

**A CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF TRANSGENDER SCHEMES IN KERALA : A STUDY OF
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ABSTRACT

Transgenders are the marginalized section of the society. Abuses and violence against them can be seen in our day to day life. They are even considered as untouchables in the society. They face different forms of discrimination from their own family and from the public. To end all these problems, the government introduced different policies for the upliftment of transgender community. This paper focuses on the benefits of transgender schemes which are initiated by the government of Kerala. Through this research, the researcher try to understand the present situation of transgender schemes in Kerala. A qualitative research methodology is used for completing the research.

Keywords: Transgender community, Kerala, Government , untouchables.

INTRODUCTION

The Transgender network face many problems such as fear, shame, social discrimination, melancholy, suicidal tendencies and social stigma. they're unable to stay a dignified life, once their gender popularity is discovered. Steps must be taken to create public consciousness so that Trans Genders experience that they may be part of society and are not handled as untouchables. In order to address their problems, concerted efforts must be made to integrate them into society by using an inclusive approach in all walks of life. The Transgender persons are reluctant to expose their identification. Transgenders are very a whole lot struggling for his or her everyday lifestyles activities. This community needs more attention for mainstreaming into the society. There are numerous socio-cultural transgender groups in India, including the hijras and kinnars, as well as various transgender identities like the shiv-shaktis, jogtas, jogappas, Aradhis, Sakhi, and others.

In the National Legal Services Authority v. Union of India case from 2014, the Supreme Court of India established the precedent for the rights of transgender people in India by acknowledging "transgender" as a "3rd gender" and establishing a number of rules to prevent discrimination against transgender people and protect their rights. In November 2015, Kerala have become the first state in India to formulate and launch a transgender policy in a bid to quit the injustice against this "third gender" network. It includes a plethora of progressive steps for the recognition, inclusion, and empowerment of the community, together with trans men, trans women, and intersex individuals in financial and social possibilities, public transport, health, social protection, education, and career sectors, thus setting a robust instance throughout India and overseas.

**HISTORICAL EVOLUTION OF
TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY IN INDIA**

Transgender has been an integral part of Indian society. The historical evidence for recognition of Transgender Community can be traced back from Vedic Literature and Puranas. The stories of Transgender has been mentioned in India's greatest epics such as the Mahabharata and the Ramayana. In the Medieval history, especially in Mughal period Transgender enjoyed special status. Later in Colonial period the British officials criminalized and denied their rights. These led to drastic change of position and situation of Transgender. In contemporary India, Transgender are considered as weak and marginalized section of the society. Indian government launched many policies and schemes for

the welfare of Transgender Community. The government also passed Transgender bill so they enjoy their Fundamental Rights.

First private member's bill approved by the Rajya Sabha in 36 years and by the entire Parliament in 45 years was the Rights of Transgender Persons Bill of 2014. The state of Kerala has end up the first state in India to roll out a transgender policy in 2015 toward ending societal stigma attached to this sexual minority group.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Kerala become the first state to introduce transgender policy and many new schemes were introduced by the state for the development of transgender people. This paper addresses that is this schemes are beneficial for Transgender community and what improvement are they expecting from Kerala state government.

NATURE AND SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM

Finding the various factors responsible for the benefit of Kerala's transgender schemes is the nature of the challenge. The development of the transgender community in Kerala will be the central focus of the problem's scope.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVE

1. To identify the benefits of Transgender Schemes in Kerala.
2. To find out the present condition of Transgender Schemes in Kerala.
3. Assessing what improvements can lead to the development of Transgender Society in Kerala.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

This paper has analyzed the different opinions of Transgender community in Kerala regarding whether the community is getting benefits from Transgender Schemes. It was not considered a serious subject for study for a very long time. The Government of Kerala initiated many schemes for transgenders but it is complicated to know if they are getting benefits from those schemes or are they even aware about those schemes. Some books, articles, websites, and journals have been refereed for the conceptual analysis of this paper.

Michelraj M In his paper titled "Historical Evolution of Transgender Community in India," examines the transgender community's development over time in India. The transgender community's historical development during the Mughal, British, Post-Independence, and modern periods. Transgender people held important positions throughout the Mughal dynasty, serving as political advisors and running the empire. During the British era, transsexual people profited from the availability of land and food rights. The Indian government has recently adopted new policies and programmes for the transgender community's social protection and wellbeing.

