

Empowering Gender-Diverse Individuals Through Independent Ventures: A Regional Analysis

Dr. Safia Parveen¹, Dr. Shushma. H²

¹ Associate Professor, Department Of Business Studies Central University Of Karnataka, Kalaburagi.

² Associate Professor, Department Of Business Studiescentral University Of Karnataka, Kalaburagi.

Abstract

Entrepreneurship is the only professional sphere that assesses a person based on his or her capabilities and not the social position. In this area, the people who are entrepreneurs are categorized based on proficiency at being an entrepreneur rather than demographic indicators. Among the many segmentations of societies that are present in India, the stratification of gender has been the most noticeable. On the modern scene, entrepreneurs are further grouped into the categories including male, female and transgender groups. Transgender people have been systematically exposed to bias and discrimination in the social, economic, and political spheres in the past. In spite of the legal acknowledgment made by the corrective 2018 Supreme Court decision, and the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act (2019), the existing social norms have shown to limit access to education, jobs and health systems. Only a small percentage (about 10 percent) of the transgender people venture in entrepreneurial activities hence most are left to indulge in menial activities like begging and prostitution. Entrepreneurship, therefore, becomes a field that can be used by transgender individuals to gain dignity and supportive economy.

Even though there are still some cultural references, there is still discrimination deeply established. To enhance their socio-economic conditions strategically thus, they will have to invest in education and entrepreneurial support structures. The government steps such as the NALSA Judgment, decriminalization of Section 377, and the creation of the National Council of Transgender Persons aim to bring more equality. However, very little empirical studies on transgender entrepreneurship prevails, especially in Kerala.

In this study, a mixed-design methodology is used to look at the socio-economic positioning, issues, aspirations, and effects of mentorship programs on transgender entrepreneurs in Kerala, which combines both the qualitative interview based on interviews with seventeen transgender businesspersons and government representatives. The results highlight the strictures of identity, access to little finance, and inadequate formal training. However, against these challenges, transgender entrepreneurship has become particularly resourceful and creative, driving a shift in social progress. Such obstacles require policy changes and community development so that lawful entrepreneurial outcomes are on a long-term basis.

Keywords: Transgender Entrepreneurship, Socio-Economic Challenges, Financial Inclusion, Policy Reforms

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and Context

Entrepreneurship stands out among professions since one gain respect on merit of inner abilities instead of one being respected by their social or legal standing. Therefore, legitimacy is based on the entrepreneurial capacities of an entrepreneur but not on his or

her curious assignments by society (Morris et al., 2020). Despite the existing caste, creed, and gender stratification hierarchies, in recent times India has seen deterioration in the number of players as well as quality of the individuals involved in entrepreneurship activities across these traditional stratification hierarchies (Autio et al., 2021). In this regard, the gendered aspect deserves the special attention as, in the modern context, entrepreneurs can be classified into male, female, and, more recently, transgender ones. Transgender is the term used when applied on persons whose gender identity contrasts with their biological gender (Rafeek, 2015). It serves as an umbrella term to refer to transsexuals, the transgender people, and other individuals that do not comply with the traditional gender principles. They might define themselves as male, female, transwoman, transman, transsexual or by more region-specific terms such as hijras and Aravanis in South India, Kinnars in North India and Laanch in Jammu and Kashmir (Kalra, 2012; Bund, 2013). Change in gender identity has always met with significant social, economic and political marginalizations in India where transgender people are often seen to be abnormal people that are being physically, emotionally and sexually abused. Society and its attitude towards LGBT individuals have not changed much even though the court ruling upon homosexuality in 2018 decriminalized it and the imminent Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act in 2019 granted constitutional legitimacy to transgender persons. Widespread difficulties in the areas of accessing vital services (healthcare, education, housing, employment, and livelihoods) have been a factor explaining the ghettoization in terms of the access to the public areas of existence in general and in the broader social mainstream. This is how entrepreneurship becomes a prominent way of achieving dignity and economic safety. The manifesto of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with the principle of not leaving anyone behind and aimed at achieving an honourable life strives to achieve decent life of all people, including the LGBTQ + community. The 2011 Indian Census, the most recent estimate available provides the figure at about 4.88 lakh as the number of people identifying as transgender people; though this number should in all likelihood be an underestimation owing to poor data collection procedures and problems of gender identity declaration. It is such evidence that proves that the government gave negligence to the issues of transgender.

The sexual confusion that exists in the society has a harmful impact on the psychological well-being and health of transgender people. Self-esteem and confidence are destroyed due to exposure to extreme negative stigma and bullying, especially at the growing-up years and to the discrimination also present in schools and colleges, increasing dropout rates. The 2011 Census shows that literacy among the transgender community is at 46 % which is very low compared to the 76 % among the general population reflecting a high level of educational disadvantage. This shortage is a huge setback on the employment opportunities and many transgender individuals depend on begging and prostitution to survive. These economic weaknesses render transgender communities to face increased health dangers, especially very high vulnerability to HIV. There are poor avenues of socio-economic development and stronger insecurity feelings. Projections point to the fact that the proportion of the transgender community that indulges in entrepreneurial activities is only about 10 % implying that entrepreneurship can significantly lead to socio-economic empowerment.

1.2 Problem Statement

Transgenders face a lot of discrimination in every area within a human society and this holds true in the case of Kerala as well. The state of Kerala was the first in India to initiate a transgender policy, which will supposedly help address the issue of gender-based inequity, social stigma, deeply rooted notions of stereracts and neglected statuses by families, society and state institutions. However, in an overview of available literature, it is noticeable that

there is a serious lack of both empirical and quantitative research on the subject of transgender entrepreneurs in Kerala. The lack of this piece of information, along with missing information about research-based reports that can shed some light on the value of transgender entrepreneurs to the local economy, necessitates the current endeavour. Accordingly, the following research questions are asked by the researchers:

1. What is the socio-economic position of transgender entrepreneurs in Kerala?
2. What are the issues that transgender entrepreneurs have to confront in their businesses start-up and sustainability?
3. How do they influence the entrepreneurial activity of transgendered?
4. What are the drivers of transgender people into exerting entrepreneurship as opposed to taking up traditional jobs?
5. What are the effects of the transgender mentorship programs in promoting the transgender entrepreneurship?

This research aims to capture the experiences of transgender entrepreneurs in Kerala and explore the identity-related concerns and challenges that affect their entrepreneurial success. The specific objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To analyze the financial and economic status of the transgender entrepreneurs in Kerala.
2. To analyze the challenges transgender people in Kerala encounter when operating a business in terms of access to finance, social stigma and legal restrictions.
3. To reveal what drives transgender individuals to open not just any business but become entrepreneurs instead of seeking a regular job.

1.3 Scope and Limitations

Over three decades now, Kerala has continuously ranked at the top in the Human Development Index (HDI) as an Indian state a fact that is supported further by the National Human Development Reports (NHDR) released by the Indian government since 2001. The India Human Development Report of 2011, followed by NITI Aayog reports and later UNDP reports have shown that Kerala continues to lead the social development. The 2023 SDG India Index published by NITI Aayog further proves the fact that Kerala leads in social development indicators. The HDI too is considered to have better standard of living amongst transgender, which shows that the state would do an inclusive development. Among the most progressive developments are the Transgender Policy in a state in the year 2015, which officially acknowledges the issues of gender identity and grants equal opportunities; the opening of the Sahaj International School in the year 2017 as the first foreign state school in the country of transgender people; and the creation of the State Transgender Justice Board in the year 2017 in order to afford mental healthcare services, hormone therapy, and care in aids and HIV. At the same time, Neighbourhood Groups (NHGs), specifically for the transgender persons, were created within the framework of the anti-poverty and women empowerment initiative in Kerala, the So called Kudumbashree in the beginning of 2017. As of 2018, transgender cooperative societies had been established to reduce the social rank, promote self-employment, and financial aid, as well as trans gender oriented schemes in welfare. Free gender reassignment surgeries previously are possible today due to the setup of the transgender clinic called Malzhavillu by government hospitals in the year 2020.

