



A STUDY ON THE RECOGNITION OF LGBTQ COMMUNITY

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ABSTRACT:

LGBT has become a widely accepted designation for minorities based on sexual and gender orientation. All members of these subgroups are subject to similar prejudices rooted in beliefs and traditions about sexuality and gender. LGBT people, as members of a social minority group, are suffering from various forms of socioeconomic and cultural injustice. The lack of social recognition has an effect on the capacity of LGBT people to fully access and enjoy their rights as citizens. They are more likely to experience intolerance, discrimination, harassment, and the threat of violence due to their sexual orientation, than those that identify themselves as heterosexual. Highlighting some major problems faced by LGBT people across the world due to lack of recognition.

Key Words: LGBT, Marginalization and Social Exclusion, Homophobia, Criminalization of homosexuality.

SYNOPSIS:

AIM OF THE PROJECT: The aim of the researcher in this project is to study on recognition of LGBTQ community.

SCOPE OF THE PROJECT: The scope of the project is limited to India.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY: The researcher for the completion of the project has done doctrinal research and has refereed to various journals for the same.

RESEARCH QUESTION: To analysis challenges faced by LGBTQ people due to lack of recognition.

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INTRODUCTION:

Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people are more likely to experience intolerance, discrimination, harassment, and the threat of violence due to their sexual orientation, than those that identify themselves as heterosexual. This is due to homophobia (the fear or hatred of homosexuality). Some of the factors that may reinforce homophobia on a larger scale are moral, religious, and political beliefs of a dominant group. In some countries, homosexuality is illegal and punishable by fines, imprisonment, life imprisonment and even the death penalty. Human sexuality is diversely experienced, and can be fixed or fluid. Male/female sexuality is blurred further with the existence of transgender, transsexual and intersex identified people. Heterosexuality should no longer be assumed; this assumption is called heterosexism. Although many societies have made significant strides in human rights advocacy, LGBT rights struggle to find universal acceptance.

The fact that the Universal Declaration for Human Rights, drafted in 1948, does not specifically include sexual orientation allows some people to consider LGBT rights debatable. The declaration does however state: —Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration without distinction of any kind. All people have an equal right to live free from violence, persecution, discrimination and stigma. International human rights law establishes legal obligations on States to ensure that every person, without distinction, can enjoy these rights. While welcoming increasing efforts in many countries to protect the rights of LGBTI people, we remain seriously concerned that around the world, millions of LGBTI individuals, those perceived as LGBTI and their families face widespread human rights violations. T

his is cause for alarm – and action.

Failure to uphold the human rights of LGBTI people and protect them against abuses such as violence and discriminatory laws and practices, constitute serious violations of international human rights law and have a far-reaching impact on society – contributing to increased vulnerability to ill health including HIV infection, social and economic exclusion, putting strain on families and communities. States bear the primary duty under international law to protect everyone from discrimination and violence. These violations therefore require an urgent response by governments, parliaments, judiciaries and national human rights institutions. Community, religious and political leaders, workers’ organizations, the private sector, health providers, civil society organizations and the media also have important roles to play. Human rights are universal – cultural, religious and moral practices and beliefs and social attitudes cannot be invoked to justify human rights violations against any group, including LGBTI persons.

CONCEPT OF LGBT:

LGBT is an initialism that stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender. The initialism LGBT is intended to emphasize a diversity of sexuality and gender identity-based cultures and is sometimes used to refer to anyone who is non-heterosexual or non cisgender instead of exclusively to people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or

transgender. To recognize this inclusion, a popular variant adds the letter Q for those who identify as queer and/or are questioning their sexual identity as LGBTQ, recorded since 1996. Whether or not LGBT people openly identify themselves may depend on whether they live in a discriminatory environment, as well as the status of LGBT rights where one lives. Before the sexual revolution of the 1960s, there was no common non-derogatory vocabulary for non heterosexuality; the closest such term, "third gender", traces back to the 1860s but never gained wide acceptance in the United States.

