

Economic Vulnerabilities and Well-being of Transgenders in Chidambaram

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ABSTRACT

One of the vulnerable communities often subjected to marginalization and exclusion, the transgender community, often experiences various socio-economic challenges, that significantly impact the quality of life. This study examines the challenges faced by transgender individuals in rural Tamil Nadu, particularly in Chidambaram, a rural town in Tamil Nadu, and how these challenges affect their overall well-being. A total of 42 transgender people were identified through the snowball sampling method for collecting data using structured interviews. Statistical analyses, such as ANOVA, mean, and standard deviation, were performed using the SPSS software. The results of the study points out an extensive involvement in insecure occupations such as commercial sex work, beggary, and as informal labor among transgender individuals in Chidambaram. The study findings indicate that the transgender community in Chidambaram lacks adequate access to employment opportunities, which hinders their ability to earn a satisfactory income and improve their quality of life. The findings suggest that the transgender community in Chidambaram lacks access to employment opportunities that would enable them to earn a sufficient income for an improved quality of life. As a result, increased economic hardships directly hinder the overall standard of living. This study highlights the urgent requirement for specific interventions and policy measures aimed at reducing socio-economic inequalities and improving the well-being of transgender communities in rural areas of Tamil Nadu.

KEYWORDS: Marginalization; Minorities; Empowerment, Gender identity, Financial insecurity

1. INTRODUCTION

Transgender individuals are those whose gender identity does not align with the gender assigned to them at birth. A significant proportion of individuals in this demographic encounter social difficulties such as a lack of social support, discrimination, rejection, and transphobia. In addition, they also face psychological difficulties such as anxiety and depression. These factors may negatively impact the quality of life (QoL) of these individuals (Coswosck et al., 2022). The economic difficulties experienced by transgender individuals have a substantial impact on their overall well-being, highlighting the pressing necessity for societal and policy changes.

Transgender individuals frequently encounter prejudice and discrimination in the workplace, resulting in limited employment prospects and lower income compared to cisgender individuals. The exclusion of transgender individuals from economic participation significantly diminishes their overall quality of life. The transgender community in our society encounters various formidable obstacles, such as prejudice and marginalisation, limited access to education and employment, inadequate healthcare facilities, insufficient housing options, lack of government assistance, restricted access to public restrooms, lack of social support and family support, limited familial support, and difficulties related to marriage and child adoption.

Transgender individuals primarily engage in informal sector employment due to the inclusive nature of the environment and the restrictions imposed by the formal sector on their job opportunities. According to the Central Board for Workers Education, the unorganised sector is characterised by meagre wages, irregular and unpredictable employment, and a dearth of legal or trade union protections. This sector also plays a substantial role in the nation's economy. Transgender individuals predominantly work in diverse informal occupations, including but not limited to domestic labour, construction, street vending, sex work, and driving. In addition to the harm already inflicted, transgender individuals encounter prejudice and unjust social disapproval when attempting to access specific unregulated industries. This poses a challenge for them to engage in competition. Insufficient attention has been devoted in our nation to the well-being of transgender individuals, a matter that should be incorporated into our policies (Meenakshi & Abhirami, 2019).

Transgender individuals employed in marginalised occupations face an elevated risk of job loss, insecurities, harassments and societal discrimination due to their gender identity. The transgender individuals in Chidambaram are largely engaged in commercial sex work, beggary, and in other informal labour works, and they face exacerbated financial challenges.

Numerous transgender individuals in Chidambaram engage in commercial sex work as a means of financial sustenance due to the lack of availability and accessibility to alternative employment or due to insecurity in the workplace. Engaging in sex work exposes individuals to increased vulnerability to violence, exploitation, and health complications. These

factors contribute to the destabilisation of the economy. This underscores the significance of promptly implementing substantial societal and policy transformations to enhance their quality of life.

Beggary is a form of informal labour that individuals engage in due to their inability to secure formal employment as a result of systemic prejudice. Transgender individuals face financial hardships, resulting in their struggle to secure basic necessities for survival. They are unable to acquire an education or receive training in specific skills, thereby exacerbating their difficulty in transitioning to more secure and conventional employment opportunities. Transgenders experience economic challenges that are worsened by the high prevalence of informal and low wages linked to their employment. The prevalence of inequality and discrimination in these occupations obstructs transgender individuals from attaining equitable remuneration, secure employment, and societal advantages, thereby hindering their capacity to overcome poverty and attain economic stability.

