CHAPTER-III
MATERIALS AND METHODS

3.1 Introduction

Transgender is the state of one’s identity, not matching one’s assigned gender. The term transsexuality includes basically an individual’s felt need to change his / her external sexual characteristics through sexual reassignment surgery in order to match their internal gender identity. The transsexuals face series of disadvantages, discriminations and deprivations in the society due to several factors. In the present times, transsexuals are living in a highly complex social, economic, political and cultural environment in which many focuses, influences and impacts have a constant interplay. The research base in the field of transsexuality has undergone series of changes and developments. Researchers of anthropology, sociology, social work, human development and other disciplines have consistently observed that transsexual people are homeless members of multiple disenfranchised and disadvantaged groups.

In this age of scientific research and technological revolution, systematic and scientific efforts are required to mould human personalities and sound footing of knowledge, experience, expertise and evaluation. Some important factors like personal attitude of transsexuals, family background of the transsexuals, mindset of the community and attitude of the state matter most from the point of view of the health, welfare and progress of transsexuals. Investigations dealing exclusively with the status, problems and prospects of male to female transsexuals with reference to Karnataka State are scanty as seen through the dearth of relevant literature. An analysis of the available literature suggests that the various stakeholders have not lived up to the expectations of transsexuals in modern society. In this context, an anthropological study of male to female transsexuals in a developing state like Karnataka was the chief focus of the study. This chapter enumerates the hypotheses of the study, study variables, study areas, sample of the study, research design, tools of research, computation of data, statistical analysis, and limitations of the study and definitions of the terms used in the present study.
3.2 Hypotheses of the Study

The objectives of the present study and the analysis of the findings of the studies reviewed in the earlier chapter have led to generating the following set of null hypotheses.

H1: The male to female transsexuals in Karnataka State suffered from several social disadvantages.
H2: The male to female transsexuals in Karnataka State suffered from several economic constraints.
H3: The male to female transsexuals in Karnataka State suffered from several health hazards.
H4: The male to female transsexuals in Karnataka State suffered from series of human rights violations.

3.3 Study Variables

Keeping the above research questions in view, the following variables were selected for the present study on the basis of review of literature and discussion with subject experts.

3.3.1 Independent Variables

1. Area : Bangalore and Mysore Cities
2. Gender : Male to Female Transsexuals
3. Age : 15 – 60 Years
4. Place of Domicile : Urban Areas
5. Economic Status : Upper Class/Middle Class/Lower Class
6. Religion : Hindu, Muslim, Christian and so on.
7. Social Status : Forward Caste / Backward Caste / SC/ST/Minorities

3.3.2 Dependent Variables

1. Social issues of male to female transsexuals.
2. Economic issues of male to female transsexuals.
3. Sexual issues of male to female transsexuals.
4. Healthcare issues of male to female transsexuals.
5. Human rights issues of male to female transsexuals.
3.4 Study Area and Selection of Sample

The present study was carried out in Mysore and Bangalore Cities of Karnataka state during 2010 to 2014.

In this study, purposive sampling techniques were followed by keeping clearly designed objective, the sample for the present study comprises 300 male to female transsexuals.

Table 3.1: Distribution of Study Areas and Sample

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Cities</th>
<th>No. of Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Bangalore</td>
<td>253</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Mysore</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The non government organizations SANGAMA, SAMARA-Bangalore, and Ashodhaya, Mysore, working for the interest of sexual minorities in Karnataka, were helped to gather primary information.

3.5 Research Design

The major objective of the present study was to understand the status, problems and prospects of male to female transsexuals in Karnataka State. With this objective, the present study was planned and conducted in three stages. In the first stage, a pilot study was conducted in order to examine the feasibility and appropriateness of the tools and procedures of the study. In the second stage, interview schedules were developed and perfected in order to collect authentic primary data from the male to female transsexuals of Mysore and Bangalore cities, Karnataka State in accordance with the objectives and research questions of the study. In the third stage, appropriate scientific statistical analysis procedures were followed to ensure systematic data analysis and interpretation. Overall, the present study approached the problem through a systematic survey method.
3.5.1 Method of Study

Primary data were collected through structured, organized and standardized interview schedules which were administered to the male to female transsexuals of Karnataka State. The interview method was primarily adopted to collect the data from the 300 subjects. The interview method enabled the respondents to provide correct information since they were not fully competent enough to understand the various factors associated with the life, rehabilitation and welfare of male to female transsexuals in Karnataka State.

