



Role of Tourism for the Development of Depressed Communities: A Case Study of Transgender of Hazara Division

Naveed Usman

Lecturer, Department of Archaeology, Hazara University, Mansehra

Anas Mahmud Arif*

Associate Professor, Department of Tourism & Hospitality, Hazara University Mansehra. Corresponding Author Email: anaschtm@gmail.com

Sohail Nawaz

PhD Scholar, Department of Archaeology, Hazara University, Mansehra

Abstract

Individuals with gender disparity, or those beyond conventional gender (male or female) are transgender such as transgender-women, or transgender-male. In a local language they are known as *Hijra*, *Khwaja-Sira* and they live in groups normally called *Dhera*. They normally face variety of challenges in daily lives, including social discrimination, social dishonor, judgmental nature of society and cultural and personal harassment. The current study focused on transgender efficacy, in the tourism industry at Hazara division. The goal of this research is to understand and uncover the socio-economic challenges and constraints faced by the transgender in Hazara division. This study design found that major portion of the transgender community in Hazara division consisted of young population (18 to 30 years), which is considered the age full of energy and need to be channelized. Most of them are enough educated to read, write, and understand Urdu and English. It is noteworthy to mention, that most of the tourist coming to this region belong to Punjab province and all of them can speak and understand Urdu very well. The most important finding is about their skill level that indicated most of them retain certain type of skill level which can be considered in tourism industry. Data indicates that members of transgender community can be effectively trained and utilized as porter, cook, driver, guide and for tourism promotion. It may not only boost the tourism industry but also can uplift their financial situation they are having in. These findings can be used as a foundation to design a massive scale of study to uplift the standard of transgender life.

Key Words: Transgender, Tourism, Depressed Community

Introduction

The Gender Monitoring Society of Pakistan (GSMP), and transgender people face severe prosecution and are perceived as wrongdoers. The beginning focuses of wrongdoing in bizarre social orders link back to the British time. It has been documented that in 1860 the British government has changed sentence rules and code and connected it to locales counting Pakistan, Bangladesh, and India. In an article 377 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), both homosexuality and non-homosexuality were regarded as legal. Contrary, additional measures were taken and kept on driving non-misogynist social orders. In the year 1871, under the Tribes Act, public shows of music, and dancing were suppressed (Kotiswaran, 2014). However, such orders did not affect the *hijra*'s living in neighborhood



regions.

Initially, the *hijra*, community were troubled, considered and asked for youth seizing, driving kids to be taught the *hijra* way of life. Such claims are mostly fictional stories while charges of untouchable homosexuality keep on persisting in the region of South Asia. Pakistan adopted the British Judgment Code or the Indian Code of Law after independence from the British colonial administration, making it illegal to lock in sexual connections (Reddy, 2006). Pakistan is the Islamic Republic, but it is noteworthy to mention that Pakistan Penal Code (PPC) contains remains of the British law code. Beneath article 377 of the PPC, homosexuality is approved crime with detainment for two years. In the year of 1970s, the then administrator Gen. Zia al Haq, put forward amendments in the light of Islamic guidance and shariah, particularly in the Hanafi way, and points were submitted to the PPC (Bello, 2012).

Pakistani society in general do not bear or accept homosexuality or associations between the same sexes. In the year 2012, a cheerful couple in Pakistan got harassed and were thus minimized within the open eye and got death perils (Bello, 2012). The PPC also defines the regulations and characterize marriage that should be taken place between two opposite genders, male and female, whereas he or she should be of age 21.

