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## An Empirical Study on Involvement of Transgender in Politics in India

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### ABSTRACT

The evolution of Transgender involvement in politics in India has progressed through distinct phases. Before 2014, transgender individuals faced severe marginalization with little recognition in political spheres. The corner 2014 Supreme Court decision admitting ambisexual people as a third gender laid foundational legal grounds for their rights and addition in public life, including politics. Main ideal is To estimate the current position of political representation and participation of transgender. The exploration system followed then by experimenters is an empirical system. Completely 200 repliers have been collected from Tamilnadu aimlessly by a experimenter through asking people directly by simple arbitrary slice system. The independent variable taken then's gender, age, place of hearthstone, occupation and educational qualification. This empirical study on the involvement of transgender individuals in politics in India reveals a complex geography of progress and patient challenges. Overall, the data paint a picture of a society that recognizes the significance of ambisexual political participation but is also scuffling with significant systemic and attitudinal walls. The wide agreement on the critical issues, despite some demographic variations, indicates a strong foundation for championing policy changes and fostering further inclusive political surroundings. Addressing these walls requires targeted sweats to reform political structures, enhance public mindfulness, and apply probative measures within political parties to insure meaningful participation of transgender individuals in the popular process.

Keywords: Politics, Transgender, Rights, Participation and Democracy

### 1. Introduction

The evolution of Transgender involvement in politics in India has progressed through distinct phases. Before 2014, transgender individuals faced severe marginalization with little recognition in political spheres. The corner 2014 Supreme Court decision admitting ambisexual people as a third gender laid foundational legal grounds for their rights and addition in public life, including politics. From 2014 to 2019, while mindfulness and activism grew, factual political participation remained limited due to societal smirch, fiscal constraints, and party disinclination. Since 2019, there has been a conspicuous increase in transgender individuals querying original and state choices, albeit in small figures, motioning a shift towards lesser political engagement. Challenges persist, including demarcation and inadequate support structures, yet these sweats have formerly begun impacting policy conversations and championing for broader societal acceptance and equivalency. The unborn line hinges on sustained sweats to strike walls and foster surroundings where transgender individuals can contribute meaningfully to political converse and governance in India. The Indian government has accepted colorful enterprise to promote the addition of transgender individuals in politics, reflecting a broader commitment to social justice and equivalency. crucial sweats include reservation programs in some countries like Karnataka for public employment, preface of the "third gender" order in namer enrollment by the Election Commission of India, and addition of transgender individuals in political parties, similar as the appointment of Apsara Reddy as a public general clerk of the Indian National Congress's women's sect. also, the Transgender Persons( Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, aims to cover their rights, including participation in political life. Various NGOs and advocacy groups also work to raise mindfulness and advocate for lesser political representation of transgender individuals, contributing to the ongoing trouble for their full addition in Indian politics. The involvement of transgender individuals in Indian politics is told by colorful factors, including pervasive social smirch and demarcation, which hamper their participation, and limited access to education and employment openings, reducing their capacity to engage politically. Legal and policy walls, despite progressive laws like the Transgender Persons( Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, frequently remain inadequately enforced, while profitable constraints further limit their capability to dispute choices. The position of political will and support from parties and leaders significantly impacts their addition, as does the presence of strong advocacy groups and mindfulness juggernauts that give visibility and support. Public perception and societal acceptance play a pivotal part, with lesser acceptance easing entry into politics, while the presence of successful ambisexual politicians serves as part models, encouraging further individuals from the community to participate. Recent trends indicate a positive shift towards lesser involvement of transgender individuals in Indian politics, with further ambisexual campaigners querying and winning choices at colorful situations, similar as Madhu Bai Kinnar and Shabnam Mausi. Policy and legal reforms, including the Transgender Persons( Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, have created a more probative legal terrain. Major political parties are decreasingly including transgender individuals in their species, while growing advocacy sweats by NGOs and civil society associations push for further inclusive programs and visibility of ambisexual issues. Increased media content and public support, along