Despite these developments, the social and financial inclusion of transgenders in Kerala has been deprived of mainstream social growth. This is an empirical study hence, explores the rationale and justification, as well as the opposing forces to such an inclusion of transgender entrepreneurs in the development cycle within Kerala.

Even though the study yields excellent results, it has a number of limitations in terms of methodology that inhibit the applicability of the findings to other populations. To begin

with, the sample consists of only twenty transgender entrepreneurs which is a relatively small group that can restrict the external validity of the results. Second, the study is confined to a particular state, which may impact the ability of the findings to generalize to other geographic settings. Third, since the study has a relatively short time duration scope, it does not allow recording long-term trends in entrepreneurial performance, thus does not allow making any firm conclusions on enduring success. Fourth, self-report methodology is used in the study; that is, it presents a bias due to the perception the participants hold about their experiences. Lastly, the lack of methodological competence could be a limitation to the strength of the research design, which has an effect on validity of the conclusions made.

2.1 LITERATURE REVIEW

Transgender people are persons whose representations of appearance, personal traits, or habits can be defined as deviating to the normative expectations of masculinity or femininity in the society (Satashivam, 2012). Historical data testify to the fact that over the last four millennia transgender groups in South Asia have been upholding dignity (Nawaz & Safdar, 2023). Transgender people were one of the key factors during the Mughal era (1526-1857) as political advisors, administrators, generals and harem guardians (Raj, 2015). The society we live in today is however the society where the transgendered community is often pushed to the outskirts, and they serve the society as entertainers (Li, 2023). Because of the abuse and trauma experienced, most transgender persons hide their identities and live unreal lives (Falck & Branstrom, 2023). Certain cultures consider them to be a pure soul (Ashraf et al., 2023) and that they have the power to shower or damn the doers of evil (Shuster & Westbrook, 2024) in some cultural circles. In India, we have a contrast between two attitudes toward transgender people in the society (Shashi Tharoor). Nevertheless, all these complications led to the historical absence of attention to transgender people, the subsequent exposure to generally unequal treatment in comparison to other gender-related issues such as family rejection, harassment, when not receiving an education or employment and a social life because of their lack of clear gender (Rao, K. V, & Nikhita, K. 2021).

The processes of education and entrepreneurship are important engines of a better life situation and social position of transgender people (Preetha & Uma, 2024). According to the Center for Sexuality and Health Research and Policy (2021), the much needed reforms are a system change that would offer a more diverse learning space. Entrepreneurship, specifically, has proved to be the discipline with the ability to give power to marginalized groups of people (Chatterjee, Mukherjee, & Deb, 2018). The traditional discourse of entrepreneurship examples focuses it as a means to acquire wealth (Bloch, Fadil, Germain, & Janssen, 2016), which means that any group of people that cannot engage in it miss out on economic benefits (Halabisky, 2017). In the case of transgender people, entrepreneurship activities can increase their level of income and correct their personal fixed notions of identity and survivability in society (Oosterhoff & Hoang, 2018). Transgender people, however, face an uphill task as far as the entrepreneurial journey is concerned. Instead of social approval to come, a significant number of persons develop community circles where they support each other (Virupaksha & Muralidhar, 2018).

After the constitution of the universal declaration of human rights (UDHR) that all human beings were created free and endowed equally with rights over the past years, governments have implemented many programs to promote equality, inclusivity, and human rights of transgender people. Such efforts revolve around the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in which one of the goals, namely, the third one, to promote well-being of all at all

ages, offers a conceptualization of such efforts. In the mid-2010s, the following key court cases brought transgender rights into a consolidated form: the NALSA decision, the decriminalization of Section 377, the passing of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, the formation of the National Council of Transgender Persons, various schemes, and services. Several states in India have also passed action to enhance well-being of transgender. It is also important to mention that Tamil Nadu established Transgender Welfare Board in 2008 that became a groundbreaking reform in India and the global community complemented by special ration cards and specially designated admissions slots in government colleges to the third-gender candidates (Dr. Venkatrama Raju D. & Beena K. S., 2015). The People's Union for Civil Liberties, in parallel, released a monograph condemning human rights abuse of the transgender population in India, knowing that structural violence and denial of the basic rights of the population was a persistent problem, founded on the fear of gender and sexual non-conformity in society (Anitha Chettiar, 2015). In 2021, Karnataka also became the first state to introduce 1 percent reservation in employment of the transgender community in the state at both the central government and the state government employment at the same (Sharon Sarah, 2023). It also declared projects and programmes to address the high dropout rate of the transgender students (Sharon Sarah, 2023). In 2024, The government of Maharashtra then passed an Equal Opportunity policy that set down workplace inclusivity, unisex loos, confidentiality of gender identity and robust grievance systems (Faisal Malik, 2024).

The recent policy and legal changes are a systematic reaction to the validation of the transgender rights and coexistence of trans-people within the societal scaffolds. The exceptional precedents, especially when it comes to the order issued by the Karnataka High Court in 2020, now requiring separate dormitory facilities to be provided to transgender students in higher education (Gupta, R., 2020) and the 2018 judgment by the Madras High Court confirming the necessity of providing reservations exclusively to transgender residents of Tamil Nadu (Mehta, K., 2018), have proven instrumental in pushing the claims of inclusion of transgender individuals. The Supreme Court of India had reiterated that people have a right to define their gender identities on their own without necessarily requiring medical or surgical procedures in the highly publicized NALSA case (Singh, V., 2016). Besides, the decision of the Madras High Court in the case of S. Sushma v. Commissioner of Police (2021) has also strengthened the rights of LGBTQIA+ expanding on the public promotion of the legalization of same-sex unions with the help of a document that can be defined as a Deed of Familial Association (Sharma, P., & Patel, A., 2022).

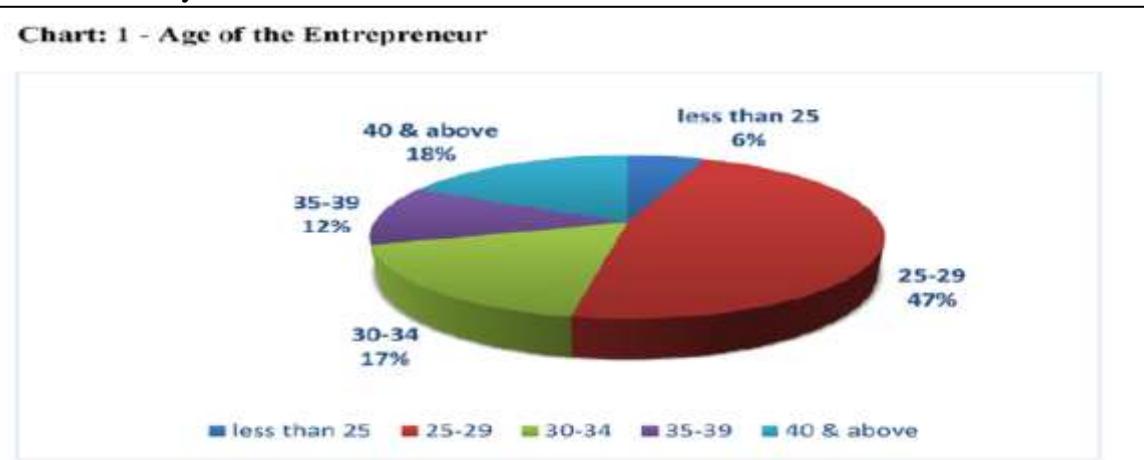
Despite these tremendous legal consequences, formidable obstacles are confronted in the operationalization of transgender rights. The consistent bureaucratic struggles, the ignorance of society due to a lack of awareness, and the ingrained social stigma surrounding the transgender community remain the most challenging hindrances to realizing transgender inclusion in full (Das, P., 2022). Even though court rulings have started treating grievances of transgender individuals, the process of translating the court judgments into actual policies has been slow and varying depending on jurisdiction.

