WPATH symposium 2014: HIV vulnerability and Transgender / hijra women in India

Abhina Aher, Programme Manager
India HIV/AIDS Alliance
aaher@allianceindia.org
+1 9711170763

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Vulnerabilities of Transgender women

- Worldwide, the available evidence suggests that, HIV prevalence rates reach as high as 68 percent in trans* communities, with new case incidence from 3.4 to 7.8 per 100 person-years.

- Across south Asia countries there are similar pattern reported for harassment and violence again trans people.

- Epidemiological research for other STIs indicates high rates for syphilis, rectal gonorrhea, rectal Chlamydia and other STIs among Asia-Pacific trans* women.

- International guidelines missing (PEPFAR guideline designed for MSM population)
Vulnerabilities of Transgenders & Hijras in India

- High vulnerability to HIV in transgender and hijra community in India - 8.82 % HIV prevalence on 3 central surveillance sites

- UNDP study - 166,665 – reported by CBOs in 42 sites. However, the correct estimate is still ambiguous.

Epidemiological data and intervention strategies are missing. Low self esteem and high substance abuse reduces capacity to negotiate condom use.

Daily violence and police harassment disrupt existing HIV interventions. Lack of awareness about rights discourages reporting of violence.

Lack of other employment opportunities limit options to professions like sex work.
Educational background

- Effeminate behavior lead to gender discrimination and harassment
- Gender discrimination and violence discourage community from completing formal education
- Lack of family support and self guilt forces community members to migrate from their own states
- Discrimination at the educational institutes fails to recognize gender beyond binary gender expression
### Primary Occupations: Transgenders & Hijras

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary occupation</th>
<th>AP</th>
<th>KAR</th>
<th>MAH</th>
<th>TN</th>
<th>UP</th>
<th>WB</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unemployed</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salaried employment</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family business/trade</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-family business/trade</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural labour</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non agricultural labour</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-employed</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masseur</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Badhai</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Begging</strong></td>
<td>32</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dancing</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sex work</strong></td>
<td>56</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Base</strong></td>
<td>25</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>181</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Key Points

- Begging is the primary occupation for almost 1/3rd TGH – Highest in KAR
- In AP, more than ½ consider sex work as their primary occupation
- TGH who are salaried is observed to be high in TN
- Badhai is comparatively high in UP

**Baseline**

32% ranked salaried job as the main occupation, while 9% ranked sex work as the main occupation.
Family support

TG/Hijras: Acceptance by Family and Society

- Accepted: 24.8%
- Not Accepted: 41.2%
- Rejected: 11.8%
- Suggested to hide it: 17.8%
- Finding a cure for it: 4.4%

Have you ever faced violence by police, goondas or others in profession

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Not aware</th>
<th>No response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>57.5</td>
<td>34.2</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>7.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

48% (midline 2012) of the respondents had faced one of the forms of stigma and discrimination in the four areas:

- Ever faced problem from police / law enforcement agencies (%)
- Ever been discriminated due to your MTH behaviour/identity (%)
- In the past year, has anyone forced or coerced you to have sexual relations against your will? (%)
- In the past year, has anyone slapped you, punched you, hit you, or caused you any other type of physical harm (%)

Baseline -31%

### Male Partners of Transgenders and Hijras

#### Mean age at first sex
- **13.99**

#### Mean age of partner
- **20.55**

#### Type of sex

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Partner</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Type of sex</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Co-worker</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Mutual masturbation (57%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friend</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>Anal sex (66%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relative</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Mutual masturbation (50%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighbor</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>Anal sex (60%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial partner</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Someone unknown to me</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Mutual masturbation &amp; anal sex (6% each)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School teacher</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No response</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Base</strong></td>
<td>181</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Total to exceed 100 due to multiple responses*
Condom use: regular MTH partner during anal sex

- High partner turn over among transgender and hijra
- Condom negotiations are low due to fear or losing partner
- Condom use linked with domestic violence of the partner
- Low self-esteem and influence of substance abuse

Global Fund-supported HIV programme that develops capacity of CBOs to provide improved HIV prevention services to more than 453,750 men who have sex with men (MSM), transgender (TG) and hijra community members in 17 states over five years (2010-2015)

Key features:
- 90 Pre-Targeted Interventions (TI) & 110 TI-Plus CBOs
- Capacity building of organisations and individuals
- Community-friendly services
- Advocacy and policy initiatives
- Community systems strengthening and community preparedness
Pehchān Community Systems Strengthening

- Visibility, Empowerment and Rights
- Taking leadership on building community
- Demonstrating community capacity
- Community friendly services
- Community advocacy
- CBO building
- Addressing community needs

HIV intervention
HIV

- Family support/support units for the trans kids and older trans people
- Awareness of health, education and legal system
- Sensitization/capacity building of health care service industry
- Leadership capacity building programme for trans leaders/organizations
- Policy change initiatives PILs/sensitization of policy makers
- Sensitization of law enforcement agencies
- Community system strengthening/organization development support resource mobilization support
- Mass mobilization events to mainstream trans issues
- Strengthening positive transgender networks to work on care and support issues
- Mental health and psychosocial support through community counsellors
207 against 377