steadily building.

References

1. Afrasiabi, H., & Junbakhsh, M. (2019). Meanings and experiences of being transgender: a qualitative study among transgender youth. *The Qualitative Report*, 24(8), 1866-1876.
2. Aramburu Alegría, C. (2018). Supporting families of ambisexual children/youth: Parents speak on their experiences, identity, and views. *International Journal of Transgenderism*, 19(2), 132-143.
3. Carroll-Beight, D., & Larsson, M. (2018). Exploring the needs, expectations, and realities of mental healthcare for transgender adults: a grounded theory study on experiences in Sweden. *Transgender health*, 3(1), 88-104.
4. Chettiar, A. (2015). Problems faced by Hijras (male to female transgenders) in Mumbai concerning their health and harassment by the police. *International Journal of Social Science and Humanity*, 5(9), 752.
5. Collins, J. C., McFadden, C., Rocco, T. S., & Mathis, M. K. (2015). The problem of transgender marginalization and exclusion: Critical actions for human resource development. *Human Resource Development Review*, 14(2), 205-226.
6. Gonzales, G., & Henning-Smith, C. (2017). Barriers to care among transgender and gender nonconforming adults. *The Milbank Quarterly*, 95(4), 726-748.
7. Huffaker, L., & Kwon, P. (2016). A comprehensive approach to sexual and transgender prejudice. *Journal of Gay & Lesbian Social Services*, 28(3), 195-213.
8. Jones, T., Smith, E., Ward, R., Dixon, J., Hillier, L., & Mitchell, A. (2016). School experiences of transgender and gender-diverse students in Australia. *Sex education*, 16(2), 156-171.
9. Robson Day, C., & Nicholls, K. (2021). "They Do Not suppose Like Us" Exploring of Non- Transgender Students Toward Transgender People Using Converse Analysis. *Journal of Homosexuality*, 68(6), 914-933.
10. Westbrook, L., & Schilt, K. (2014). Doing gender, determining gender: Transgender people, gender panics, and the maintenance of the sex/gender/sexuality system. *Gender & Society*, 28(1), 32-57.