

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CHALLENGES FACED BY THIRD GENDER

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INTRODUCTION

Transgender are people who have a gender identity or gender expression that differs from their assigned sex. Transgender people are sometimes called 'transsexual' if they desire medical assistance to transition from one sex to another. The definition of transgender includes, "People who were assigned a sex, usually at birth based on their genitals, but who feel that this is a false or incomplete description of them.

Transgender is also an umbrella term in addition to including people whose gender identity is the opposite of their assigned sex (trans men and trans women) it may include people who are not exclusively masculine or feminine. The term transgender is defined very broadly to include cross-dressers regardless of their gender identity. The transgender socially disadvantaged, economically deprived and politically disenfranchised.

EVOLUTION OF TRANSGENDER

Psychiatrist John. F. Oliven Columbia University coined the term transgender in his 1965 reference work "Sexual Hygiene and Pathology". By 1984, the concept of a 'Transgender Community' has developed in which transgender was used as an umbrella term. In 1985, Richard Elkins established the "Transgender Archive" at the University of Ulster. By 1992, the International Conference on Transgender law and employment policy defined transgender as an expensive umbrella

term including transsexuals, transgenderists and cross dressers.

HOW TO DETERMINE IF A CHILD IS TRANSGENDER

Transgender is not a child who acts like the other gender, it's a child that feels very uncomfortable with their assigned sex and feels like they are another gender.

The following steps help us to determine whether the child is a transgender or not.

- Observing their behaviour
- Noticing whether they make any remarks about their gender.
- Watching for signs of dissatisfaction with their private parts.
- Watching their clothing and grooming choices.
- Watching how they play
- Noticing their playmates
- Considering their mood
- Recognizing that a transgender child may not exhibit all these signs.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES OF TRANSGENDER

Transgender people may meet the criteria for the diagnosis of gender identity disorder (GID). This distress is known as gender dysphasia and may

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manifest as depression or inability to work and form healthy relationship with others.

Social Issues of Transgender

The familial rejection may lead to engage in behaviours that put their health at risk, trigger depression and other mental health problems and in the worst of cases it results in homelessness or suicide. Transgender people face extraordinary levels of physical and sexual violence whether on the streets, at school or work.

They also face

- ❖ Discrimination,
- ❖ Lack of educational facilities
- ❖ Unemployment,
- ❖ Lack of shelter,
- ❖ Lack of medical facilities like HIV care and hygiene,
- ❖ Depression,
- ❖ Hormone pill abuse,
- ❖ Tobacco and alcohol abuse
- ❖ Problems related to marriage,
- ❖ Property,
- ❖ Electoral rights,
- ❖ Adoption

Economic Issues of Transgender

Transgender financial difficulties are linked to isolation that results from discrimination in the work place. Transgender people face extreme discrimination in virtually all areas of life when looking for housing, trying to find decent and affordable health care and health insurance, opening lines of credit and obtaining accurate identity documents. Due to lack of adequate education and lack of employment opportunities, they are forced into sex work and begging. While some transgender manage to sustain their job in spite of stigma and discrimination in workplace, most of them resign their jobs without tolerating stigma and discrimination.

Most of the transgender learners are drop-outs due to the discrimination in schools. Inadequate education, unemployment, and lack of family support put the transgender people at the risk of being infected by HIV.

Family acceptance predicts greater self-esteem, self-support and general health status. It also protects against depression, substance abuse and suicidal ideation and behaviours. One has to be the child's advocate and get educated about the concerns facing transgender youth and adults. Assure them that others have unconditional love and support over them.

CHALLENGES FACED BY TRANSGENDER

While the visibility of transgender people is increasing in popular culture and daily life, we still face severe discrimination, stigma and systemic inequality. Some of the specific issues facing the transgender community are:

- Lack of legal protection
- Poverty
- Harassment and stigma
- Anti-transgender violence
- Barriers to healthcare

Government also announced to create a special database of transgender that would help to deal with their problems and demands. Free and compulsory education up to the age of 14 is the main responsibility of the state.

Sensitization towards transgender should be included in student counselling at schools. A chapter on Transgender can be included in the adolescent curriculum in the school to sensitize the larger society on transgender.

The government of TamilNadu established a transgender welfare board in April 2008. Social welfare minister will serve as the president of the board. This effort is thought to be the first in India and even in the world. The government has also started issuing separate ration cards for transgender

people. As an effort to improve the education of transgender people the Tamil Nadu Government also issued an order on May 2008 to create a third gender for admissions to government colleges.

CONCLUSION

Transgender are also human beings. All human beings have the right to live with dignity. Hence, they also have the right to lead a happy life in this society. Citizens and civil society have the main and the most responsibility.

Hence as a future teacher, we should teach about the transgender to our future citizens so that they help them to lead a happy and peaceful life in this society.

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