

# IS THERE ANY NEED OF PUBLIC LIBRARY FOR TRANSGENDER PEOPLE?

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**Abstract:** *Public library is one that serves the entire community. Everyone in the community, regardless of nationality, race, colour, caste, age, sex, status, attainment, language or any such consideration has a claim to its services as a matter of right. The paper will highlight the topics on the services of public libraries for the transgender people. As we all know about the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2016. The Bill stated that a person recognised as transgender would have the right to self-perceived gender identity. They are facing inequality in everywhere like hospitals, schools colleges, courts and in all public places. Public library is a place where everybody comes and educates themselves through the collections of public library. The objectives of this paper are how to encourage such peoples to come to the public library and what services we can give them so that they can come without any hesitation and educate themselves. The study found that only 20% of total transgender people go to public library for studying books. All transgender people needs special library for them.*

**Key Words:** Public Library. Transgender. Cisgender. Special Collection-Transgender.

## 1. Introduction

Being transgender is independent of sexual orientation. Transgender people may identify as heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual, asexual, or may decline to label their sexual orientation. The term *transgender* is also distinguished from intersex, a term that describes people born with physical sex characteristics "that do not fit typical binary notions of male or female bodies". The

counterpart of *transgender* is cisgender, which describes persons whose gender identity or expression matches their assigned sex.

Non-recognition of the identity of Hijras /transgender persons denies them equal protection of law, thereby leaving them extremely vulnerable to harassment, violence and sexual assault in public spaces, at home and in jail, also by the

police. Sexual assault, including molestation, rape, forced anal and oral sex, gang rape and stripping is being committed with impunity and there are reliable statistics and materials to support such activities. Further, non-recognition of identity of Hijras /transgender persons results in them facing extreme discrimination in all spheres of society, especially in the field of employment, education, healthcare etc.

Hijras/transgender persons face huge discrimination in access to public spaces like restaurants, cinemas, shops, malls etc. Further, access to public toilets is also a serious problem they face quite often. Since there are no separate toilet facilities for Hijras/transgender persons, they have to use male toilets where they are prone to sexual assault and harassment. Discrimination on the ground of sexual orientation or gender identity, therefore, impairs equality before law and equal protection of law and violates Article 14 of the Constitution of India. Arnold and Anthony (2007) said that sexual minority status is a key risk factor for suicide among lesbian, gay, and bisexual youth; however, it has not been studied among transgender youth. Fifty-five transgender youth reported on their life-threatening behaviors’.

## 2. Objectives:

- To know whether transgender community goes to public library
- To know what are the documental needs from public library of them?

- To know whether public library can do any help in adolescence period?
- Whether public library should have any special zone for them?
- To know whether any special library is needed for them.
- To suggest some points to educate them through public library.

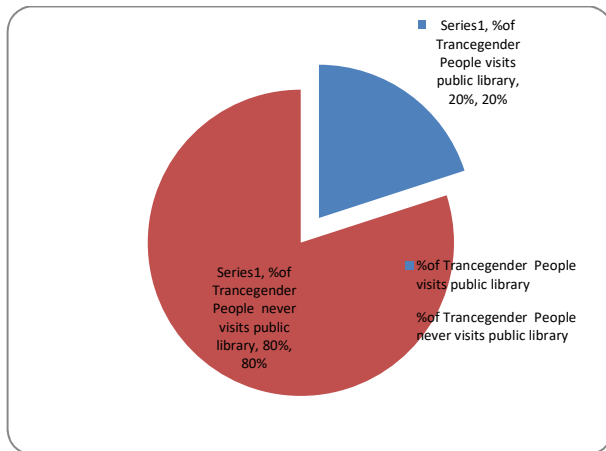
## 3. Methodology:

A questionnaire has prepared for the understanding of actual needs of transgender people from a public library. A total number of 200 transgender people were choose who are studying graduate or post graduate. Interview was taken by phone. Collected data were plotted into excel sheet and analyzed according to the requirement of the paper.

## 4. Data analysis:

Data analysis has been done on the basis of collected data and it is displayed on different table and chart form below

### 4.1. Percentage of Transgender People Visits to Public Library



**Fig1: Transgender People Visits to Public Library**

From Figure 1it is clear that maximum number of transgender people do not goes to public library for study purpose. The percentage of such people is 80% and only 20% transgender people go to public library for education purpose.