with further inclusive youth and grassroots movements, contribute to a more favorable terrain for ambisexual political engagement, reflecting a broader societal shift towards inclusivity and equality. In comparing the involvement of transgender individualities in politics in India with Nepal, the United States, and Brazil, we see varying degrees of progress and challenges. Nepal, an indigenous leader, honored a third gender order in its 2011 tale and has inclusive laws, though formal political representation remains limited. The United States has seen significant strides with numbers like Sarah McBride and Danica Roem achieving notable positions, despite substantial demarcation and varied legal protections across countries. Brazil, despite high situations of violence against transgender individualities, has adding political representation with numbers like Erika Hilton and allows legal gender changes without surgery, yet societal demarcation remains a hedge. India has made progress with legal reforms, increased visibility, and political participation of transgender individualities, but societal acceptance, analogous to Nepal, still poses challenges.

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## Objectives

- To evaluate the current level of political representation and participation of transgender .
- To analyze the effectiveness of legal and policy frameworks supporting transgender political involvement .
- To identify the key social, economic, and political barriers faced by transgender individuals in entering and participating in politics .
- To evaluate the role of advocacy groups, NGOs, and public awareness campaigns in promoting transgender political participation and their impact on societal acceptance and policy changes in the respective countries.

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## Review of Literature

Gayadhar Malik (2023) offers a conceptual framework to understand gender dynamics in Indian politics, with a particular emphasis on the ambisexual community. It explores ongoing gender discrimination within the political system and reviews existing literature to identify major gaps, especially from a gendered perspective. The research underscores how gender bias and exclusion still persist in the political landscape of India. Roluahpuia (2018) highlights that while a democratic system ideally promotes equal participation in governance, many minority groups in India face systemic exclusion. This marginalization is often rooted in identity markers such as gender, class, caste, race, and property ownership. The inclusion of non-elite voices in democracy has only been achieved through persistent struggles. Ambisexual individuals, being part of a highly marginalized group, experience discrimination that cannot be fully understood by focusing solely on gender identity, suggesting the need for an intersectional approach. Grace Banu (2018) criticizes the lack of attention to the negative impacts of cis-Brahmanical patriarchy on ambisexual individuals. She emphasizes that these individuals face marginalization within a societal structure defined by patriarchal and caste-based norms. Banu connects the stigmatization of certain types of labor, such as sex work, to the broader framework of caste and gender discrimination. She argues that ideas of "purity" and "pollution," rooted in this patriarchal system, distort moral values and reinforce socioeconomic inequalities—especially against Dalit transgender individuals. Duffy (1995) conceptualizes social exclusion as the inability to fully engage in various aspects of societal life—social, economic, cultural, and political. He identifies political disengagement, such as non-participation in elections, as a form of social exclusion. People who are marginalized economically and socially are also likely to be politically excluded. This results in reduced democratic participation and a concentration of political power among the wealthy and privileged classes.

Narayan, A., & Rao, R.( 2019). This composition discusses challenges and openings in promoting gender equality in Chennai, drawing on perceptivity from public opinion checks and stakeholder interviews. It examines the part of political testament, cultural morals, and socioeconomic factors in shaping stations towards gender issues, and explores strategies for advancing gender equality and women's rights in the municipality. Patel, K., & Shah, A.( 2021) The study assesses how socio-profitable factors cross with political testament to shape stations towards gender issues. It explores differences in perceptions between communal and pastoral populations within Chennai. also, it analyzes the impact of education and awareness on individualities' stations towards gender equality. The study may illuminate difference in gender perceptions predicated on geographic position and socio-profitable status. Joshi, S., & Gupta, R.( 2020) The check investigates factors impacting support for women's participation in politics, including cultural morals and perceptions of women's leadership capacities. It may uncover stations towards specific policy issues and walls to women's political engagement. The findings could inform strategies to increase women's representation in political decision-making places. also, the check may explore differences in opinion across demographic groups. Singh, R., & Kumar, A.( 2019) The study examines the effectiveness of gender proportions in promoting gender equality and political representation. It analyzes how political testament influences support for gender share programs among different demographic groups. also, it may explore the impact of share performance on electoral issues and women's commission. The findings could inform policy exchanges on affirmative action measures in politics.