3.1 Research Structure

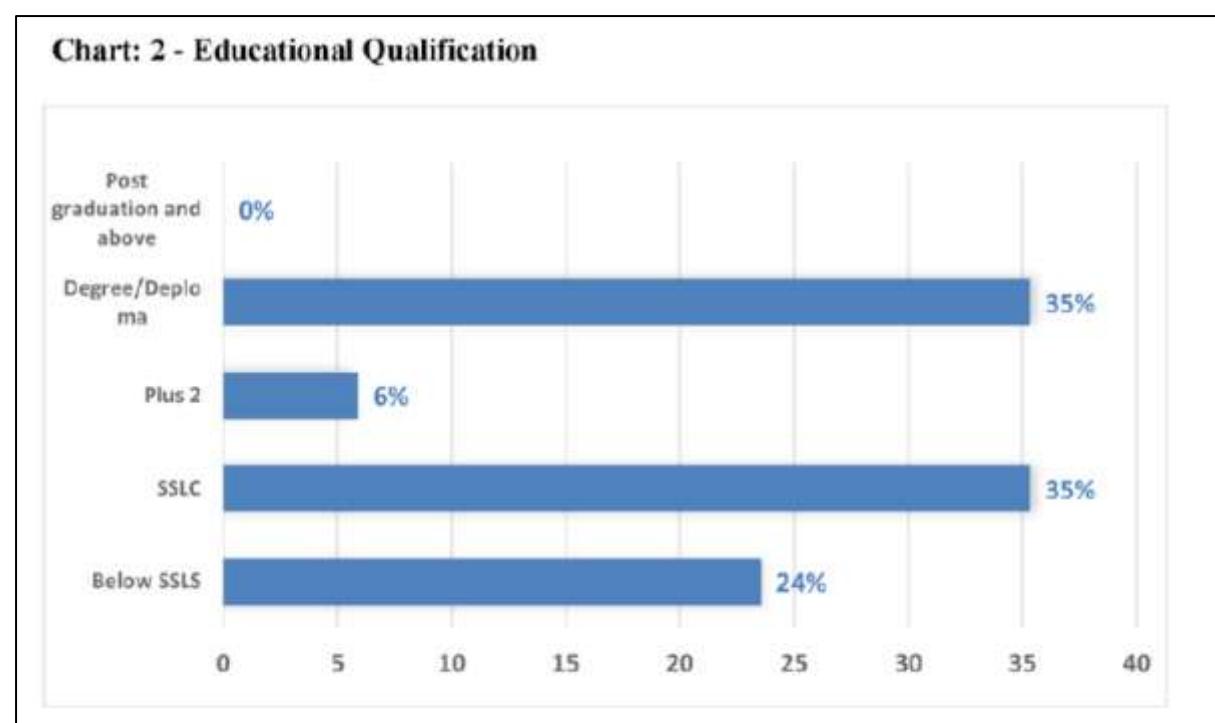
The given research is on the premise of the exploratory-descriptive type of study, adopting a mixed-methodology of combining the qualitative inquiry of the lived journey of transgender entrepreneurs and the quantitative evaluation of the extent of such barriers. The population of the study is the transgender people in Kerala who are undertaking entrepreneurial activities. Purposive and snowball sampling methods are implemented to collect data, and it is as a result that seventeen transgender business people operating in the state have been interviewed. The additional data is collected using report that are provided

by the government, reports of NGOs and academic research that have been done before on transgender entrepreneurship in Kerala. Transcripts of interviews are to be systematically coded, with information used to identify repeated themes, whereas descriptive statistical methods are to be used to count the frequency of challenges that the participants face. The integrity under ethics is upheld throughout by the informed consent and absolute confidentiality. The results of the present study are based on the takeaways obtained in the course of the interviews to the transgender entrepreneurs.

3.2 Data Analysis



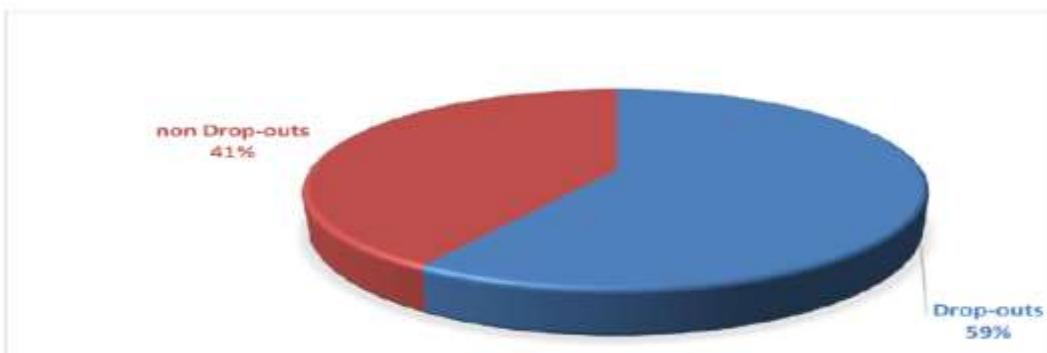
Based on the facts about the dataset X, it is observable that due to widespread discrimination, many people use entrepreneurship as a solution during their late twenties. Additionally, the growing numbers of older transgender participants in the population of the entrepreneurs represent a shift in their employment history or informal activities to the role of business owners in their maturity. This trend supports the theme of entrepreneurship as one of the indicators of independence and self-respect.



The present statistics support current academic research on the experience of discrimination of the transgender population, economic disadvantage, and marginality in the educational system at the higher levels. The financial and social barriers force

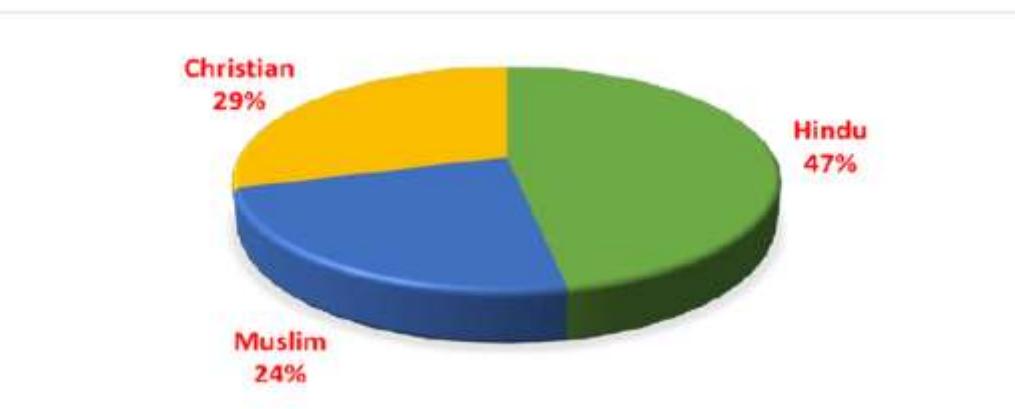
transgender students to drop out of formal education at a young age; only a handful matriculates, and absolutely none advances to the graduate level.

Chart: 3 - Drop-out Status



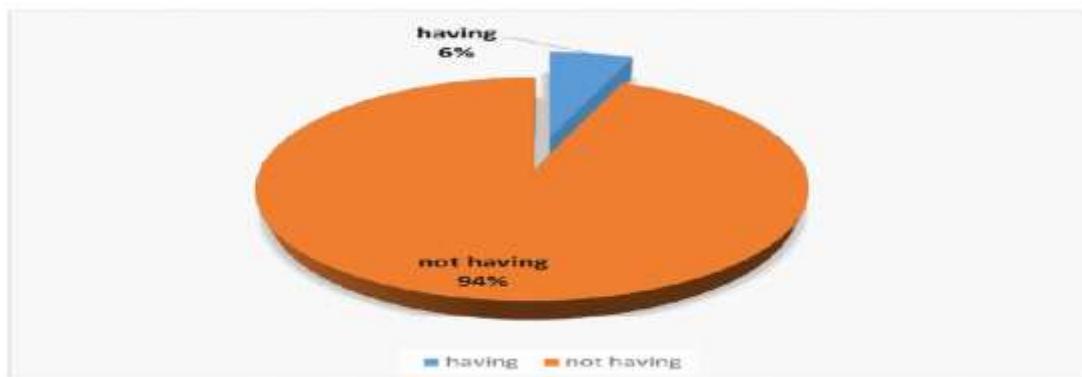
The high drop-out rate indicates social biasness, societal discrimination, harassment, financial constraint, lack of family support,