G Reshmi and K S Anil Kumar in the name 'Transgender: charithram samskaram prathinidhanam' about the realities of transgenders who are preparing to build a history lesson of survival by overcoming crises of the community.

Aneesh MS in his paper targeted on the high-quality of life among male to female transgenders in Kerala who were between age group of 18-40. The study adopted a descriptive research methodology and utilized quantitative methods. The study population consisted of male to female transgender people aged 18 to 40 from the three districts (Kottayam, Ernakulam, and Thrissur) of Kerala, India.

Neena Sawant in her paper 'Transgender: Status in India' in this report she explains the historical background as well the new policy adopted by government of India. She try to explain the important of Transgender community in India.

Jisha Chakkunny M and Sundara Raj T in 'Problems and Possibilities of Transgender Entrepreneurship in Kerala explained the major constraints confronted by the transgender entrepreneurs. Transgender entrepreneur enjoys high status and positions in our society. but transgender entrepreneurs face multiple varieties of issues and challenges. It

negatively influences their efficiency. So this paper give suggestions for the development of transgender entrepreneurship.

RESEARCH GAP

From the literature review above it has been found that there is no research done on this specific topic 'A Critical Analysis of Transgender Schemes in Kerala', though there has some general informed available on Transgender health and related issues but no specific study has been done so far, therefore the researcher will find knowledge gap between these certain aspects of effect measure for the transgender schemes in Kerala.

RESEACH METHODOLOGY

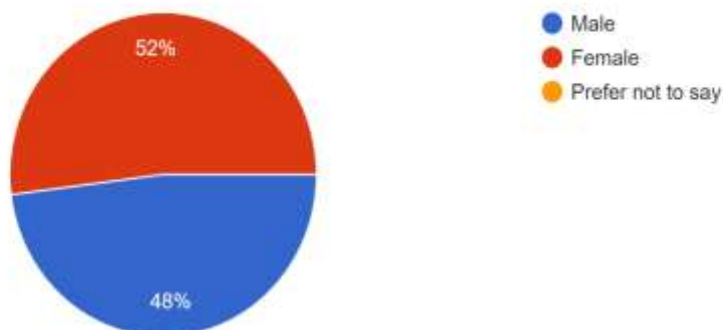
The methodology consist of qualitative method such as questionnaire and the data will be collected based on primary sources. The study's goal is to determine the advantages of transgender schemes in Kerala. The study was carried out in Kerala among residents of Kerala between the ages of 18 and 60.. Total sample size of 50 respondents will be taken for the completion of this paper.

DATA ANALYSIS

'A Critical Analysis of Transgender Schemes in Kerala" a questionnaire was prepared by the researcher in order to understand about the benefits transgender schemes n Kerala, their recommendation for the betterment of policies were also discussed. Here this data analysis is all about the responses that the researcher gained in accordance with the questionnaire, the sample size was of 50 .

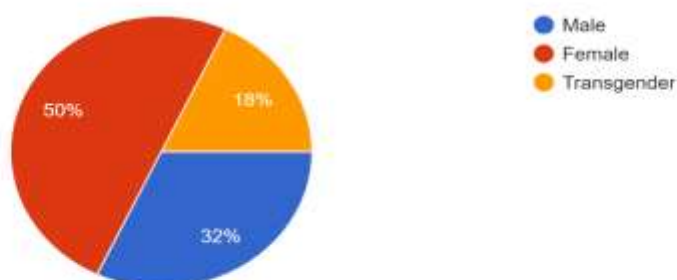
What sex were you assigned at birth, on your original birth certificate?

50 responses

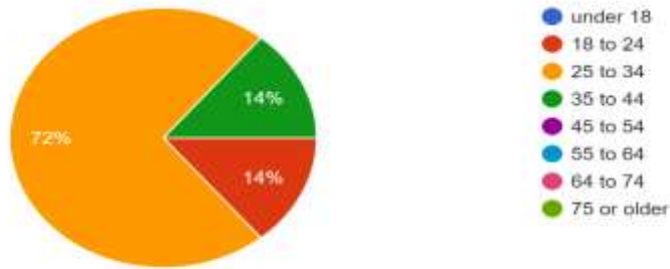


What is your current gender identity?

