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Q4(c)

Discuss the issues relating to the entitlement of transgender in Indian society.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2018 · Sociology GS 2 · 15 marks · Perspectives on the study of Indian society

Perspectives on the study of Indian society: Indology (G.S. Ghurye); Structural functionalism (M.N. Srinivas); Marxist sociology (A.R. Desai).

Core demand of the question

- Discuss the issues relating to the entitlement of transgender persons in Indian society
- Keep to a 15-mark length

Revision summary

Entitlements mean legal personhood, welfare, work, and safety.

NALSA opened self-identification; delivery of documents still lags.

Kinship expulsion pushes people into stigmatised livelihoods.

Caste and class split who can use clinics and courts.

Folklore roles are not the same as equal citizenship.

Introduction

Transgender entitlements in India are about legal personhood, work, family, and safety. Customary hijra and other gender-plural worlds existed. The modern issue is whether the republic grants documents, welfare, and dignity without forcing people back into stigma and begging economies.

Body**Legal entitlement**

- **NALSA (2014)** recognised self-identification and directed reservations and welfare, a constitutional-morality opening in **Ambedkar**'s spirit of equal civic worth.
- Documents, shelters, and hospital protocols still lag, so the judgment is a disharmonic creed beside ranked practice.

Social and economic issues

- **Family expulsion** under Seed-and-Earth kinship leaves many without the household safety net.
- Work clusters in begging, blessing, and sex work because offices and factories police binary gender.
- Violence in street and police station is public-domain harm, kin to other gendered violence.
- **Caste and class split the category:** some urban activists access clinics; many remain in gharana poverty.

Entitlement versus stigma

- Welfare boards can become charity without jobs.
- Medical gatekeeping can contradict self-identification.
- Marriage, adoption, and inheritance remain unfinished entitlement files.

Sociological point

- Entitlement is citizenship. Folklore respect at a wedding is not a substitute for a ration card and a safe ward.

Flow diagram

NALSA recognition -> Documents welfare

Family expulsion -> Stigma work violence

Documents welfare -> Citizenship

Stigma work violence -> Citizenship

Conclusion

Transgender entitlement issues are legal recognition, livelihood beyond stigma work, **family expulsion**, and violence. Indian society has older gender-plural roles and a new rights language. The gap between NALSA-type law and everyday exclusion is the live sociological problem.

Facts & figures

NALSA 2014

Supreme Court recognition of transgender persons' rights and self-identification.

Gharana / hijra worlds

Customary organisation that can be both shelter and hierarchy.

Family expulsion

Kinship honour that denies the natal household as a safety net.

Constitutional morality

Ambedkarite standard that entitlements should follow equal civic worth, not custom.