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Political Participation and Economic Empowerment of Transgender: A Quantitative Investigation from Lahore

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Abstract

Transgender constitute an important segment of the society but they face many challenges. Among such challenges is their political and economic empowerment and participation. The current study is designed to investigate the level of their political and economic empowerment and different issues they face while living in the society. The study is based on the quantitative research technique for a broader scope and understanding of the phenomenon. The study applied survey method to investigate and address the research objectives. The survey is based on a sample size of 150 selected through convenient sampling technique, as there is no sampling frame available. The quantitative findings of the current study show that the political and economic participation of the transgender is linked with their level of education. With the increase in the level of education their political participation and economic empowerment increases.

Keywords: *Political, Economic, Transgender, Empowerment, Lahore.*

Introduction

Gender has been an important area for the social scientists to see their status in the society and factors influencing that status. On the same token transgender constitutes an important segment of the society and require great deal of focus to look into their respective status in the society. It has been observed that most of the studies regarding the status of transgender were conducted by using social indicators (Khan, 2014). This growing body of researches on social and economic status of the transgender has enabled them to enjoy a relative stable social standing in the society. However, their political status is lacking same as the lack in the research on the topic of political participation of transgender.

There are very few researches in Pakistan that focus on the political participation of the transgender in Pakistan. The focus of current study is to find out the political participation of the transgender in Pakistan. Similarly, available economic opportunities and economic participation will also be examined in the current study (Khatak, 2020).

Transgender a marginalized group that often ridiculed by the society. We need to ensure their rights as well as political rights as human being. As Section 3(3) states, *"every transgender person, being the citizen of Pakistan, who has attained the age of eighteen years shall have the right to let himself or herself registered according to self-perceived gender identity."* (ICJ, 2020; Pakistan Transgender Protection Right Act). This act not only secured the transgender rights as a citizen but also allowed them to be registered their gender as per their perception (Khatak, 2020).

Transgender A Marginalized Group

In Pakistan as well as sub-continent different myths are attached to this particular group. They have ridiculed and called by different titles as *Khawaja Sara, Hijra, Khusra* etc. But on the same time there are some stereo types as people feared from their curse. Historically, these have different duties assigned to them but as lower class workers. We cannot imagine them as political leader not even to vote as equal citizen. The right to vote was also given after the registration and giving national identity cards. Begging, singing and dancing are the main professions attached to this group. Begging is the most common practice among all the transgender as the dancing and singing required some artistic skills (Akhtar et al. 2012). Threat of harassment is also one of the major factors for their exploitation; that ranges from bullying, abusing and even to murder. We can say that being a transgender is considered to be a crime. Although it is not their choice or fault but society sees them as source of entertainment and ridicule them (Akhtar et al. 2021).

Economic Participation of Transgender in Pakistan

Economic participation is the key to decide the rights and privileges for a group in society. When we talk about the transgender, the roles are assigned to them are lower level and serving the people. Education status defines the economic participation of any group. When we see the transgender community, the education status is very low. They have to face so much discrimination in acquiring education. Although there is change in modern times still there are a lot of things to do. Education is the basic right of every citizen as per Pakistan Constitution Act 25, but seldom applicable to the some of the marginalized groups in which transgender is the most vulnerable (Tufail, 2017).

They are deprived from the education due to several reasons. They are ridiculed by the other students. There are no separate institutions, to make them educated. In the mainstream institutions they are not treated well. Economic status define the economic participation as we discussed education is directly proportional to good economics status. But the low level professions like entertainment and sometimes beggars are the worst part of economic status. Society sees them as lower class citizen with no economic impact. There is a separate research study required to analyze the economic status of Transgender (Amin & Saeed, 2004).

As they have no economic status in compare with other citizen so they also lack of facilities as well. They have less medical treatment and benefits and less educational opportunities. Now the thing is how they can improve their economic status, we are interested as their political status will also improve with this development.

Political Participation of Transgender in Pakistan

As mentioned earlier the political participation is out of question, when we think of the exploitation, and lack of basic rights of this group. Right to vote and participation in electoral process is the basic right of every citizen. Right to vote for transgender was given in 2011 in Pakistan. Political empowerment and leadership refer to the inclusive approach at all levels of society for a fare & free democratic system. In democratic system each and every group will participate to vote (Asghar & Shahzad, 2018).