Sharma, P., & Reddy, S.( 2018) The study investigates how gender considerations impact advancing behavior and electoral issues in Chennai. It may explore the part of gender-related issues in shaping picker preferences and party support. also, it could anatomize differences in advancing behavior between men and women across various electoral contests. The findings may have implications for political campaigning and policy formulation. Jain, N., & Mehta, M.( 2017) The study examines public perceptions of gender-predicated violence and stations towards victims and perpetrators. It may explore awareness of laws and support services for survivors of gender-predicated violence. also, it could assess stations towards precautionary measures and interventions to address the root causes of violence. The findings may inform advocacy sweats and policy enterprise aimed at combating gender-predicated violence in Chennai. Patel, S., & Desai, M.( 2016) The composition delves into the history and elaboration of feminist activism in Chennai, examining pivotal moments and strategies employed by women's movements. It may explore the intersectionality of feminist marshaling, considering

how factors analogous as estate, class, and religion influence organizing sweat. also, it could anatomize the impact of feminist activism on policy changes and social stations towards gender equality in Chennai. Gupta, A., & Sharma, V. (2015) This study investigates how gender issues are portrayed and framed in Chennai journals, exploring the part of media in shaping public perceptions. It may anatomize the language, imagery, and tone used in news content of gender-related motifs. also, it could assess the frequency of generalizations and impulses in media representations of gender. The findings may contribute to exchanges on media ethics and responsible reporting.

Mehta, P., & Shah, S. (2014) The research examines the role of schools in shaping gender attitudes and political participation among students in Chennai. It may investigate the influence of curriculum, teaching methods, and school culture on students' perceptions of gender roles and political engagement. Additionally, it could explore differences in socialization experiences between boys and girls and their implications for future civic participation. The findings may inform educational policies and interventions to promote gender equality and democratic values in schools. Kumar, N., & Jain, A. (2013) This study explores the intersection of religion, political ideology, and gender equality in Chennai, examining how religious beliefs influence attitudes towards gender issues. It may analyze the role of religious institutions and leaders in shaping social norms and policies related to gender roles and women's rights. Additionally, it could investigate intra-religious diversity in perspectives on gender equality and activism within religious communities. The findings may contribute to interfaith dialogue and advocacy efforts for gender justice. Patel, M., & Gupta, S. (2012) The article investigates the contributions of civil society organizations (NGOs) to promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in Chennai. It may examine the strategies, programs, and challenges faced by NGOs in their advocacy work. Additionally, it could assess the impact of NGO initiatives on policy formulation, service delivery, and community mobilization. The findings may inform partnerships between NGOs, government agencies, and other stakeholders to advance gender equality agendas in Chennai. Sharma, R., & Singh, A. (2011) This research examines the political engagement of youth in Chennai, exploring factors that influence their participation in civic and political activities. It may investigate the role of education, social networks, and digital media in shaping youth political behavior. Additionally, it could analyze perceptions of gender norms and their impact on youth political empowerment. The findings may inform strategies to enhance youth participation and representation in Chennai's political landscape.

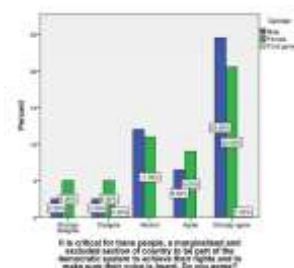
Jain, K., & Mehta, N. (2010) The study compares attitudes towards gender equality between urban and rural residents in Chennai, exploring differences in perceptions and experiences of gender-related issues. It may investigate socio-cultural factors that contribute to variations in attitudes across different geographic settings. Additionally, it could assess the impact of urbanization and modernization on gender norms and roles in Chennai. The findings may inform targeted interventions to promote gender equality in both urban and rural contexts. Shah, R., & Patel, V. (2009) This study conducts a content analysis of media coverage of gender issues in Chennai, examining patterns and trends in news reporting and editorial content. It may analyze the representation of women and gender-related topics across different media platforms. Additionally, it could assess the presence of stereotypes, biases, and underrepresentation in media portrayals of gender. The findings may contribute to discussions on media diversity, representation, and ethics in Chennai's media landscape. Gupta, P., & Kumar, R. (2008) The article investigates the effects of globalization on gender relations in Chennai, examining changes in gender roles, identities, and inequalities. It may explore how economic globalization influences women's participation in the labor market and access to resources. Additionally, it could assess the cultural implications of globalization on gender norms and values in Chennai. The findings may contribute to debates on the social impacts of globalization and strategies for promoting gender equality in a globalized world. Singh, L., & Sharma, K. (2007) This study examines the representation and experiences of women in municipal politics in Chennai, exploring barriers to women's political leadership and strategies for increasing their participation. It may analyze the role of political parties, electoral systems, and institutional mechanisms in shaping women's access to leadership positions. Additionally, it could assess the impact of women's leadership on policy outcomes and governance in Chennai. The findings may inform initiatives to promote gender-inclusive political institutions and practices in the city.

