



TRANSGENDER STUDIES: ADVOCATING FOR EQUITY AND INCLUSIVITY

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ABSTRACT

This research paper delves into transgender studies, focusing on gender justice and equity for transgender and gender-nonconforming individuals. It emphasizes the need for equal rights and opportunities, including freedom from discrimination and access to healthcare, education, and employment. Acknowledging the complexity of gender and its intersection with other forms of oppression, the paper advocates for an equity-based approach to address the unique needs of transgender individuals, particularly in healthcare and education. It stresses the importance of incorporating the experiences and perspectives of transgender people in research and advocacy, moving beyond viewing them as merely marginalized. Drawing from diverse fields such as sociology, psychology, and political science, the paper comprehensively analyses transgender studies. It showcases the field's interdisciplinary nature and the necessity of cross-disciplinary collaboration to foster gender justice and equity. Ultimately, the paper contributes to the growing literature on transgender studies and offers insights into the experiences of transgender and gender-nonconforming individuals, underscoring the role of equity in achieving social justice and equality for all.

Keywords: Transgender, Equity, Discrimination, Oppression, Psychology, Anthropology, Marginalized.

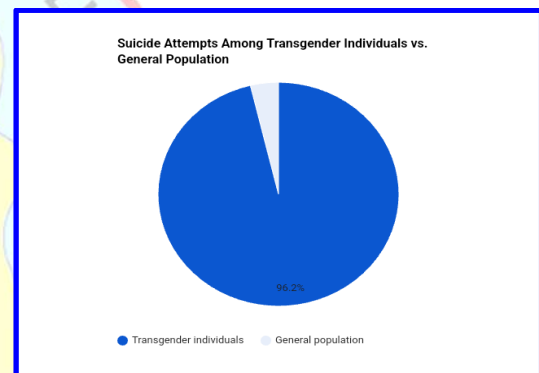
Introduction

Transgender studies is a relatively pristine domain of introspection that intends to apprehend the experiences of transgender individuals and their struggle for gender justice. The transgender community faces discrimination and marginalisation due to their non-conformity to traditional gender norms. The pursuit of the very writing stands to scour the concept of transgender studies and its significance in promoting gender equity and justice. This paper will examine the challenges faced by the transgender community, the evolution of transgender studies as a domain of introspection, and its mark on social justice.

Background

Transgender is an inclusive representation used to illustrate someone whose gender identicalness does not align with the sex they were given at birth. This umbrella term covers a diverse spectrum of identities, including but not limited to transsexual, genderqueer, and non-binary individuals. It's important to recognise and respect the unique experiences and identities within the transgender community. Transgender people have existed throughout history, but their experiences have been marginalised and often erased from mainstream society. The transgender community is subjected to

discrimination and violence, and they face significant barriers to accessing healthcare, housing, education, and employment. **The National Transgender Discrimination Survey conducted in 2011 found that 41% of transgender individuals documented making an effort to commit suicide, approximated 1.6% of the prevailing inhabitants (Grant et al., 2011).**



Transgender populace faces a range of challenges, including social stigma, discrimination, and violence. Transphobia, or the irrational fear and hatred of transgender individuals, is pervasive in many cultures. Transphobia is often rooted in the binary gender system, which presumes that there are exclusively two genders, man and woman and that these genders stand demarcated by corporal sex. This system excludes those who do not fit into time-honoured gender models, including transgender individuals. Transgender multitude faces violence and discrimination, including physical and sexual assault, harassment, and verbal



abuse. In many cases, transgender individuals are denied fundamental human rights, such as vestibule to medical management, housing, schooling, and occupation.

The Evolution of Transgender Studies

Transgender studies emerged as a field of study in the late 1990s and early 2000s. The field draws on interdisciplinary perspectives, including sociology, anthropology, psychology, and queer theory, to examine the experiences of transgender individuals. Transgender studies aim to challenge the binary gender system and promote gender business, valuation and rectitude for every populace, notwithstanding the respective gender uniqueness.

Transgender studies emerged in response to the marginalisation of transgender individuals in mainstream society. Transgender individuals faced significant barriers to accessing healthcare, employment, and education, and the medical establishment largely ignored their experiences. Transgender studies emerged as a means of challenging the medicalisation of transgender identity and promoting the recognition of transgender experiences as legitimate and deserving of social justice.