The social stigma associated with these professions has a negative impact on transgender people's psychological well-being, which in turn affects their physical well-being. Transgender people who engage in commercial sex work, begging, or informal labour are more vulnerable to violence, substance misuse, and other sexually transmitted diseases. This underscores the crucial necessity of concurrently addressing their social and economic requirements. Moreover, substantial modifications must be implemented to enhance the quality of life for transgender individuals. Commercial sex workers should not be considered as offenders; instead, all individuals should have equitable opportunities for vocational training and education, and workplaces should not discriminate against transgender individuals. This will foster the advancement of a society that is characterised by greater inclusivity and fairness for all sectors of the population.

1.1. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

Chidambaram, a rural town in Tamil Nadu, serves as the study area for understanding the population of transgender individuals and their livelihood opportunities. Transgender individuals in Chidambaram often face socio-economic challenges, leading to limited employment opportunities. Many are compelled to engage in insecure occupations such as commercial sex work, beggary, and other informal labour for low wages. Commercial sex work and beggary are particularly prevalent among this population, highlighting the vulnerability and marginalisation they experience.

The town's rural setting and limited access to formal employment exacerbate the livelihood insecurities faced by transgender individuals, hindering their ability to earn a satisfactory income and improve their quality of life. Efforts to address these challenges are essential to promote socio-economic inclusion and enhance the well-being of transgender communities in Chidambaram.

1.2. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY:

This study contributes to advancing knowledge on transgender health and well-being in rural setting, and addresses a significant gap in the existing literature by focusing on an often marginalised and understudied population within a rural context, where access to resources and support services are highly limited. The study contributes to a deeper understanding of the unique socio-economic challenges faced by transgender individuals in rural areas, and examines the prevalence of precarious occupations, inadequate income levels, and limited access to essential services. Next, the research highlights the importance of considering multiple dimensions of quality-of-life among transgender individuals, including physical and mental health, satisfaction with life, and access to basic needs. By analysing these indicators, the study provides valuable insights into the holistic well-being of transgender individuals, beyond merely economic considerations.

1.3. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

1. To examine the relationship between socio-economic factors and the quality of life among transgender individuals.
2. To assess the impact of Economic Challenges on the quality of life of transgender individuals.
3. To analyse the distribution of indicators related to the overall quality of life among transgender individuals.

1.4. HYPOTHESES:

1H₀: There is no significant association between the Age group and the Overall Quality of Life of Transgender Individuals in rural Tamil Nadu.

2H₀: There is no significant association between the Educational background and the Overall Quality of Life of Transgender Individuals in rural Tamil Nadu.

3H₀: There is no significant association between the Employment status and the Overall Quality of Life of Transgender Individuals in rural Tamil Nadu.

4H₀: There is no significant association between Monthly Income and the Overall Quality of Life of Transgender Individuals in rural Tamil Nadu.

5H₀: There is no significant association between the level of economic challenges in meeting Food needs and the Overall Quality of life among transgender individuals in rural Tamil Nadu.

6H₀: There is no significant association between the level of economic challenges in meeting Healthcare needs and the Overall Quality of Life among transgender individuals in rural Tamil Nadu.

7H₀: There is no significant association between the level of economic challenges in meeting household needs and the Overall Quality of Life among transgender individuals in rural Tamil Nadu.

8H₀: There is no significant association between the level of economic challenges in meeting entertainment/recreational needs and the Overall Quality of Life among transgender individuals in rural Tamil Nadu.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

2.1. Research Design: A cross-sectional, exploratory design was employed in the current study to investigate exhaustively the socioeconomic factors that contribute to poverty among transgender people in Chidambaram. By collecting data at a single point in time, a cross-sectional design offers a momentary depiction of the socio-economic circumstances pertaining to the transgender population.

2.2. Tools of Data Collection: A structured interview schedule serves as the primary instrument for data collection. The interview schedule includes sections on socio-economic profile of transgenders, levels of their economic challenges, and their perceived quality of life. The specific sections address the economic challenges of transgender individuals in meeting the essential needs for their daily lives. The QOL-Bref, originally devised by the World Health Organisation, functions as the fundamental instrument for evaluating the quality of life of individuals participating in a study. This instrument has been meticulously modified to incorporate the comprehensive quality of dimensions and indicators that are pertinent to the distinctive experiences of transgender individuals. The modifications take into account the aspects such as the overall quality of life, overall physical health, overall mental health, overall satisfaction with life, overall physical safety and security of the living environment, and overall livelihood security.

