

Tales of Triumph: An Analysis of Famous Transgender Personalities from India

Haripriya R. J. Nair^{1&2} & Manjula K. T.³

¹ Assistant Professor, Department of English, Christ Nagar College, Maranalloor, India,

² Research Scholar in English, Institute of Social Sciences and Humanities, Srinivas University, Mangalore, India,

Orcid ID: 0000-0001-9495-7310; E-mail ID: hariparvathy15@gmail.com

³ Research Professor, Institute of Social Sciences and Humanities, Srinivas University, Mangalore, India,

Orcid ID: 0000-0002-2459-1103; E-mail ID: manjula.kalyat@gmail.com

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Haripriya R. J. Nair^{1&2} & Manjula K. T.³

¹ Assistant Professor, Department of English, Christ Nagar College, Maranalloor, India,

² Research Scholar in English, Institute of Social Sciences and Humanities, Srinivas University, Mangalore, India,

Orcid ID: 0000-0001-9495-7310; E-mail ID: hariparvathy15@gmail.com

³ Research Professor, Institute of Social Sciences and Humanities, Srinivas University, Mangalore, India,

Orcid ID: 0000-0002-2459-1103; E-mail ID: manjula.kalyat@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Purpose: *The journey of travelling for authentication of one's own sexual or gender identity is never a rose paved path before transgender persons, as their journey is beyond or away from established ideologies proposed about gender. Being born with a particular sexual identity but later realizing that the birth sex is not the actual essence of own self is a serious traumatic phase in any transgender life. It is never a pleasant reality for any of the believer of heterosexuality. They can never accept the existence of a varied gender or sexual category apart from one assigned at the time of birth. Thus, transgenders are forced to hide or suppress own identity to get acceptance in a gender binary led society like India. But there are many who were able to triumph in spite of sufferings from the shackles of gender inequality. Their tales are of courage, willpower, and self-reliance held firmly even before whips of harsh gender otherness. Thus, the article titled "Tales of Triumph: An Analysis of Famous Transgender Personalities from India" is an earnest attempt to draw mass attention to such excellent personalities from a suppressed gender group.*

Design: *The article is prepared by collecting information from secondary sources such as peer-reviewed journals and National and International Publications. Internet sources, and research sources like Google Scholar, Research Gate, SSRN, Elsevier, Academia, and Shodhganga are used for identifying the research gap. To highlight the key aspects of the research ABCD analysis is used. Data is acquired from research journals, doctoral theses, scholarly articles, and websites to carry out the research that has been proposed. Concentrating on the keywords Transgender, Transgender in India, Famous Transgender, Excellent Trans Person, Gender Fluidity, Gender Binaries, of the chosen topic, the methodology used depends mostly on collecting, analyzing, and interpreting previous knowledge. The textual analysis and comparative method will be used in the methodology. There will be a close reading of the select works of Transgender writers followed by discussions on related issues. Writing research papers and participating in conferences on the subject are also aimed at. While conducting the analyses of the study, APA Manual has been followed to adhere to its requirements.*

Findings: *It has been found out that limited study is available regarding great transgender personalities from India, thus a paper discussing the triumph or victories of such a repressed gender minority in India is very essential for educating public about their achievements.*

Originality: *The proposed study focuses primarily on transgender community in India and their priceless achievements in various realms of human knowledge, thus attempting to create awareness about transgender persons and their victories through various time frames. An awareness created about such a category is highly essential for a heterosexual society to reform their perspectives about third gender in India.*

Paper Type: *Research Article*

Keywords: Transgender, Transgender in India, Famous Transgender, Excellent Trans Person, Gender Fluidity, Gender Binaries.

1. INTRODUCTION :

A journey from the borders of mainstream society to the center of various realms of human achievements is never an easy task for the transgender population. The thorny path that they tread makes them bleed severely in every leap to success. Thus, people who were able to create success from a traditionally oppressed gender section of a heterosexual and gender binary ruled society is highly laudable. The exorbitant rate that they must pay before a greatly narrow minded society in terms of suffering, tolerance, trauma, and pain is beyond the power of mere explanatory linguistic symbols called words [1].