In 2005, BBC has reported from the lining border between Pakistan and Afghanistan, a 42-year-old Afghan displaced person wedded a younger girl (16 years) in neighboring tribe in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province. Later, the couple was asked to leave the locality because of breaching the custom law (Bello, 2012). In the year of 2017 the Supreme Parliament of Pakistan passed a revolutionary bill entitled the Transgender Security Charge that provided comparable flexibilities and protections to the right of transgender society in Pakistan. The bill not only assists transgender freedom but also caused alleviation of sex workers in the society (Ansari and Noman, 2016). Adding to the point, in 2012 the Supreme Court of Pakistan set precedent by lawfully allowing as an outsider. The permit to relocate or outsiders in Pakistani effectively engaged with the political decision process where in 2013, five transgender left or ran away from their hometown and relocated to another place. Likewise, in 2018, 13 transgender people were found campaigning for the political office in Pakistan's public regions. Two of them also contested for electoral seats in the Pakistan's National Assembly while other fellows campaigned for their success. As per law and non-intervention from the government bodies in Pakistan, they were allowed to gather and make transgender communities across Pakistan. On the other hand, whenever an individual is recognized as a third gender early in his or her childhood, because of the social pressure and norms the family members feel ashamed and themselves wished to be relocate them. It is also a harsh fact that de-attachment of such individuals from their families expose them to different hardships, media-stages, and to restricted network, thus most of them adopt sex labor to run their financial demands (Khan and Sheharano, 2015).

Much work has been done in India on *hijra* culture, and very little work has been documented in Pakistan (Nanda, 1986; Haider and Bano, 2006).

Methodology

Hazara division is considered one of the main hubs of transgender community. They are living in majority in different areas of Hazara division including Abbottabad and Mansehra. In the current research design, we have selected 50



individuals' samples from this community, and allow them to take part on volunteer basis. In care about not disturb their privacy as well, by asking personal questions.

We have utilized our questionnaire and circulated to them as many as possible. All the circulated questionnaires were printed in Urdu and English languages. The circulation was conducted in different parts of Mansehra and Abbottabad. The most targeted spots in Mansehra were Bypass Chowk, Shehr Bazar, Punjab Chowk, Laari Adda, and Shinkiari where in Abbottabad the main bazar was focused. All the data were collected in summer 2021 and the data was further analyzed. All the meetings were managed and conducted in local language that is Hindko. All the meetings were recorded along with the prior consent of the sample member and was further translated and interpreted into English.

Results and Discussion

The study included following questions:

1. How old are you?

Table No.1 shows the distribution of transgenders with respect to their age. Statistical values indicate that there were 21% respondents with age group 20-25 years, 24% with age 26-30 years, 34% with age 32-35 years, and 21% respondents were with age 36 years and above. The above diagram shows age wise distribution of transgender in Hazara Division. The total number of participants is 50. The blue area represents age group of 20 to 25 years, green area represents age group of 26 to 30, grey represents 31 to 35 and purple represents 36 and above. So, the appended pie chart identifies that transgender between ages 31 to 35 are more in population than other age group.

2. Where do you currently live at Hazara division?

Table No.2 shows the distribution of trans-genders with respect to their location. Statistical values indicate that there were 34% respondents with age group 20-25 years, 29% with age 26-30 years, 14% with age 32-35 years, and 23% respondents were with age 36 years and above. Figure 2 shows location wise division of trans-genders in target area. Blue area represents Mansehra division so it has occupied by more respondents of this community. Green represents Abbottabad division so it has less respondents than Mansehra and then purple represents Baffa that is occupied by more less respondents of this community and grey represents other sites of Hazara Division where this community is allocated.

3. What is your Native Language?

Table No.3 shows the distribution of trans-genders with respect to their language. Statistical values indicate that there were 29% respondents with age group 20-25 years, 34% with age 26-30 years, 30% with age 32-35 years, and 7% respondents were with age 36 years and above. Figure 3 represents language distribution of respondents related to this community. Large number of respondents speak Urdu language, which is represented by green area, after that Hindko speakers are more in this community, which is represented by blue area. Grey area represents respondents speaking Pashto language which is less than Urdu and Hindko speakers and purples area represent respondents speaking other different languages.



