CHAPTER V
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Introduction

The present research study has focused on the influence of the Tamilnadu Government Initiatives in empowering the lives of Transgenders with special reference to Chennai City.

The study had also focused on Demographic Profiles of the Transgenders, Social Profiles of the Transgenders, Psychological challenges and Psychological empowerment of the Transgenders Role of Educational Institutions and Educational Empowerment of the Transgenders Employment Challenges and Empowerment of the Transgenders Health Challenges and Health Empowerment of the Transgenders Initiatives and functioning of the Tamil Nadu Government Transgender Welfare Board Social and Political Empowerment of the Transgenders and Government initiatives.

The researcher after analyzing the specific objectives of the study has presented the summary of the main findings below.

5.1 Summary of the Main Findings

Demographic profile of the Transgenders

- Based on the analysis it is found that the 4% of the Transgenders are from the age group of 16-20 years, 35.2% of the Transgenders are in the age group between 21-25 years and 38.7% are in the age group between 26-30 years and 25.7% are in the age group between 30 and above. Major representation of Transgenders is from the age group of 26-30 years.

- 39.6% of the Transgenders have studied between 1 - 8th standard and 50.4% of them have studied between 9 - 12th standard and 10.0% of the Transgenders have studied up to graduation and above. 1 - 8th standard qualification level exists among Transgenders and shows higher representation.
Percentage analysis show that 44.3% of the Transgenders are involved in Begging and 30% of the Transgenders are involved in sex work, 17.0% of them are self employed, 7.8% of them are working in Non Governmental Organisations Sectors and only 9% of the Transgenders got the opportunity to work in Government sectors. Therefore Begging has widely become the known occupation of the Transgenders.

3.9% of the Transgenders are earning less than Rs.1000 per month and 3.0% of the Transgenders earn between Rs.1001-2999, 30.4% of them earn Rs.3000-4999 per month and 30.0% of the Transgenders get Rs. 5000-6999 as monthly income and 32.6% of them earn Rs. 7000 and above.

The study proves that 25.2% of the Transgenders are living alone, 39.1% of them are living with other TG and 21.3% of them are living with Family and 14.3% of the Transgenders live with their partners including their TG friends and other male members.

73% of the Transgenders are Hindus and 14.3% of them are Christians and 12.6% of them are Muslims. Majority of the Transgenders are Hindus.

Gender Change details of the Transgenders

The study result reveals that 30.0% of the Transgenders noticed their Gender change at the age of 9-11 years and 42.6% of them noticed their Gender change at the age of 12-14 years and 25.2% of them noticed at the age of 15-17 years and other 2.2% noticed at the age of 17 years and above.

The study shows that 7.4% of the Transgenders said that they had Transgenders born in their family and 92.6% them said ‘no’ because there is no one as Transgender in their family.
57.4% of the family members have noticed their gender change initially and 42.6% their closed friends have noticed their gender change. Mainly the family members of the Transgenders have noticed the gender change in them.

**Psychological challenges and Empowerment of the Transgenders**

- The study result reveals that 92.2% of the Transgenders have attempted suicide after knowing the gender change and only 7.8% of them said it is their fate. Therefore higher representation of suicide attempts has taken among Transgenders after knowing the gender change. 53.5% of the Transgenders have attempted suicide three times after knowing the gender change and 30.9% of them attempted suicide two times and 7.8% of them have attempted two times and the same 7.8% of the Transgenders said that they have not taken any suicidal attempts and also said they want to live as created by God.

- Based on findings Kruskal-Wallis Test for association between Age groups and Teasing of the Transgenders proves that there is significant association between age and teasing the Transgenders.

- Based on findings Chi – Square test for association between Accept gender change and Long for family support proves that there is significant a association between accept gender change and long for family support.

- The findings of the study in Chi – Square Test for association between the age of the Transgenders and cries without reason due to their gender change proves that there is no association between the age of the transgender and cries without reason due to their gender change because at any age till their death they cry without any reason when they think about their gender change which creates disturbance resulting in discrimination and loss of dignity. Here Null hypothesis is accepted.
• Kruskal Wallis Test for association between age and sexual abuse of Transgenders proves that therefore there is no significant difference between age and Sexual abuse of the Transgenders. Null hypothesis is accepted as Transgenders at any age is prone to sexual abuse only because of their gender.

• Chi – Square Test for association between getting suicidal tendency and attempting and reduction of suicidal tendency among Transgenders proves that there is significant association between getting suicidal tendency and attempting and reduction suicidal tendency among Transgenders because of Government’s recognition and the programmes motivate them. Counseling centers started for Transgenders psychological problems is boon to them. Alternate hypothesis is proved in this test.