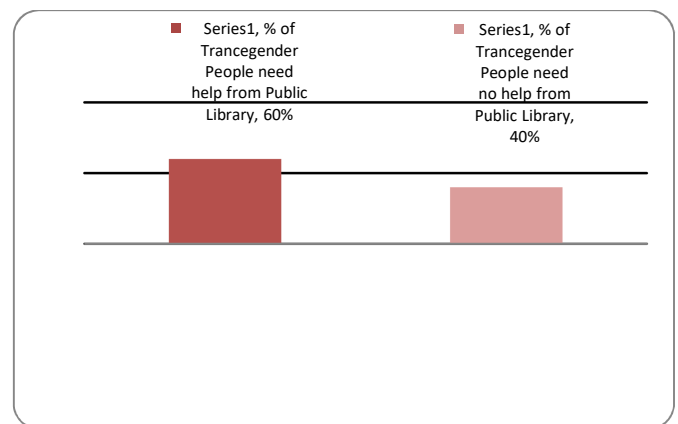
### 4.2. Need of Special Collection for Transgender

Respondent	Educational qualification	Need special collection	Percentage of people needed special collection	Percentage of people not needed any special collection
1	B.A	Yes		
2	B.A	Yes		
3	BA	Yes		
4	M.A	Yes		
5	MSC	Yes		
6	BSC	Yes		
7	B.A	Yes		
8	M.A	Yes		

9	M.A	Yes		
10	BSC	Yes		
11	BA	Yes		
12	MA	Yes		
13	BSC	Yes		
14	BA	Yes		
15	MSC	Yes		
16	MA	Yes		
18	MA	Yes		
19	BSC	Yes		
20	MA	Yes	<b>100%</b>	
<b>Total</b>				
<b>20</b>				

100 % of transgender people want a special collection for them in every public library because they need to know about their sexual life confidently and which will be only possible from a special types of collection for them.

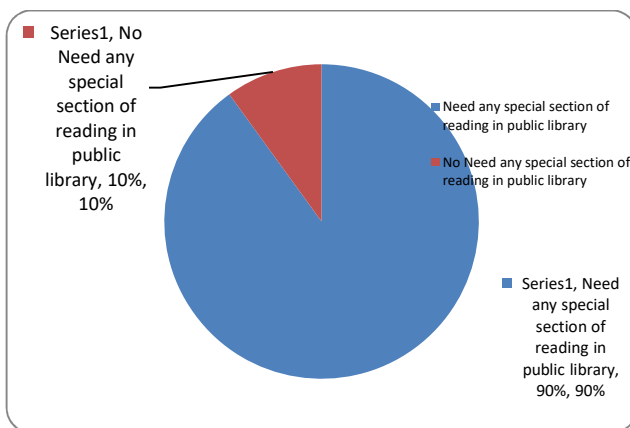
### 4.3. Need Help from public library in adolescence period



**Fig 2: Need help in adolescence period**

From Figure 2 it is clear that transgender people need a strong support from public library by documents. 60% of people need special help from public library where from they can issue books on their topic and can easily understand their sexuality.

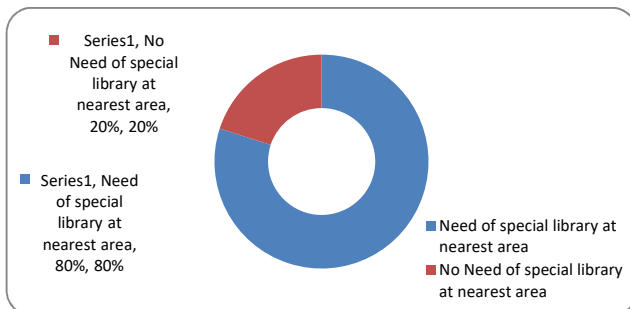
#### 4.4. Need any Separate Area of Reading in Public Library



**Fig 3: Need Separate Area of Reading in Public Library**

From the figure 3 it is clear that till now maximum transgender about 90% people need a separate section in public library for study.

#### 4.5. Need of Special Library at Nearest Area



**Fig 4: Need of Special Library at Nearest Area**

Fig 4 indicates that maximum transgender people (80%) need special library for them where knowledge will have no barrier to them, where they can feel free to learn whatever they want to le

#### 5. Findings:

- 80% of Transgender people do not visit public library.
- All transgender people need a special collection in public library.
- 60% of transgender people need very much help from public library at their adolescence period.
- 90% transgender people need a separate area of study in Public Library.
- 80% transgender people need a special library at their nearest area.

#### 6. Conclusion:

From the total study it can be concluded that transgender people generally don't go to public library for study purpose as there is no special collection or special corner for them. Till now they hesitate to go there. So the library professional as well as the government should take some initiative like building infrastructures, give social awareness to all common people

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