4. What is your gender identity?

Table No.4 shows the distribution of trans-genders with respect to their gender. Statistical values indicate that there were 16% respondents with age group 20-25 years, 41% with age 26-30 years, 21% with age 32-35 years, and 21% respondents were with age 36 years and above. Figure 4 represents gender distribution of this community. The large number of respondents belonging to this community is termed as She male which represents by green area in above chart, after that they are called by the male which represents by grey area and purple and blue area represents different names which is used by society for this community.

5. What is your highest level of education that you have completed?

Table No.5 shows the distribution of trans-genders with respect to their education. Statistical values indicate that there were 43% respondents with age group 20-25 years, 18% with age 26-30 years, 39% with age 32-35 years, and 21% respondents were with age 36 years and above. The above chart represents education level of respondents belonging to this community. The highest level of education among these respondents is primary level which shows by blue area. Grey area shows respondents whose qualification is up to secondary level and green area represents respondents having qualification up to middle level.

6. Do you have any technical or vocational skills or training?

Table No.6 shows the distribution of trans-genders with respect to their level of skilled. Statistical values indicate that there were 21% respondents with age group 20-25 years, 18% with age 26-30 %, and 61% with age 32-35%. The above chart represents respondents' skilled and unskilled level. The grey area shows respondents having age between 31 to 35 are more skilled or have vocational training, after that respondents having age between 20 to 25 shows by blue area and then green represents respondents having less skilled or unskilled respondents belonging to this community.

7. What is your monthly income (in Pakistani rupees)?

Table No.7 shows the distribution of trans-genders with respect to their source of income. Statistical values indicate that there were 100% respondents with age group 20-25 years. Figure 7 shows monthly income distribution of transgender. The respondents between 20 to 25 has maximum income level. They usually earn their incomr by singing and dancing. There is no other specific source of income in Pakistan for this community especially in Hazara division.

8. Do you feel any harm being as a transgender?

Table No.8 shows the distribution of trans-genders with respect to their harms as gender. Statistical values indicate that there were 21% respondents with age group 20-25 years, 39% with age 26-30 years, 18% with age 32-35years, and 21% respondents were with age 36 years and above. Figure 8 represents transgender being harmed by their gender. The green area shows maximum number of respondents between ages 26 to 30 are mostly harmed by their gender. The respondents between ages 20 to 25 and 36 and above are equally harmed by their gender.

9. How are you regarded in your family?

Table no.9 shows the distribution of trans-genders with respect to their regard in



family. Statistical values indicate that there were 39% respondents with age group 20-25 years, and 61% with age 26-30 years. Figure 9 shows regard in family wise division of trans-genders in target area. The green area represents that maximum number of respondents belonging to this community don't treat like a family. Their basic rights, feelings, emotions and behavior towards them are highly unethical. While blue area represents respondents never treated as family member.

10. How are you treated in your family?

Table no.10 shows the distribution of trans-genders with respect to their regard in family. Statistical values indicate that there were 39% respondents with age group 20-25 years, 39% with age 26-30 years, and 21% with age 31-35 years. Figure 10 shows the distribution of trans-genders with respect to their regarded in family. Blue area represents respondents who don't avail their basic rights, green represents respondents who are degraded by society or family and grey represents respondents whose family or society spoil their personalities and as we know that family as an institution plays a crucial role in marginalization of Khawaja sara/transgender. Intolerance for gender non conformity in terms of attitudes identity and behavior results in violent and insufferable attempts by member at maintaining and reinforcing the more acceptable heterosexist regime. Moreover, there are not many cultural or social examples for families to draw on and try to understand the gender identity and behaviors of their children. Therefore, instead of protecting child from the mental and physical torture inflicted on them by the wider society, the family itself humiliates beats and in most cases, banishes the child from the house. Transgender individuals in Pakistan have typically faced a myriad of dangers from police, family, community, and religious authorities, and had to leave the country. Losing the family safety net means losing much of social entitlements and protection. They become an easy prey of sexual abuse, physical assault go through psycho social trauma and having the feelings of rejection. Khwaja seras isolate themselves in self-sustaining, close-knit groups where a member leader, or guru, adopts transgender children after they have been rejected or disowned by their parents at a young age. Losing ties with their families and loved ones, khwaja seras become easy victims of extortion, abuse, and sexual harassment.