## Methodology

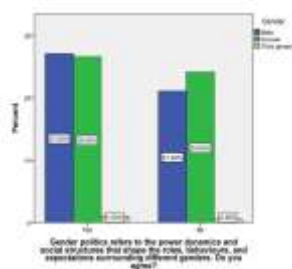
The research method followed here by researchers is an empirical method. Totally 200 respondents have been collected from Tamilnadu randomly by a researcher through asking people directly by simple random sampling method. The independent variable taken here is gender, age, place of residence, occupation and educational qualification. The statistical tools used are clustered bar chart and chi square by using SPSS.

## Analysis

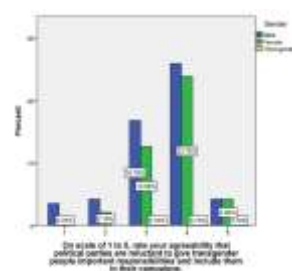
Figure 1



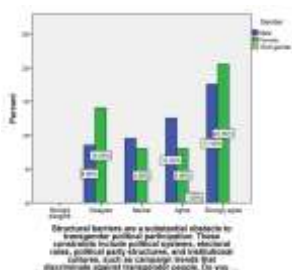
Legend: figure 1 a cluster barchart shows the percentage analysis of statement asked to the public by comparing with gender

**Figure 2**

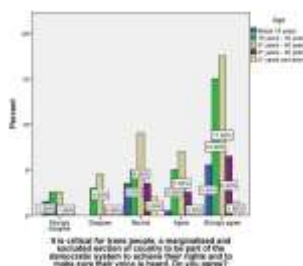
Legend: figure 2 a cluster barchart shows the percentage analysis of statement asked to the public by comparing with gender

**Figure 3**

Legend: figure 3 a cluster barchart shows the percentage analysis of statement asked to the public by comparing with gender

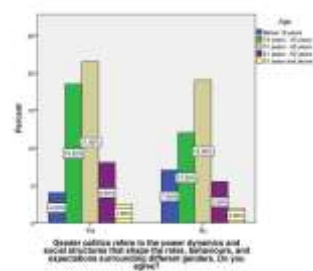
**Figure 4**

Legend: figure 4 a cluster barchart shows the percentage analysis of statement asked to the public by comparing with gender

**Figure 5**

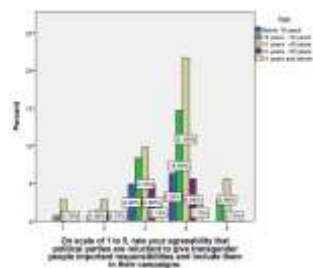
Legend: figure 5 a cluster barchart shows the percentage analysis of statement asked to the public by comparing with age

**Figure 6**



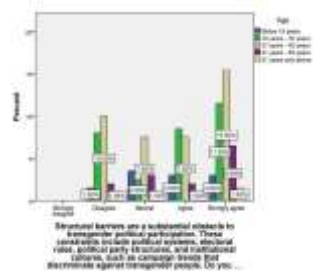
Legend: figure 6 a cluster barchart shows the percentage analysis of statement asked to the public by comparing with age