Unfortunately, a country where basic rights are also at stake we cannot ensure the political rights. Economic empowerment is also a key to play a decisive role in electoral process. As we all know that political campaigns comprises of huge capital investment. People with sound financial background considered to be most appropriate for the political leadership. On the other hand the voters are also influenced or tempted by different ways and means.

National identity cards are necessary to participate in voting process. Registration is the major issue in most of communities in Pakistan. Registration at birth is not so common in rural areas. When we talk about the transgender, there is huge level discrimination regarding the gender. Family does not accept them and denied about their association. So how can they ensure their other rights (Moshin, 2018).

On 20 November 2009 Supreme Court of Pakistan conferred ruling, "It is to be noted that this class of society has been neglected merely on account of gender disorder in their bodies, otherwise they are entitled to enjoy all the rights granted to them by the constitution being its subject, including their rights in inherited property because normally to deprive them from theirs such legitimate rights, sometime their families disowned them. As far as existing laws are concerned, there are no provisions on the basis of which they can be deprived from their legitimate right to inherit the properties. Similarly NADRA is required to adopt a strategy with the assistance of concerned department of the government, t record exact status in the column meant for male or female after undertaking some medical tests based on hormones etc. They are also entitled for entering their names in the electoral list. As far as the question of casting the vote is concerned, it could be decided separately, because they can, if need be, exercise the right of franchise etc." On 22 March, 2013, the Supreme Court of Pakistan in Dr. Muhammad Aslam Khaki v S.S.P. (Operations) Rawalpindi held that 'eunuchs should be treated equally as other citizens in this country enjoying the same rights under the Constitution of Islamic Republic of Pakistan 1973'.

These judgments proved a great initiative in the favor of transgender community for the attaining basic rights. Although a CNIC could not provide the basic health facilities, education and economic means but it can be a first step in getting all those benefits. But the prime objective of right to vote was achieved successfully. These people will participate in electoral process as citizen of the country (Saddique et al 2017).

Hurdles of Transgender Participation

Transgender community has to face many problems and hurdles in economic and political participation. Our acceptance level is very low regarding mainstreaming of transgender participation. They have to survive on existing income generating methods like beggary and dancing. They struggled a lot in getting basic needs and respectable social status. Illiteracy and low education status are the main hurdles in political participation of the transgender and they cannot be part of the economic and electoral process (Akhtar & Bilour, 2019).

The major reason behind the illiteracy is not been registered as citizen. So the problems and hurdles started from here. If they got the identity as citizen, they can get benefit from the formal education system. But they are neglected as not having valid Computerized National Identity Card (CNIC). Mockery and making fun of this community is very common among masses. People think some sort of entertainment for them. In rural and urban there is no difference regarding the attitude of the people. If they think to be actively participating in political and economic process, it is an uphill task for them (Ahmed et al, 2016).

Dancing is considered to be the by default profession or source of income for them. They are compelled to prostitute and engage in as sex worker against their will. Although a few of them use this profession as no other choice. Exploitation, abuses and harassment is also related to the same profession.

Respectable earning sources still the prime hurdle in the lives of transgender community. They have fewer options for livelihood, and basic needs. The main reason is they have not some skills or technical education. So it is also the responsibility of the Government to extend its social welfare services regarding skill education to transgender. Different programs by the government and non-government are focusing on the skill training but it need to be amplified at larger level. Akhuwat organization is also running a program on transgender support. Akhuwat and Fountain house collaborated in this program. They are targeting the most vulnerable and helping them through "Khwaja Sira Support Program". Firstly they have started from the registration and registered thousands of transgender in different districts of Punjab. They are supported by micro finance and helping them in gaining respectable earnings. Different social and psychological training are provided enabling them to be a useful citizen (Burns & Krehely, 2011).

True representation in political participation is always a masculine trait. We have not even granted true political representation to the women as well. Most of the women are not elected on general seat on election; rather they are selected on women quota. That is also not a pure democratic behavior.

Objectives of the Study

The current study is designed to address the following major objective of the study.

- To find out the role of various socio-demographic factors in influencing the political participation and economic empowerment of transgender.

Significance of the Study

The findings of the current would be of prime importance to increase the political participation of the transgender in the Pakistani society. It is important to mention here is that political participation is key in providing the due rights to any segment of the society and if political rights are provided or political participation is increased of transgender, it will help in ensuring the provision of rights to them. In addition to that, it will increase the social status and acceptability of the transgender in the community.