Chart: 4 - Religion



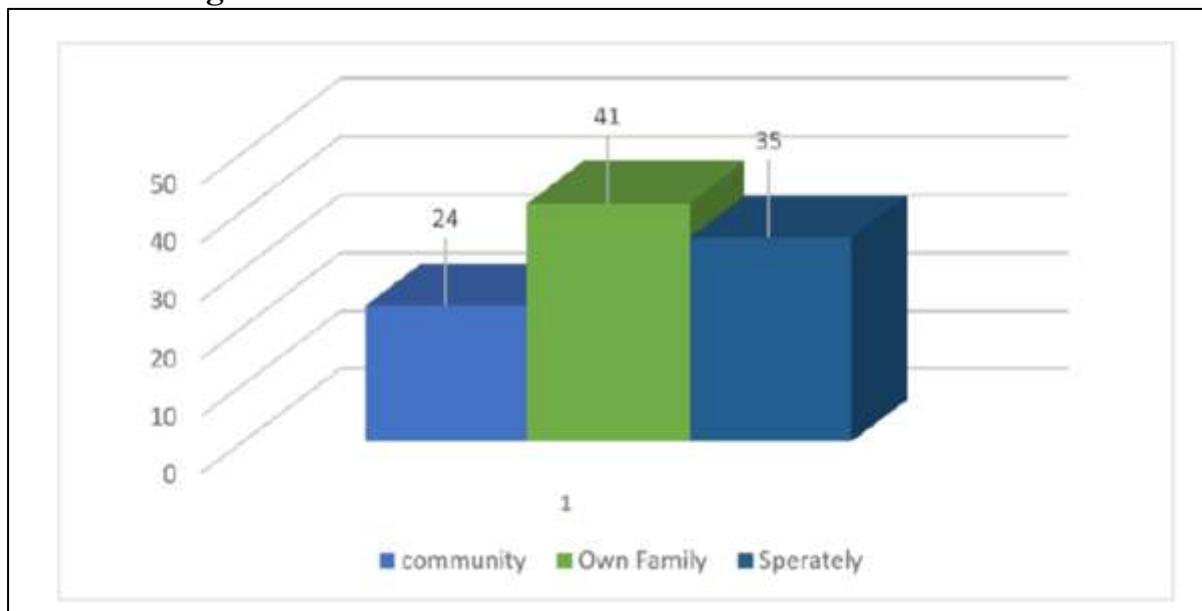
As empirical evidence shows, members of the transgender community are a diverse range of people in terms of their religious groupings. Surveys have shown that among the largest world religions, there is an appreciable percentage of transgender persons. The accompanying discrimination one goes through in such societies often leads to the establishment of trans-affirming groups, thus, establishing solidarity within the community.

Chart: 5 - Identity Card



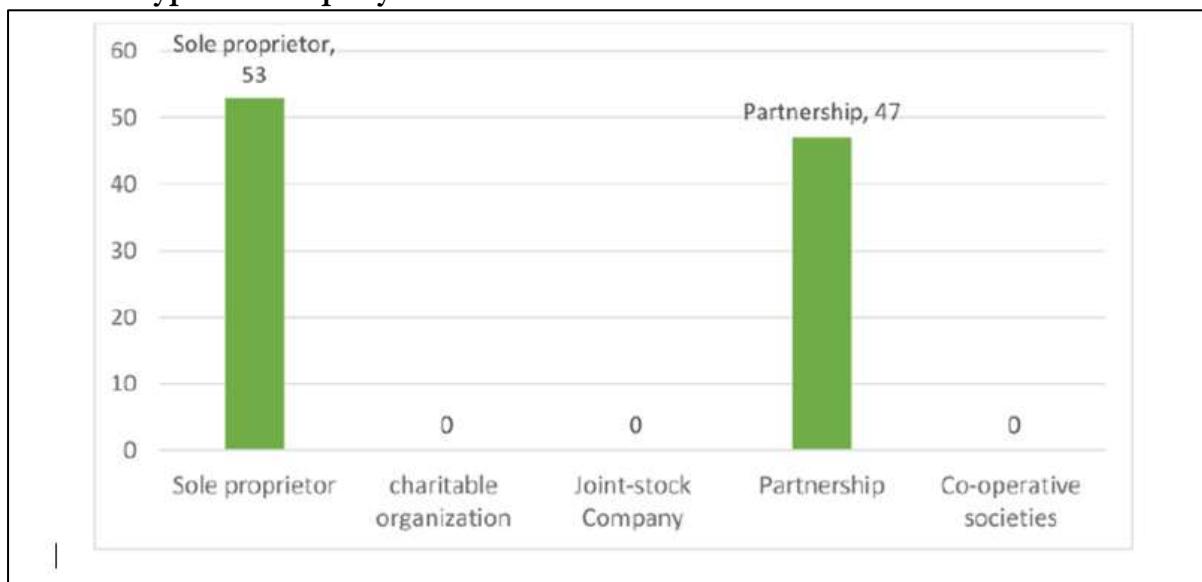
The statistics highlight an administrative and social separation that requires paramount interventions to ensure the procurement of authentic transgender identity documents to the entire transgender community.

Chart 6: Living with

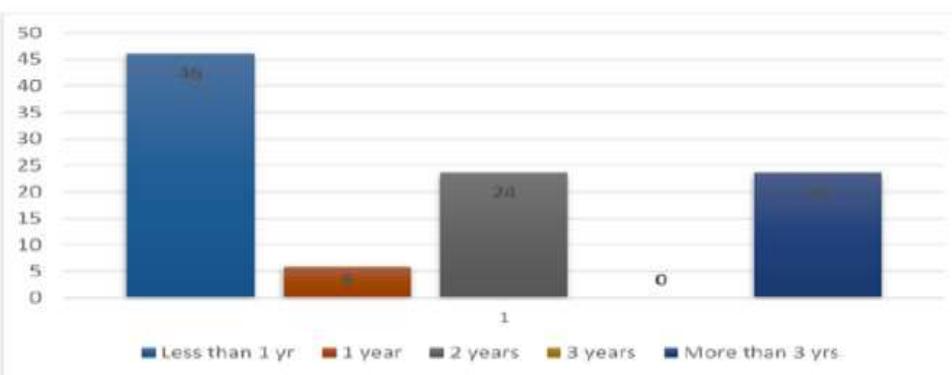


An in-depth analysis of the data suggests a divided situation in the transgender community in terms of living. A big proportion of them are marginalized at the level of the family and thereby feel insecure about housing and employment. These difficulties often end up in exclusion, which is often through the fact of unstable social connections. Transgender people, on the other hand, also create communities to surround themselves with similarly experienced peers, and as such, social capital can also be built through mutual aid and group solidarity.

