

# Transgenders in Kerala- The Issues Surrounded in Gender Variartion

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## Abstract

When we look across cultures, we will find that people have had a wide range of beliefs about gender. Some cultures have created specific ways for people to live in roles that are different from that assigned to them at birth. In addition, different cultures also vary in their definitions of masculine and feminine. Whether we view someone as transgender depends on the cultural lenses we are looking through as well as how people identify themselves. Our society is, however, very harsh on gender-variant people. Kerala has the lowest population growth rate in India, 3.44%; highest *Human Development Index* (HDI), 0.712 in 2015; the highest literacy rate, 93.91% in the 2011 census; the highest life expectancy, 77 years; and the highest sex ratio, 1,084 women per 1,000 men. *Kerala the land of diversities and God's own country decorated by high growth in the matter of Education, socio-economic Development and the related development criteria's*. Development indicators such as HDI, PQLI, and GDI etc are very high in Kerala.

**Keywords:** transgenders, life expectancy, Human development Index

## Introduction

In Kerala as like in other states in India we have a community known as Transgenders. The existence of stigma nsolation makes this sect as one of the most marginalized sect in the economy. Their population is around 4,000, located in almost all the districts in the state. In the category of LGBTQ transgenders occupies an important place. Transgender have a recorded history of more than 4,000 years. India has a history of people with a wide range of transgender related identities, cultures, and experiences. People with such identities include Hijras, Aravanis, Kothis, Jogtas/Jogappas, and Shiv-Shakthis. Ancient myths bestow them with special powers to bring luck and fertility. Kama Sutra provides vivid description of sexual life of people with 'third nature' (Tritiya Prakriti).

## Hijara Culture

In India most of the transgenders have passsde through the Hijra culture. They live in small groups of similar community. The *hijra* is considered to be apart of a 'third gender' which identifies with feminine roles, characteristics, and the use of the pronoun 'she', yet at the same time being neither male nor female. Ther will be a Guru and they will accept the newly joined community as theis Chelas. There are many cultural functions at the Hijra community. Eventhough ther are many difficulties in this Hijra culture, they will accept all the difficulties only with the strong intention to become a female.

**Transgender** people are people who identify as a gender other than the one typically associated with the sex they're assigned at birth. Someone assigned female at birth might identify as a man, for example; he would be a trans man. When it comes to transgender people, we have to take a step back from the sexuality angle, because gender is sort of a different issue entirely.

## Important issues of the transgenders to be solved by the authorities immediately

- 1. Issues to live as born:** - The child born with some sexual abnormality is abandoned in fear of social stigma. Because of the shortage of mechanisms preventing the violation of rights of transgenders, such persons are easily defrauding the society. Every child of any sex and gender or with any physically abnormal sexual appearance has a right to live comfortably and with dignity in the family.
- 2. Lack of Good Treatment:** - transgenders are receiving ill-treatment from every corner of the socity. Recently there happened atrocities by the moral policing. transgender activist Soorya" she shouted that all the transgenders are not sexual workers". But the society put all the transgenders in one framework.
- 3. Lack of access to education:** - For the development of an individual attainment of education is very essential. Every person in their life should get maximum education for self sustainability. In India, as the transsexuality is considered a curse, transsexuals even cannot think or dream of education, resulting in their backwardness. The very sexual behavior prevents them from getting an education in educational institutions.
- 4. unable to acces medical treatment including the change of Sex:** - most of the transgenders have some imbalance in life. It is well determined that transsexuality is not a mental disorder. It is a biological or genetic

problem or sociological factor. This problem can be cured by proper treatment.

**5. Need for Social Security** (change of name, religion, sex, gender etc. in the official records):- This is agony of transgenders that they are permitted to change the sex from male to female or vice versa but they are not permitted to change the name in passport and other relevant documents such as birth certificate, school and college certificate etc.

**7. Negligence and illtreatment at work place:** - Right to work is the important right of a person. Every Transgenders should be permitted to do dignified work. For getting a good job, education is very essential. But most of the transgender communities drop their education at their very early ages due to some personal affairs and commitments.

**8. They need Privacy:** - transgenders are always at the mercy of others. It is very much clear that mentally these people are facing double burden than the mainstream population with respect to right to privacy. Mostly government bodies like police violate this right, when they arrest these guys.

**9. Need for Asylum:** - The right to asylum is of particular importance when considering the human rights of sexual minorities since sexual minorities frequently reside in countries that persecute them. In almost no other area of international human rights law is the dialectic between national and international law so pronounced.

### Conclusion

The most important issue before them is the social stigma and lack of acceptance from the society. The attitude of the people occupies an important role in the negligence of this community. There are many examples in the world itself have proved that they are also human beings, as the creation of God. But the authorities itself should be an umbrella for this marginalized sect to protect them. We need a lot of studies and research on this nature to make a change in the attitude of the people towards this particular segment of the population. They are the creation of the God with all the feelings like a human being. It is very essential that the present situation should be changed.

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