Methods and Materials

Social science inquiry requires utilizing various methods and tools to study a particular topic. As the topic of the current study is sensitive and require both in-depth understanding as well as extensiveness of the topic needs to be explained. Therefore, researcher in the current study used quantitative research technique and applied survey research design.

Research Site

The research site for the current study has been selected as Lahore district. This selection was not based on random selection rather there are certain methodological justification of selecting Lahore as the study site. Following are some of the reasons of the current study to be conducted in Lahore district.

- One of the core reason behind selection of Lahore district as the study site is the availability of the transgender population.
- In addition to that Lahore district contains both rural and urban settings which is the primary concern in the current study to determine the difference of political and economic participation of transgender.
- As one of the apprehension of the current study is measuring political participation and economic, which can be more accurately measured in and around such metropolitan areas such as Lahore.
- It was also done keeping in view the time and mobility constraint of the researcher to collect the data and experience the field.

Population of the Study

Population of the current study comprises of all the transgender residing in the research site, which has already been discussed under the heading research site. However, it was not possible to include all the transgender living in the selected area, being higher in number, the researcher formulated some inclusion criteria. This inclusion criterion was used to identify the respondents for the current study. Following are the key points of the inclusion criteria for the current study.

- The participant having valid NIC issued by NADRA is the first criteria for the current study i.e. age above 18 years. This was done to ensure that the participant of the current study is a residence of the selected locality and have spent sufficient amount of time here.
- The second important criteria was having basic level of education. In the first place it was decided to include matriculation as the basic criteria but that was reduced to primary level of education. This was done as the topic of the current study was related to political participation which require some sorts of knowledgeable population.
- However, for the purpose of qualitative in-depth interviews the education level for transgender was minimum matriculation and preferably graduation. The researcher was lucky enough to get educated transgender for in-depth interviews in the study.

The above mentioned two criteria were followed in the current study for the selection of transgender. Use of excessive criteria were not adjusted due to lack of such conditions available in the population of the study.

Sampling Technique

For the purpose of quantitative research, random sampling was applied. Within the broader framework of random sampling technique, the researcher applied quota sampling technique to identify the respondents. This sampling technique was used because there was no sampling frame of the transgender, which led the researcher to use quota sampling technique.

In addition to that transgender is so much blended in the mainstream population hence, use of quota sampling is the most appropriate type of sampling technique.

Sample Size

Lack of sampling frame, restricted the researcher to use any type of statistical operation to apply for the determination of the sample size. Therefore, researcher kept on collecting data and once a sufficient amount of data was collected the researcher stopped collecting more responses. To remain at a sufficient level of responses 150 questionnaire were filled hence sample size for the current study was adjusted as 150 respondents.

Tool for Quantitative Data Collection

For the collection of quantitative data, researcher framed a cross sectional survey tool which comprised of three main segments. All the questions except socio-demographic characteristics contained close ended questions.

- The first segment of the tool provided socio-demographic information of the respondents such as age, level of education and area of residence.
- The second part of the cross sectional survey design was based on finding out the level of political participation. This section was based on 10 major questions related to voting trends and participation in various political process such as sit-in, procession and speeches.

- The third segment of the tool was related to finding out the economic participation of the participants of the study and contains 10 questions related to economic empowerment such as job opportunities and business opportunities.

Analysis of Quantitative Data

The quantitative data was analyzed by using SPSS latest version and analysis pattern was based on descriptive research design. Inferential statistics were used determine the comparison between rural and urban population regarding the economic participation and political participation of transgender. The participation of transgender in political process and economic empowerment of urban and rural was compared using

1. Z-test for equality of proportion
2. Chi-square test of association

Data Analysis and Findings

This section of the chapter presents the quantitative data analysis in terms of inferential statistics or the application of significant testing to determine the nature of the political and economic participation and empowerment of the transgender in Pakistani society. The following data analysis is based on ANOVA i.e. analysis of variance to show the mean difference with respect to age, area of residence and level of education and their relationship between economic and political participation.

Socio-Demographics

Table No 1: Level of Education

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Up to Primary	73	48.7	48.7	48.7
	6-8 class (middle)	45	30.0	30.0	78.7
	9-10 class (Matric)	14	9.3	9.3	88.0
	above Matric	18	12.0	12.0	100.0
	Total	150	100.0	100.0	

In the level of education, the observations clearly indicate that majority of the respondents are up to primary education that is 48.7%. The education of class 6^{th} to 8^{th} is 30%. 12% of the respondents are above Matric. However, 9.3 % are between 9^{th} & 10^{th} standards. This also showed that level of education of majority is up to primary, we can say literate but it's the lowest level, where they are unable to excel in political and economic participation.