Transgender studies is an interdisciplinary field that draws on a range

of theoretical frameworks and methods. Scholars in the field use a variety of methods, including ethnography, discourse analysis, and narrative inquiry, to explore the experiences of transgender individuals. The field is also knowledgeable by feminist approach, queer theory, and critical ethnicity approach, which provide important frameworks for understanding the intersectionality of gender, race, and other forms of oppression.

The Impact of Transgender Studies on Social Justice

Transgender studies have had a significant impact on social justice by challenging traditional gender norms and promoting the recognition of transgender individuals as legitimate and deserving of equal rights. The field brings the world to put forward cognition of the tribulations fronted by transgender individuals and has pitched into expanding approaches and agendas intended to promote gender equity and justice.

In numerous communities worldwide, the binary gender system is enormously inveterate, assigning individuals as either fella or lady based on their bodily differentia at birth. This strategy impacts myriad facets of life, enclosing social roles, expectations, and legal recognition. This binary system assumes that gender identity is based solely

on biological sex and ignores the possibility of non-binary gender identities. Transgender studies have challenged this assumption and highlighted the ways in which gender uniqueness is an intricate and heterogeneous concept that cannot be ameliorated to a simple binary.

Transgender deconstructions have highlighted the understanding of transgender people who do not conform to traditional gender norms and who have faced significant challenges as a result. These individuals have often been excluded from traditional social and cultural norms and have faced discrimination and marginalisation. Transgender studies have helped to raise awareness of these issues and have contributed to the development of policies and programs that promote the recognition and inclusion of non-binary gender identities.

One of the key ways in which transgender studies have challenged the binary gender system is through the notion of gender identicalness. Gender originality is directly related to an individual's innermost connotation of the respective gender, which may or may not be aligned with their biological identicalness. Transgender studies have highlighted the ways in which gender identity can be a complex and fluid concept and have helped to promote the

recognition of non-binary gender identities, such as genderqueer, non-binary, and genderfluid.

Transgender studies have also challenged the binary gender system by highlighting the ways in which gender is a social construct. Cultural and social facets constantly concoct gender norms and expectations and can deviate significantly between distant civilizations and congregations. Transgender studies have helped to challenge these norms and expectations and have promoted the recognition of the diversity of gender identities and expressions.

In addition to promoting the recognition of non-binary gender identities, transgender studies have also contributed to the development of policies and programs aimed at promoting gender equity and justice. This includes advocating for the recognition of gender identity as a protected characteristic in anti-discrimination laws and for the provision of gender-affirming healthcare for transgender individuals. Transgender studies have also helped to appraise the outgrowth of inclusive approaches and schemes in education and employment and have promoted the inclusion of transgender individuals in all aspects of society.

Across the board, transgender studies have made a significant



contribution to promoting gender equity and justice by challenging the binary gender system and promoting the recognition of non-binary gender identities. By highlighting the experiences and challenges faced by transgender individuals, transgender studies have helped to inform the development of approaches and programs that promote the inclusion, exuberance and welfare of every individual, nonetheless of the respective gender originality.

The Equity Approach to Healthcare and Education

An equity approach to healthcare is critical to discourse on the distinctive well-being deprivations of the transgender and gender-nonconforming multitude. Traditional medical models have largely ignored the healthcare needs of transgender individuals, resulting in significant disparities in healthcare access and outcomes. The transgender populace comes across substantial deterrents to accessing healthcare, comprising bigotry and a scarcity of understanding from healthcare providers. As a result, many transgender individuals do not receive appropriate healthcare, which can have serious consequences for their health and well-being.

An equity approach to healthcare would recognise the specific healthcare

needs of transgender individuals and work to address the barriers that prevent them from accessing appropriate care. This approach would involve educating healthcare providers on the distinctive healthcare provisions of the transgender populace, possessing the need for gender-acquiescent sustenance, such as hormone restorative and gender-acquiescent enucleate. It would also involve providing culturally competent care that recognises the importance of gender identity in healthcare decision-making.

In addition to healthcare, an equity approach to education is also critical to disseminating the distinct essentials of the transgender and gender-nonconforming populace. Transgender students face significant barriers to accessing education, including bullying, harassment, and discrimination. These barriers can have significant consequences for their academic success and overall well-being.