2. RELATED WORKS :

The keywords used to search the literature are Transgender, Transgender in India, Famous Transgender, Excellent Trans Person, Gender Fluidity, and Gender Binaries ranging from the years 2005- 2022. The search engines used for the search are Google Scholar, Research Gate, SSRN and Academia.edu.

Table 1: Related works on Transgender, Transgender in India, Famous Transgender, Excellent Trans Person, Gender Fluidity, Gender Binaries

S. NO.	FOCUS	OUTCOME	REFERENCE
1.	Transgender	An introductory section into various issues affecting the transgender population and a lesson about the rights and laws implemented for transgender welfare and developments.	Stryker Susan [2]
2.	Transgender in India	Current status of transgender in India is analyzed in detail by considering the role of such a category during different time frames and studying with special focus their representations in dominant literature and legal systems.	Sawant, N. S. [3]
3.	Famous Transgender	An easily understandable history of Transgender population in the United States is provided as a way to realize their problems thereby facilitating awareness about the policies that can be implemented to raise from oppression.	Matthews, Lacie. [4]
4.	Excellent Trans Person	A comprehensible history of the Indian transgender community and their rights and problems are discussed.	Goswami, Sribas. & Karmakar, Sushweta. [5]
5.	Gender Fluidity and Gender Binaries	The depiction of gender fluidity by people in contemporary society and its impact on traditional binary constructs of gender are discussed in detail.	Gosling, J. [6]

3. RESEARCH GAP :

It has been identified through the literature review that a few works address the triumph of transgender in different areas of knowledge. Thus the agenda of this paper is to offer a detailed study of major transgender personalities from India.

4. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY :

The chief objectives of the research article are:

- (1) Make a study of the famous transgender personalities from India.
- (2) Address the problems of transgender in coming to the centers of human knowledge.
- (3) Arrive at methods to solve transgender issues.
- (4) Study in detail issues of transgender using ABCD analysis.

5. METHODOLOGY :

The paper entitled ‘Tales of Triumph: An Analysis of Famous Transgender Personalities from India’ is an explorative research article trying to explore the question of discrimination faced by the third gender.

Though many talked about the laws for such a section, very few researches reveal the disparity between the existence of laws and the exploitation of transgender. Thus, the article is an explorative study using search engines like Google Scholar, Research Gate, SSRN, and Academia.edu to search for authentic records to reveal such an irony between what is believed to be about transgender in the light of laws but what is actually felt by them in society.

6. ANALYSING FAMOUS TRANSGENDER PERSONALITIES FROM INDIA :

6.1 Television & Journalism:

Padmini Prakash

Padmini Prakash is a transgender news anchor, actor and activist. She is the first Indian transgender news anchor on the Tamil news channel called Lotus News Channel on 15 August 2014.

6.2 Film:

Anjali Ameer

First transgender to play a lead role in the mainstream Malayalam film industry with actor Mammooty in the film *Peranb*. Thus, she revolutionised the traditional notions about the film industry and an actress.

6.3 Politics:

Shabnam Mausi

Shabnam Mausi was the first transgender from India to become a MLA from the state of Madhya Pradesh. Her life is dedicated to serving the minorities especially the transgender and she inspires many from her community to give up traditionally assigned jobs for third gender like begging or sex work and instead take up responsible roles in society.

Madhu Kinnar

India's first transgender to become a mayor from the state of Chhattisgarh and she is known for her wholehearted service for the transgender population. She left her Dalit home at a very young age and was taking up many jobs as a singer, street dancer and so on. However, through the elections she came to be known as a mayor who openly admitted her transgender identity.

6.4 Religion:

Bharathi

Bharathi is India's first transgender pastor at the Evangelical Church of India in Chennai. She is thus a true reformation star in the field of religion from transgender community.