11. Do you want to opt tourism as a career?

Table no.11 shows the distribution of trans-genders with respect to their liking for career. Statistical values indicate that there were 39% respondents with age group 20-25 years, and 61% with age 26-30 years. Figure 11 shows that discrimination limits employment opportunities, and the transgender minority regularly faces intimidation, humiliation, and abuse. Many also become the victims of extortion, sexual violence, and criminal gangs.

12. How can tourism helpful to you?

Table no.12 shows the distribution of trans-genders with respect to their helpful tourism. Statistical values indicate that there were 21% respondents with age group 20-25 years, 18% with age 26-30 years, 39% with age 31-35 years, and 21% respondents were with age 36 years and above. Figure 12 shows that tourism benefits transgender individuals by offering spaces for gender affirmation, escaping local stigma, finding community by pushing the industry to become



more inclusive through demand for safer, diverse and accepting environment.

13. What should be the reformatory steps government should take for you?

Table no.13 shows the distribution of trans-genders with respect to their regarded in family. Statistical values indicate that there were 21% respondents with age group 20-25 years, 39% with age 26-30 years, and 39% with age 31-35 years. Figure 13 shows that government should give proper protection to transgender and make laws and policies for the development of respondents belonging to this community. Constitution of Pakistan does not deprive any of its citizens from entitlement of fundamental rights on any ground of race, religion, caste, sex, residence or place of birth but still it had to be gone through an extensive effort to get transgender/ hijra community living in Pakistan to be recognized as “third gender” to ensure they also equally enjoy the provisions of state laws and privileges. This long journey reached to its logical halt to achieve one of the major milestones in the history of transgender community living in Pakistan, on November 20, 2009 when SC gave a ruling in favor of transgender community by recognizing them as said by the court, “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, 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.”

14. What are the suggestions you want to give for tourism?

Table no.14 shows the distribution of trans-genders with respect to their suggestions. Statistical values indicate that there were 61% respondents with age group 20-25 years, and 39% with age 26-30 years. Figure 14 shows that as the transgender are discriminated in the society, it is therefore recommended that state should give them proper right to live as good citizen in society. For the development of tourism industry, it is suggested that transgender should be involved as guide for tourists. To increase literacy rate of Pakistan there should be proper center for training and education of transgender where they utilize their technical and vocational skills in different profession. To control the crime rate government should pay special attention on trans-gender's skills and provide them job opportunities. Private sectors and NGOs should launch projects for transgender to decrease the ratio of drugs in whole country. To provide social respect and security it is recommended that transgender should be involved in politics and police department.

Conclusion

Trans-genders are the depressed community in Pakistan and they are leading a miserable life. They are not only rejected by the community but from their



families as well, where they are born. This study explored a significant data about the trans-gender community of Hazara division. It was found that major portion of the transgender community at Hazara division consisted of young population (18 to 30 years), which is considered the age full of energy and need to be channelized. Among them, most of them are enough educated to read, write and understand Urdu and English. It is noteworthy to mention, that most of the tourists visiting the Hazara Division from all across the country can speak and understand Urdu very well. The most important finding was about their skill level that indicated that majority of them retain certain type of skill level which can be considered in tourism industry. The data indicate that members of transgender community can be effectively trained and utilized as porter, cook, driver, guide, and for tourism promotion. It may not only boost the tourism department but also can uplift their financial situation they are having in and they can lead a respectful life ahead. The need is that the relevant stakeholders should come forward and devise strategies for the uplifting of this depressed community.