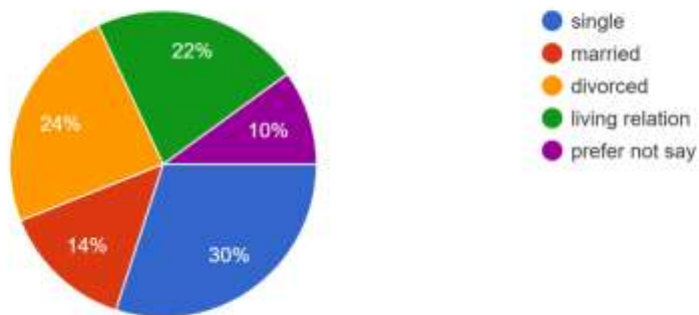
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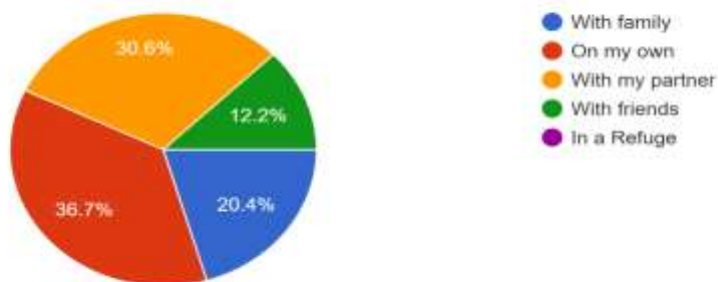
what is your age?
50 responses



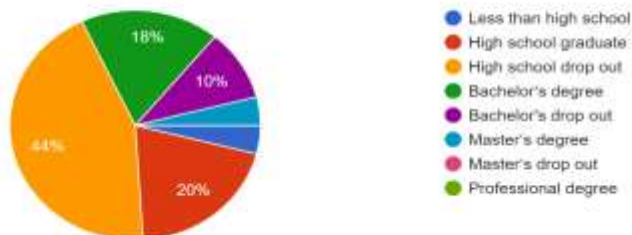
what is your current partnership status?
50 responses



What are your current living arrangements? I live...
49 responses

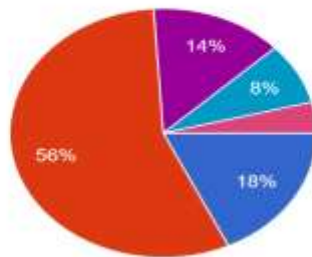


What is the highest degree or level of school you have completed?
50 responses



Employment Status: Are you currently... (Please select the one that best describes you)

50 responses



- Employed for wages
- Self-employed
- Out of work and looking for work
- Out of work and not currently looking for work
- A homemaker
- A student
- Unemployed

Employment Status: Are you currently... (Please select the one that best describes you)

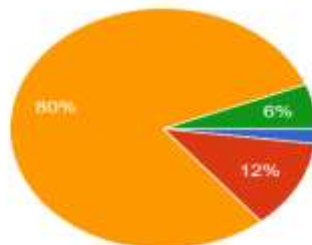
50 responses



- Employed for wages
- Self-employed
- Out of work and looking for work
- Out of work and not currently looking for work
- A homemaker
- A student
- Unemployed

In general, how would you rate your overall health?

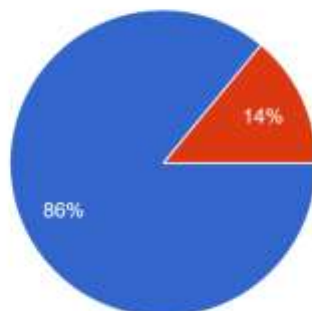
50 responses



- Excellent
- Very good
- Good
- Fair
- Poor

Have you EVER used hormone replacement therapy or cross-sex hormones?