Table No 2: Age(years)					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	21	7	4.7	4.7	4.7
	22	53	35.3	35.3	40.0
	23	52	34.7	34.7	74.7
	24	8	5.3	5.3	80.0
	25	8	5.3	5.3	85.3
	26	8	5.3	5.3	90.7
	28	7	4.7	4.7	95.3
	29	7	4.7	4.7	100.0
	Total	150	100.0	100.0	

In this research, the target population was youth, and majority of them was 22-23 years of age that is 35.3 and 34.7 respectively, this constitute 70% of overall population. Age 24-26 are 5%, and 21, 28 & 29 are below 5% (4.7) of the respondents.

Table No 3: Area of Residence					
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	urban	102	68.0	68.0	68.0
	rural	48	32.0	32.0	100.0
	Total	150	100.0	100.0	

As the table clearly shows that, the majority of the respondents are urban residents 68%. While 48%, belong to rural settings. In urban areas there are more opportunities regarding basic facilities so the people prefer to live. As this group also remain in search of economic opportunities so these are also part of urban setting.

Age and Economic Empowerment

In the first place relationship between age and economic empowerment or economic participation of the transgender is presented.

ANOVA Table No. 4 Economic Empowerment					
	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	3.970	7	.567	.451	.868
Within Groups	178.695	142	1.258		
Total	182.665	149			

In the first place the above ANOVA table shows the nature of relationship between age and economic empowerment. The significant value shows that the relationship between age and economic empowerment is insignificant that implies that there is no relationship between age of the transgender and economic empowerment as that p value is less than .05.

Table No. 5 Economic Empowerment					
	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	95% Confidence Interval for Mean	
				Lower Bound	Upper Bound
21	7	1.6214	1.35519	.3681	2.8748
22	53	1.9585	1.15407	1.6404	2.2766
23	52	1.6481	1.05744	1.3537	1.9425
24	8	1.9219	1.07997	1.0190	2.8247
25	8	1.5906	1.29090	.5114	2.6698
26	8	1.8063	1.17479	.8241	2.7884
28	7	1.7143	.93840	.8464	2.5822
29	7	1.4571	1.05017	.4859	2.4284
Total	150	1.7707	1.10722	1.5920	1.9493

After the application of ANOVA test the above descriptive statistics show the mean difference among the different age categories and economic empowerment. Here again it can be observed and seen that almost all age categories have similar means value. The mean value for the all the age categories range from 1.45 to 1.95 which is only slight level of variation. This again reiterates that age is not significantly related with the economic participation of the transgender.

Age and Political Empowerment

In this section relationship is determined on the basis of age and political participation of the transgender in the Pakistani society.

ANOVA Table No 6: Political Participation					
	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	3.206	7	.458	1.161	.329
Within Groups	56.037	142	.395		
Total	59.244	149			

The above ANOVA table shows the relationship between political participation and age categories of the transgender. The p-value which is above the .05 level shows the insignificant nature of the relationship between age and political participation of the transgender. This implies that age level of the transgender does not change the level of political participation.

Table No 7: Political Participation					
				95% Confidence Interval for Mean	
	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
21	7	3.3714	.61567	2.8020	3.9408
22	53	3.2811	.59130	3.1181	3.4441
23	52	3.0365	.68514	2.8458	3.2273
24	8	3.0250	.61586	2.5101	3.5399
25	8	3.4250	.47734	3.0259	3.8241
26	8	3.1500	.58064	2.6646	3.6354
28	7	3.3571	.61062	2.7924	3.9219
29	7	2.9286	.68243	2.2974	3.5597
Total	150	3.1747	.63056	3.0729	3.2764

Apart from the ANOVA which significantly determined the relationship between age of the respondents and political participation the above table shows that descriptive statistics to show the mean difference with regard to the age categories. The table shows that mean level is almost similar for all the age categories. The mean value ranges from 2.92 to 3.32 which is again a slighter level of variation which is not much significant. Hence, the age categories are not linked with the political participation of the transgender.

Area of Residence and Economic Empowerment

One of the core objectives of the current study was to find out the relationship between area of residence and economic empowerment of the transgender. The existing literature also provided a strong evidence of this relationship hence it was important to measure it in the Pakistani context and setup.