Table No: 1 Age Wise Division of Trans-Genders in Targeted Area

| Sr. No. | Age Group | F | % |
|---------|--------------------|----|----|
| 1 | 20-25 years | 12 | 21 |
| 2 | 26-30 years | 13 | 24 |
| 3 | 31-35 years | 19 | 34 |
| 4 | 36 years and above | 12 | 21 |

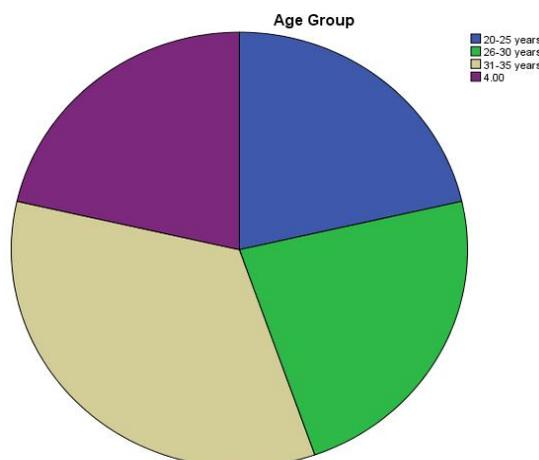


Figure 1: Age distribution of all the participants (n = 50), used in this study.

Table No 2: Location Wise Division of Trans-Genders in Targeted Area

| Sr. No. | Age Group | F | % |
|---------|--------------------|----|----|
| 1 | 20-25 years | 19 | 34 |
| 2 | 26-30 years | 16 | 29 |
| 3 | 31-35 years | 8 | 14 |
| 4 | 36 years and above | 13 | 23 |

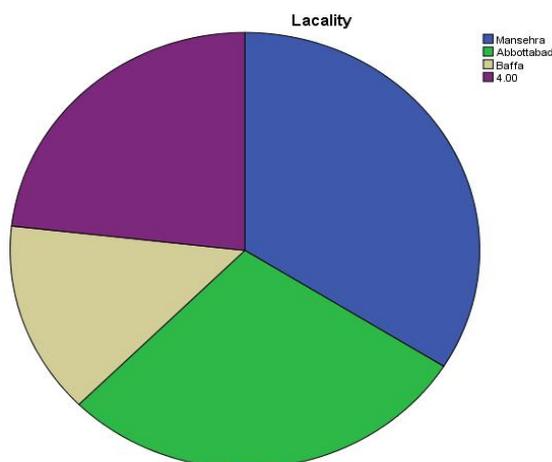


Figure 2: Locality distribution of the data samples across Hazara division.

Table No 3: Language Wise Division of Trans-Genders in Targeted Area

| Sr. No. | Age Group | F | % |
|---------|--------------------|----|----|
| 1 | 20-25 years | 16 | 29 |
| 2 | 26-30 years | 19 | 34 |
| 3 | 31-35 years | 17 | 30 |
| 4 | 36 years and above | 4 | 7 |

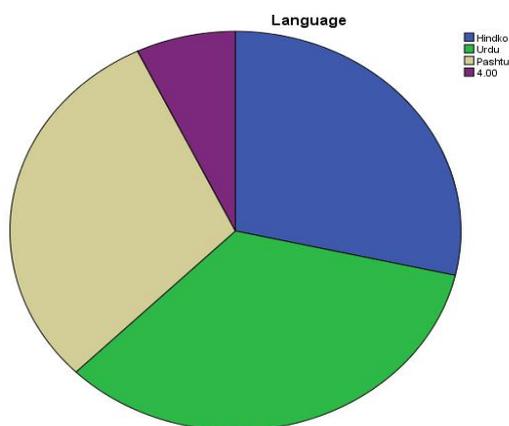


Figure 4.3: Language distribution of the study sample size.

