

# Livelihood Strategies of Male to Female Transsexuals in Karnataka State, India

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## Abstract

The transgender people present themselves to the world in a wide variety of ways. Transgender is an umbrella term used to describe gender variant people who have gender identity expressions or behaviors not traditionally associated with their birth sex. Transsexuals are those who got surgery of their genital organs. The male to female transsexuals are subjected to a series of social constraints and hazards which have made their lives miserable in Karnataka the respondents are also economically marginalized sections of Indian society since they are deprived of basic needs, infrastructure, education, properties, self-employment opportunities, public employment opportunities and other economic resources.

**Keywords:** Transgender; Male to Female Transsexuals; Livelihood; Entertainment.

## Introduction

The transsexuals are not actively involved in the mainstream of national economy. They are the most neglected sections of Indian society. They suffer a series of economic constrains due to lack of education, training, professional orientation, entrepreneurship development, leadership development, financial assistance and allied economic advantages. The transsexuals live below the poverty line economically and otherwise. They are deprived of several economic benefits like identity documents, infrastructural facilities, civic amenities, professional training, and developmental opportunities and so on. They are indeed economically most disadvantaged section of the Indian society. The notable studies concerning

the economic issues of transsexuals are presented under this component.

The public hearing held by the city and county of San Francisco Human Rights Commission on economic empowerment of the lesbian gay bisexual transgender community and noted that the economic climate in San Francisco was not conducive for the progress of transsexuals. The study revealed that individuals and representatives of community organizations, small businesses, corporations, and civil servants provided verbal and written testimony at the public hearing on the economic status of transsexuals. The HRC gave this project priority by holding the public hearings and providing the oversight, policy decisions to ensure proper balance and representation.<sup>1</sup>

The transgender human resources policies in U.S. employers and noted that because of its intrinsic ambiguity, transgender identity in HR policies is problematic to the extent that employers inappropriately presume that the category of transgender is real, material and stable. The study revealed that early-adopting employers generally understood these policies through rational myths since they believed transgender human resources policies enhance their attractiveness to non-transgender employees by conferring legitimacy on employers, and that such enhancement is both important and urgent. The scholar pointed out that the transgender identity, however, does not conform to these myths, and there is a large gap between the reality of transgender employees and the understanding of employers in the study area.<sup>2</sup>

The marriage, specialization, and the gender division of labour and observed that the gender division of labour has been so often enforced by custom which generally involved both direction and prohibition. The study revealed that formal model; agents first learned the skills and then entered the marriage market. The scholar further noted that wasteful behaviour would emerge due to strategic incentives in specialization choice and human capital acquisition and that both problems may be mitigated through a customary gender division of labour.<sup>3</sup>

The career counseling needs of several minority groups and noted that transsexual individuals faced many personal and professional obstacles due to the complex psychological aspects and expensive medical procedures inherent in the traditional method which is the complex and multidimensional process of changing genders. The scholars bridged a gap of knowledge for career counselors and mental health care providers by identifying possible workplace issues and proposed four primary competency components. The study also provided a critique of the current literature, recommendations for counselors, and directions for future research from the point of view of professional and economic development of transsexuals in modern society.<sup>4</sup>

The transgender economic survey in California and pointed out that the transgender and gender non-conforming people experienced overwhelming discrimination and marginalization in employment, housing, health care, and education based on their gender identity and/or expression. The study revealed that states and local jurisdictions passed and enforced non-discrimination laws and ordinances in order to protect people from

workplace discrimination on the basis of gender identity and expression. The study also dealt with state wide protections for transgender workers under California's Fair Employment and Housing Act, which is widely appreciated by the scholars and activists.<sup>5</sup>

The plight of the transsexuals in Georgia and Chicago and noted that transsexual employees fought for their identity, rights and privileges. The scholar further observed that the employers were not concerned about the economic rights of the transsexuals and placed a series of restrictions on the transsexuals in the workplace. The study suggested that transsexuals should be treated on par with other employees and allowed to achieve promotional opportunities on the basis of their professional contributions.<sup>6</sup>

The attitude of modern companies towards transsexual employees and noted that modern companies came forward to support transgender employees on humanitarian grounds. The study revealed that transsexuals were not subjected to any kind of discriminatory tendencies because of the change of gender in the workplace and enjoyed equal opportunities and benefits on par with other employees. The study suggested that the employers should also address the new needs of transsexuals on humanitarian grounds and facilitate their economic empowerment on a priority basis.<sup>7</sup>

The transparency in the workplace and explored the possibility of utilizing the real life experiences of transsexuals in order to improve their work atmosphere, working conditions and economic status in modern society. The scholars have called upon the employers to treat the transsexuals on par with other employees and design certain welfare measures in consultation with the transsexuals in the workplace.<sup>8</sup>

## Materials and Methods

The present study was carried out among the male to female transsexuals of Mysore and Bangalore cities, Karnataka State in accordance with the objectives and research questions of the study. The study was planned and conducted in three stages. Purposive sampling method is used to collect data. In the first stage, a pilot study was conducted in order to examine the feasibility and appropriateness of the tools and procedures of the study. In the second stage, interview schedules were developed and perfected in order to collect authentic primary data from three hundred male to female transsexuals.