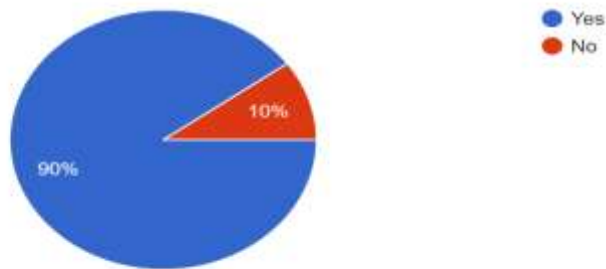
50 responses



- Yes
- No

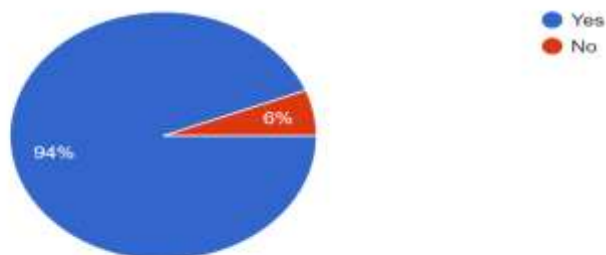
Are you currently taking hormone replacement therapy?

50 responses



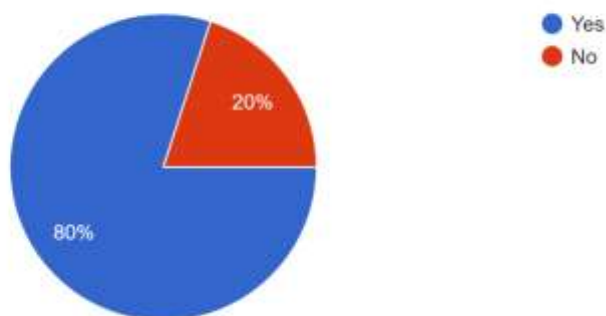
Are you planning to take hormone replacement therapy in the future?

50 responses



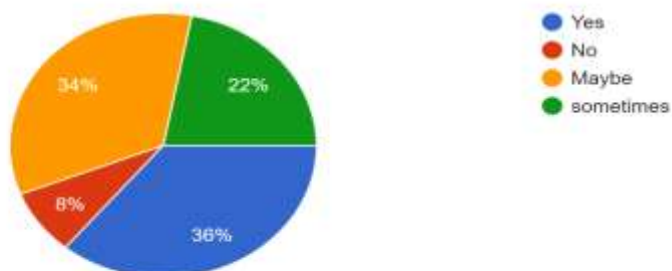
Are you aware about the schemes under Social Justice Department in Kerala ?

50 responses



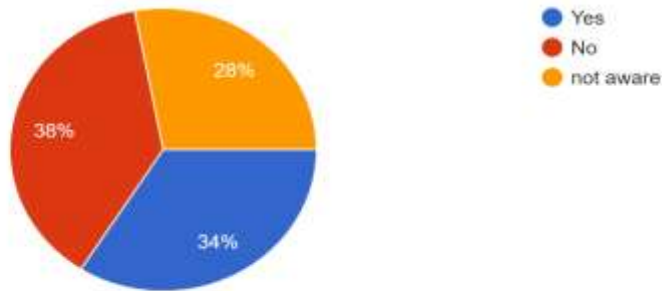
Are you getting any benefits from schemes under Social Justice Department?

50 responses



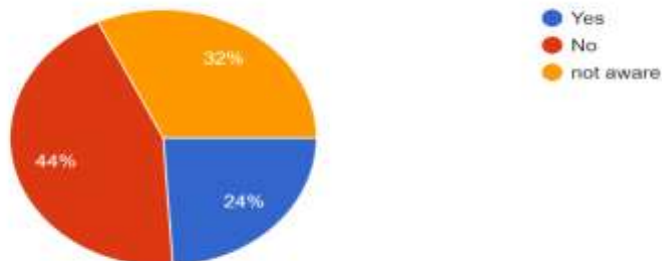
"Sakalyam" for imparting vocational training to Transgenders. are you getting any benefits?