6.5 Bodybuilding:

Aryan Pasha

First transgender bodybuilding champion from India who secured the second position in the Men's Physique (short) category in the bodybuilding event, called 'Musclemania India.'

6.6 Police & Defense:

6.6.1 Police

Prithika Yashini

First transgender police officer from India who was born as Pradeep Kumar into a poor household and was taken to many temples and religious setups to cure her so called illness which was actually her gender realization. Despite the odds, she completed her graduation in Computer Science and later moved to Chennai, worked as a Women's Hostel warden, later she applied for the job of sub inspector but was rejected as a transgender, then she with the help of High Court of Madras wrote the written examinations and attended the physical test and viva of the same and was appointed in Tamil Nadu on April 2, 2017 as the first transgender police officer of India.

6.6.2 Navy

Shabi

Shabi, who was born as MK Giri, who was refused any sort of help by her Navy doctors when she realized that she is not fitting well in her birth gender. However, her gender identity forced her to take leave from Navy and get her sex reassignment surgery done in Delhi. Then she joined back Navy after surgery but later when she suffered from a urinary tract infection, she was forced to reveal her organ change, Navy refused to accept her new identity of a transwoman or a woman and was tormented inside the psychiatric ward of Navy to make her mentally unfit for the post, but she survived all agonies and resumed her job as a woman. But Shabi's case shows how defence or military excludes transgender and discriminates woman.

6.7 Law & Medicine:

6.7.1 Law

Sathyasri Sharmila

India's first transgender lawyer from the state of Tamil Nadu, who through her appearance in the legal system tried to prove how the institution of law could be used for welfare and advancement of transgender community. Sathyasri Sharmila was born as Udhayakumar, and initially completed her B.Com (Company Secretaryship) from Paramakudi, but later changed her mind to take up a profession that is of a lawyer which would help her to stand for her own community. Later in 2004, she joined and completed successfully the Bachelors of Law course in Salem Government College and enrolled with the State Bar Council, thus eventually came to be recognised as first transgender lawyer from the state of Tamil Nadu.

Joyita Mondal

Mondal became the first transgender judge from the state of Bengal. Mondal suffered severe discrimination due to her gender realizations at a young age from her family and after 10th standard spent life begging and suffering seriously. Fortunately ended up with an organisation for transgender development and thus was able to study again and receive degree in law. She is also credited to become the first transgender from the state to get a voter's id. Mondal also started organisations for her community like Dinajpur Notun Alo (Dinajpur New Light).

6.7.2 Medicine

Jiya Jas

Born as Jishu Das, she suffered a lot during her young ages as after her father's heart surgery, she was forced to take up the role of the bread winner. But her gender realization forced her to suffer many torments and face difficulties in getting a job. Thus, she worked as a dancer and as she was not ready for sex work, she suffered many agonies. Finally luck reached her when an entrepreneur as part of a programme for transgender community called Saathrangi, decided to give a training as OT technician for two transgender, of which one was Jiya Jas, thus she was trained to become India's first transgender Operation Theatre Technician.

6.8 Teaching & Education:

Manabi Bandopadhyay

First transgender PhD holder and college Principal from India at Krishnagar Women's College in West Bengal. She is also an actor and her biography *A Gift of Goddess Lakshmi*, is a fine picture of transgender journey to success. She is also the person behind India's first transgender Magazine called *Abomanob*.

6.9 Fashion & Beauty Industry:

Santa Khurai

India's first transgender to open a beauty salon in Manipur and she also lead the organisation called AMANA (All Manipur NupiMaanbi Association) which stood for creating awareness about the rights of transgender community.

Nitasha Biswas

Nitasha Biswas is India's first transgender beauty pageant winner. She won the Miss Trans Queen India in 2017.

6.10 Business & Literature:

Kalki Subrahmaniam

Kalki Subrahmaniam is best known as India's first transgender Entrepreneur from the state of Tamil Nadu. She is a multi-talented genius who also imprinted her signature as a writer, actor, activist and journalist. She is the founder of the organisation for transgender community called Sahodari Foundation [7][8][9][10][11][12][13].