Educational challenges and Empowerment of the Transgenders

• The results reveal that 20.9% of the Transgenders have said that admission in the schools were refused knowing the problem of Gender change and 79.1% of them said they were admitted in the schools without any problem. Therefore admissions in schools were not refused for Transgenders after knowing the Gender change. The sensitization programmes started in various fields had opened the way for them to reenter into educational institutions as Teachers and students stand by them in spite of difficulties.

• Chi Square Test for association between educational qualification and need for skill training proves that there is no significant association between Educational Qualification and need for skill Training, as the Transgenders become the school drop outs due to gender change they like to avail skill training for their earning.
• Kruskal Wallis Test for significant association between educational qualification of the Transgenders and educational empowerment proves that there is no significant association between Educational Qualification and Educational Empowerment thereby null hypothesis is proved.

Employment Challenges and Empowerment of the Transgenders

• For 61.3% of the Transgenders employment was refused knowing the problem of being a Transgender and for 38.7% Employment was not refused and the Transgenders are not treated properly in their work.

• Chi-Square Test for association between occupations and like to come out of begging as positive change through Government Initiatives proves that there is significant association between occupations and like to come out of begging. Alternate hypothesis is accepted here. A positive change among Transgenders.

• Chi-square results point out that there is significant association between occupations and like to come out of sex work as positive change through Government initiatives proves that there is significant association between occupations and like to come out of sex work. Alternate hypothesis is accepted and it is slow and strong breakthrough in their living.

• The study based on Chi-square results indicates that there is positive association between monthly income and loan for entrepreneurs as a process of Economical Empowerment proves that there is significant association between monthly income and loan for entrepreneurs. Alternate hypothesis is accepted.

Health issues and Challenges of the Transgenders

• 26.1% of the Transgenders feel comfortable in discussing their health problems with the doctors and for 73.9% of the Transgender they say it is difficult to discuss about their health problems and the officials are hesitant
to listen to them like other patients who visit the hospitals and other private health centers. Transgenders do not feel comfortable in discussing their health problems show higher representation. 65.2% of the Transgenders say that they are treated less in the hospitals for their health problems and 34.8% of the Transgenders they say they are not treated less and there is difference in the treatment with delay and not timely care.

- Transgenders are not treated well in the hospitals for their health problems show higher representation. 73.9% of the Transgenders have undergone surgery for gender change and 26.1% of the Transgenders have not taken the surgery for gender change. Transgenders had undergone surgery for gender change show higher representation.

- Present study reveals that 31.8% of the Transgenders had undergone the Gender change surgery by Thayamma Method which is the traditional and crude practice among the community and 24% of them had done their surgery under diploma doctors and quake doctors not legal medical practitioners and 28.2% of them had done their surgery under known medical doctors not fully aware of gender change surgery and 15.3% of them undergone surgery in the Government Hospitals through proper Sex Reassignment Surgery SRS Method. Transgenders have undergone surgery for gender change through Thayamma method show higher representation.

- 43.5% of the Transgenders are suffering from urinary problem with urinary infection after undergoing the Gender change surgery and 23.5% of them are suffering with abdomen blotting and 5.3% of them said they feel they had lost much blood during the surgery and feel anemic and 6.5% said that they feel week and 21.2% of the Transgender community said they had put on weight after the surgery. Transgenders suffer from urinary problem with infection after the surgery for gender change show higher representation.
- Chi-Square test for association between discussing the Health problems comfortably and treated less in hospitals proves that there is significant association between discussing the Health problems comfortably and treated less in hospitals by proving Alternate hypothesis.

**Tamil Nadu Government Initiatives and its Influence on Transgenders**

- Present study proves that 98.7% of the Transgenders are aware of the Tamil Nadu Initiatives in empowering the Transgender community and 1.3% of the Transgenders are not aware of the Government Initiatives. Transgenders are aware of the Tamil Nadu Government Initiatives in Empowering the Transgenders show higher representation.

- 7.9% of the Transgenders availed the Government Programmes through the Transgender Welfare Board, 70.9% of them have availed the programmes through NGO sectors and Groups, 12.8% of the Transgenders said that they received the Government programmes through their TG friends and 8.4% of them availed the programmes through the media support. Transgenders have availed the Tamil Nadu Government programmes through the NGOS show higher representation.