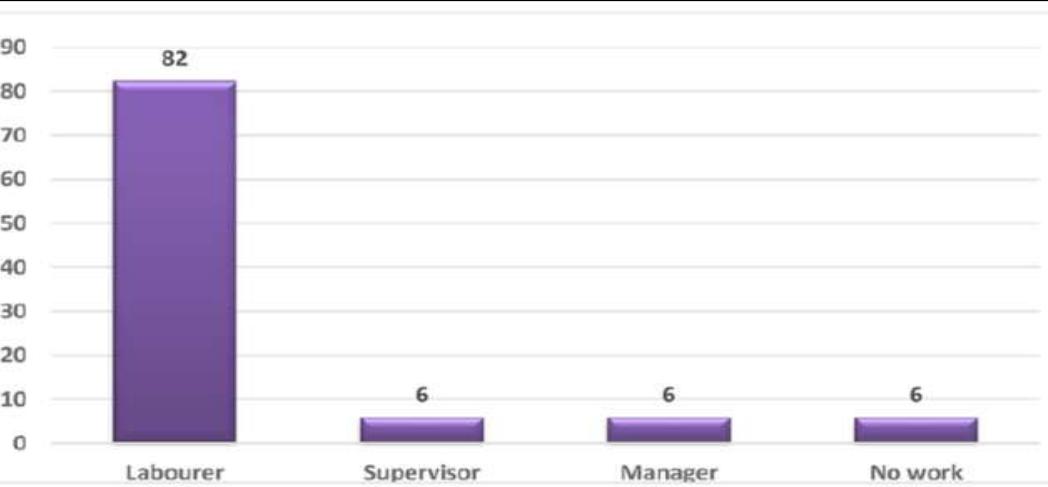
Chart 7: Type of Company



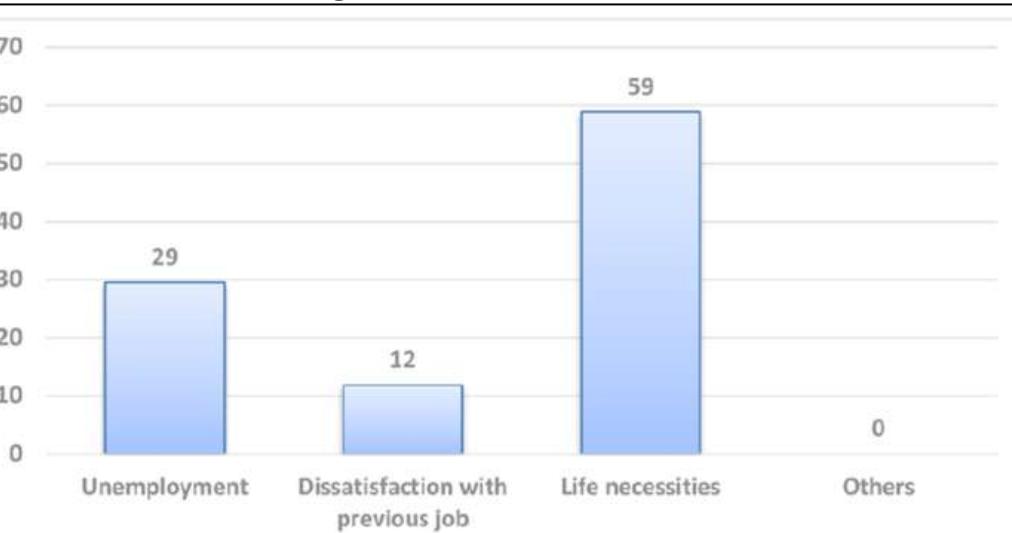
In academic terminology, entrepreneurship is often presented as a tool to reclaim the identities of the transgender population using the tool of self-respect. A significant percentage of transgender people opt to establish sole proprietorships because this type of company offers continuity of the decision making process and flexibility of the structure. At the same time, it reflects the ongoing obstacles that the community faces when obtaining capital. A whimsical initiative in the circumvention of this hindrance involves cooperative initiatives between the transgender performers, where they can reduce risks through resource sharing, resource pooling and centralizing decision-making powers, such cooperatives, in turn, can elevate the financial strength of the community.

Chart 8: Age of the enterprise

The data draws the attention that many of the business enterprises have been established in the last one-year duration focusing on the increasing number of entrepreneurs.

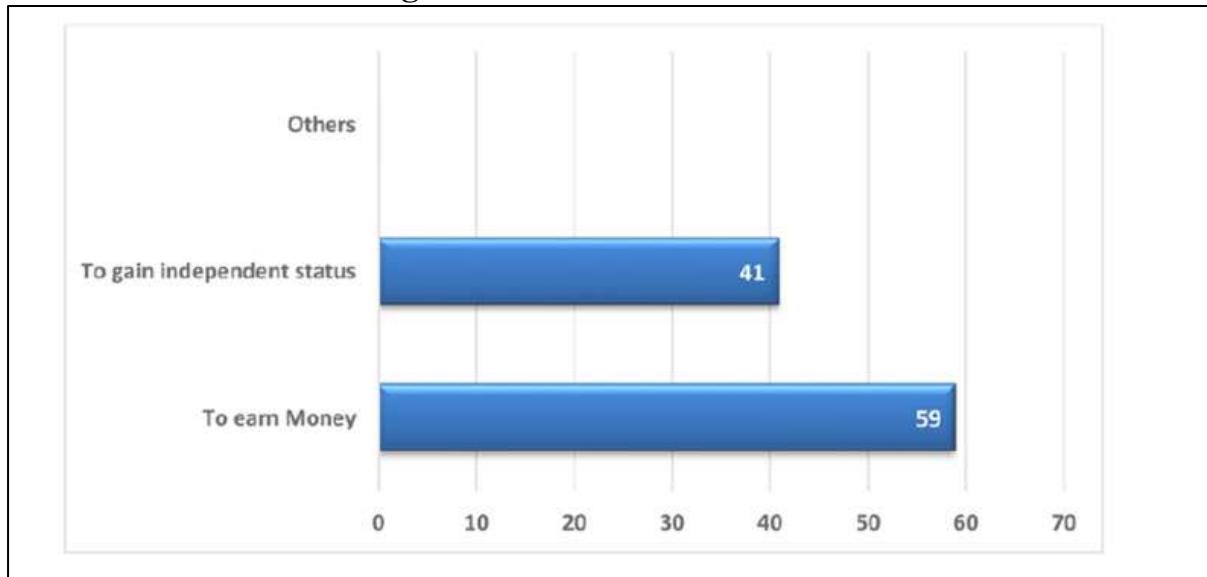
Chart 9: Previous Occupation

This bar chart reveals an overwhelming number of transgender individuals are employed as labourers, highlighting their high reliance on low-skill, manual work, reflecting their educational barriers, discrimination, or lack of professional training.

Chart 10: Reasons for Starting Business

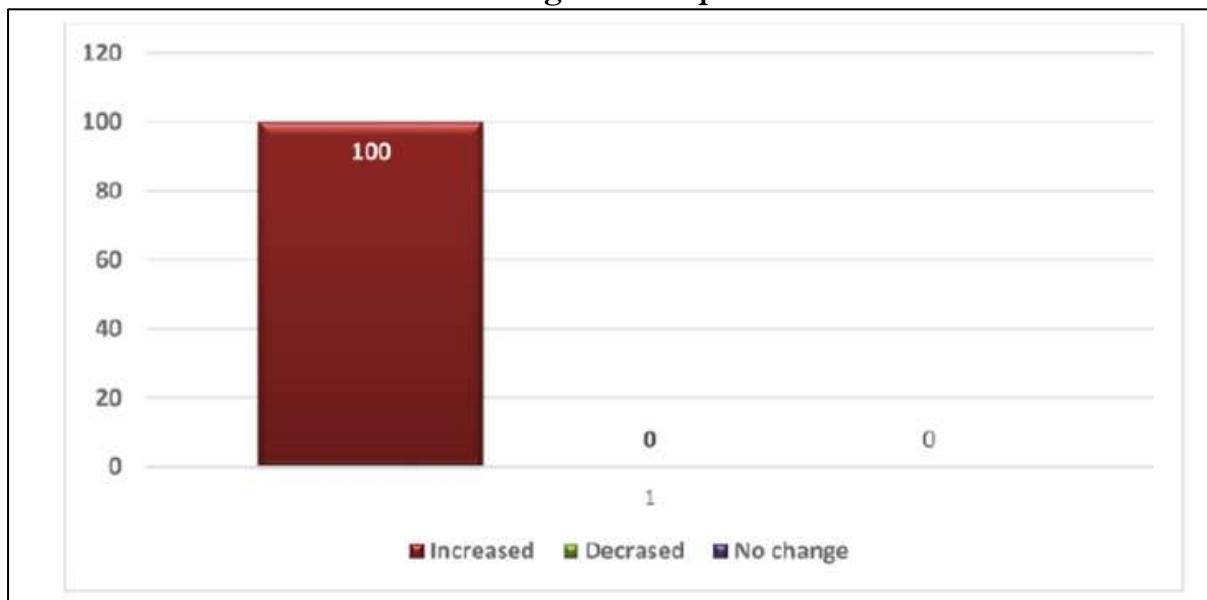
Transgender people are resorting more and more to founding their own businesses as a means of gaining the necessities of life, which is also a testament to the lack of economic security, financial stability, and imbalance of discrimination through normative means of employment.

