

Transgenderism in India: Insights from current census

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Abstract

Transgenderism in India is a widely known culture yet mainstream population has no proper awareness about the community. They are maltreated and oppressed socially. Most of the time they are disowned by their own family due to the fact of being a transgender. They are having number of exasperating setbacks in a developing country like India. In addition, India has no proper data on their socio-economic status. This study is focusing mainly on their demographic characteristics and spatial distribution across the country. First time ever, 2011 Indian Census enumerated transgender population. Therefore, this study utilizes the Census 2011 data to show the spatial distribution of transgender population in India. The series of Quantile maps have been generated to portray the distribution of transgender population and also made use of graphs to exhibit further results.

Keywords: *Transgender, distribution, prevalence, economic status, difficulties*

Introduction

Transgender people are individuals whose gender identities do not pertain to their biological sex, and thus they differ from the stereotype of how men and women normally are. Transgender people choose different terms to describe themselves. For example, a transgender woman is someone assigned male at birth who identifies as female, she might describe herself as a “transwoman”, “Male to Female” or “female”. Someone assigned female at birth who identifies as male is a transgender man. He might use the term “transman”, “Female to Male” or simply “male” to describe his identity. There are some transgender people who do not identify as either male or female, but rather identify outside of a gender binary. Since the beginning of time and the existence of mankind, transgender have been very much a part of the society. It is just that they have been given a name and a status in the society in recent times. Transgender fall under the LGBT group (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender). They constitute the marginalized section of the society in India and thus face legal, social as well as economic difficulties.

Aim of the study

The paper is pivoted to describe the overall situation of Indian Transgender in terms of their demographic, socio-economic as well as health conditions. This paper portrays the distribution of transgender by their total population, state wise population, caste, literacy and employment status.

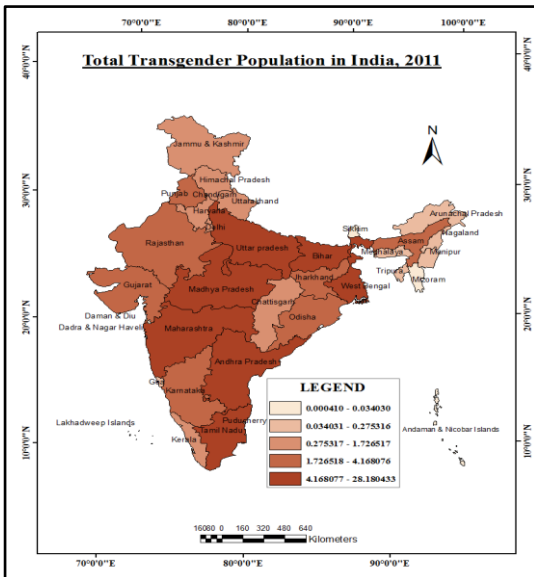
Data source & Methodology

Since 2011 census has a count of transgender population for the first time this study utilizes the census data to achieve aim of the study. Moreover, to describe their employment status the study has made use of Indian Annual Labor Bureau Report-2015-16. Furthermore, NACP Phase-III Report-2007-2012 has been utilized to put light on their health situation. This is a descriptive as well as an exploratory study. Quantile maps have been produced with the help of ArcMap software to depict total population, caste and literacy rate with the help of Census 2011 data. Additionally, prevalence of transgender persons among 100000 general population have been calculated.

