ABSTRACT

Individuals of any age or sex whose appearance, personal characteristics, or behaviours differ from stereotypes about how men and women are “supposed” to be, are called as Transgender. An individual who is born as a male but thinks and behave as females are called as Male to Female Transgender. In Tamil Nadu they are called as Thirunangais. It is estimated that there are approximately 1300 Thirunangais in Chennai city. There are three CBO which works for them. Male to Female transgendered Persons are called as Thirunangais in Tamil Nadu.

Objectives of the Study – The study was conducted to explore the different experiences faced by Thirunangais at educational intuitions, to assess their awareness on assistance provided by the government in association to education, to assess the factors that act as obstacles in utilising the welfare schemes and also to understand the strategies that would assist them in education.

Research Design- The nature of the study is Descriptive Research Design. The universe for the study constitutes of Thirunangais (Male to female Transgendered person) who were enrolled in the CBO called Thozhi which is in Chennai.

Sample Size- Fifteen Thirunangais who are enrolled in Thozhi were taken as respondents.

Sampling Technique- Consecutive sampling technique was used. Thirunangais who visited the CBO during the period of June 2015 were included in research.

Tool for Data Collection – Interview Guide was used to collect the date from the respondents.

Main Findings - The respondents shared that Thirunangais face discrimination from both students and the teachers. Discrimination varies in types and degrees. This leads to the discontinuation of education, which in turn leads to unemployment. Respondents were aware of the assistance provided by the government in association to education. Break in education, lack of required documents, support from parents, friends and economical status Thirunangais prevents the Thirunangais to make use of the services.

Suggestions- CBOs can appoint counsellors in every school. This would assist the individuals who find it difficult to deal with their sexuality. Counsellors can render their services to teachers and parents which would give them an insight as how to handle these individuals.

Conclusion- Sensitisation among parents, students and teachers is very essentials. Only a safe and motivating environment would assist the Thirunangais to continue their education. Education is the only tool that would empower them.

KEY WORDS- Thirunangais, Transgender, education, empowerment.
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