3.5.2 Pre-Test

Before administering the interview schedule to the respondents of the study, a pre-test was conducted. The contents of the interview schedule were subjected to suitable changes and modifications in order to avoid ambiguity and inconvenience in the light of pre-test.

3.6 Development of Tools

The tools were developed keeping in view the variables of the study, namely; socio-economic status of the subjects, social issues of male to female transsexuals, sexual issues of male to female transsexuals, economic issues of male to female transsexuals, health care issues of male to female transsexuals and human rights issues of male to female transsexuals in Karnataka State. The interview schedules were developed in order to collect the general and specific data respectively.

3.7 Primary Data Collection

Primary data was gathered by administering the interview schedules to the male to female transsexuals, living in cities of Mysore and Bangalore. Purposive sampling technique was used to select the subjects. Further, the study was conducted in two phases. In the first phase data was collected in Bangalore city and in second phase data was collected in Mysore.

The responses from the subjects were noted down by the researcher after interacting with the subjects and explaining the aims and objectives of the study. The primary data were gathered from the total number of 300 subjects in the age group of 15 – 60 years.
3.8 Secondary Data Collection

The present study was also systematically carried out on the basis of relevant secondary data such as, Census Report, annual reports of Ministry of Human Resources Development, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, annual report of Human Rights Commission, health and educational reports, reviews of professional journals, proceedings of national and inter-national seminars and conferences, media reports and other publications related to the research topic. These sources also contained authoritative comments and criticisms on various aspects of the life, welfare and progress of male to female transsexuals in Karnataka State. The writings which were found from all these sources were also systematically analyzed for the purpose of gathering additional authentic information on the concept of transsexuality, significance of transsexuality, scientific study of transsexuality, status of male to female transsexuals in India and Karnataka and past studies dealing with the male to female transsexuals in India and abroad.

3.9 Computation of Data

The primary data gathered from the survey on the various factors associated with the life, status, problems and prospects of male to female transsexuals in Karnataka State were consolidated and computed by using descriptive analysis which consisted of frequency counts and percentage distribution which revealed the relationship between the independent and dependent variables considered in the study.

3.10 Statistical Analysis

The primary data were analysed on the basis of certain standardised statistical tests which include; percentage analysis, graphical representation, Chi-square test. All the statistical methods were carried out through the SPSS for Windows (version 16.0). A brief discussion of these statistical tests is as follows.

3.11 Definitions of the Terms Used in the Study

3.11.1 Gender

The social construction of masculinity or femininity in a specific culture involves gender identity (the gender designation someone is given and/or claims individually that may or may not be expressed outwardly, and may or may not
correspond to one’s physical sex characteristics), gender roles (the expectations imposed on or taken on), gender expression (someone’s external presentation), and gender perception (how others perceive someone’s gender). While one’s sense of gender identity may not be socially constructed, it reflects socially constructed roles and attributions in the way it is expressed.

3.11.2 Sex

The biological assignment of ‘male’ or ‘female’ based upon the external genitalia that an individual possesses at birth. The biological sexes are commonly seen as mutually exclusive, and it is often believed that a person’s assigned sex dictates their gender expression (those born with ‘male’ genitalia should behave in a masculine way and those born with ‘female’ genitalia should behave in a feminine way).

3.11.3 Sexual Identity

A person’s self description of the romantic, sexual, and/or emotional relationships with another or others such as heterosexual, gay, lesbian, bisexual, asexual, etc. Much like gender identifications, sexual identity labels are constantly being created to both unite communities and divide members from others.

3.11.4 Gender expression

Many ways an individual communicates her or his gender to others. This may involve how the person behaves or her or his physical characteristics. Examples include clothing, speech patterns, as well as physical appearance and mannerisms.

3.11.5 Gender identity

The gender identity usually refers to a person's internal identification as male or female. It is important to note that an individual's gender identity may or may not be the person's assigned biological sex at birth.