The first widely used term, homosexual, was thought to carry negative connotations and tended to be replaced by homophile in the 1950s and 1960s, and subsequently gay in the 1970s. As lesbians forged more public identities, the phrase "gay and lesbian" became more common. Lesbians who held a more essentialist view that they had been born homosexual and used the descriptor "lesbian" to define sexual attraction, often considered the separatist, angry opinions of lesbian feminists to be detrimental to the cause of gay rights. This was soon followed by bisexual and transgender people also seeking recognition as legitimate categories within the larger community. After the initial euphoria of the Stonewall riots²wore off, starting in the late 1970s and the early 1980s, there was a change in perception; some gays and lesbians became less accepting of bisexual or transgender people. It was thought that transgender people were acting out stereotypes and bisexuals were simply gay men or lesbian women who were afraid to come out and be honest about their identity. Each community that is collectively included has struggled to develop its own identity including whether, and how, to align with other gender and sexuality-based communities at times excluding other subgroups; these conflicts continue to this day³

PROBLEMS FACED BY LGBT PEOPLE DUE TO LACK OF RECOGNITION:

Today, homosexuality and queer identities may be acceptable to more Indian youths than ever before, but within the boundaries of family, home and school, acceptance of their sexuality and freedom to openly express their gender choices still remain a constant struggle for LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) people.

“Around the world, children and young people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) or intersex, or seen as such, still face stigma, discrimination and violence because of their perceived or actual sexual orientation and gender identity, or because their bodies differ from typical definitions of female or male.

1. Marginalization and Social Exclusion:

Marginalization is at the core of exclusion from fulfilling and full social lives at individual, interpersonal and societal levels. People who are marginalized have relatively little control over their lives and the resources available

² The Stonewall Riots were a series of violent conflicts between LGBT people and New York City police officers that began during a June 28, 1969 police raid at the Stonewall Inn, a bar in the West Village. Up to and including the 1960s, law enforcement raids on gay bars were a regular part of gay life in cities across the United States, with police sometimes recording the identities of those present at the raid and providing the information to newspapers for publication. The Stonewall conflicts lasted several days, with a crowd of 400 protesters. LGBT people had never before acted together in such large numbers to forcibly resist police harassment directed towards their community.

³ LGBT From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, Retrieved 13 oct 2021 from <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGBT>

to them; they may become stigmatized and are often at the receiving end of negative public attitudes. Their opportunities to make social contributions may be limited and they may develop low self-confidence and self-esteem and may become isolated. Social policies and practices may mean they have relatively limited access to valued social resources such as education and health services, housing, income, leisure activities and work. The impacts of marginalization, in terms of social exclusion, are similar, whatever the origins and processes of marginalization, irrespective of whether these are to be located in social attitudes (such as towards impairment, sexuality, ethnicity and so on) or social circumstance (such as closure of workplaces, absence of affordable housing and so on). LGBT individuals may experience multiple forms of marginalization—such as racism, sexism, poverty or other factors – alongside homophobia or transphobia that negatively impact on mental health. The stigma attached to sexual orientation and gender identity or expression that fall outside the expected heterosexual, non-transgender norm relegates many LGBT people to the margins of society. This marginalization often excludes LGBT people from many support structures, often including their own families, leaving them with little access to services many others take for granted, such as medical care, justice and legal services, and education. Marginalization and bias around sexual orientation and gender identity and expression regularly prevent LGBT people from accessing fundamental public services such as health care and housing and contributes to significant health disparities.

Marginalization of LGBT people often starts with the family into which they were born. The familial marginalization of LGBT youth hinders initial prevention and education efforts, encourages risk-taking behavior that can lead to HIV infection, and places obstacles in the way of receiving proper medical treatment and psychosocial support for LGBT youth already living with HIV/AIDS. Moreover, lacking other means of support, many LGBT youth are forced to turn to criminalized activities such as sex work to survive, which drives them further onto the margins of society and can expose them to greatly elevated risk for HIV.

Impact of Exclusion and Discrimination:

The exclusion and discrimination have major impacts on the lives of lesbian, gay and transgender persons. This has resulted in the following:

- * Dropping out of school earlier
- * Leaving Home and Family
- * Unable to find regular jobs, have less options than others.
- * Being ignored in the community and isolated
- * Unable to access various services and Unaware of what they are entitled to
- * Mobility, Move to other areas, (such as the city and urban areas)

- * Lack of family and social support
- * Migrate to other countries for seeking safer livelihood and acceptance
- * Rejected from Religion (Esp. Muslim and some Christian Fundamentalist sects)
- * Attempt suicide
- * Decide to follow their parents to marry opposite sex and then divorce.