Table No 4: Gender Wise Division Of Trans-Genders In Targeted Area

| Sr. No. | Age Group | F | % |
|---------|--------------------|----|----|
| 1 | 20-25 years | 9 | 16 |
| 2 | 26-30 years | 23 | 41 |
| 3 | 31-35 years | 12 | 21 |
| 4 | 36 years and above | 12 | 21 |

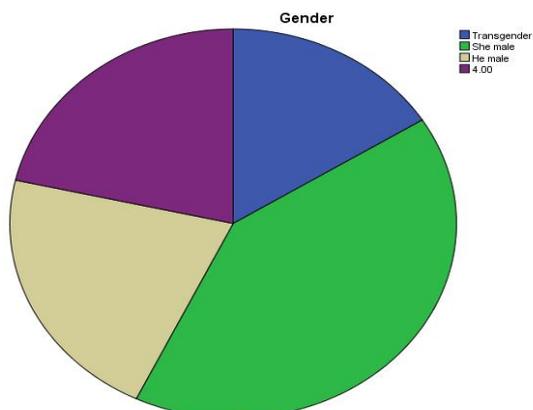


Figure 4: Gender distribution of the sample size.

Table No 5: Education wise division of trans-genders in targeted area

| Sr. No. | Age Group | F | % |
|---------|--------------------|----|----|
| 1 | 20-25 years | 24 | 43 |
| 2 | 26-30 years | 10 | 18 |
| 3 | 31-35 years | 22 | 39 |
| 4 | 36 years and above | 12 | 21 |

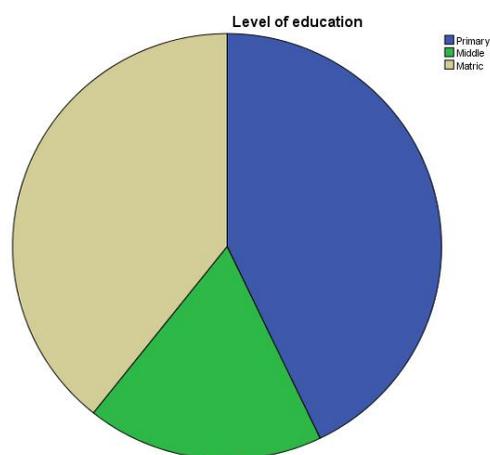


Figure 5: Education level of the understudy sample size.

Table No 6: Skilled Wise Division of Trans-Genders in Targeted Area

| Sr. No. | Age Group | F | % |
|---------|-------------|----|----|
| 1 | 20-25 years | 12 | 21 |
| 2 | 26-30 years | 10 | 18 |
| 3 | 31-35 years | 34 | 61 |

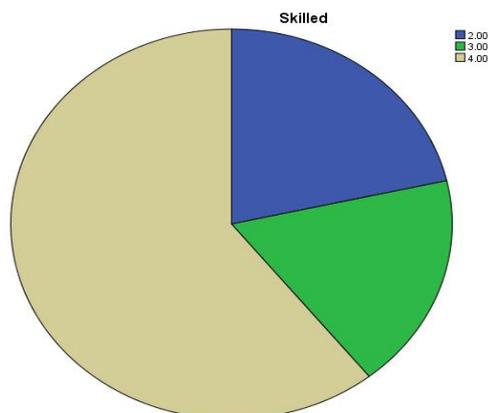


Figure 6: Distribution of Skill level

Table No 7: Source Of Income Wise Division Of Trans-Genders In Targeted Area

| Sr. No. | Age Group | F | % |
|---------|-------------|----|-----|
| 1 | 20-25 years | 56 | 100 |

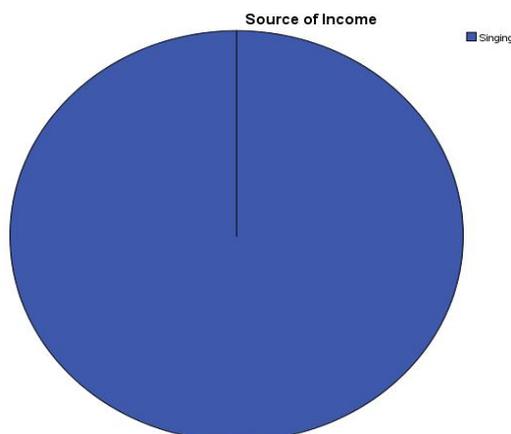


Figure 7: Monthly income chart of the under study sample of transgender community at Hazara division.

