

TRANSGENDER SURVEY KERALA 2014-15

*Submitted to the Director, Department
of Social Justice, Government of Kerala*

by



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1. INTRODUCTION

The transgender community is currently facing many problems such as fear, shame, social discrimination, depression, suicidal tendencies, and social stigma. Their situation is worse in Kerala, since they are unable to live a dignified life, once their gender status is revealed. Hence the community has no visibility in the state. It is as if they are non-existent. The trauma and suffering faced by them is terrible, which pushes some of them even to the extreme of attempting suicide. Many others migrate to other states for survival.

Steps to create public awareness should be taken so that TGs feel that they are also part of the society and are not treated as untouchables. The solution to their problems requires concerted efforts to mainstream them through adoption of an inclusive approach in all spheres of life. Various social schemes should be framed for their development and social inclusion. For this detailed studies has to be conducted to understand the problems of transgender community.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court vide Judgment dated 15th April, 2014 has recognized transgenders as the third gender for the purpose of safeguarding their rights. The judgment has also directed the Centre and State Governments to grant legal recognition of their gender identity, to treat them as socially and educationally backward classes and to extend all kinds of reservation in cases of admission in educational institutions and for public appointments. Centre and State Governments have also been directed to operate separate HIV surveillance Centers, since transgenders face several sexual health issues.

The Kerala government in fact has gone ahead of the Supreme Court Judgment. The Govt. had taken initiatives for the welfare of TGs, through consultations with NGOs working in this field. As a part of these consultations, the idea of TG Survey and TG welfare policy was mooted. It is to be noted that, the Supreme Court Judgment came just after this. The Govt. has entrusted Sangama, to carry out the TG survey.

The survey is primarily aimed for

- TG census in Kerala
- studying the socioeconomic status of the TGs in the State,
- studying the psychological status
- understanding the problems faced by them in detail
- formulating welfare measures for the benefit of TGs
- Framing TG welfare policy covering the areas of health, education, employment, pension schemes, housing, protection from harassment and abuse.
- Devising public awareness drives to change misconceptions about TGs among general public, remove stigma and to integrate TG community with mainstream

It is for the first time in India that a State Govt. is conducting a survey of this kind. Another highlight of the survey is that, the person to person interview was done by the community members themselves. The community members who have already been identified through the earlier work of Sangama, have conducted the interview for the survey. The field survey was coordinated by Sexual Minorities Forum Kerala (SMFK). The initiatives taken by the Govt. and the trust the Department has placed on the community members is great and is a model for other states of India. Sangama would like to place on record the gratitude for entrusting us with this work which is going to alter the lives of a community and which will have a significant social impact in our society.

2. QUESTIONNAIRE PREPARATION, COMMUNITY CONSULTATION AND TRAINING OF FIELD INVESTIGATORS

The preparatory work for the survey included questionnaire preparation, community consultation at various stages and training of field investigators. Efforts have been made to ensure participation of transgender community members in every stage of the survey process. The details of work done in various stages are outlined in the following sections.

2.1 Questionnaire preparation

The initial draft of the questionnaire was written in English by the experts from Sangama, which was translated to Malayalam for field survey. The first version of the questionnaire contained 54 questions in 6 sections. Apart from the set of questions, the questionnaire also contain i) informed consent form from the person being interviewed ii) form containing personal details such as name, address and phone number and iii) a form for the recording the details of the data entry person.

2.2 Translation to Malayalam

It was a Herculean task to translate the questionnaire to Malayalam. Appropriate words are not available in Malayalam to express gender and sexuality issues. Due to the unavailability of proper words in Malayalam, some English words had to be used. Malayalam, many a times will fail to convey the proper meaning. Hunting for relevant words in Malayalam mostly ended up in Sanskrit too, which is basically very difficult to use, especially for the community. There was also this concern that if it was not simple enough, it would keep the community away from the survey. The Malayalam version of the consent form had to be written and rewritten many times to properly convey the meaning ensuring that it is precise and readable. A two day sitting was arranged with

the students of College of Engineering Trivandrum for the first translation of the questionnaire on September 25th& 26th. The voluntary work of the students helped to arrive at the Malayalam form of the questionnaire.

2.3 Community Consultation

The community members were consulted at various stages of preparation of the questionnaire, to ensure that the questions were fair and that the set of questions would be enough to bring out the issues, status and problems of TGs. The questions were modified and more questions were added as per their suggestions.

The first state level consultation meeting on TG survey was held at AMOS Centre, Kottayam from 28th august to 30th august, 2014. Seventy two community leaders hailing from all the 14 districts of Kerala participated in the meeting. The importance of TG survey was explained and the doubts raised by the participants were cleared. Each and every question in the questionnaire for the survey was discussed. The discussion also included topics on gender, sex, sexuality and human rights. The facilitators from Sangama explained the topics to all participants in Malayalam with examples and relevant stories from Kerala.

2.4 Training for Field Investigators and Supervisors

The members who did the survey were initially trained through a series of intensive workshops, where they were given awareness on the concept of sex, sexuality and gender and various other theoretical aspects in this regard. They were also given training on how to conduct survey.

On August 12th 2014, a meeting was held at the chamber of Director, Social Justice, regarding TG Survey, Kerala. It was attended by Director, Social Justice, Deputy Director, Social Justice and Law Officer. Sangama and Sexual Minorities Forum Kerala (SMFK) was represented by Guru Kiran, Rajesh Umadevi, SonuNiranjan, SyamSeethal,

Saju, Ameer Hassan, Shiji and Anil A. In the meeting the terms and conditions of the agreement between Sangama and Social Justice Department regarding TG Survey was finalised.