**Figure 7**



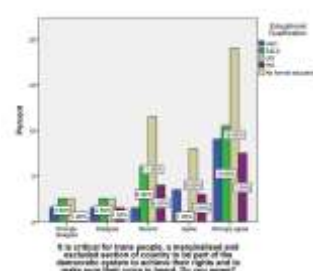
Legend: figure 7 a cluster barchart shows the percentage analysis of statement asked to the public by comparing with age

**Figure 8**



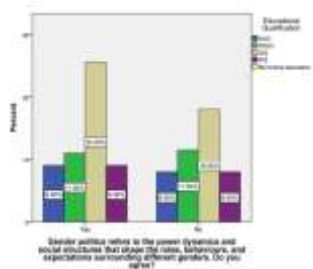
Legend: figure 8 a cluster barchart shows the percentage analysis of statement asked to the public by comparing with age

**Figure 9**



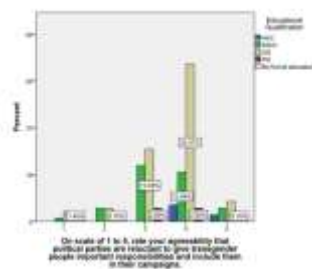
Legend: figure 9 a cluster barchart shows the percentage analysis of statement asked to the public by comparing with educational qualification

**Figure 10**



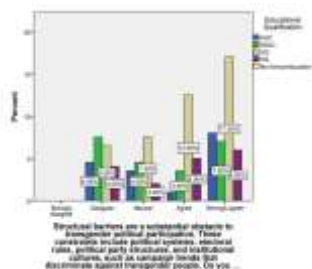
Legend: figure 10 a cluster barchart shows the percentage analysis of statement asked to the public by comparing with educational qualification

**Figure 11**



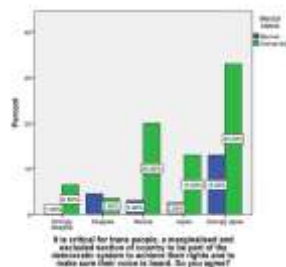
Legend: figure 11 a cluster barchart shows the percentage analysis of statement asked to the public by comparing with educational qualification

**Figure 12**



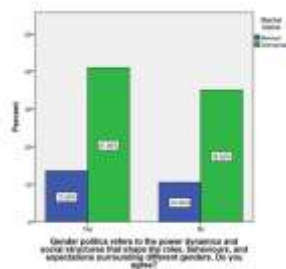
Legend: figure 12 a cluster barchart shows the percentage analysis of statement asked to the public by comparing with educational qualification

**Figure 13**



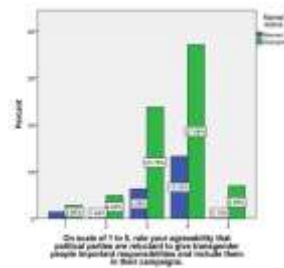
Legend: figure 13 a cluster barchart shows the percentage analysis of statement asked to the public by comparing with marital status

**Figure 14**



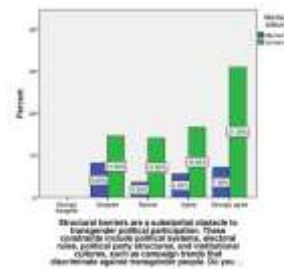
Legend: figure 14 a cluster barchart shows the percentage analysis of statement asked to the public by comparing with marital status

**Figure 15**



Legend: figure 15 a cluster barchart shows the percentage analysis of statement asked to the public by comparing with marital status

**Figure 16**



Legend: figure 16 a cluster barchart shows the percentage analysis of statement asked to the public by comparing with marital status