2. Impact of Family Reactions on LGBT Children: Conflict and Rejection

In the past, very few adolescents —came out to their families or told others they were gay. Most lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals (LGB) waited until they were adults to talk about their LGB identity with others. Fear of rejection and serious negative reactions kept many LGB adults from openly sharing their lives. Until the 1990s, there were limited resources for LGBT youth. Gay and transgender adolescents had few sources of information to learn about their identity or to find support. More recently, the Internet, school diversity clubs, and LGBT youth groups have helped gay and transgender youth find accurate information, guidance, and support. With greater access to resources, more LGBT youth are coming out (sharing their gay or transgender identity with friends, family, and other adults) during adolescence. Until recently, little was known about how families react when an LGBT young person comes out during adolescence. And even less was known about how family reactions affect an LGBT adolescent's health and mental health. Families and caregivers have a major impact on their LGBT children's risk and well-being. New research from Family Acceptance Project (FAP) shows it.

FAP researchers identified more than 100 behaviors that families and caregivers use to react to their LGBT children's identity. About half of these behaviors are accepting and half are rejecting. FAP researchers measured each of these behaviors to show how family reactions affect an LGBT young person's risk and well-being. FAP researchers found that families who are conflicted about their children's LGBT identity believe that the best way to help their children survive and thrive in the world is to help them fit in with their heterosexual peers. So when these families block access to their child's gay friends or LGBT resources, they are acting out of care and concern. They believe their actions will help their gay or transgender child have a good life. But adolescents who feel like their parents want to change who they are think their parents don't love them or even hate them. Lack of communication and misunderstanding between parents and their LGBT children increases family conflict. These problems with communication and lack of understanding about sexual orientation and gender identity can lead to fighting and family disruption that can result in an LGBT adolescent being removed from or forced out of the home. Many LGBT youth are placed in foster care, or end up in juvenile detention or on the streets, because of family conflict related to their LGBT identity. These factors increase their risk for abuse and for serious health and mental health problems.

Research from FAP shows that family rejection has a serious impact on LGBT young people's health and mental health. LGBT young people who were rejected by their families because of their identity have much lower self-esteem and have fewer people they can turn to for help. They are also more isolated and have less support than those who were accepted by their families. LGBT teens who are highly rejected by their parents and caregivers are at very high risk for health and mental health problems when they become young adults. They have poorer health than LGBT young people who are not rejected by their families. They have more problems with drug use. They feel more hopeless and are much less likely to protect themselves from HIV or sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). And this behavior puts them at higher risk for HIV and AIDS. Compared with LGBT young people who were not rejected or were only a little rejected by their parents and caregivers because of their gay or transgender identity, highly rejected LGBT young people were:

- More than 8 times as likely to have attempted suicide;
- Nearly 6 times as likely to report high levels of depression;
- More than 3 times as likely to use illegal drugs; and
- More than 3 times as likely to be at high risk for HIV and STDs.

Many LGBT youth and those who question their identity feel like they have to hide who they are to avoid being rejected. Many hide so that they won't hurt their parents and other family members who believe that being gay is wrong or sinful. But hiding has a cost. It undermines an LGBT adolescent's self-esteem and sense of self-worth. It increases risky behaviors, such as risk for HIV or substance abuse. It also affects their ability to plan for the future, including their ability to have career or vocational plans. And it makes them less likely to want to have a family or to be parents themselves.

3. Problems of Homelessness:

The myriad problems facing LGBT people who are homeless include a lack of housing and services that meet their specific needs. For example: An estimated 40-50% of the homeless youth living on New York City's streets identify as LGBT. They are living there because they were thrown out of their homes for being queer, or ran away to escape an abusive situation. Family housing in the shelter system across the country is not available for homeless same-sex couples. Transgender people are not allowed to choose with which gender they are more comfortable living in the shelter system. Abuse and harassment of LGBT homeless people is rampant in the shelter system. Most domestic violence shelters do not accept gay men or transgender people. There has been also a lack of any comprehensive plan for long-term housing for people with AIDS. Homeless LGBT youth are without economic support, often engage in drug use and risky sexual behaviors, and often develop mental health disorders. Homeless

LGBT youth miss out on education and social support during critical formative years—more than half of homeless LGBT youth report experiencing discrimination from peers.