Table No 8: Harmed as Gender Wise Division of Trans-Genders in Targeted Area

| Sr. No. | Age Group | F | % |
|---------|--------------------|----|----|
| 1 | 20-25 years | 12 | 21 |
| 2 | 26-30 years | 22 | 39 |
| 3 | 31-35 years | 10 | 18 |
| 4 | 36 years and above | 12 | 21 |

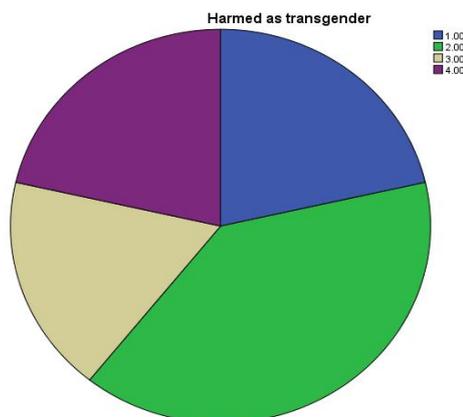


Figure 8: Harmed as gender wise division of trans-genders in targeted area

Table No 9: Regarded In Family Wise Division Of Trans-Genders In Targeted Area

| Sr. No. | Age Group | F | % |
|---------|-------------|----|----|
| 1 | 20-25 years | 22 | 39 |
| 2 | 26-30 years | 34 | 61 |

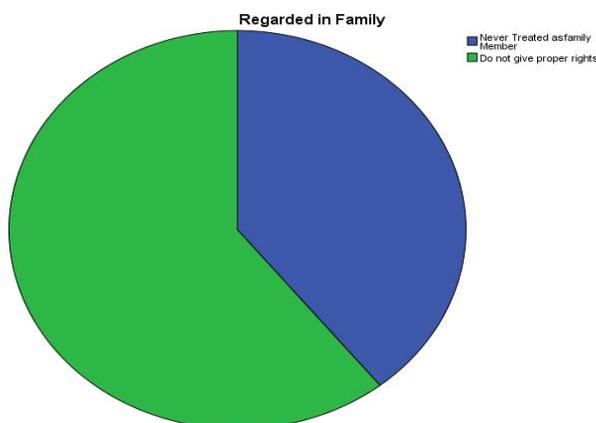


Figure 9: Regarded in family wise division of trans-genders in targeted area

Table No 10: Treatment in family wise division of trans-genders in targeted area

| Sr. No. | Age Group | F | % |
|---------|-------------|----|----|
| 1 | 20-25 years | 22 | 39 |
| 2 | 26-30 years | 22 | 39 |
| 3 | 31-35 years | 12 | 21 |

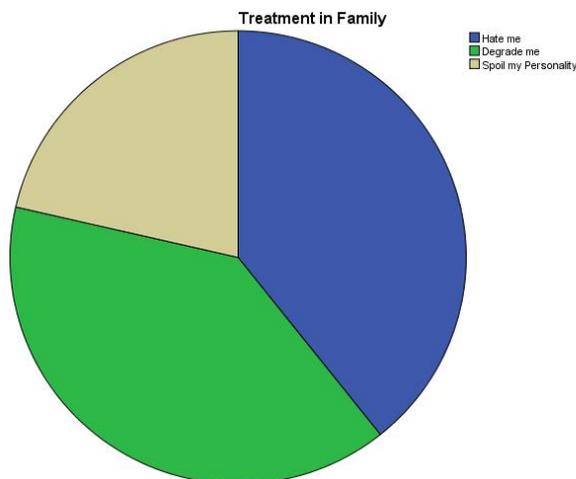


Figure 10: Treatment in family wise division of trans-genders in targeted area

Table No 11: Liking For Career Wise Division Of Trans-Genders In Targeted Area

| Sr. No. | Age Group | F | % |
|---------|-------------|----|----|
| 1 | 20-25 years | 34 | 61 |
| 2 | 26-30 years | 22 | 39 |