50 responses



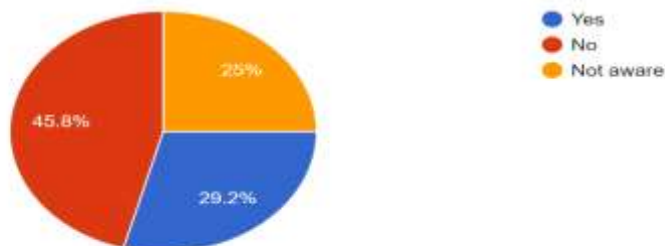
Karuthal Scheme is providing immediate medical assistance, treatment, food, shelter, clothing and legal aid. are you getting any benefits?

50 responses



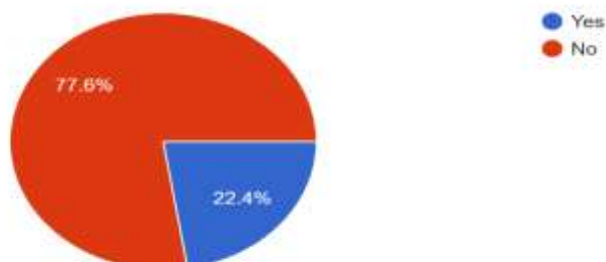
A scheme known as "Varnam" which provides financial assistance to Transgender students pursuing Degree/Diploma/ PG courses through dist... Are you getting any benefits from this scheme?

48 responses

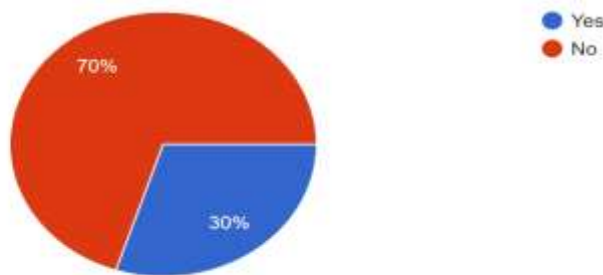


Social Justice Department has rolled out an innovative scheme called "Saphalam" that provides financial assistance to Transgender students pur...ssional courses. Are you aware about the scheme?

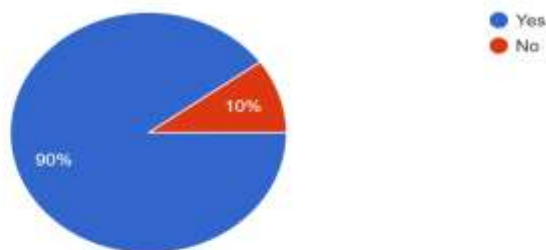
49 responses



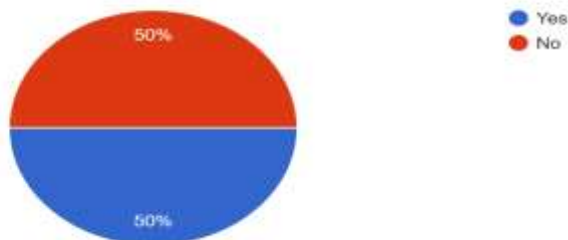
The Kerala State Literacy Mission Authority (KSLMA) along with Social Justice Department has rolled out a continuing education programme called Target population. are you aware about the scheme?
50 responses



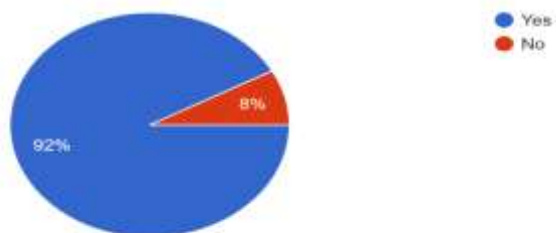
Department has introduced a new scheme which provides marriage assistance for legally married transgender couples who have undergone Sex Reassignment Surgery to Rs. 30,000/-. Are you aware about the scheme?
50 responses



Department has formulated an innovative scheme which provides financial assistance to Transgenders for earning a livelihood through self-employment. The assistance is Rs 50,000/-. Are you aware about the scheme?
50 responses