Chart 11: Factors Motivating Businesses

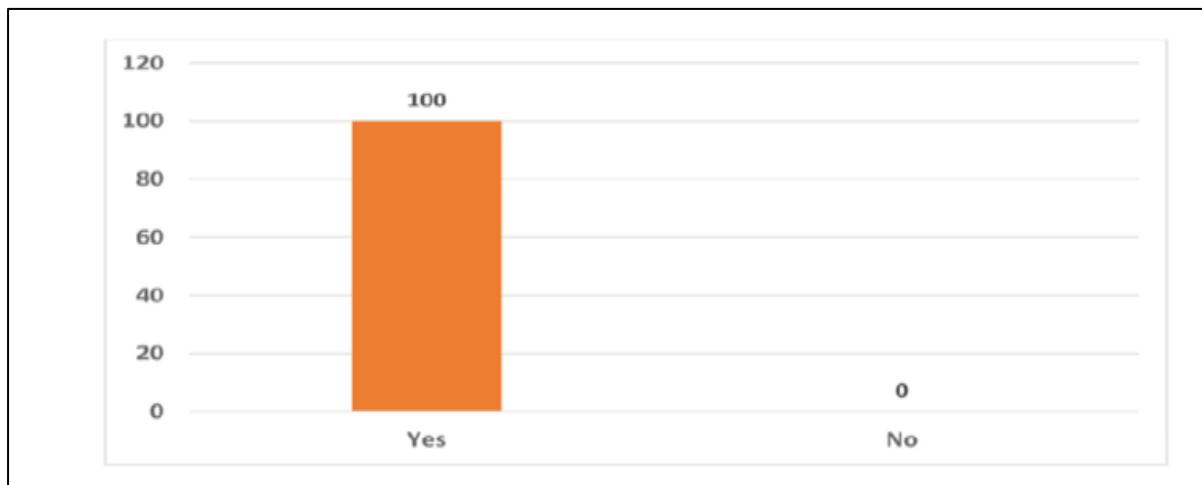


The main aim that triggers the establishment of an enterprise is making profits. The motivation to start their own businesses by many transgender people issues out of the necessity to be able to make a living and gain financial independence and have no need to rely on their families or the society.

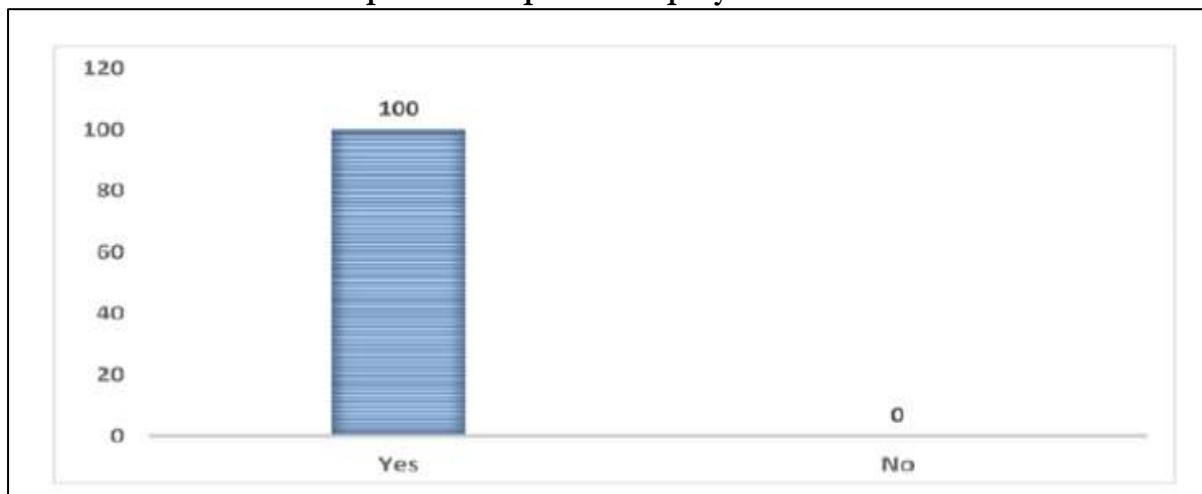
Chart 12: Social Status after Becoming an Entrepreneur



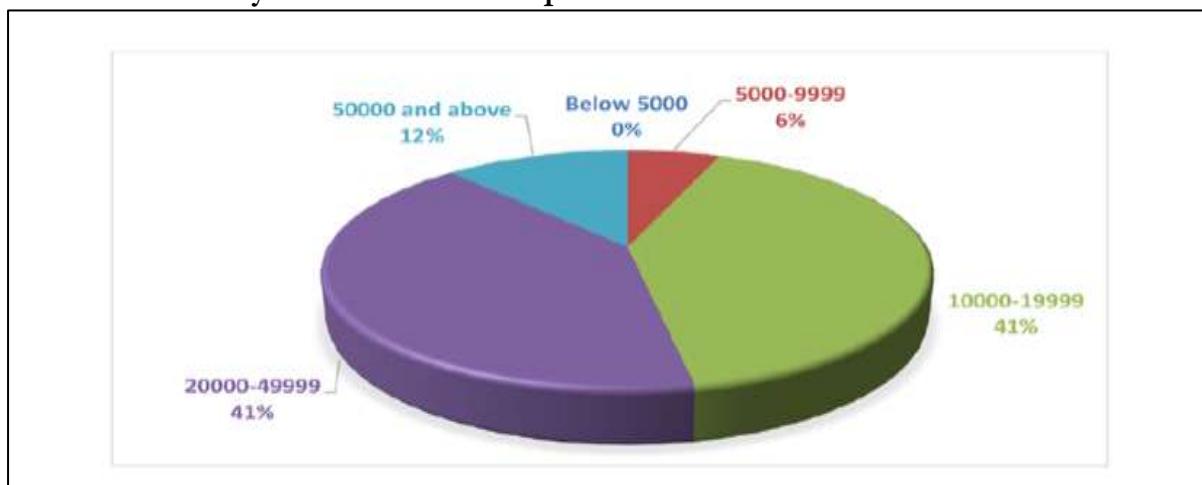
Entrepreneurship is believed to be the only economic activity that increases the social status of every individual opting to be the entrepreneurs.

Chart 13: Satisfaction derived from the Business

Entrepreneurship bestowed complete satisfaction on the individuals who opted to be entrepreneurs. This economic activity not only helped them to make their earning but also satisfied their yearning to be an owner of the business and gain self-respect.

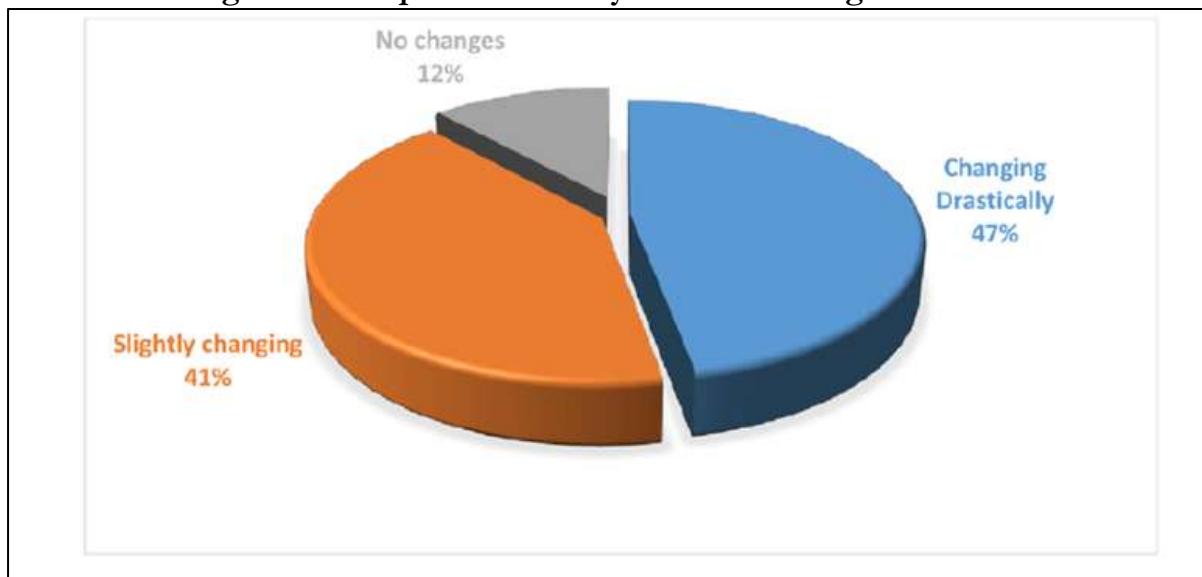
Chart 14: Choice of entrepreneurship over employment

When the transgender community was given a choice of their economic activity, all the individuals opted to be the entrepreneurs in comparison to take up a job in any organization.