3.11.6 Transgender

Transgender refers to the people who live partially or fully in a sex or gender that was not assigned to them at birth. It is an ‘umbrella term’ for someone whose self-identification, anatomy, appearance, manner, expression, behavior and/or other’s perceptions of challenges traditional societal definitions of masculine and feminine
regardless of sexual identity. There are many different narrower categories of trans-gendering. Gender variance is a very broad category that includes a variety of people, some of whom display cross-gender behavior occasionally and others who do so full-time. Several different types of trans-gender behavior are discussed in this section.

3.11.7 Transsexual

Transsexual is someone who identifies and lives in the sex opposite of that which they were assigned at birth. Often transsexuals will use feminizing or masculinizing body techniques. Not all transsexuals will seek genital reconstructive surgeries, although many do. Individuals whose designated sex at birth does not match their gender identity and who, through sex reassignment surgery and hormone treatments, may seek to change their physical body to match their gender identity. Transsexuals can be male-to-female (MTF) or female-to-male (FTM). Transsexuals’ sexual identification can be heterosexual, gay, lesbian, bisexual, etc.

3.11.8 Cross dresser or Transvestite

Cross dresser or transvestite refers to someone who lives part-time in the opposite gender. Generally, they do not identify with the other sex and prefer to keep the sex-identity that they were assigned at birth. The term ‘transvestite’ has fallen out of fashion in many Anglophone communities as many people now prefer the term ‘cross dresser,’ but it is still used in some places. It is also used in Francophone contexts (transvestite). People, often heterosexual men, who are comfortable with their birth assigned gender and will privately dress or take on the mannerisms of the ‘opposite’ gender for erotic, sexual, and/or emotional gratification. It is important not to mix up transvestite and travesti. The latter refers to travestis women in Latin America. Unlike transvestites, they live full time as women and often use feminizing techniques. Importantly, they do not consider themselves to be transsexuals.

3.11.9 Male to Female Transsexuals

Refers to someone who was assigned the male sex at birth but who identifies and lives as a woman.
3.11.10 Female to Male Transsexuals

Refers to someone who was assigned the female sex at birth but who identifies and lives as a man.

3.11.11 Drag Performers

Drag performers refers to people who dress and perform like the ‘opposite’ gender for entertainment, play, expression, or eroticism. Men are referred to as Drag Queens and women are referred to as Drag Kings. Some identify as Trans and others do not.

3.11.12 Gender Variant/Queer

Gender variant/queer refers to people who find other gender categories constraining. Their gender identities and/or expression are consciously not consistent with conventional standards for masculine or feminine behavior or appearance. Some identify as a blend or androgynous characteristics, or neither by rejecting a binary gender system entirely.

3.11.13 Gender Identity Disorder (GID) and Gender Dysphoria

The American Psychiatric Association's diagnosis for individuals who experience emotional distress because of the conflict between her or his gender identity and her or his assigned sex. Such conflict causes significant emotional anguish and discomfort. It is important to note that not all transsexual individuals struggle with GID or Gender Dysphoria.

3.11.14 Sexual Orientation

Sexual orientation refers to an individual's attraction (emotional, physical, spiritual, etc.) to another human being. This attraction may be to someone of the same or opposite gender. Although sexual orientation and gender identity are often confused, they are not interchangeable. That is, an individual's sexual orientation is completely separate from her or his gender identity, and it is important to note this distinction.

3.11.15 Sex Reassignment Surgery (SRS)

SRS refers to surgical procedures that alter one’s body to better conform to a person’s gender identity. Many different procedures compromise sex reassignment surgery.
3.12. Summary

The social issues, sexual issues, healthcare issues, economic issues and human rights issues of male to female transsexuals in Karnataka State are less understood mainly due to lack of comprehensive scientific studies. The primary data were gathered from 300 subjects. The present study approached the problem through a systematic survey method. Several tools and techniques like non-participant observation, informal discussion and secondary literature review were also used for the purpose of data collection. Prominent statistical analysis techniques such as percentage analysis, graphical representation, Chi-square test were also employed in the present study. This investigation primarily deals with the scientific evaluation of the factors associated with the life, status, problems and prospects of male to female transsexuals.