## Results

Figure 1 shows that it is crucial for transgender people, a marginalized and excluded section of the country , to be part of the democratic system to achieve their rights and to make sure their voice is heard. Most of the responses are affirmative irrespective of their gender strongly agree ( male 24.50% and female 20.50%). Figure 2 shows that gender politics refers to the power dynamics and social structure that shape the roles, behaviors and expectations surrounding different genders . irrespective of gender most of them stated yes (male 27% and female 26.50%) Figure 3 shows that political parties are reluctant to give transgender people important responsibilities and include them in their campaign. Most of them given rating 3 and 4 irrespective of their gender Figure 4 shows that the structural barriers are substantial obstacles to transgender political participation. These constraints include political system, electoral rules , political party structures and institutional cultures such as campaign trends that discriminate against transgender people. Most of them strongly agree (male 17.50% and female 20.50%).Figure 5 shows that it is crucial for transgender people, a marginalized and excluded section of the country , to be part of the democratic system to achieve their rights and to make sure their voice is heard. Most of the responses are affirmative irrespective of their age group - 31-40 years strongly agree (17.50%)Figure 6 Shows that gender politics refers to the power dynamics and social structure that shape the roles, behaviors and expectations surrounding different genders irrespective of age group ( people between 18 to 30 years stated yes - 18.50%)Figure 7 shows that political parties are reluctant to give transgender people important responsibilities and include them in their campaign. Most of them were given rating 3 and 4 irrespective of their age.Figure 8 shows that the structural barriers are substantial obstacles to transgender political participation. These constraints include political system, electoral rules , political party structures and institutional cultures such as campaign trends that discriminate against transgender people. Most of them strongly agree ( people between the age of 31 to 40 agree - 15.50%)Figure 9 shows that it is crucial for transgender people, a marginalized and excluded section of the country , to be part of the democratic system to achieve their rights and to make sure their voice is heard. Most of the responses are affirmative irrespective of their educational qualification ( SSLC - 10.50% and UG - 19%)Figure 10 shows that gender politics refers to the power dynamics and social structure that shape the roles, behaviors and expectations surrounding different genders irrespective of age group most of the responses are affirmative ( UG - 25.50%)Figure 11 shows that political parties are reluctant to give transgender people important responsibilities and include them in their campaign. Most of them were given rating 4 irrespective of their educational qualification.Figure 12 shows that the structural barriers are substantial obstacles to transgender political participation. These constraints include political system, electoral rules , political party structures and institutional cultures such as campaign trends that discriminate against transgender people. Most of them strongly agree(UG - 29.50%)Figure 13 shows that it is crucial for transgender people, a marginalized and excluded section of the country , to be part of the democratic system to achieve their rights and to make sure their voice is heard. Most of the responses are affirmative irrespective of their marital status ( unmarried - 33%) . Interestingly 20% of unmarried respondents given neutral responses.Figure 14 shows that gender politics refers to the power dynamics and social structure that shape the roles, behaviors and expectations surrounding different genders irrespective of age group most of the responses are affirmative. Unmarried (41%) stated yes.Figure 15 shows that political parties are reluctant to give transgender people important responsibilities and include them in their campaign. Most of them were given rating 3 and 4 irrespective of their marital status Figure 16 shows that the structural barriers are substantial obstacles to transgender political participation. These constraints include political system, electoral rules , political party structures and institutional cultures such as campaign trends that discriminate against transgender people. Most of them strongly agree( 38%) irrespective of their marital status.

## Discussion

Figure 1 highlights the overwhelming agreement among respondents, regardless of gender, on the necessity for transgender people to be part of the democratic system. This consensus underscores the recognition of political participation as a critical avenue for marginalized communities to secure their rights and ensure their voices are heard. Figure 2 sheds light on the concept of gender politics, with a significant majority of respondents acknowledging the impact of power dynamics and social structures on gender roles and expectations. This acknowledgment is crucial for understanding the broader context within which transgender political participation occurs. Figure 3 reveals a persistent reluctance among political parties to entrust transgender individuals with significant responsibilities or include them prominently in campaigns. This reluctance, reflected by the middling ratings given by respondents, suggests a need for more proactive measures to integrate transgender voices into political party structures and activities. Figures 4 and 8 delve into the structural barriers that hinder transgender political participation. These barriers, encompassing aspects like the political system, electoral rules, party structures, and institutional cultures, are widely recognized by respondents across different demographics. The strong agreement on these points highlights the systemic nature of the obstacles faced by transgender individuals in politics. Figures 5, 6, 7, and 9-16 offer a nuanced view of how these issues intersect with various demographic factors such as age, educational qualification, and marital status. Regardless of these factors, the responses consistently affirm the critical need for transgender inclusion in democratic processes, the pervasive nature of gender politics, and the reluctance of political parties to offer significant roles to transgender individuals. For instance, younger respondents (18-30 years) and those with undergraduate qualifications (UG) particularly underscore the importance of these issues, suggesting that awareness and advocacy might be higher in these groups. Additionally, Figures 13-16 highlight that unmarried respondents are more likely to view the inclusion of transgender individuals in politics as crucial, though a notable portion remains neutral. This may point to varying degrees of engagement or awareness within this demographic group.