In the third stage, appropriate scientific, statistical analysis procedures were followed to ensure systematic data analysis and interpretation. Overall, the present study approached the problem through a systematic survey method.

**Results and Discussion**

The present study draws the livelihood strategies of Male to Female Transsexuals in Karnataka State.

Table 1 provides the opinion of the respondents about the statement 'procuring a livelihood through entertainment'. Education groups representing primary education, pre-university education and graduates (100.00%), metric education (93.88%).

Among education, mass, reveals, 15-25 years group (91.49%) followed by 26-35 years group (87.76%), above 46 years (87.23%), 36-45 years group (85.25%). Between livelihood groups, respondents' express begging, sex work and others (100.00%), followed by entertainment workers (70.00%). In connection with Income groups, monthly income of Rs. 1000-3000, monthly income of Rs. 3001-6000, monthly income of Rs. 9000 and above (100.00%) followed by monthly income of Rs. 6001-9000 (90.67%) and have stated that they suffered from the condemnation of procuring a livelihood through entertainment by the state. Overall, a majority of the respondents (97.67%) regardless of education, age, profession and income background have stated that they suffered from the condemnation of

**Table 1:** Distribution of Respondents 'Procuring Livelihood through Entertainment'.

Variables	Sub-Variable		Responses		Total	Test Statistics		
			Agree	Disagree				
Education	Graduates	F	11	0	11	X <sup>2</sup> = 12.620 p = NS		
		%	100	0	100			
	Pre-University	F	79	0	79			
		%	100	0	100			
	Metric	F	92	06	98			
		%	93.88	6.12	100			
Primary	F	112	0	112				
	%	100.00	0.00	100				
Age	15-25 years	F	86	08	94	X <sup>2</sup> = .498 P < .919		
		%	91.49	8.51	100.00			
	26-35 years	F	86	12	98			
		%	87.76	12.24	100.00			
	36-45 years	F	52	09	61			
		%	85.25	14.75	100.00			
	>46 years	F	41	06	47			
		%	87.23	12.77	100.00			
	Livelihood	Entertainment	F	14	06		20	X <sup>2</sup> = 85.714 p = NS
			%	70.00	30.00		100.00	
Begging		F	118	0	118			
		%	100.00	0.00	100.00			
Sex Work		F	103	0	103			
		%	100.00	0.00	100.00			
Others		F	59	0	59			
		%	100.00	0.00	100.00			
Monthly Income	Rs. 1000-3000/-	F	104	0	104	X <sup>2</sup> = 21.502 p = NS		
		%	100.00	0.00	100.00			
	Rs. 3001-6000/-	F	85	0	85			
		%	100.00	0.00	100.00			
	Rs. 6001-9000/-	F	68	07	75			
		%	90.67	9.33	100.00			
	Rs. 9000 and above	F	36	0	36			
		%	100	0	100			
Total	F	293	7.00	300	X <sup>2</sup> = 176.409 P < .000			
	%	97.67	2.33	100.00				

procuring a livelihood through entertainment by the state. There is a highly significant association ( $X^2 = 176.409$ ;  $P < .000$ ) between the respondents' demographic background and procuring a livelihood through entertainment.

Table 2 provides the opinion of the respondents about the statement 'Endure the condemnation of procuring livelihood through begging by the society'. Education groups representing, primary education (92.86%), followed by pre-university education (92.41%), metric education (91.84%), graduates (63.64%). Study of age groups reveals, 26-35 years group (94.90%), followed by 36-45 years group (93.44%), 15-25 years group (91.49%), above 46 years (80.85%). Evaluation of livelihood

alternatives shows, sex workers (97.09%), followed by beggars (94.92%), entertainment workers (90.00%), others (74.58%). Appraisal of income groups shows, monthly income of Rs. 1000-3000 (95.19%), monthly income of Rs. 3001-6000 (90.59%), monthly income of Rs. 6001-9000 (89.33%) and monthly income of Rs. 9000 and above (86.11%) have stated that they suffered from the incongruity of procuring a livelihood through begging by the state.