Table No 8: Economic Empowerment

	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	19.289	1	19.289	17.474	.000
Within Groups	163.375	148	1.104		
Total	182.665	149			

The above ANOVA table shows the relationship between area of residence and economic empowerment of the population of the current study. The p value shows the significant nature of the relationship as it is less than .05. Hence, this implies that area of residence of the transgender can determine the economic empowerment of the transgender. On the same token F-statistics also show a significant and higher level of mean difference among segment of the society. The F-statistics value of 17.47 shows a higher level of mean difference among categories of area of residence.

Table No 9: Economic Empowerment

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	95% Confidence Interval for Mean	
				Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Urban	102	2.0167	1.16384	1.7881	2.2453
Rural	48	1.2479	.75184	1.0296	1.4662
Total	150	1.7707	1.10722	1.5920	1.9493

To determine the nature and extent of economic empowerment of the transgender in the Pakistani society the above table shows the mean difference of the two categories i.e. rural and urban. The mean value of urban area is 2.01 which is higher than rural areas mean that is 1.23. This difference among the mean signifies that transgender of the urban area have higher level of economic empowerment as compared to the rural areas. This has also been established from the ANOVA table hence both tables and their values correspond to each other.

Area of Residence and Political Participation

Similarly, as with the economic empowerment the study intended to observe the difference of political participation of the transgender in terms of political participation.

ANOVA Table No 10: Political Participation

	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	7.536	1	7.536	21.571	.000
Within Groups	51.707	148	.349		
Total	59.244	149			

The above ANOVA table shows the relationship between area of residence and political participation of the sample of the current study. The p value shows the significant nature of the relationship as it is less than .05. Hence, this implies that area of residence of the transgender can determine the political participation of the transgender in Pakistani society. On the same token F-statistics also show a significant and higher level of mean difference among segment of the society. The F-statistics value of 21.57 shows a higher level of mean difference among categories of area of residence. This mean difference is higher for the political participation than the economic empowerment.

Descriptive Table No 11: Political Participation					
	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	95% Confidence Interval for Mean	
				Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Urban	102	3.3284	.53239	3.2239	3.4330
Rural	48	2.8479	.70076	2.6444	3.0514
Total	150	3.1747	.63056	3.0729	3.2764

The above table shows the nature and extent of political participation of the transgender in the Pakistani society in terms of mean difference of the two categories i.e. rural and urban. The mean value of urban area is 3.32 which is higher than rural areas mean that is 2.84. This difference among the mean signifies that transgender of the urban area have higher level of political participation and political empowerment as compared to the rural areas. This has also been established from the ANOVA table hence both tables and their values correspond to each other which strength the stance that the political participation is influenced in terms of area of residence.

Education Level and Political Participation

Level of education is an important indicator to determine the political participation and economic empowerment of the population. This section presents the results regarding the education level and political participation of the participants of the current study.

ANOVA Table No 12: Political Participation					
	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	12.317	3	4.106	12.774	.000
Within Groups	46.927	146	.321		
Total	59.244	149			

The above table shows the results of the ANOVA and p value is at significant level i.e. it is less than .05 which asserts a significant relationship between level of education and political participation of the population of the current study. This implies that level of education can determine the level of political participation. Similarly F-statistics value of 12.77 shows the higher level of mean difference.

Table No 13: Descriptives Political Participation					
	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	95% Confidence Interval for Mean	
				Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Upto Primary	73	2.9932	.62480	2.8474	3.1389
6-8 class (middle)	45	3.1756	.55561	3.0086	3.3425
9-10 class (Matric)	14	3.1643	.57057	2.8348	3.4937
above Matric	18	3.9167	.24314	3.7958	4.0376
Total	150	3.1747	.63056	3.0729	3.2764

Education Level and Economic Empowerment

The above table shows the mean difference with respect to level of education and political participation. The above table shows that with the increase in the level of education the mean difference increases which implies that political participation of the transgender increase with the level of education. The mean level of above matric is the highest with 3.91 while below primary is 2.99 hence 1 (one) degree difference lies with all the categories. This emphasizes the level of education determine the political participation.

Level of education is an important indicator to determine the economic empowerment of the population. This section presents the results regarding the education level and economic empowerment of the participants of the current study.

