

Transgender Livelihood Programs

SETTING UP OF COMMON FACILITY CENTER (CFC) TO SUPPORT LIVELIHOOD OF TRANSGENDERS & WOMEN



SOCIAL STATUS: Transgender are deprived of social and cultural participation and hence they have restricted access to education, health care and public places which further deprives them of the Constitutional guarantee of equality before law and equal protection of laws. No formal education for transgender is popular in Indian context. As they are deprived from family and school environment; transgender discontinue their education and risk their future career opportunities to a large extent.

The transgender community faces stigma and discrimination and therefore has fewer opportunities as compared to others. They are hardly educated as they are not accepted by the society and therefore do not receive proper schooling. Even if they are enrolled in an educational institute, they face harassment and are bullied every day and are asked to leave the school or they drop out on their own. It is because of

this that they take up begging and sex work. They are forced into sex work which puts them at the highest risk of contracting HIV as they agree to unprotected sexual intercourse because they fear rejection.

PROBLEMS REALTED TO SOCIETAL ACCEPTANCE: Transgender people often face denial and aggression right from home. The problems range from verbal and physical abuse to isolation and rejection and denial of family property. Sexuality or gender identity often makes transgender a victim of stigmatization and exclusion by the society. Social stigma includes being disempowered due to the labeling and negative/generalized attitude towards such members who are forced to work as sex workers or sex solicitors.

Limited prospects in formal employment result in begging, prostitution or working with civil society organisations working for the welfare of sexual minorities being the main sources of livelihood. Government programmes, even the ones that list transgender persons as beneficiaries, have been ineffective due to the absence of targeted reach of these programmes within the community.

Hence We Care Society decided to intervene and provide the much-needed handholding for this community in terms of providing livelihood opportunities