2.3. Sample size: Using purposive and snowball sampling techniques, 42 transgender people in all who satisfied the study's predefined inclusion criteria were found. Purposive sampling ensures the inclusion of people with a broad spectrum of socioeconomic origins because of the unique features of the population and the focus on a certain geographic area.

2.4. Data Analysis: The statistical analysis techniques utilised in this study involved ANOVA (Analysis of Variance), mean, and standard deviation calculations. These analyses were conducted using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) software. By employing these statistical techniques, the study aimed to comprehensively analyse the distribution of quality-of-life indicators among transgender individuals, identify significant associations with demographic and socio-economic factors.

3. RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

Table 3.1.: Distribution of Socio-economic Profile to the Overall Quality of Life of Transgender Individuals

| S. No | Variables | Sub Group | N | Mean | S.D. | F | P |
|-------|------------------------|----------------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|------|-------|
| 1 | Age group | 18-24 | 5 | 2 | 0.70 | 0.55 | 0.947 |
| | | 25-34 | 23 | 1.91 | 0.84 | | |
| | | 35-44 | 9 | 2.11 | 0.78 | | |
| | | 45-54 | 4 | 2 | 0.81 | | |
| | | Total | 41 | 1.97 | 0.79 | | |
| 2 | Educational background | Secondary Education | 13 | 1.53 | 0.51 | 3.58 | 0.038 |
| | | Higher Secondary | 19 | 2.1 | 0.87 | | |
| | | Graduation | 9 | 2.33 | 0.70 | | |
| | | Total | 41 | 1.97 | 0.79 | | |
| 3 | Employment status | Sex work and beggary | 13 | 2.23 | 0.833 | 1.83 | 0.174 |
| | | Informal Labour work | 18 | 1.94 | 0.80 | | |
| | | Both | 10 | 1.70 | 0.67 | | |
| | | Total | 41 | 1.97 | 0.79 | | |
| 4 | Monthly Income | >6,000 | 11 | 2.0 | 0.89 | 0.57 | 0.56 |
| | | 6,000 - 8,000 | 20 | 1.9 | 0.78 | | |
| | | 8,000 - 10,000 | 10 | 2.1 | 0.73 | | |
| | | Total | 41 | 1.97 | 0.79 | | |

Source: Primary Data

Interpretation from table 3.1.1.: The highest mean quality of life score (2.11), as reported by transgender individuals aged 35-44, was found to be among those aged 18-24 (2.00). The mean score for individuals aged 25-34 was marginally lower at 1.91, whereas those aged 45-54 exhibited a mean score comparable to the youngest age group of 2.00. This

finding implies that older transgender individuals residing in Chidambaram might hold a marginally more favorable perception of their quality of life in comparison to younger age cohorts. This disparity may be attributed to the potential maturation of coping strategies and the accumulation of life experience.

H₁ Hypothesis Testing: 1H₀: There is no significant association between the Age group and the Overall Quality of Life of Transgender Individuals.

Since the analysis of variance (ANOVA) yield an F value of 0.55, which is less than the P value (0.947), the hypothesis is accepted.

The analysis indicates that there is no statistically significant association between age groups and the overall quality of life of transgender individuals.

Interpretation from table 3.1.2.: Transgender individuals with a graduation-level education reported the highest mean quality of life score (2.33), followed by those with a higher secondary education (2.10). Individuals with a secondary education had the lowest mean score (1.53). This indicates a potential positive correlation between higher levels of education and perceived quality of life among transgender individuals in Chidambaram.

H₂ Hypothesis Testing: 2H₀: There is no significant association between the Educational background and the Overall Quality of Life of Transgender Individuals in rural Tamil Nadu.

Since the observed F value (3.58) is higher than the P value (0.038), it suggests that there is a statistically significant difference in the mean scores between the educational backgrounds, which suggests that educational background has a significant impact on the quality of life among transgender individuals in Chidambaram.

Therefore, the hypothesis is rejected.

The Alternate hypothesis, There is a significant association between the Educational background and the Overall Quality of Life of Transgender Individuals in rural Tamil Nadu, is accepted.

