



## History

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### Socio-Economic Position of Transgenders in India

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**Abstract :** *Hijra, a Hindi and Urdu term traditionally translated into English as Transgenders actually refers to what modern westerner would call male to female transgender people or third sex. The very first image that comes to our mind when we think of Transgenders is that of a man's body clad in a shabby sari clapping clamorously in a busy market hustling for 5 or 10 rupees. An estimate of 5-6 million Transgenders live in India but it is thrice the actual data because many of them are not ready to reveal their identity as Transgenders. Their condition was far better in ancient and medieval times but it started deteriorating after the Criminal Tribal Act, 1871 of British India. Transgenders face a lot of problem in their social life, starting*

*from their home, they face brutal violence in public places, police stations, prisons and everywhere. They hardly have any employment opportunities to uplift their economic status and are forced to lead a life of deprivation. They carry on their livelihood by begging, prostitution and performing at ceremonies.*

*On April 15, 2014 India's Supreme Court recognized Transgenders as the third gender, ending an age old social dilemma (Theodore Rajiv, 2014). Supreme Court directed the Centre and the State governments to take steps to treat them as socially and educationally backward classes and also to provide medical, sanitation and educational facilities. But even after recognition as third gender, people are not ready to assimilate them in their society and stigma is still attached to their lives. The anomalies are there within the society and mere formulation of laws cannot help the situation. What is needed is a clear and loud expression of implementation of decision taken by the Supreme Court. Thus the only ray of hope is increasing awareness and mobilizing people whose potential can be utilized to improve the management of the entire society.*

**Key words** – *Transgenders, Identity, Livelihood, Anomalies, Awareness.*

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