



**Sri Ramakrishna Hegde Chair on Decentralization and Development,  
Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Bengaluru**

## ***Concept Note***

### **National Seminar**

## **Transgender People: Citizenship, State and Society (Integration of Transgender Community into Local Governance in Karnataka)**

***1 & 2 August, 2018***

Transgender people are one of the most marginalized communities in India. They are subjected to variety of social discrimination and exclusion from mainstream society. Although article 14 of the Constitution of India guarantees to all persons equality before law, discrimination and atrocities against transgender persons continue to take place on a day-to-day basis. The Supreme Court has held that the right to self-identification of gender is part of the right to dignity and autonomy under Article 21 of the Constitution. The Supreme Court in its landmark judgment dated 15th April, 2014 in the case of *National Legal Services Authority vs Union of India* directed the Central Government and State Governments to take steps for the welfare of transgender community. India has a population of 4.8 million transgender persons as per Census 2011.

Following this directive, several states have taken policy measures for the welfare of the transgender community. Kerala has enacted State Policy for Transgenders in 2015, Odisha granted them the 'Below Poverty Line' status and Delhi Government ordered separate category for transgenders in the birth and death registration/certificates. Tamil Nadu is a trend setter in this domain. The Government of Karnataka also formulated the Karnataka State Policy for Transgenders, 2017. All these initiatives are aimed at empowering the transgender community in socio-economic terms.

The gender identity of transgenders and their right to have a sexual orientation befitting that identity is an essential component of right to life. In the current scenario, these rights are seriously undermined. Since governance focused on the Transgender Community is a recent development, it has not been properly reflected in the 73<sup>rd</sup> & 74<sup>th</sup> Amendment Acts. It is possible to argue that the issues of the Transgender Community should be included among listed subject of 'Welfare of the Weaker Sections' under the Eleventh & Twelfth Schedule of the Constitution. There is an urgent need to sensitize local governments so that they become empowered to take up the issues of the Transgender Community.

Set in this backdrop, the seminar aims to provide a platform for the Transgenders to engage with the 'mainstream society' in the sphere of local governance. The seminar will provide an opportunity to the transgender people and analysts engaged in studies on them to understand the challenges faced by the transgenders and the strategies to overcome them particularly through the intermediary role of the Local Governments. The main objective of the seminar is to develop a policy brief for integrating the transgender people into the local governance framework of Karnataka from a right to life perspective.

**Interested People Can Contact in the Following Addresses**

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