Interpretation from table 3.1.3.: Transgender individuals engaged in sex work and beggary reported the highest mean quality of life score (2.23), followed by those involved in informal labour work (1.94). Individuals engaged in both sex work/beggary and informal labour had the lowest mean score (1.70). This suggests that engaging in sex work and beggary may have a slightly more positive association with perceived quality of life compared to informal labour alone, as Sex work and beggary may offer higher income potential compared to other Informal labour works, and it often allows for a more flexible work schedule compared to informal labour works.

H₃ Hypothesis Testing: 3H₀: There is no significant association between the Employment status and the Overall Quality of Life of Transgender Individuals in rural Tamil Nadu.

Since the observed F value (1.83) is higher than the P value (0.174), it suggests that there is no statistically significant difference in the mean scores between the employment statuses, which suggests that employment status has a significant impact on the quality of life among transgender individuals in Chidambaram.

Therefore, the hypothesis is accepted.

Interpretation from table 3.1.4.: Transgender individuals with a monthly income between 8,000 and 10,000 rupees reported the highest mean quality of life score (2.10), followed by those earning over 6,000 rupees (2.00). Individuals with a monthly income between 6,000 and 8,000 rupees had a slightly lower mean score (1.90). This indicates a potential positive correlation between higher monthly income levels and perceived quality of life among transgender individuals in Chidambaram.

H₄ Hypothesis Testing: 4H₀: There is no significant association between Monthly Income and the Overall Quality of Life of Transgender Individuals in rural Tamil Nadu.

Since the observed F value (0.57) is slightly higher than the P value (0.56), it suggests that there may be a statistically significant difference in the mean scores between the income groups, although the difference is very marginal and may not be practically significant.

Therefore, the hypothesis is accepted.

The findings indicate that there is no statistically significant association between monthly income and the overall quality of life of transgender individuals in rural Tamil Nadu.

Table 3.2.: Distribution of Levels of Economic Challenges in Meeting Essential Needs on the Overall Quality of Life of Transgender Individuals

| S. No | Variables | Sub Group | N | Mean | S.D. | F | P |
|-------|---|--------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|------|------|
| 1 | Challenges in Meeting Food needs | High | 10 | 1.6 | 0.69 | 1.44 | 0.24 |
| | | Moderate | 19 | 2.05 | 0.77 | | |
| | | Low | 12 | 2.16 | 0.83 | | |
| | | Total | 41 | 1.97 | 0.79 | | |
| 2 | Challenges in Meeting Healthcare needs | High | 12 | 2.08 | 0.79 | 0.31 | 0.73 |
| | | Moderate | 18 | 1.94 | 0.87 | | |
| | | Low | 11 | 1.90 | 0.70 | | |
| | | Total | 41 | 1.97 | 0.79 | | |
| 3 | Challenges in Meeting Household needs | High | 12 | 2.0 | 0.60 | 1.48 | 0.23 |
| | | Moderate | 18 | 2.11 | 0.90 | | |
| | | Low | 11 | 1.72 | 0.78 | | |
| | | Total | 41 | 1.97 | 0.79 | | |
| 4 | Challenges in Meeting Entertainment/ Recreational needs | High | 13 | 2.15 | 0.68 | 0.42 | 0.65 |
| | | Moderate | 18 | 1.83 | 0.85 | | |
| | | Low | 10 | 2.0 | 0.81 | | |
| | | Total | 41 | 1.97 | 0.79 | | |

Source: Primary Data

Interpretation from table 3.2.1.: Transgender individuals with low economic challenges in meeting food needs have the highest perceived quality of life. This suggests that individuals facing fewer economic challenges generally have a higher perceived quality of life. The total mean quality of life score for all respondents across the three subgroups is 1.97, with a standard deviation of 0.79. This indicates the average perceived quality of life among all transgender individuals in the sample, with a moderate level of variability in quality of life scores within the sample.

H₅ Hypothesis Testing: 5H₀: There is no significant association between the level of economic challenges in meeting Food needs and the Overall Quality of life among transgender individuals in rural Tamil Nadu. Since the obtained F value (1.44) exceeds the P value, it suggests that there is a statistically significant difference in the mean scores among the levels of economic challenges in meeting food needs. Therefore, the hypothesis is rejected.

Interpretation from table 3.2.2.: Transgender individuals with high economic challenges in meeting healthcare needs have the highest perceived quality of life, followed closely by those with moderate challenges, and individuals with low challenges have slightly lower perceived quality of life. Transgender people in Chidambaram practice indigenous health care and do not frequently visit health care facilities for treatment of severe illnesses.