Overall, the majority of the respondents (91.33%) regardless of education, age, profession and income background have stated that they suffered from the incongruity of procuring a livelihood through begging by the state. There is a highly significant

**Table 2:** Distribution of Respondents 'Endure The Condemnation of Procuring a Livelihood through begging by the Society'.

Variables	Sub-Variable		Responses		Total	Test Statistics
			Agree	Disagree		
Education	Graduates	F	7	4	11	$X^2 = 11.135$ $P < .05$
		%	63.64	36.36	100	
	Pre-University	F	73	6	79	
		%	92.41	7.59	100	
	Metric	F	90	8	98	
		%	91.84	8.16	100	
Primary	F	104	8	112		
	%	92.86	7.14	100		
Age	15-25 years	F	86	8	94	$X^2 = 8.443$ $P < .038$
		%	91.49	8.51	100	
	26-35 years	F	93	5	98	
		%	94.90	5.10	100	
	36-45 years	F	57	4	61	
		%	93.44	6.56	100	
	>46 years	F	38	9	47	
		%	80.85	19.15	100	
Livelihood	Entertainment	F	18	2	20	$X^2 = 56.775$ $P < .000$
		%	90.00	10.00	100	
	Begging	F	112	6	118	
		%	94.92	5.08	100	
	Sex work	F	100	3	103	
		%	97.09	2.91	100	
	Others	F	44	15	59	
		%	74.58	25.42	100	
Monthly Income	Rs. 1000-3000/-	F	99	5	104	$X^2 = 3.636$ $P < .304$
		%	95.19	4.81	100	
	Rs. 3001-6000/-	F	77	8	85	
		%	90.59	9.41	100	
	Rs. 6001-9000/-	F	67	8	75	
		%	89.33	10.67	100	
	Rs. 9000 and above	F	31	5	36	
		%	86.11	13.89	100	
Total	F	274	26	300	$X^2 = 123.628$ $P < .000$	
	%	91.33	8.67	100		

association ( $X^2 = 123.628$ ;  $P < .000$ ) between the respondents demographic background and incongruity of livelihood through begging by the state in the study population.

Table 3 provides the opinion of the respondents about the statement- 'Endure the condemnation of securing a livelihood through sex work by the society'. The majority of the educational group respondents representing primary education (94.64%), metric education (93.88%), pre-university education (82.28%), graduates (81.82%). Age group respondents express, 15-25 years group (97.87%), followed by 26-35 years group (95.92%), 36-45 years group (90.16%) and above 46 years (65.96%). Livelihood groups say about, sex workers (94.17%), and followed by beggars (90.68%), entertainment

workers (85.00%) and others (86.44%). Monthly income groups declared as, monthly income of Rs. 1000-3000 (98.08%), monthly income of Rs. 3001-6000 (91.76%), monthly income of Rs. 6001-9000 (85.33%) and monthly income of Rs. 9000 and above (77.78%) have stated that they 'endure the condemnation of securing a livelihood through sex work by the society'. Overall, a majority of the respondents (90.67%) regardless of education, age, profession and income background have stated that they securing livelihood through sex work. There is a highly significant association ( $X^2 = 118.888$ ;  $P < .000$ ) between the respondents' demographic background and endure the condemnation of securing a livelihood through sex work by the society.

**Table 3:** Distribution of Respondents 'Endure The Condemnation of Securing a Livelihood through Sex Work by the Society'.

Variables	Sub-Variable		Responses		Total	Test Statistics
			Agree	Disagree		
Education	Graduates	F	9	2	11	$X^2 = 10.873$ $P < .012$
		%	81.82	18.18	100	
	Pre-University	F	65	14	79	
		%	82.28	17.72	100	
Age	Metric	F	92	6	98	$X^2 = 42.890$ $P < .000$
		%	93.88	6.12	100	
	Primary	F	106	6	112	
		%	94.64	5.36	100	
Livelihood	15-25 years	F	92	2	94	$X^2 = 3.502$ $P < .320$
		%	97.87	2.13	100	
	26-35 years	F	94	4	98	
		%	95.92	4.08	100	
	36-45 years	F	55	6	61	
		%	90.16	9.84	100	
	>46 years	F	31	16	47	
		%	65.96	34.04	100	
Monthly Income	Entertainment	F	17	3	20	$X^2 = 16.458$ $p = .001$
		%	85.00	15.00	100	
	Begging	F	107	11	118	
		%	90.68	9.32	100	
	Sex work	F	97	6	103	
		%	94.17	5.83	100	
Others	F	51	8	59		
	%	86.44	13.56	100		
Total	Rs. 1000-3000/-	F	102	2	104	$X^2 = 118.888$ $P < .000$
		%	98.08	1.92	100	
	Rs. 3001-6000/-	F	78	7	85	
		%	91.76	8.24	100	
	Rs. 6001-9000/-	F	64	11	75	
		%	85.33	14.67	100	
	Rs. 9000 and above	F	28	8	36	
		%	77.78	22.22	100	
	Total	F	272	28	300	
		%	90.67	9.33	100	