Table No 14: ANOVA Economic Empowerment

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	98.040	3	32.680	56.381	.000
Within Groups	84.625	146	.580		
Total	182.665	149			

The above table shows the results of the ANOVA and p value is at significant level i.e. it is less than .05 which asserts a significant relationship between level of education and economic empowerment of the population of the current study. This implies that level of education can determine the level of economic empowerment. Similarly, F-statistics value of 56.38 shows the higher level of mean difference.

Table No 15: Descriptives Economic Empowerment

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	95% Confidence Interval for Mean	
				Lower Bound	Upper Bound
Upto Primary	73	.9534	.88262	.7475	1.1594
6-8 class (middle)	45	2.4589	.31048	2.3656	2.5522
9-10 class (Matric)	14	2.9679	.63218	2.6028	3.3329
above Matric	18	2.4333	1.05993	1.9062	2.9604
Total	150	1.7707	1.10722	1.5920	1.9493

The above table shows the mean difference with respect to level of education and economic empowerment. The above table shows that with the increase in the level of education the mean difference increases which implies that economic empowerment of the transgender increase with the level of education. The mean level of above matric is the highest with 2.43 while below primary is .95 hence 1 (one) degree difference lies with all the categories. However, it is important to mention here is that this mean difference is not consistent with all categories which means in some instances this variation is not linear rather goes down and up but with very minor difference. This overall suggests that level of education makes difference in the economic empowerment of the transgender in Pakistani context.

Discussion

This section of the study provides discussion with reference to the quantitative findings of the study. Most of the quantitative findings of the study are based on socio-demographic features such as age, area of residence and level of education.

The current study found that age of the transgender is insignificant with their political participation and economic empowerment. However, this finding of the current study is not aligned with the existing literature review. It has been found that with the increase in age the political participation level of the transgender increases (Magni & Reynolds, 2020). In USA it has been observed that with increase in age transgender have more political participation with reference to political processions, gathering and voting trends. Similarly, their economic independence is also increase with increase in their age (Leelavathy, 2014). Hence, with reference to the age the findings of the current study are not aligned with the existing literature. However, the primary reason behind this may the cultural context of the country which is yet to recognize their abilities and identity in the society.

The current study found that there is a significant difference regarding political participation and economic empowerment of the transgender between rural and urban settings. The transgender of the urban setting have higher level of political participation and economic opportunities. This finding of the current study is very much in line with the existing literature. Most of the studies quoted in the literature review and conduced in the west support that transgender in the urban areas have higher level of political participation as compared to the transgender of the rural areas (Akhtar et al. 2021). Urban area is enriched with the political activities which also provide opportunities for the political participation to the transgender. Transgender in Canada have a higher level of political participation in the urban settings (Sterling & Anne, 2000). Same is the case with the economic participation of the transgender which is high in the urban areas. Existing literature support that transgender in the urban areas have higher opportunities for jobs and business (Magni & Reynolds, 2020). Transgender economic participation in the USA and Australia is also high as compared to the other Asian regions. Hence, this affirms that transgender have higher level of both political and economic participation in the urban areas and findings of the current study align with the existing literature review of what have been done in the west.

An important finding of the current study was that level of education is related with the economic and political participation of the transgender. With the increase of the education level transgender have more wisdom and economic opportunities. This has also been found in the existing literature. Education level is an important factor of higher level of political and economic participation of the transgender (Sinha, 2016; Burns & Krehely, 2011). Henceforth, findings of the current study are intact with the existing literature regarding the level of education and political participation of transgender.

Conclusion

The objective of the current study states “To find out the role of various socio-demographic factors in influencing the political participation of transgender. On the basis of the findings of the study it is concluded that there is significant difference between political participation and economic contribution of the transgender with particular focus on level of education and urban setting. Transgender having higher education level and urban area background have higher level of political participation and economic empowerment.

Implications of the Study

This section of the chapter presents the implications of the current study i.e. how the findings of the current study can be used in uplifting the political and economic empowerment of transgender.

- The findings of the current study can be best utilized by the policy makers so that focus could be given on particular areas that foster the political participation and economic empowerment of the transgender. The findings of the study will help in devising the policies for the involvement of transgender in mainstream activities.

- The findings of the study are also very useful for the transgender population by exploring certain areas for their political participation and economic empowerment. This will help them in raising their political participation and economic empowerment.
- The study provided the relationship between different variables and political/economic empowerment. Hence, by increasing the level of education and moving from rural to urban areas can enhance their political and economic participation. The policy makers as well as the transgender population can best utilize this.

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