- Based on the findings, 17.4% of the Transgenders waited for 10 months to avail the Government Programmes, 69.6% waited from 1-2 years and 13.0% waited from 3 to 5 years. Study proves that 9.1% of the Transgenders faced difficulty in getting the Government Programmes and so they waited for long months and 2.2% wrote many letters to the TG Board and other officials and 18.3% approached their TG friends and 70.4% approached the NGO Volunteers and visit them regularly avail the Government Programmes. Transgenders have faced difficulty in availing the Tamil Nadu Government programmes approached the Non Governmental Organisations volunteers often.
• Chi-Square test for association between difficulties faced and the ways of getting the Government Programmes proves that there is a significant association between difficulties faced and ways of getting the Government programmes. Here the alternate hypothesis is proved.

• Chi-Square Test for association between living status and pension scheme under Tamil Nadu Government programmes proves that there is a significant association between living status and pension scheme under Tamil Nadu Government programmes. Alternate hypothesis is proved.

• Correlation Coefficient between Government Initiatives based on felt needs of the Transgender Community and satisfaction with Government Initiatives proves that there is a relationship between Government Initiatives based on felt needs of the Transgender Community and satisfaction with Government Initiatives.

• Correlations Coefficient between Changes through Government initiatives and satisfaction with Government Initiatives proves that there is no significant association between satisfaction with Government Programmes and changes through the programmes.

**Empowerment and challenges**

• The present study reveals that 28.3% of the Transgenders said that being ignorant prevent their Empowerment 34.3% said being illiterate prevent the Empowerment, 19.1% of the Transgenders said that being exploited prevent their Empowerment and 18.3% said being support less prevent their Empowerment. Being illiterate prevent Empowerment among Transgender Community.

• Chi-square Test for association between likes to live with dignity and recognition of third gender proves that every Transgenders like to live with dignity when they are treated properly as third gender. Alternate hypothesis is proved here.
Regression test for significant difference between satisfaction with Government Initiatives on Political Empowerment among Transgenders proves that there is significant between satisfaction with Government Initiatives on Political Empowerment among Transgenders.

Correlation test for significant difference between satisfaction with Government Initiatives on Social Empowerment among Transgenders proves that there is significant between satisfaction with Government Initiatives on Social Empowerment among Transgenders.

31.7% of the Transgenders say that they need to be aware of the programmes and 2.2% of the Transgenders say that the beneficiaries of the Government Programmes should help the non beneficiaries, 17.0% of them are self employed, 5.2% of them say only they need to give open suggestions to strengthen the Government Initiatives. 48.7% of the Transgenders say cooperate with the TG Welfare Board to get the programmes and 12.2% of them say their community should maintain dignity and identity in public places for acceptance and lessen discrimination. Transgenders need to cooperate with the Transgender Welfare Board to get the programmes and to improve Government Initiatives towards their empowerment.

5.2 Suggestions and Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study the conceptualization of who is a Transgender [Aravani] among the general public or rather for the society should be made clear through intensive Awareness Programmes among students, working people, police officials and especially for the Government officials.

The findings of the study suggests that in Transgender Welfare Board the members in the Board except the Transgenders need orientation about the Transgender Community and to an extent their basic needs to design the programmes accordingly.
The study strongly suggests that Short-stay home and counseling centers should be made functional by the Transgender Welfare Board as many young Transgenders need proper guidance at the right time.

Transgender Welfare Board need to establish good linkages with the government bodies related to Finance, Law, Tamil Nadu State Women Commission, Police, Tamil Nadu Women Development Corporation, Higher Education, Medical Education, and Employment and Training and linkages with more relevant departments.

The official membership in Transgender Welfare Board can be expanded to include representatives from other relevant government bodies such as Tamil Nadu State AIDS Control Society and Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board.

The present study suggests that Transgender Welfare Board can establish an advisory committee that include media representatives, writers, social activists, and medical experts.

The findings of the study recommends that the identity card issued by Transgender Welfare Board should be recognized as a valid Government-authorized card that can be used as a proof of identity and address to open bank accounts, passport application, etc. without any problems faced by the card holders.

The study suggests that different government departments apart from Department of Social Welfare and other departments can also allocate certain amount of funds from their budgets to co-finance certain schemes for Transgender people.

Transgender Welfare Board needs to periodically conduct needs assessment by involving Community Based Organisations and Non Governmental Organisations working with Transgender people to understand the needs, issues, concerns, and local context of
Transgender communities. Based on findings, needs-based schemes can be formulated. Transgender Welfare Board activities need to be evaluated periodically with involvement of Transgender communities at the grassroots’ level to ensure that the activities are needs-based, needy Transgender people are benefited, and implementation of schemes is timely. The capacity of the Transgender Community Based Organisations needs to be built so that they can implement some of the schemes funded by Transgender Welfare Board.