4. Harassment of LGBT Students in Schools:

LGBT students face harassment in schools. Being a teenager is tough enough without fearing harassment in a place where you're supposed to feel safe. All over the country lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) students get harassed every day in school. Students who may be even just perceived as being LGBT also get harassed. According to Sara Kost⁹, Studies done by the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) report that nearly 9 out of 10 LGBT students face harassment. The 2007 National School Climate Survey found not only that LGBT students were harassed, but that 31.7% of LGBT students missed a class and 32.7% missed a day of school in the past month because of feeling unsafe. If students don't go to class, they can't learn and their grades begin to reflect it. The reported grade point average of students who were more frequently harassed because of their sexual orientation or gender expression was almost half a grade lower than for students who were less often harassed (2.8 versus 2.4). The only thing teenagers should worry about in school is leaning the material presented. Obviously, most teenagers have much more on their minds than that, however harassment shouldn't be one of them. Over 4000 Gay-Straight Alliances are registered with GLSEN. These clubs provide a safe space for the LGBT students in their school, as well as an educational tool for the rest of the school to help better the climate and diminish harassment. Too many LGBT students find it hard to speak up about harassment because it is so embedded in our culture. LGBT harassment is one of the last forms of harassment that is still allowed in popular culture.

5. Psychological Distress:

LGBT people face considerable levels of stigmatization, discrimination and harassment in their daily lives. The majorities of LGBT people learn to cope with this, particularly when they have the support of family and friends, and participate with LGBT organizations and social networks. However, a significant number of LGBT people, most particularly younger LGBT people, had to cope with stigmatization, discrimination and harassment without support. Many also faced additional stress from experiences such as very high levels of homophobic bullying in schools and physical and verbal attacks. This had a negative impact on their mental health, leading to significant levels of psychological distress, self-harm and suicidality. LGBT teenagers can be particularly isolated, given that many will be exploring their sexual orientation or gender identity without any support. At this time of negotiating their journey to adulthood, a critical period of social and emotional development, they can be particularly vulnerable. It is often more difficult for LGBT people to be out in rural areas.

Cities are more conducive to allowing LGBT people select which areas of their life they wish to be out in and to whom they are out to e.g. work, with friends, to family, neighbours, with medical services and associative activities. This is more difficult in rural areas where being out in one domain e.g. at work means it is more likely

that one's community, one's family and one's friends are aware that one is LGBT. Rural LGBT people may be more likely to leave the place of their birth/youth than the general population. Gay and bisexual men and women are more likely to experience depression and anxiety than are their heterosexual counterparts. These emotions might include intense sadness, anxiety, loneliness, discomfort in social situations, and feeling overwhelmed. It's not because of their gender identity alone! It's because in a patriarchal society, being gender variant causes a lot of distress. So much distress, in fact, that it can be described by the diagnosis of a mental disorder. A number of factors may contribute to this, from living in an often homophobic society to facing family rejection to being closeted in some or all aspects of life. Mental disorders are not symptoms of sexual orientation, but rather they are symptoms of discrimination and fear of discrimination. Most likely due to violence, social rejection, and isolation, the LGBT community experiences higher rates of anxiety, mood and substance use disorders, and suicidal thoughts among people ages 15-54¹⁰. Possibly due to rejection from both gay and straight communities, bisexual women have been found to have significantly poorer mental health than either lesbians or heterosexual women. Mayock in a large scale Irish study report that young LGBT people as a whole are more vulnerable to psychological distress. They report that over 60% of respondents directly attribute stress and depression directly to their non-heterosexual identity. There is a large body of evidence which supports the claim that poor emotional health can be as a result of homophobic attitudes and heterosexism in society leading to lowered self-esteem and confidence and increased stress particularly for young gay women.