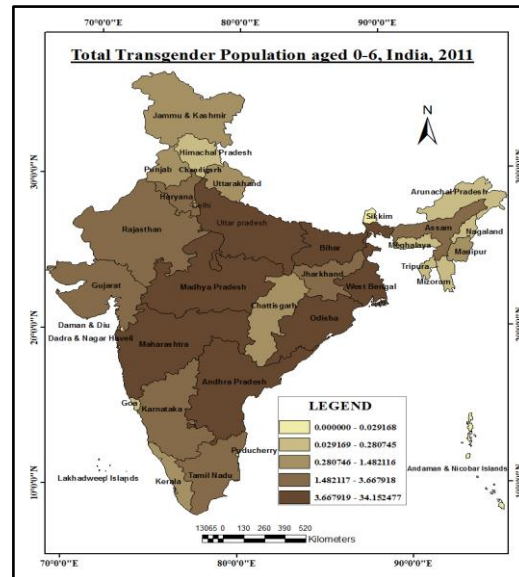
Findings

Spatial distribution of Transgender population in India, 2011

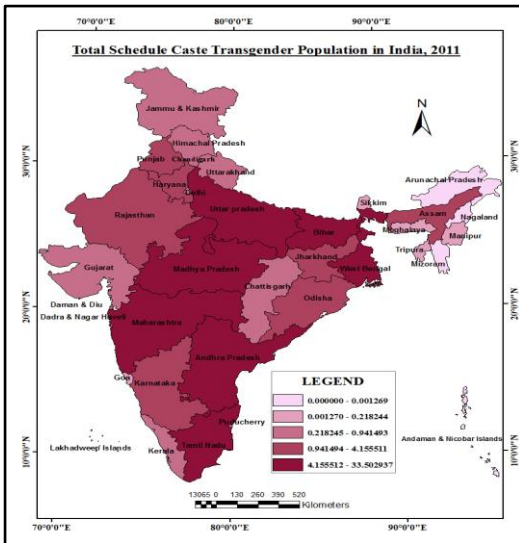
Map 1



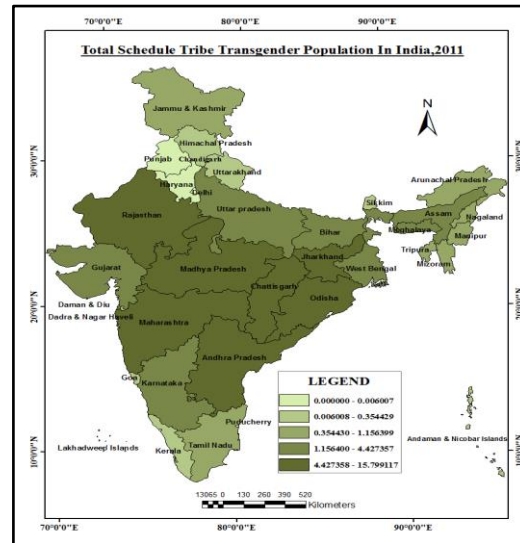
Map 2



Map 3



Map 4



Map 1: Transgender population is very high in the states like Uttar Pradesh (28.18%), Andhra Pradesh (8.97%), Bihar (8.37%), West Bengal (6.22%) and Tamil Nadu (4.58%).

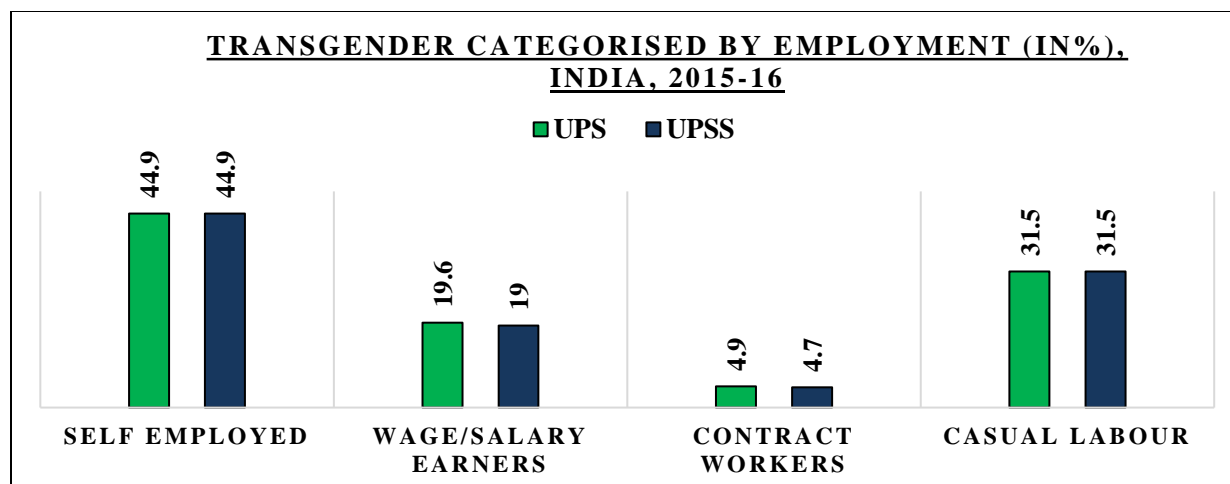
Map 2: A high percentage of Transgender population aged 0-6 have been observed in the states of Uttar Pradesh (34.15%), Bihar (10.89%), Maharashtra (7.48%), Andhra Pradesh (7.44%) and Madhya Pradesh (6.21%).

Map 3: States like Uttar Pradesh (33.50%), West Bengal (8.21%), Bihar (7.99%) and Andhra Pradesh (7.90%) are extremely high populated by Scheduled Caste transgender.

Map 4: Above map depicting percentage of Scheduled Tribe transgender population. Madhya Pradesh (15.80%), Orissa (13.68%), Jharkhand (11.22%), Maharashtra (10.60%) and Andhra Pradesh (9.69%) these states are leading in Schedule Caste Transgender population.

Work Participation of Transgender persons in India

Fig 1: Distribution of total employed Transgender among different categories of employment based on UPS & UPSS approach.



Note: The results of Labor Force Participation rate compiled under two approaches namely **Usual Principal Status (UPS)** approach and **Usual Principal and Subsidiary Status (UPSS)** approach which are based on longer reference period of one year.

The above graph highlighting the distribution of employed persons aged 15 and above among different categories of employment based on UPS and UPSS approach, (Report on Fifth Annual Employment - Unemployment Survey 2015-16). The graph shows the involvement of transgender in different categories of employment. Transgender are leading in a Self-employed category that is 44.9% in the UPS as well as UPSS approach followed by casual labor 31.5%, wage/salary earners 19.6% and contract workers 4.9% in the UPS and 4.7% in the UPSS approach.

Conclusion

It is obvious that there are many more transgender people in India who have not disclosed their identity due to social stigmas and fear of discrimination. They officially declared as *Third Gender* in 2014. These people usually drape *Saree* and roam on the streets, trains begging around. They are deprived of basic health facilities which lead them to get affected by STIs and other severe health issues. Their employment rate is too low because they are not expected on any government or private jobs. Therefore, they earn their livelihood by dancing, singing and begging. They mostly come under *Scheduled Caste* and *Scheduled Tribe* category which is declared as the backward class in India. They are also indulged into sex work. Recently government of India is taking them into consideration but again it will take lot of time for the acceptance of the society.