- The study strongly recommends to sensitize relevant groups such as media professionals, parents of Transgender people, lawyers, teachers, students, and women about Transgender communities with the help of Community Based Organisations/Non Governmental Organisations working with Transgender people.

- The findings of the present study recommends to start help lines, publications/newsletters, health resources, social spaces and drop-in centers.

- The findings of the study suggests that specific schemes catering to only Transgender people may be needed – again, to address their basic needs in relation to income, employment, housing, education and health care. These schemes include grants to self-help groups of Transgender people, vocational training, and short-stay home for Transgender people in crisis. For designing such specific schemes, the needs assessment and consultation with Transgender representatives would be helpful.

- To strengthen the programmes the study recommends that the Transgender people need to be seen not just as beneficiaries but also as a valuable resource for providing insights about the needs of the Transgender communities and can provide solutions to many of the complex problems faced by Transgender communities.
• The study recommends a Transgender specific plan and budgeting need to be submitted to the state five-year planning commission and thus becomes part of the Government of India’s Five Year Plan.

• Required changes need to be reflected in policies and laws; attitude of the government, general public and health care providers; and health care systems and practice.

Legal Measures

• Section 377 of the IPC and other discriminatory legislations that single out same-sexual acts between consenting adults should be repealed.

• Section 375 of the IPC should be amended to punish all kinds of sexual violence, including sexual abuse of children. A comprehensive sexual assault law should be enacted applying to all men, women and others irrespective of their sexual orientation and marital status.

• Comprehensive civil rights legislation should be enacted to offer sexuality minorities the same protection and rights now guaranteed to others on the basis of sex, caste, creed and color. The constitution should be amended to include sexual orientation as a ground of non-discrimination.

• Same-sex marriages should be recognized as legal and valid; all legal benefits, including property rights that accrue to heterosexual married people should be made available to same-sex unions.

• Every person must have the right to decide their gender identity, including transgender, transvestites and hijras.

Police Reforms

• The study suggests that the Police administration should appoint a standing committee comprising Station House Officers and human rights and social activists to promptly investigate reports of gross abuses by the police against Transgenders.
• The police administration should adopt transparency in their dealings with sexual minorities as they are in need of support and guidance.

• The study recommends that the Police at all levels should undergo sensitization workshops to break down their social prejudices and to train them to accord sexual minorities the same courteous and humane treatment, as they should towards the general public.

Reforming the Medical Establishment

• The researcher suggests that the classification system adopted by ICD-10, wherein ego dystonic homosexual sexuality, bisexuality and heterosexuality are classified as disorders, should be reconsidered in the light of mounting evidence as to how this system is biased against sexual minorities.

• The Medical Council of India should adopt guidelines specifying what doctors need to do in cases when the patient has a problem with her sexual orientation. The guidelines should require the doctor to mandatorily provide for the right of the patient to have non-judgmental information on sexuality minorities and on the existence of support groups. The guidelines should further require that treatment to change sexual orientation should be considered only as a measure of the last resort.

• The Medical Council of India should issue guidelines to ensure that discrimination in medical treatment of sexual minorities, which would include refusal to treat a person on the basis of his/her sexual orientation, is treated as professional misconduct.

• The researcher suggests to bring medical curricula in schools and medical colleges in line with current medical thinking that moves beyond seeing homosexuality as a disease and a deviance.
Interventions by Civil Society

- Human rights and social action organizations should take up the issues of sexuality minorities as a part of their mandate for social change. Socialist and Marxist organizations, Gandhian organizations, environmental organizations, dalit organizations and women’s organizations, among others, which have played a key role in initiating social change, should integrate the concerns of sexual minorities as part of their mandate.

- A comprehensive sex-education program should be included as part of the school curricula that alters the heterosexist bias in education and provides judgment-free information and fosters a liberal outlook.

- The Press Council of India and other watchdog institutions of various popular media (including film, video and TV) should issue guidelines to ensure sensitive and respectful treatment of these issues.

Reforming the Transgender family members, friends, or significant others

- The study suggests that education about transgender issues by reading books, attending conferences and consulting with transgender experts will definitely bring in changes in the minds of the family members and attitudes concerning people with gender-nonconforming appearance or behavior.

- It is recommended to use names and pronouns that are appropriate to the person’s gender presentation and identity.

- The study suggests not to make assumptions about transgender people’s sexual orientation, desire for hormonal or medical treatment, or other aspects of their identity or transition plans.
Based on the findings of the study, it is recommended not to confuse gender nonconformity with being transgender and not all people who appear androgynous or gender nonconforming identify as transgender or desire gender affirmation treatment and always better to keep lines of communication open with the transgender persons.