Experiences that could negatively impact mental health:

- *Hostility from or rejection by loved ones or religious groups
- *Bullying at school, harassment by neighbors, danger of violence in public places
- *Casual homophobic comments on everyday basis
- *Prejudice/embarrassed response from professionals
- *No protection against discrimination at work, housing, pensions, etc.
- *Childhood sexual abuse
- *Verbal harassment, greater fear of physical violence and discrimination.

6. Poor Economic Condition and Discrimination in the Workplace:

In addition to homophobia, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people confront racism and poverty on a daily basis. Discrimination of LGBT persons in the workplace is a significant factor in the differences in socioeconomic status for LGBT persons. Gay and transgender individuals suffer from socioeconomic inequalities in large part due to pervasive discrimination in the workplace. Discrimination directly causes job instability and high

turnover, resulting in greater unemployment and poverty rates for gay and transgender people, as well as the wage gap between gay and straight. In her 1998 report, *Income Inflation: The Myth of Affluence Among Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Americans*, economist Lee Badgett that LGBT people do not earn more than heterosexual people. Badgett points to the diversity of economic life among LGBT populations, observing that in many cases, LGBT people earn less than their heterosexual counterparts.

7. Victims of hate Crimes and Violence:

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people and those perceived to be LGBT are regularly targeted as victims of hate crimes and violence. LGBT people experience stigma and discrimination across their life spans, and are targets of sexual and physical assault, harassment and hate crimes. Additional factors that may impact on mental health and well-being for LGBT people include the process of —coming out (sharing one’s LGBTQ identity with others), gender transition, internalized oppression, isolation and alienation, loss of family or social support, and the impact of HIV and AIDS. However, LGBT individuals’ experiences of violence and discrimination differ depending on a number of factors including race, gender, income, immigration status and language barriers. LGBT immigrants are more likely to face violence based on race and ethnicity and/or sexual identity and/or gender identity.

8. Problems of Criminalization:

In some countries, homosexuality is illegal and punishable by fines, imprisonment, life imprisonment and even the death penalty. Generally speaking, regardless of Sunni or Shia, a majority of Muslims do have very negative attitudes toward people of LGBT. To the traditionalists the Quran is clear about homosexuality, and there is no tolerance for debating the context or semantics. According to Mission Islam, an online network on varying Islamic teachings, every major Islamic school of thought considers sex between two men to be sinful and unlawful. Some schools of thought believe it merits severe physical punishment; including stoning to death. Others would sentence it with imprisonment or banishment from the state. Today, most governments that follow Islamic law defer on the punishment used for offenders. But, there have been cases where men convicted of having gay sex have been killed. According to the International Lesbian and Gay Association, only eight predominately Muslim countries, as of 2011, retain capital punishment for homosexual behavior: Saudi Arabia, Iran, Yemen, Qatar, Sudan, Somalia, Nigeria and Mauritania. LGBT Muslims living in the United States do not typically experience this sort of physical punishment though they often face verbal persecution and social exclusion from traditional Muslim communities. The advancement of gay rights also took a huge step back in the country of India. According to Reuters on December 2011, India’s Supreme Court has overturned a ruling by a lower court back in 2009 that decriminalized gay sex in the country, thus ruling homosexuality as an offense. Section 377 of India’s penal code that dates back to the 19th century bans —sex against the order of nature. Homosexuality fits that definition and is an offense punishable to up to 10 years in prison

9. Legal Injustice :

LGBT communities have an important stake in legal injustice issues. Specific groups within the LGBT community are disproportionately affected by violence and discrimination, sometimes at the hands of law enforcement officials. In recent years, there have been many documented instances of police brutality directed towards LGBT people in the U.S. Many police departments continue to be accused of insensitivity, including not appropriately responding to violence directed at LGBT people. For example: LGBT people of color, youth, and sex workers are particularly vulnerable to police misconduct and abuse; transgender people are also at greater risk of being targeted by police and treated inappropriately or abusively while in police custody. LGBT people of color, transgender people and LGBT homeless youth are disproportionately targeted by police officers for non-violent drug arrests; they are more likely than most white, heterosexual middle-class drug users to face drug possession charges; and they often receive harsher sentencing. Once imprisoned, LGBT people are frequently targeted for additional harassment in an already inhumane prison system. In many instances LGBT individuals are not legally protected from abusive and discriminatory actions, as many oppressive legal ordinances and laws restrict LGBT-identified individuals from sharing the same basic human rights and privileges as those who do not identify as LGBT.