7. PROBLEMS OF TRANSGENDER IN COMING TO THE CENTRES OF HUMAN KNOWLEDGE :

- i. Lack of proper support from family, schools or colleges, and society for the development [14][15][16].
- ii. Mental trauma faced by transgender at a young age due to continued suppression from their society which forces them to hide their true self [18][19][20].
- iii. Lack of opportunities offered to gender fluidity by a gender binary led society.

- iv. Unavailability of true audience or readers for transgender personalities to honestly appreciate and encourage them [21][22].
- v. Prejudiced and heterosexual mentalities of the society which opposes or criticizes any attempt of transgender as morally lacking or vulgar or uncouth [23].

8. METHODS TO SOLVE TRANSGENDER ISSUES :

- i. Properly educating transgender about their rights.
- ii. Extending support for sexual or gender minorities to rise up from oppression.
- iii. Arranging organizations for protecting transgender population.
- iv. Appreciating any great attempt from such an oppressed community wholeheartedly.
- v. Creating awareness in society about transgender rights and laws [24][25].

9. ABCD ANALYSIS :

ABCD is a kind of qualitative analysis which talks about important advantages, benefits, constraints, and disadvantages of every identified determinant issues. Analyzing the planned study with the ABCD Analysis framework is a good concept that needs some serious thought [26]. In this paper, a qualitative analysis of a system or concept termed ABCD analysis framework/listing to investigate these five indices developed by, Aithal, P. S. is used to find out the advantages, Benefits, Constraints, and Disadvantages of the research. Below is a qualitative analysis of the proposed research using ABCD Analysis [26].

Table 2: List of references for ABCD analysis used in this paper [26][27]

S. No.	FIELD OF RESEARCH	FOCUS	OUTCOME	REFERNC E
1.	ABCD analysis and listing	Several new research indices, such as the ARP-index (Annual Research Publication Index), RE-Index (Research Expansion Index), RC Index (Research Continuation Index), cost index, and Project Productivity Index are used to measure the research productivity of both individuals and teams within an organization. We have attempted to analyse these five indices in this study using our unique approach of qualitative analysis of a system or notion known as ABCD analysis/listing	Understanding the use of several research indices.	Aithal, P. S. (2017). [26]
2.	Use of ABCD framework	Analyzing, evaluating a business model, concept, product, strategy, or system can be accomplished with the use of the ABCD framework. It is supports to evaluate the results of their research projects, in a wide variety of academic subjects	Online services advantages and significance of the company.	Frederick, D. P., & Bhat, G., (2022). [27]

Advantages: The paper is aimed to be advantageous to the transgender community in particular and the public in general to understand famous transgender persons from India in varied fields of knowledge and to know about the agonies such a gender faces for years.

Benefits: The paper is aimed to be beneficial for the transgender community by suggesting possible methods to solve the problems that they face from various realms.

Constraints: Lack of reliable and plentiful sources regarding achievers from the transgender community for better learning and analysis about them formed as a main barrier to the research.

Disadvantages: In spite of many articles about transgender in India, still something highly valuable is unachieved as far as the current situation of transgender is taken into consideration. Still, they face multiple forms of oppression.

10. FINDINGS :

It has been found that despite the severe oppression faced by the transgender community, there are representatives from the same category in various fields of human knowledge. Thus, it shows that the problem with less number of transgender representations compared with other sexual or gender categories is not talent but actually a lack of opportunities and support given to them [28][29][30].

11. CONCLUSION :

Transgender development is not an easily achievable task in a heterosexual society with many prejudiced gender norms and rules. A society which prescribes norms for a gender category is never a democratic one as it is acting against democratic principles like the right to life or speech by suggesting how one should act or what one can talk. In such a normative society, if one successfully rose to achievements then it is indicative of the strength and courage of that person. Thus, we need to acknowledge such great warriors from a minority group with great attention.

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