The study recommends to advocate for transgender rights, including social and economic justice and appropriate psychological care and to familiarize with the local and state or provincial laws that protect transgender people from discrimination.

The study strongly recommends that parents and family members are the pillar of support to the Transgenders especially when they undergo gender transition process as it leads to run away from homes and school drop outs.

The researcher suggests that parents of gender-nonconforming children may need to work with schools and other institutions to address their children’s particular needs and ensure their children’s safety.

The researcher suggests that it is good to consult with mental health and medical professionals familiar with gender issues in children to decide how to best address these concerns.

The researcher suggests not to force the child to act in a more gender-conforming way. Peer support from other parents of gender-nonconforming children may also be helpful.

The findings of the study recommends new strategies in empowering transgenders using different variables and scope for understanding them from the perspective of social work study practices.
5.3 IMPLICATIONS FOR SOCIAL WORK

Every social worker is uniquely qualified to help people right in their environment, by looking at all the different aspects of their life and culture. They work to ensure personal well being, prevent crisis and to counsel individuals, families and communities. They make sure people get the help they need from the best resources available. Social Workers care for people in every stage of life, from children to the elderly especially to the minorities and otherwise abled. They help them to overcome life’s most difficult challenges and the troubles of every day living.

Professional social workers assist individuals, groups and communities to restore and enhance their capacity for social functioning, while creating societal conditions favorable to achieve their goals. The practice of social work request knowledge of human development and behaviour, of social, economic and cultural Institutions and of the interaction of all these factors.

Professional social workers are found in every facet of community life – in schools, hospitals, mental health clinics, senior citizen centres, elected office, private practice, prisons, military, corporations, corporate and in numerous public and private agencies that serve individuals, families and communities in need.

Such being the scope of intervention and facilitation by a social worker it is imperative that they possess a thorough understanding of the people and communities they serve. The width of the people they serve range from children to elderly be it child care, medical and psychiatric care, community health, geriatric care or even managing human resources, sexual minorities, social workers are operating completely in the people’s domain. Thus it becomes imperative for social workers to understand the complexities of the challenges faced by the sexual minorities particularly transgenders and to mainstream them in the society.
5.4 SCOPE FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

This research has provided pointers for future work to be done in the following areas. This research has been confined to programmes influencing the empowerment of the transgenders only in Chennai. Further studies can be carried out considering the whole state, as this programmes for transgenders in Tamil Nadu is a landmark initiative. So that the exact reach of the programmes for the sexual minorities can be found. Further study can be done on the strategies to mainstream transgenders in all the areas like education, health (both physical and mental) and employment for social inclusion.

Studies can be done in future mainly focusing on stigma and discrimination on sexual minorities as they are treated differently in school and hospitals, not able to use the public toilets, transport services and in some of the Government schemes. Further research can be focused on identifying the various methods in giving awareness about the challenges faced by the sexual minorities for more acceptance and inclusion.

5.5 CONCLUSION

The study has attempted to study the influence of the Tamilnadu Government Initiatives in the lives of Transgenders; in Chennai has been presented with findings. The study also explored the influence of Social, Educational, Health, Psychological and Political Empowerment and presented the positive and negative associations and differences between the variables relating to Transgender Community which need to be understood from the cultural perspective that India places high value on Tradition and Family. Studies can explore more on psychological disturbances and whether it affects the empowerment process of the Transgender community. Another study can be initiated to find suitable alternate model programmes to establish dignity and recognition for Transgenders.
Transgenders need to believe in them, they need to believe that things would change but not as the way they think. They need not show their anger on people who had nothing to do with their past. Even society is responsible for what they are now; the people they meet on daily basis are not responsible either individually or collectively for it. The existence of the Transgenders is an intriguing part of the life. The society in general and the progressive people in particular, with all sympathy for Transgenders expect them to change instead of making them feel that there is a change in the minds of the people who are willing to accept them. It is important for those who are willing to accept Transgenders to be expressive and do not hesitate to talk to them in public places and do not hesitate to dine or travel with them. It is important to make the Transgenders feel that there is no reservation for the society towards relating to them. We need holistic way of thinking and being. All these concerns are part of our in engendering development. We need to believe that gender and development issues cannot be treated in narrow and mechanistic ways.

However, gender variance has been an integral part of transgender struggles for equality throughout history and within contemporary culture, although it has rarely been acknowledged. Development of the Society becomes meaningful with understanding of Gender Equality and Gender Sensitivity, especially understanding the Transgender Development in order to bring in a Egalitarian Society i.e. Life for all with fullness and without any discrimination.