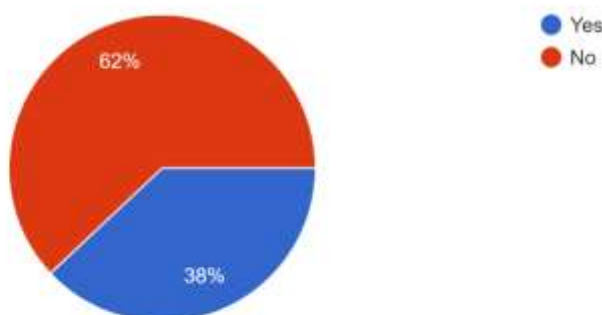


Social Justice Department has formulated a scheme which provides financial assistance to Transgender persons for undergoing sex reassignment surgery to Rs. 2 lakh. Are you aware about the scheme?
50 responses



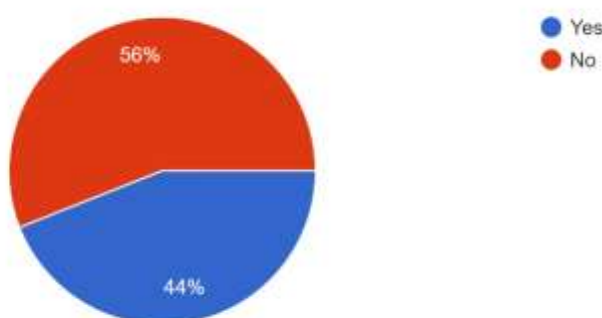
Department of Social Justice has introduced a scheme that provides an amount of Rs 4,000/- as financial assistance to Transgender community accommodation. Are you aware about the scheme?

50 responses



Department has introduced another scheme through which sewing machines will be distributed to the Transgenders who has undergone tailoring / e...d of their own. Are you aware about the scheme?

50 responses



RESULTS AND FINDINGS

When asked from the transgender community from Kerala about the schemes initiated by Kerala government for the upliftment of transgender community, mostly 80% are aware about the schemes 20% are not even aware, According to the questionnaire, lack of communication between the community and government was the main reason for not knowing about the schemes. But 90% responders told they got advantage from scheme which provide Rs. 30,000 for legally married transgender couples who have underwent Sex Reassignment Surgery (SRS) and scheme which provides financial assistance to scheme for transgender persons for undergoing sex reassignment surgery. The maximum amount of financial assistance will be up to Rs. 2 lakh. Other schemes which focuses on education and employment generation, they are not much aware about the schemes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following suggestions are made for the development of Transgender community in Kerala.

- Make them aware about the schemes

Mostly, people from transgender community are not known about different schemes initiated by the government of Kerala. It may be lack of communication between the government and the community. The community is only aware about some certain schemes. But the government of Kerala had initiated schemes for the development of education, health care and employment generation. If they are not aware about all those schemes the fund will be misused by the government employees.

- To include Trans persons in policy drafting

Another recommendation is that the government have to include transgender person in any policy drafting process that deals with the development of their community. So the government can easily draft policy according to the actual need of the community. It can also help to make them aware the new schemes. it will lead to the upliftment of the community in mainstream society.

- Increase the amount for Sex Reassignment Surgery (SRS) or Free Surgery facility

The government is providing minimum amount of 2 lakh as financial assistance for Trans Person who underwent SRS. But in private hospitals SRS(male to female surgery) can normally costs between Rs 2 lakh to Rs 5 lakh and SRS (female to male surgery) can costs between 4 lakh to 8 lakh. 56% of trans people are self employed and they stay away from family so neither have a stable income not support from their families. So they are demanding to increase the surgery amount or free surgery facility in government hospitals.

- Sanction SRS money without any delay

The state government of Kerala is providing Sex Reassignment Surgery (SRS) for transgender person who underwent surgery. But there is delay in sanctioning the amount. So another suggestion is to provide amount directly to the person without any delay.

CONCLUSION

In Kerala, the transgender community is vulnerable and subject to discrimination. They experience violence and discrimination in every aspect of their daily lives from members of the majority culture. The state of Kerala launched several schemes to support the transgender community. The topic of the current study is the state of transgender policies in Kerala at the moment. Another reason this study is helpful for the community is because there has never been a study done in Kerala that looks at the advantages of transgender policies. This study aids in examining existing understanding of the schemes and aids in helping people learn more about the government-initiated programs.

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