

Review of: "From Isolation to Acceptance: Improving Social Acceptance and Educational Opportunities for Transgender People in Pakistan"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The authors have taken a very appropriate and bold topic for discussion in their article. In most countries, opinions about providing education to transgender individuals are generally divided, and one usually has reservations regarding their inclusion in schools.

As rightly pointed out by the authors, education remains one of the foremost factors for achieving national growth and also uplifting the status of such marginalized and discriminated segments of society.

The objectives of the study are well defined. They could have undertaken the male stakeholder perspective also in their objectives, which could have given more insight into their cultural and social beliefs. They have clearly written their limitation of why they have not chosen boys' schools in their study.

The study design is appropriate (qualitative with thematic analysis) as they wanted to study the perspectives of stakeholders. They have also highlighted that since this is a sensitive topic, rapport building and the interview will be better handled by a female investigator.

The results and discussion consisted of four main parts: **transgender people as defined by the participants, social acceptance of transgender people in Pakistan, educational opportunities for transgender people in Pakistan, views and feelings of the participants about inclusive education for transgender students in Pakistan, and recommendations for improving social acceptance and educational opportunities for transgender students in Pakistan.**

All the thematic analyses by the authors have been carried out maintaining confidentiality, following the ethical guidelines, and the discussions are well highlighted. The feelings, emotions, and views of the stakeholders have been discussed elaborately.

The participants are well-educated and ready to face challenges. Many participants realized this and supported their fair and equal treatment. The participants recognized the lack (actually, in many cases, the absence) of equal educational opportunities for transgender communities.

The authors suggest that along with the government, religious scholars should also be involved so that equal status can

be given and there is no misinterpretation of religion.

The authors have rightly pointed out that policies should not force any solution upon the people but create awareness and educate them. The policy needs to improve the overall mindset and attitude of society besides improving schools' culture and environment.

Suggestion: Male stakeholders' perspectives in research on transgender issues can provide a more comprehensive understanding of the social dynamics and experiences involved. They can

1. Diverse Participant Recruitment: i.e., include men from various demographic groups

2. Focus Groups and One-to-One Interviews with Male Stakeholders

3. Highlight Case Studies of Male Allies who have actively supported transgender individuals or participated in advocacy efforts.

4. Educational and Targeted Training Programs

5. Evaluate Male Stakeholders in Advocacy Groups or Movements

6. Exploring Intersectional Experiences: Investigating how intersecting identities (e.g., race, class, sexuality) influence male perspectives on transgender issues.

Overall, it is a good article and hopefully will help in the inclusion of transgender individuals in the mainstream of society and improve their overall socio-economic condition.