Table 4 provides the opinion of the respondents about the statement 'Obtain livelihood through other economic activities'. A majority of the respondents representing, metric education (90.82%), primary education (90.18%), pre-university education (88.61%), graduates (54.55%), 36-45 years group (95.08%), 26-35 years group (92.86%), 15-25 years group (87.23%), above 46 years (74.47%). Sex workers (93.20%), Begging (92.37%), Other activities (77.97%), Entertainment workers (75.00%). Monthly income of Rs. 1000-3000 (92.31%), monthly income

of Rs. 3001-6000 (91.76%), monthly income of Rs. 6001-9000 (88.00%) and monthly income of Rs. 9000 and above (72.22%) have stated that they obtain a livelihood through other economic activities'. Overall, a majority of the respondents (87.17%) regardless of education, age, profession and income background have stated that 'Obtain livelihood through other economic activities'. There is a non-significant association ( $X^2 = 105.477; p = .000$ ) between the respondents' demographic background and obtain a livelihood through other economic activities.

**Table 4:** Distribution of Respondents 'Obtain Livelihood through other Economic Activities'

Variables	Sub-Variable		Responses			Total	Test Statistics
			Agree	No Response	Disagree		
Education	Graduates	F	6	-	5	11	$X^2 = 13.450; p = .004$
		%	54.55	-	45.45	100%	
	Pre-University	F	70	-	9	79	
		%	88.61	-	11.39	100%	
	Metric	F	89	-	9	98	
		%	90.82	-	9.18	100%	
Primary	F	101	-	11	112		
	%	90.18	-	9.82	100%		
Age	15-25 years	F	82	-	12	94	$X^2 = 13.832; p = .003$
		%	87.23	-	12.77	100%	
	26-35 years	F	91	-	7	98	
		%	92.86	-	7.14	100%	
	36-45 years	F	58	-	3	61	
		%	95.08	-	4.92	100%	
>46 years	F	35	-	12	47		
	%	74.47	-	25.53	100%		
Livelihood	Entertainment	F	15	-	5	20	$X^2 = 14.163; p = .003$
		%	75.00	-	25.00	100%	
	Begging	F	109	-	9	118	
		%	92.37	-	7.63	100%	
	Sex work	F	96	-	7	103	
		%	93.20	-	6.80	100%	
Others	F	46	-	13	59		
	%	77.97	-	22.03	100%		
Monthly Income	Rs. 1000-3000/-	F	96	-	8	104	$X^2 = 11.904; p = .008$
		%	92.31	-	7.69	100%	
	Rs. 3001-6000/-	F	78	-	7	85	
		%	91.76	-	8.24	100%	
	Rs. 6001-9000/-	F	66	-	9	75	
		%	88.00	-	12.00	100%	
Rs. 9000 and above	F	26	-	10	36		
	%	72.22	-	27.78	100%		
Total	F	266	-	34	300	$X^2 = 105.477; p = .000$	
	%	88.67	-	11.33	100%		

## Summary

The findings reveal that the male to female transsexuals are subjected to a series of social constraints and hazards which have made their lives miserable in Karnataka the respondents are also economically marginalized sections of Indian society since they are deprived of basic needs, infrastructure, education, properties, self-employment opportunities, public employment opportunities and other economic resources. The male to female transsexuals are indeed an important segment of the national population. In fact, transsexuals are threatened by several personal, health, social, educational, economic, political, psychological, cultural and environmental factors and forces. Society and governmental intervention have become a highly challenging task of our times. The Indian Constitution had accorded a place of pride for the development of human resources including transsexuals. After independence, various welfare programs have been devised and implemented for the uplift of the socially and economically excluded, deprived and marginalized sections of Indian society. These measures have not disseminated significant benefits for the transsexuals due to lack of political will, social activism, community participation, media intervention and research support. Practically, all developing countries have accepted human resources development as an integral part of development planning. Evaluations dealing exclusively with the role of government and non-government organizations with special reference to rehabilitation and development of male to female transsexuals in Karnataka State are scanty as seen through the paucity of literature. The need and importance of integrated rehabilitation and development of male to female transsexuals in Karnataka State are chiefly focused in the present study.

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