## Limitations & Scope of the Study

This empirical study on the involvement of transgender individuals in politics in India faces several limitations and possesses a broad scope. Limitations include the availability of reliable data, as there is limited historical and current data on transgender political participation due to underreporting and social stigmas. Socio-cultural barriers may restrict the openness of transgender individuals to participate in surveys or interviews, potentially leading to a bias in the sample. Regional disparities in attitudes and policies towards transgender people across India might make it difficult to generalize findings. Additionally, the changing legal and political landscape could influence the study's relevance over time, as laws and policies evolve. Despite these limitations, the scope of the study is extensive. It aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of the political involvement of transgender individuals in India, examining factors such as legal rights, social acceptance, and barriers to participation. The study will explore the impact of recent legal changes, such as the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, on political engagement. It will also assess the role of political parties, civil society, and government initiatives in promoting transgender inclusion in politics. Comparative analysis with other countries' approaches to transgender political participation will offer valuable insights. By addressing these aspects, the study seeks to contribute to a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities for transgender individuals in Indian politics, providing recommendations for policy and social reforms to enhance their political representation and participation.

## Conclusion

This empirical study on the involvement of transgender individuals in politics in India reveals a complex landscape of progress and persistent challenges. The findings underscore a broad consensus on the critical need for transgender inclusion in the democratic process to ensure their rights and voices are represented. Despite legal advancements and growing awareness, systemic barriers such as political reluctance, structural discrimination, and socio-cultural prejudices continue to hinder full political participation for transgender individuals. The study highlights the necessity of strengthening legal protections, promoting political inclusion programs, and fostering public awareness to combat stigma and encourage active engagement. Moreover, targeted efforts are needed to reform political party structures and create supportive environments that facilitate the meaningful involvement of transgender people in politics. By addressing these challenges through comprehensive policy reforms and inclusive practices, India can move towards a more equitable and representative political system that truly reflects the diversity of its population. The study on the involvement of transgender individuals in Indian politics highlights both the significant strides made and the persistent challenges faced by the transgender community. Despite legal advancements like the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, which aims to protect and promote the rights of transgender people, socio-cultural barriers, discrimination, and lack of political representation continue to hinder their full participation in the political sphere. The research indicates that while some progress has been made, particularly in awareness and advocacy, comprehensive efforts are still needed to ensure transgender individuals can participate equally in political processes. This involves addressing deep-rooted societal prejudices, enhancing legal protections, and fostering an inclusive environment within political parties and institutions. To enhance the political involvement of transgender individuals in India, it is essential to strengthen existing legal protections against discrimination and violence, ensuring safe and equitable participation in politics. Political parties should implement targeted inclusion programs, such as mentorship and leadership training, and consider reserved seats or quotas to ensure representation. Comprehensive public awareness campaigns are needed to reduce stigma and foster inclusivity. Providing supportive infrastructure, including legal aid and counseling services, will empower transgender individuals. Encouraging ongoing research and systematic data collection on transgender political participation will inform policies and track progress. Collaborative efforts between government agencies, civil society, and international bodies should be fostered to share best practices and develop comprehensive strategies for enhancing transgender political engagement. Overall, the data paint a picture of a society that recognizes the importance of transgender political participation but is also grappling with significant systemic and attitudinal barriers.



The widespread agreement on the critical issues, despite some demographic variations, indicates a strong foundation for advocating policy changes and fostering more inclusive political environments. Addressing these barriers requires targeted efforts to reform political structures, enhance public awareness, and implement supportive measures within political parties to ensure meaningful participation of transgender individuals in the democratic process.

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