CHALLENGES FACED BY THE THIRD GENERATION: AN INDIAN OVERVIEW

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ABSTRACT
Asian countries have centuries-old histories of subsistence of gender-variant males - who presently would have been regarded as ‘Transgender’. India is no exception. This marginalized population is also classified as a “Third Gender.” This section of population consists of people that were consign as male at birth but have stoutly feminine gender expression and identity. Though they are accepted by the main religions of India but face severe discrimination and are forced to earn a living by performing in religious ceremonies, begging or sex work. Transgender people face multiple forms of subjugation. They frequently face sexual stabbing and physical violence from society. Third generation also face exclusion from social and cultural participation. In this backdrop, the objective of this paper is to give an overview of Transgender in Indian society, to highlight the challenges faced by the Transgender by using the Social Exclusion framework, to analyse the Transgender rights in India, to discuss the Initiatives taken by the Indian Government for the welfare of Transgender and also to provide various suggestions and recommendations as to how, passing of more mandates, legislations and proactive role of Indian government can change the viewpoint of Indian society towards Transgender and bring them to the social mainstream.

KEY WORDS: Transgender, Hijras, Discrimination, Rights, Reforms, Social Exclusion.

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