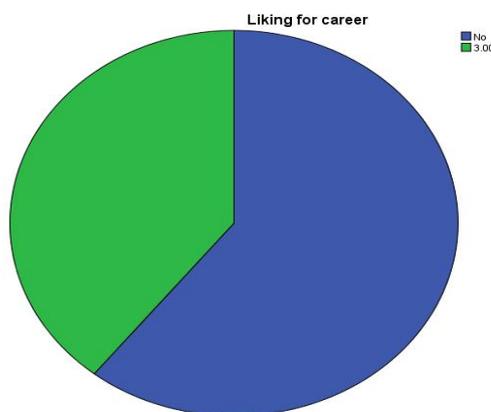


Figure 11: Liking for career wise division of trans-genders in targeted area

Table No 12: Helpful Tourism Wise Division Of Trans-Genders In Targeted Area

| Sr. No. | Age Group | F | % |
|---------|--------------------|----|----|
| 1 | 20-25 years | 12 | 21 |
| 2 | 26-30 years | 10 | 18 |
| 3 | 31-35 years | 22 | 39 |
| 4 | 36 years and above | 12 | 21 |

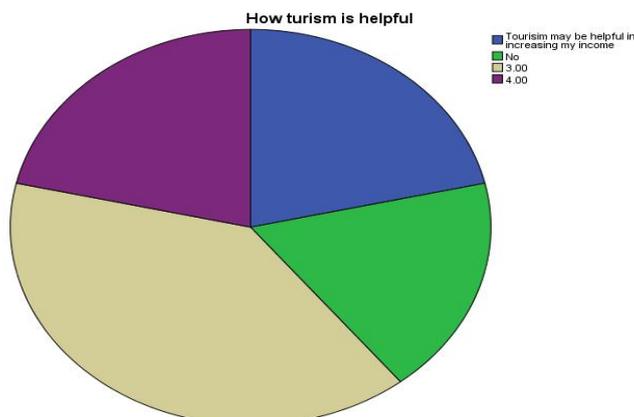


Figure 12: Helpful tourism wise division of trans-genders in targeted area

Table No 13: Reformatory steps wise division of trans-genders in targeted area

| Sr. No. | Age Group | F | % |
|---------|-------------|----|----|
| 1 | 20-25 years | 12 | 21 |
| 2 | 26-30 years | 22 | 39 |
| 3 | 31-35 years | 12 | 39 |

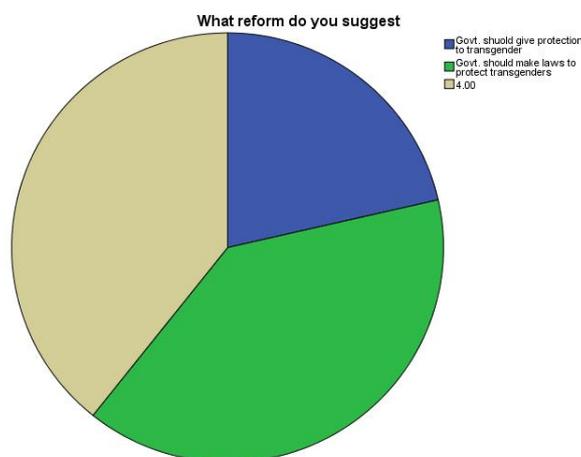


Figure 13: Reformatory steps wise division of trans-genders in targeted area

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