

## **SOCIAL STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION FACED BY THE THIRD-GENDER COMMUNITY IN BIHAR**

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Third-gender people are the most stigmatized and marginalized section of society. Shunned by families accompanied by social exclusion, verbal and physical abuse, isolation, and rejection expose them to physical, sexual, emotional, and gender-based violence. A low level of education is associated with under-employment, homelessness, low self-esteem, and lack of a perceived support system among them. The study presents a discussion of the social stigma and discrimination faced by the third-gender respondents in Bihar. An investigation was made to explore what kind of experiences they have undergone throughout their childhood, what are the various problems they are still facing in society, do they have any access to public services or not, do they report cases of discrimination and injustice to the Police Station or not; what are the various existing social support for them, and what is the perception of people towards this community. The paper also discusses the measures suggested by the respondents to reduce social stigma and discrimination against them..

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