An equity approach to education would recognise the diverse deprivations of transgender and gender-nonconforming students and work to address the barriers that prevent them from accessing education. This approach would involve creating safe and supportive learning environments for transgender students, including providing training for educators on transgender issues and promoting

inclusive policies and practices. It would also involve addressing the systemic discrimination and marginalisation that transgender and gender-nonconforming students face, including advocating for policies that protect their rights and promote their inclusion in all aspects of education.

An equity approach to issues such as healthcare and education is critical to grappling with the foreign needs of transgender and gender-nonconforming people. It recognises the importance of understanding and addressing the barriers that prevent these individuals from accessing appropriate care and education and promotes policies and practices that promote their inclusion and well-being. By adopting an equity approach, we can toil to concoct an exemplary, undivided and unprejudiced congregation for every person, irrespective of gender individualism.

Transgender Studies and Literature

This study equally dissects the affinity between literature and transgender studies, primarily in the frame of reference of gender justice and equity. Transgender studies have emerged as a rapidly growing field of academic inquiry, exploring the experiences and identities of individuals whose gender identities do not conform to traditional binary categories. This field has

helped to raise awareness of the unique adversities encountered by transgender people, including discrimination, marginalisation, and violence. Gender justice and equity are important issues that have been central to transgender studies, as they are necessary for prospering a better, just and equal congregation for every person.

Literature has played a significant role in the history of social justice movements, providing a platform for marginalised voices and advocating for change. In the context of transgender studies, literature can be used to promote greater understanding and acceptance of transgender individuals and their experiences, as well as to advocate for social and political change. Through an analysis of selected literary works, this paper will explore the ways in which literature can serve as a powerful tool for promoting gender justice and equity for transgender individuals.

Literature and Gender Justice

Literature has long challenged traditional notions of gender roles and identities, providing a space for marginalised voices to be heard. In the context of transgender studies, literature can serve as a powerful tool for promoting gender justice by providing readers with a window into the experiences of transgender



individuals. By exploring the challenges faced by transgender individuals, literature can help raise awareness of the unique forms of discrimination and violence they encounter and the ways in which social structures and cultural attitudes contribute to their marginalisation.

For example, the novel “*Stone Butch Blues*” by Leslie Feinberg explores the experiences of a butch lesbian who is merely a female at birth but specifies as a fella. The novel explores the challenges faced by the protagonist as they navigate their gender identity in a society that enforces rigid gender norms. Through the protagonist's experiences, the novel raises awareness of the ways in which society polices gender roles and punishes those who deviate from them, contributing to the marginalisation and oppression of transgender individuals.

Similarly, the poetry of Audre Lorde explores the experiences of black lesbian feminists, challenging traditional notions of gender and sexuality. Lorde's work celebrates the diversity of human experience and advocates for greater acceptance of those whose identities fall outside of traditional binary categories. In her poetry, Lorde sheds light on the intricate patterns in which gender and sexuality interplay with ethnicity and class, revealing how these confluences contribute

to the establishment of systems of oppression.

Literature and the Power of Equity

Literature can also be used to advocate for social and political change, promoting the power of equity and challenging systems of oppression.

Through their writing, authors can raise awareness of the need for greater equity for transgender individuals and advocate for policy changes that will promote greater social and economic justice.

For example, the memoir “*Redefining Realness*” by Janet Mock explores the author's experiences growing up as a trans woman of colour. In the book, Mock advocates for greater equity for transgender individuals, challenging the social and economic barriers that prevent many trans individuals from living fulfilling and prosperous lives. Mock's work demonstrates the power of literature to advocate for change, promoting the need for greater social and economic equity for marginalised communities.

Conclusion

Literature can serve as a powerful tool for promoting gender justice and equity for transgender individuals. Through an analysis of selected literary works, this paper has demonstrated the ways in which literature can provide a window into the experiences of transgender individuals,

raise awareness about the unique challenges they face, and challenge traditional notions of gender and identity. By depicting the complex and multifaceted lives of transgender characters, literature can help to humanise and validate the experiences of transgender individuals while also promoting greater empathy and understanding among readers. Additionally, literature can serve as a platform for transgender mouthpieces and perspectives, supplying a space for the marginalized ones to enunciate their accounts and insights. By promoting greater representation and visibility for transgender individuals, literature can help to challenge systemic barriers and discrimination and contribute to broader efforts towards gender justice and equity. Eventually, the power of literature lies in its mastership to elucidate and instigate, to oppugn and transform, and to foster a further inclusive and just community for every individual, irrespective of gender identity or presentation.

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