CONCLUSION AND NECESSARY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Laws that, directly or indirectly, criminalize people on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity further exacerbate violence and discrimination. This includes ‘anti-gay propaganda’ laws that arbitrarily restrict rights to freedom of expression and assembly and threaten the work of LGBT organizations and human rights defenders. Although it is claimed that these laws protect children, the result is, typically, the exact opposite: they result in violence against children and young activists who speak up against abuses. These and other discriminatory laws go against international human rights standards and should be repealed.

States must act to protect all children and young adults from violence, and ensure that effective child protection and support systems are in place, including shelters and other safety mechanisms for those in need of protection.

Societal attitudes against LGBT and intersex persons should not be used as justification to promote discriminatory laws and policies, to perpetuate discriminatory treatment, or to fail to investigate and prosecute those responsible for violence against LGBT and intersex children and young people. States must act to overcome prejudice and stereotypes through anti-discrimination initiatives in schools and public education campaigns. They should also address intersectional discrimination and violence against LGBT and intersex youth on the basis of race and ethnicity.

The health and well-being of all children and young adults must be protected, including through ensuring access to non-discriminatory health services and comprehensive sexuality education, and by protecting the rights of all children and young adults to their identity, autonomy, and physical and psychological integrity.

All States should comply with their obligation to respect, protect and fulfill the rights of all children and young adults without discrimination, to ensure that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex children and young people are consulted and participate in discussions on policies and laws that impact on their rights. Human rights and child rights institutions should fulfil their mandate and play their part in protecting them from violence and discrimination.

GLOSSARY:

Bisexual— A person who is sexually attracted to both men and women or to a set of qualities that do not necessarily line up with biological sex.

Come out—To publicly affirm one's homosexual identity, sometimes to one person in conversation, sometimes by an act that places one in the public eye. It is not a single event, but rather a lifelong process.

Gay—Used to describe people whose enduring physical, romantic, emotional, and/or spiritual attractions are to people of the same sex. In contemporary contexts; —Lesbian is often a preferred term for women.

Gender Identity—The gender that a person sees themselves as. This can include refusing to label oneself with a gender.

Heterosexual privilege- The benefits granted automatically to heterosexual people that are denied to gay men and lesbians.

Homophobia- A fear and hatred of LGBT individuals based on a lack of knowledge and cultural conditioning. It is also manifested as a fear of being or being perceived as gay, or the fear of one's own attraction to the same gender.

Internalized Homophobia-The process by which a member of the LGBT community comes to accept and live out inaccurate, disparaging myths and stereotypes about LGBT persons.

Lesbian-A woman who has emotional, social, psychological, and physical commitments and responses to other women.

Marginalization- The process whereby something or someone is pushed to the edge of a group and accorded lesser importance. This is predominantly a social phenomenon by which a minority or sub-group is excluded, and their needs or desires ignored. Marginalization can be defined as the process in which groups of people are excluded (marginalized) by the wider society. Marginalization is often used in an economic or political sense to refer to the rendering of an individual, an ethnic or national group, or a nation-state powerless by a more powerful individual.

Queer—Once a derogatory term, the word —queerl has been embraced by the GLBT community and is used as an umbrella term for all sexual minorities.

Questioning—Being unsure of one’s sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

Sexual Orientation or Identity—Emotional, physical, and/or sexual attraction to others, which may be towards the same sex (homosexual), the other sex (heterosexual), or both sexes (bisexual).

Social Exclusion- The European Commission and European Council defined social exclusion as a: —process whereby certain individuals are pushed to the edge of society and prevented from participating fully by virtue of their poverty, or lack of basic competencies and lifelong learning opportunities, or as a result of discrimination. This distances them from job, income and education and training opportunities as well as social and community networks and activities. They have little access to power and decision-making bodies and thus often feel powerless and unable to take control over the decisions that affect their day to day lives.

Transphobia- is a range of negative attitudes and feelings towards transsexuality and transsexual or transgender people, based on the expression of their internal gender identity.

Transgender—Refers to persons whose self-perception as male or female is different than their biological sex and who live full-time as the other sex.

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