H₆ Hypothesis Testing: 6H₀: There is no significant association between the level of economic challenges in meeting Healthcare needs and the Overall Quality of Life among transgender individuals in rural Tamil Nadu. Since the obtained F value (0.31) is lower than the P value, it suggests that the observed differences in mean scores are not statistically significant. Therefore, the hypothesis is accepted.

Interpretation from table 3.2.3.: A higher standard deviation implies greater variability in individual quality of life scores, indicating that perceptions of well-being vary among the transgender individuals in the sample. Since the obtained F value exceeds the critical F value, it suggests that the observed differences in mean scores among the different levels of challenges in meeting household needs are statistically significant. Individuals facing moderate challenges in meeting household needs tend to have the highest mean quality of life score, followed by those facing high challenges, and individuals facing low challenges have the lowest mean quality of life score.

H₇ Hypothesis Testing: 7H₀: There is no significant association between the level of economic challenges in meeting household needs and the Overall Quality of Life among transgender individuals in rural Tamil Nadu. Therefore, the hypothesis is rejected. The findings indicate a statistically significant association between the level of economic challenges in meeting household needs and the overall quality of life among transgender individuals in rural Tamil Nadu. The Alternate Hypothesis, There is a significant association between the level of economic challenges in meeting household needs and the Overall Quality of Life among transgender individuals in rural Tamil Nadu, is accepted.

Interpretation from table 3.2.4.: The variations in mean scores were observed across the subgroups, the overall mean score for the entire sample was 1.97, suggesting a relatively consistent perception of well-being among transgender individuals in the study. A higher standard deviation implies greater variability in individual quality of life scores, indicating that perceptions of well-being vary among the transgender individuals in the sample.

H₈ Hypothesis Testing: 8H₀: There is no significant association between the level of economic challenges in meeting entertainment/recreational needs and the Overall Quality of Life among transgender individuals in rural Tamil Nadu. Since the analysis of variance (ANOVA) yield an F value of 0.42, indicating that the observed differences in mean scores among the different levels of challenges were not statistically significant. This implies that challenges in meeting entertainment and recreational needs may not exert a substantial influence on the overall quality of life of transgender individuals in this context.

Therefore, the hypothesis is accepted.

Table 3.3.: Distribution of Indicators of Quality-of-Life of Transgender Individuals

| S. No | Indicators | Sub Group | Frequency | Per cent (%) |
|-------|--|--------------|-----------|--------------|
| 1 | Overall Quality of Life | Moderate | 13 | 31.7 |
| | | Low | 16 | 39.0 |
| | | Very Low | 12 | 29.3 |
| | | Total | 41 | 100 |
| 2 | Overall Physical Health | Moderate | 15 | 36.6 |
| | | Low | 17 | 41.5 |
| | | Very Low | 9 | 22.0 |
| | | Total | 41 | 100 |
| 3 | Overall Mental Health | Moderate | 16 | 39.0 |
| | | Low | 12 | 29.3 |
| | | Very Low | 13 | 31.7 |
| | | Total | 41 | 100 |
| 4 | Overall Satisfaction of life | Moderate | 16 | 39.0 |
| | | Low | 13 | 31.7 |
| | | Very Low | 12 | 29.3 |
| | | Total | 41 | 100 |
| 5 | Overall Physical Safety and Security of Living Environment | Moderate | 17 | 41.5 |
| | | Low | 15 | 36.6 |
| | | Very Low | 9 | 21.9 |
| | | Total | 41 | 100 |
| 6 | Overall Livelihood security | Moderate | 15 | 36.6 |
| | | Low | 14 | 34.1 |
| | | Very Low | 12 | 29.3 |
| | | Total | 41 | 100 |

Source: Primary Data

Interpretation from table 3.3.:

3.3.1. Overall Quality of Life: The majority of respondents report low (39.0%) or moderate (31.7%) levels of overall quality of life, with a smaller proportion experiencing very low quality of life (29.3%).

3.3.2. Overall Physical Health: Similar to overall quality of life, a significant portion of respondents report low (41.5%) or moderate (36.6%) levels of overall physical health, with fewer indicating very low levels (22.0%).

3.3.3. Overall Mental Health: Responses regarding overall mental health are relatively evenly distributed, with moderate (39.0%) and very low (31.7%) levels being the most commonly reported, followed by low levels (29.3%).

3.3.4. Overall Satisfaction of Life: The data shows a balanced distribution of responses for overall satisfaction with life, with moderate (39.0%) and low (31.7%) levels being slightly more prevalent than very low levels (29.3%).