Chart 15: Monthly Income of the Respondents

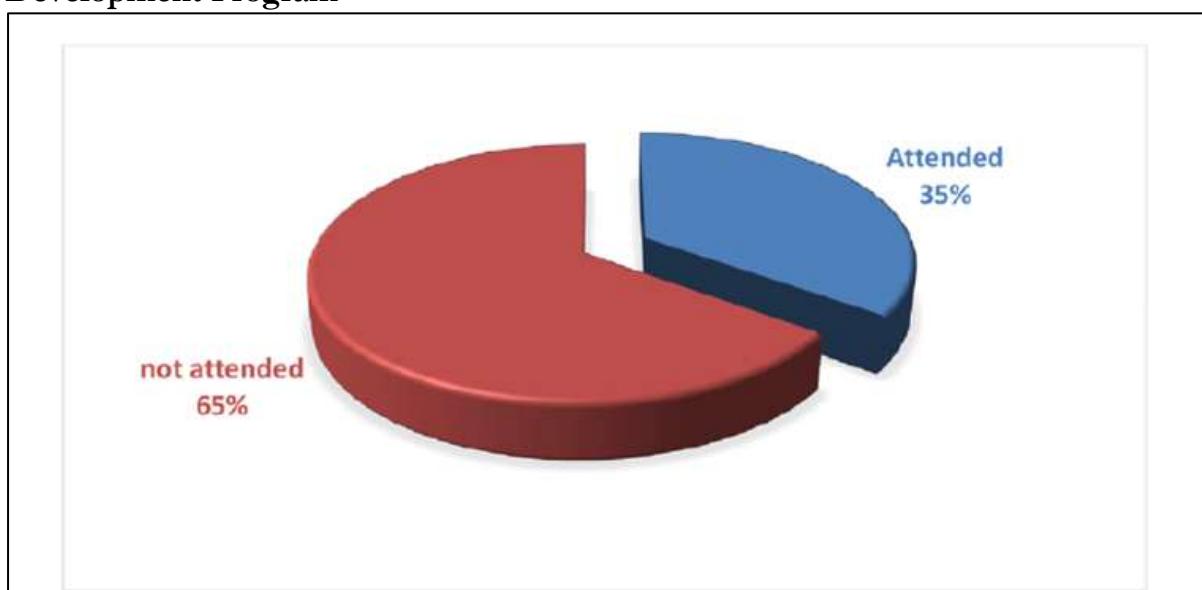
The chart reflects that a significant percentage of transgender business owners achieve moderate economic stability working in medium business and, still, continue to struggle gaining access to the upper income levels; just a small part of the total population has managed to reach those upper levels. This trend highlights the achieved level of development and the existence of certain barriers that transgender entrepreneurs still face.

Chart 16: Changes in Perception of Society towards Transgenders



The pattern of contemporary social perceptions of transgender community is clearly changing, creating more economic opportunities and market spaces. However, a significant portion of the population has still traditional perspectives, which highlights the fact that transgender people still have a lot of problems with access to resources and building networks in business, funding, and academic spheres.

Chart 17: Status of Skill Development/ Management Development/ Entrepreneur Development Program



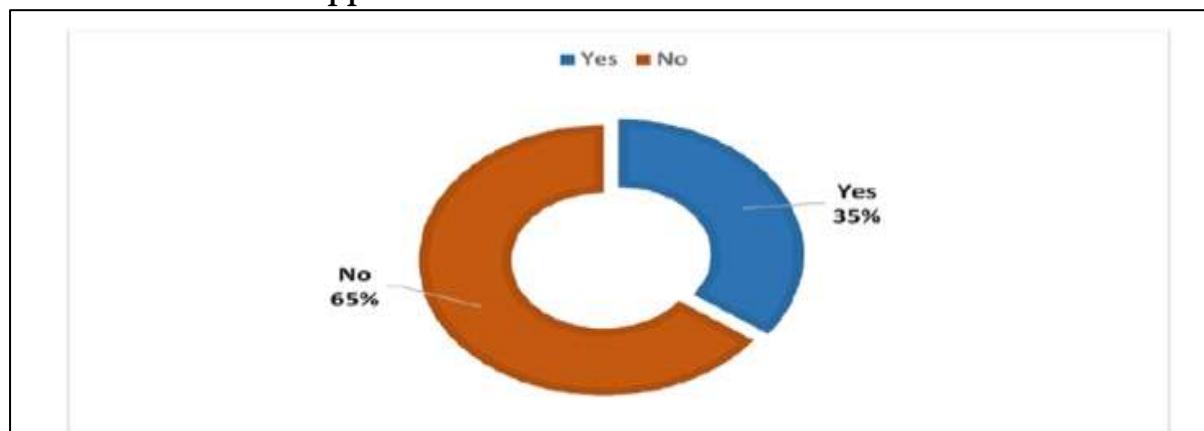
The data clearly highlights a participation gap among transgender entrepreneurs. The fact that some have attended suggests that efforts to include transgender individuals in business training, skill development, or entrepreneurship initiatives do make an impact.

Chart 18: Sources of Initial Investment:



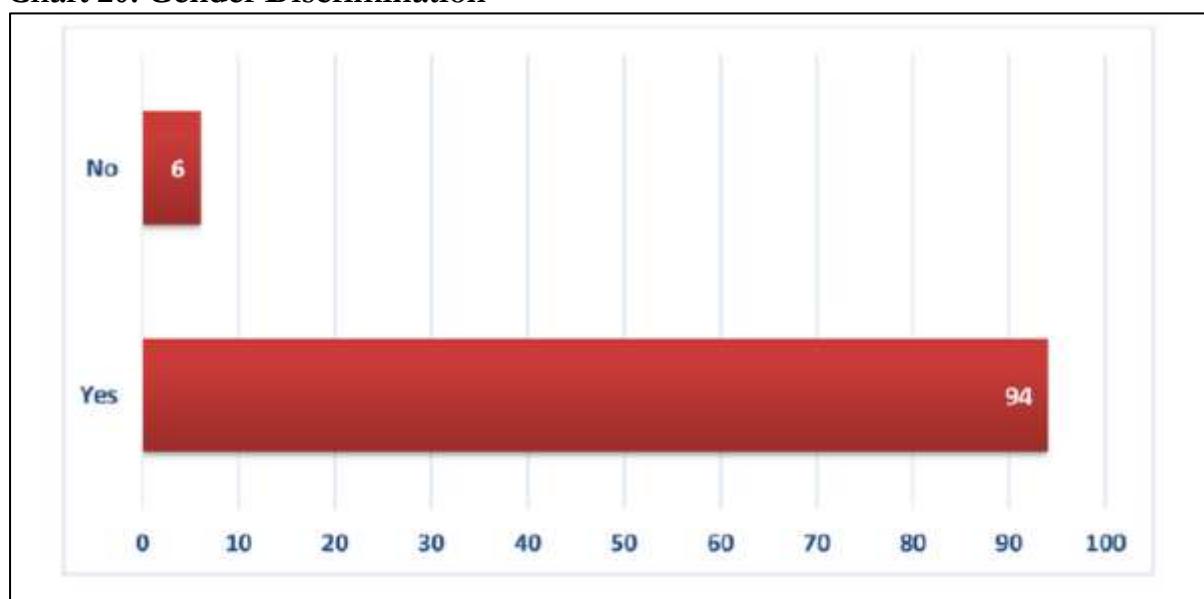
This chart highlights a major funding gap for transgender entrepreneurs, with most relying on self-funding due to limited family, bank, and government support.

