

Scrutinizing the impacts of marginalization on the transgender community and their exposure to COVID-19 pandemic: An insight into the intersection of poverty and gender



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To my lovely parents, Qamar Zaman and Rubina Sultan

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Table of Contents

Acknowledgments.....	3
Chapter 1.....	3
1.1 Introduction:.....	3
1.2 Problem statement.....	6
1.3 Research Objectives.....	6
1.4 Research Question	6
Chapter 2.....	7
2.1 Literature Review.....	7
2.2 Worldwide trends regarding Transgenders	12
2.3 History of Marginalization of the Transgender Community in South Asia.....	13
2.4 COVID-19 and its consequences on the Transgender community in India.....	15
Chapter 3.....	17
3.1 Methodology	17
3.2 Locale.....	17
3.3 Sampling	17
3.3.1 Sample size	18
3.4 Limitations	18
Chapter 4.....	19
4.1 Findings.....	19
4.2 Emergent Themes	19
4.3 Social Exclusion.....	20
4.3.1 Realization of their gender identity.....	20
4.3.2 Abandonment of the Transgender community by their families.....	21
4.3.3 Alienation by society	21
4.3.4 Social Stigma vs. Self-stigmatization	22
4.4 Gender-Based Violence	23
4.4.1 Rape Crimes against the Community.....	23
4.4.2 Harassment by the Police and General Public	24
4.4.3 Forcefully making them go to “Functions”.....	24

4.5	Economic Marginalization.....	25
4.5.1	Skill Development and Education.....	25
4.5.2	Job Market opportunities	25
4.6	Psychological and Emotional Violence	26
4.6.1	Lack of Family Support	26
4.6.2	Un-fulfillment of emotional needs.....	27
4.6.3	Fear of rejection	27
4.7	Political Exclusion	28
4.7.1	ID card issuance	28
4.7.2	Voting Rights	28
4.8	COVID-19, Lockdown, and its implications on Livelihood of the Transgender community... 29	
4.8.1	Economic Impacts.....	29
4.8.2	Effects on Health.....	29
4.8.3	Social implications.....	30
	Chapter 5.....	32
5.1	Summary and Conclusion	32
5.2	Policy Recommendations.....	33
5.3	The Way Forward	34
	Bibliography	36

Chapter 1

Abstract

This research explores the impacts of marginalization on the transgender community upon the intersection of poverty and gender. The research is Qualitative in nature and in-depth interviews were conducted with 12 transgenders. The findings suggested that the community faces stigmatization due to factors involving their choice of earning that includes prostitution, begging, and dancing. Moreover, they also have to deal with social exclusion primarily based on their gender identity. To overcome the stigmatization of the transgender community, firstly they need to realize that they are equal citizens of this country and that they have complete authority over their basic human rights. Additionally, our government also needs to have an inclusive approach towards the transgender community, deliver free and compulsory education, provide them with job opportunities, and bring them into mainstream politics to serve the country better.

1.1 Introduction:

Gender roles play out differently among different human beings. Each individual is expected to look or act in a certain way due to his/her gender. But there is a fair segment of the population all over the world that does not fall into the categorical division of genders which are known as the Transgenders. Transgender or transsexual is, " *An umbrella term encompassing those whose gender identities or gender roles differ from those typically associated with the sex they were assigned at birth* (American Psychological Association, 2018)." Transgenders go through transitional stages and transform into a different gender role contrasting from the one assigned to them at birth which also includes social transition for example new names, pronouns and dressing or medical transition for instance some of them undergo several surgeries or inject hormones into their bodies to bring their physicality into adjustment with their gender identity.

Transgenders are marginalized historically because of how they communicate and express themselves. Globally transgenders experience intersecting forms of social marginalization. In a patriarchal society where everyday life revolves around men and their needs, it is nearly impossible to be the voice of reason for a woman let alone a transgender; who is surrounded