

# Editorial

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Most of what we do on earth is being governed by our positioning in the social universe, and our lives entangled in a complex cobweb of emotions, that they only make sense in relation to our social identities, which themselves are creations of systems and structures. Historically, Transgenders have remained as 'invisibly visible', and sometimes 'visibly invisible'. Indian history is replete with examples of Transgenders, portrayed with attributes such as valor, beauty, poignant voices, and enigma, be it Srikhandi or Brihannala of Mahabharat, or closeted males (with fear of persecution and non-acceptance of identities and behavior) in several stories and novels in vernacular languages of India. Often referred to as Kinners and Hijras, as ones who are 'in-between', they embody and symbolize beauty, virtue and life in transition- in becoming... They defy the very ontology of 'being', a fixated narrative of statics, and reflect on very imminent and nascent notion of 'gender fluidity'. However, they are to be seen and their lives are to be interpreted beyond 'gender lens' and construed with a sensitive approach focused on identities, as they come to negotiate and live with.

This special issue 'Transgender Health and Rights in the World' is a symbolic gesture to recognize, to celebrate lives in their pure form, and reorient the focus of much of our thoughts and actions from a stereotypical one which limits and negates identities, to one which scopes beyond life, and their worlds. This issue aimed at becoming a voice of transgenders in India, focusing on their lives, to present a coherent narrative of their trials and tribulations, and inner battles they fought with society to get their due rights and dignity. It also presents a picture which juxtaposes it with their intense and desperate attempts and desire to rise above, and race beyond limits. I believe we have been able to achieve much more, by intensively able to focus on their inner pursuits, and identities beyond

in a globalized world order, which truly recognizes their strengths of character.

This special issue aims to provide a critique on theoretical frameworks and the latest empirical formation, contribute to aggressive and prosocial behaviors, understand their sexuality, and benefit or harm, their relationships with their parents, friends, and romantic partners. In places, where the published research on a topic is missing, research from the face to face context can be used to provide a starting point for understanding the same topics. As we are now entering into 2018, when we are considering and re-considering our possibilities, and ways of engaging with the world, wherein diversity is the core of life, and LGBTQI community in the developing world are a more visible one.

However, the goals of championing rights and equality are far from being a reality, although we have made major headways into policy making e.g. Indian Transgender Bill, 2016 to recognize rights of Transgenders in India. The current struggle with multiple voices raised against the Government's discriminate and insensitive Policy for Transgenders in December 2017 is reflective of deeply disturbing pathos in our Indian society.

In this issue, we got 7 critical pieces, each carrying messages, and insights from diverse fields of inquiry such as Philosophy, History, Human Rights, Law, Psychology, Sociology,

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Development Studies, Queer Studies, LGBT Studies, Journalism, and Literature.

This issue also features one empirical study 'Original Article', conducted on Indian population on micro-attitudes and discrimination towards homosexual orientation bringing state-of-the-art knowledge in the field of social psychology on current stands of the society. It also includes an invited commentary on 'Gay Marriage and Its Impact on LGBTQI Rights in the UK and the Western World', and a 'Personal Creative Piece' celebrating 7 Transgender activists of India who have truly made it larger than life. Each of these aims to present chromatic ensemble of lives, identities, critiques on current policies, existing societal attitude, belief systems, and underscores a surreal representation of journey of travelers across time and space.

Although we celebrate these lives, their unique efforts, scientific evidence informs us that we have a long way to go as far as goals of true gender equality, inclusion and equity are concerned. At this critical juncture, we must solemnly recognize that we have embarked on a journey, wherein the goals of true equality would not be realized, unless we move together, leaving no one behind.

With this issue we aim to engage with the world with our effort to synthesize information, offer unique perspectives and hopefully negotiate space, and improve visibilities of 'Trans-Lives' in the mainstream society.

Hope, our small initiative will be received kindly by all...

Sincerely  
**Maheswar Satpathy**  
Special Issue Editor  
31st Dec 2017