3.3.5. Overall Physical Safety and Security of Living Environment: Respondents express varying levels of satisfaction with their living environment's safety and security, with moderate (41.5%) and low (36.6%) levels being the most common, followed by very low levels (21.9%).

3.3.6. Overall Livelihood Security: A similar trend is observed for overall livelihood security, with moderate (36.6%) and low (34.1%) levels being the most frequently reported, and very low levels (29.3%) also being notable.

4. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION:

- The data suggests that transgender individuals experience diverse levels of well-being across different aspects of life, with varying degrees of satisfaction with their quality of life, health, safety, satisfaction with life, and livelihood security.
- While some respondents report moderate levels across these indicators, a substantial portion indicates low or very low levels, highlighting the challenges and disparities faced by transgender individuals in these domains.
- A significant percentage of transgender individuals involved in sex work, beggary, and informal labour face economic instability and financial insecurity.
- Transgender individuals of age groups 18-24 and 25-34 experience higher levels of economic challenges compared to older age groups.
- Transgenders with lower educational backgrounds report their quality of life to be low than those with a graduation degree.
- Transgender individuals predominantly report low to moderate levels of overall quality of life, with a significant proportion experiencing low quality of life. the Quality of Life or Living Conditions of the Transgenders is not so good in Chidambaram.
- The majority of respondents indicate low to moderate levels of overall physical health, highlighting potential health disparities within the transgender community. Respondents exhibit a relatively balanced distribution of moderate and low levels of overall physical health.
- Satisfaction with life among transgender individuals is diverse, with a substantial proportion reporting moderate or low levels of satisfaction. Satisfaction with life among transgender individuals is similar across moderate and low levels, with slightly fewer respondents reporting very low satisfaction.
- Many transgender individuals express moderate to low levels of satisfaction with the physical safety and security of their living environment. Moderate levels of satisfaction with the physical safety and security of the living environment are more common than very low levels.
- Livelihood security is a concern for transgender individuals, with a notable proportion reporting low to moderate levels of security. Livelihood insecurity tends to be slightly higher among transgender individuals, with moderate levels being the most prevalent.
- Moderate levels of overall quality of life are more prevalent than very low levels among transgender individuals.
- There is variability in overall mental health among transgender individuals, with a significant proportion experiencing moderate levels.
- These findings underscore the importance of addressing the unique needs and vulnerabilities of transgender communities to improve their overall well-being and ensure equitable access to resources and opportunities.
- It's so disheartening to know that none of the respondents have responded their Quality of Life to be Very High or High. It's clear that the Quality of Life and Living Conditions of the Transgenders is not so good in the rural parts of Tamil Nadu, especially in Chidambaram.

5. CONCLUSION:

The study on economic vulnerabilities and well-being of transgender individuals in rural parts of Tamil Nadu, with special reference to Chidambaram, sheds light on the multifaceted challenges faced by this marginalised community. Through an analysis of various indicators including overall quality of life, physical and mental health, satisfaction with life, physical safety, and livelihood security, several key insights have emerged. It is evident from the findings that transgender individuals in Chidambaram experience significant economic vulnerabilities, which in turn impact various aspects of their well-being. Despite efforts to overcome these challenges, the data reveals a substantial proportion of respondents reporting low to moderate levels of overall quality of life, physical and mental health, satisfaction with life, and livelihood security. Additionally, satisfaction with the physical safety and security of the living environment appears to be a concern among the transgender community in Chidambaram. These findings underscore the urgent need for targeted interventions and support mechanisms to address the economic vulnerabilities and improve the overall well-being of transgender individuals in rural Tamil Nadu, particularly in areas like Chidambaram. Policies and programs aimed at enhancing economic opportunities, access to healthcare, social support networks, and ensuring a safe and inclusive environment are crucial in addressing the unique needs of this population.

6. Conflict of Interests:

On behalf of all authors, the corresponding author states that there is no conflict of interest.

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The authors confirm that the work described has not been published previously and is not under consideration for publication elsewhere. The research conducted in connection with this submission is original and the results fully at the disposal of the authors, who have adhered to the ethical standards of their research funders and institutions.

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During the preparation of this work, the authors used the Chatgpt version 3.5 in order to enhance the readability of the language. After using this tool, the authors reviewed and edited the content as needed and takes full responsibility for the content of the publication.

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