Chart 19: Financial Support from Government



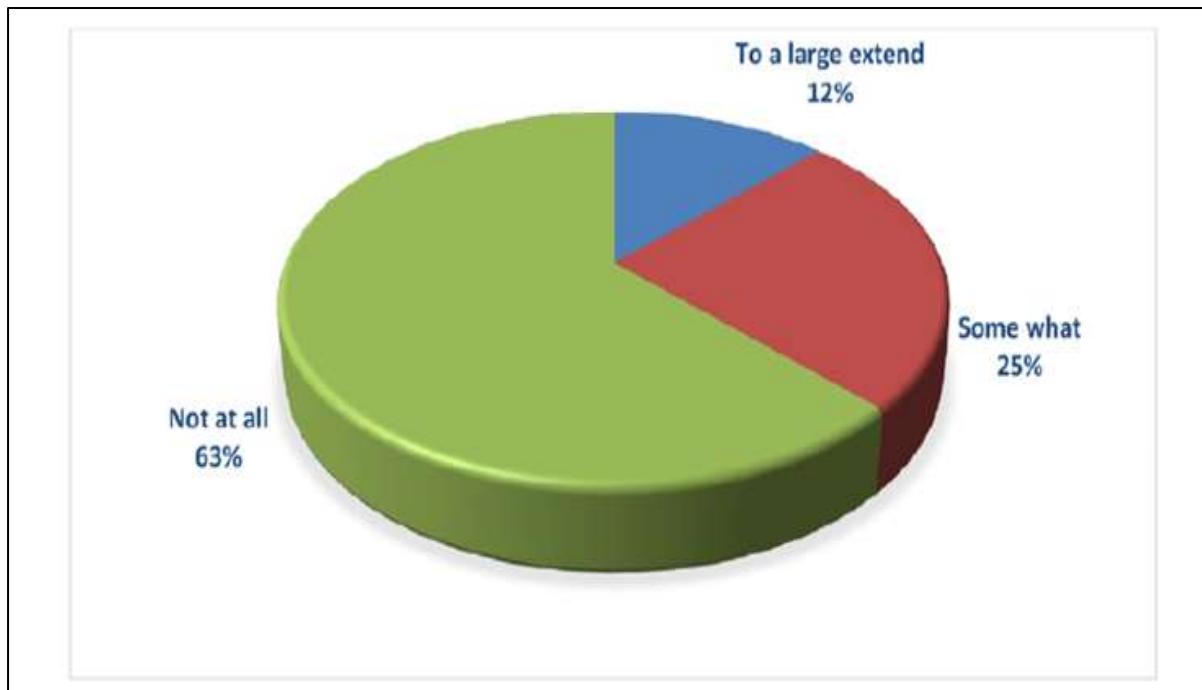
A majority of transgender entrepreneurs lack access to essential support systems highlighting the accessibility gap in funding, training or support systems.

Chart 20: Gender Discrimination



The results indicated that 94 % of respondents gave the positive answer, YES means that there is dire need to act. Elimination of existing obstructions, creation of greater opportunity structures, and improved accessibility levels are paramount concerns on the agendas of stakeholders, who are governments, non-governmental, and financial institutions among others, who are encouraged to increase their support activities towards transgender entrepreneurs.

Chart 21: Effects of Gender Discrimination on Business



This pie-chart highlights the positivity of the transgender entrepreneurs. Despite societal discrimination, individuals of this community are committed to establish themselves as entrepreneurs.

3.3 Review of Interaction with the District Officer of Social Justice Department, Kasargod

Misalignment between the expectations and reality of governmental works just continues to exist, and this is usually explained by a lack of knowledge among policy makers on the transgender related issues. Some of the proposed programmes are still yet to be realised. An example is in the case study report of the Kasaragod district, whereby two applicants have made demands of acquiring new identity documents; however, the district office still fails to avail the necessary authorisation.

Moreover, the Social Justice Department in Kasaragod has not started wide spread sensitization programmes on the government workers and the general population. Although authorities have outlined a series of measures, first including school personnel, then combining them with police workers and healthcare providers none of the mentioned steps are accomplished. This has led to lack of coherent strategy which has restricted the implementation of these objectives.

The overall attitude of people working in the governmental sector that transgender problematic issues are not worthy of much attention is worsened by the lack of political interest and the insufficient impact that the same political or social icons are creating that could lobby on behalf of transgender rights. Therefore, there is no accountability regarding policy gaps to a large extent.

The visibility of transgender in Kasaragod is particularly low compared to several Kerala districts, i.e. Kottayam, Kollam, Ernakulam, Thiruvananthapuram, Kozhikode and Thrissur. The district conveys a more conservative position and this reflects the fact that the region is one of the least developed areas of the state, stifling the campaigns towards social inclusion. Consequently, a great number of transgenders living in Kasaragod move to other Kerala-based districts that are more liberal or to other Indian states in search of better lives and recognition.

3.5 Major Findings

The findings of the empirical research confirm that entrepreneurship is a transformative opportunity to transgender people. The respondents who participated in the survey gave important information on challenges faced by transgender entrepreneurs in Kerala. A large percentage of those surveyed were young people who were below 35 years and most of them faced barriers to wider society and access to higher education and majority of them had attended the education level through to the 10th grade only. Lack of schooling was a natural consequence of either the prejudice of the society or the structural limitations.

The transgender individuals are not part of one particular type of religiosity; however, a common ground of discrimination welds together the community feeling. They are often left without their families since as a group they are frequently ostracized and abandoned, so they often find comfort and support in each other. Their initial migrations often involve the difficulty to issue identity papers that adequately represent gender identity and can serve as a hindering factor in receiving critical services, i.e., financial loans or governmental aid. Experiences in the realms of labor, sex workers, getting into begging, and dancing has also influenced many transgender people to become entrepreneurs. Inadequate access to training and capital remains a serious barrier and as such, the many transgender entrepreneurs have resulted in sole proprietorships as an alternative. Although the full ownership and decision-making rights are granted in this type of a legal form, there may be a certain set of restrictions involved in this sort of an enterprise in terms of not having enough capital, means, and possibilities to expand. The commonest source of getting initial business investment is self-fund, mostly accumulated in occupation like begging or sex works.

Following the implementation of the enactment of the policy of the state on the transgenders, Kerala has experienced a subsequent growth in transgender entrepreneurship. Specifically, or rather designed to support transgender rights, welfare, and social inclusion, in this policy strokes of equality, prohibition of discrimination, and complete access to education, healthcare, and employment are accentuated. Therefore, the majority of the transgender-owned business establishments in the state are new formations most of which are less than two or three years old.

Entrepreneurship helps the role of transgender entrepreneurship greatly because it both provides them with financial freedom and takes up social rank and self-esteem. The voices of the people prove that transgender people have the vocational and managerial skills required to complete the task of running a business successfully. Business activities are therefore a significant tool to changing the life of transgender individuals to include improvement in the quality of their lives since the society has shown a positive change in the social perception of businesses that are owned by transgender people. There are industries where discrimination is not strong, especially the fashion and modeling industry compared to food selling business.

Kerala has very little support systems to transgender businesses. The NGOs and related family networks can provide minimal supports to business formation or marketing. One such local body that has become a crucial partner is Kudumbashree that has been helping the transgender entrepreneurs to market their products at organised exhibitions.

4.1 CONCLUSION

The human societies are highly versatile in nature; they exist and thrive well when people with all types of typologies co-exist depending on each other and working towards collective development. People with transgender have multi-gender expression, which is a special ability, so implementing transgender people in the making of a social order is a valuable constituent of the social order. However, their important role in the advancement of the society at large has been detained due to the lack of understanding of the human condition. Planning and ensuring that this stigmatized community can be an essential part of mainstream development thus acts not only as remedial steps to existing social injustices but also as pre-condition to the emerging ideal of a developed Indian nation- Viksit Bharat.

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