The training for Field Investigators and Supervisors of TG Survey Kerala was conducted on October 14th&15th at AMOS Centre Kottayam. The questionnaire was discussed to get the opinion of the community. This helped to modify the questions accordingly. Detailed sessions were conducted on Ethics, Transgender Issues, Sex, Gender and Sexuality.

The Objectives of the session were:

- To gain a broad understanding of terms 'identity', 'Gender' and 'sexuality'.
- To develop an understanding of different types of 'sexuality'.
- To develop an understanding of the term 'gender'.
- To develop an understanding of 'Stigma and Discrimination'.
- Understanding issues of Power and Gender based Violence

The facilitators used various means including the exercise called body mapping. The facilitators gauged the participant's knowledge on the terms sex, gender, sexuality and discussed these in detail for obtaining clarity on these.

2.5 Support for digitization of TG survey data

It was understood from the discussions with experts that digitization of the survey was a major work and a lot of fund and time would be required in that regard. A meeting was held on October 21st with the Programme officer and Volunteer Secretary of National Service Scheme, College of Engineering Trivandrum seeking support for digitization of TG Survey forms. They agreed to do the digitization free of cost. Along with the help in the work it also helped to create an awareness about the

actual situations, issues and problems of transgenders among the college students. As a result of the awareness created in the campus, the students organized a national level programme 'TRANSPEAK', which was attended by Rajesh Umadevi, Kalki Subramaniam, Sonu Niranjana, SyamSeethal and Anil Arjunan.

2.6 Consultations with experts

On 29.10.2014, a meeting was held at the department of statistics, University of Kerala with Dr G Lesitha, Head of the department and Dr. C. Satheesh Kumar to discuss about support for survey, based on our request. The meeting was very productive. On November 12th, a follow-up meeting was held at the Department of Statistics, University of Kerala for getting their analysis on each question from a statistical point of view. The questions were modified accordingly. The daylong meeting at the department on November 13th analyzed each question in detail. Dr G Lesitha, Head of the department and Dr. C Satheesh Kumar took enough time to check whether the questions

- were statistically rigorous so as to get proper answers
- had any confusions
- lacked clarity
- had multiple answers (in that case those questions were reframed or made into two or more questions ensuring clarity)
- enabled easy compilation (all those questions which do not allow easy compilation were reframed)
- needed to be divided into simple questions depending on the answers for easy compilation
- were rendered with apt words

Many of the questions were reframed by looking into the possible answers hoping that better inferences and conclusions would be arrived at, once the compilation was over.

On 29.10.2014, a meeting was held at the department of Sociology, University of Kerala with Smt. Pushpam, Head of the department and Dr. M S Jayakumar. On the same day, there was a consultation with Dr. Gita Gopal, gender consultant to Govt. of Kerala. On November 8th, a follow-up meeting was held to analyze the questionnaire in detail. She suggested that all questions should be right based as far as possible.

The ethics committee / expert committee was formed with Dr. C Satheesh Kumar, Dr. M S Jayakumar and Dr. Gita Gopal as members. They reviewed the TG survey questionnaire.

On 30.10.2014, there was a technical consultation with Sri. Anoop John Founder and Lead Drupal Developer at Zyxware, Thiruvananthapuram (a full service IT organization with web application development services, free software services, domains and hosting services), on digitization and data visualization of the survey.

2.7 Finalisation of the questionnaire

Discussion with community leaders on TG survey questionnaire

On November 25th, a training programme primarily focusing on discussing the intricacies of each question in the TG survey questionnaire with the community leaders was held at Sangama Office, Ernakulam. SMFK leaders participated in the programme. The questionnaire was read and each question was analyzed to see

- how it will be received by the community
- whether it will affect the feelings of the person interviewed
- whether the questions are sufficient to bring out the issues, problems and situations of the community
- whether it is convenient for the interviewer to interpret the question and get proper answers and
- whether ambiguity is felt while reading any question.

The TG survey questionnaire was approved by the community leaders in the meeting.

Consultation with Sociology Experts on the Social Impact of the questionnaire

A consultation meeting was arranged with Dr. J. Devika of Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram November 27th, regarding the various social aspects that were to be taken care in the TG Survey questionnaire. The questions were reviewed critically and meticulously. She expressed the willingness to become a member of our ethics committee / expert committee.

Consultation with Malayalam language experts on proper rendering of the words

After a series of rigorous review and modifications of the questions, involving persons from diverse backgrounds, experts from various disciplines, social activists, community members and Sangama officials, the questionnaire was finalized. It took a concerted effort of more than 4 months for this process. This was done with a lot of care, considering the fact that, it is for the first time that such a survey is being done in India as a state Govt. initiative and this may be taken as a model in other states. Considering these far reaching impacts, efforts have been taken to make it as good as possible in every aspect. After the series of modifications, the final version has 94 questions arranged in 9 sections.

After each version was prepared Malayalam rendering was checked with native speakers. Finally a consultation meeting was held on December 2nd with Malayalam language experts to review the proper rendering of questions in Malayalam. Because of the limitation of the proper vocabulary in Malayalam, many words had to be replaced. For some words, it was finally decided to use English words itself to be precise and to avoid ambiguity.

2.8 Approval of ID card design

On December 6th, a meeting was held with the Director of Social Justice Department regarding approval of ID card design for personnel involved in TG Survey. The ID card design was approved in the meeting. The ID card issued by the Govt. of Kerala was received with a lot of enthusiasm by the community members, since they found it as an acceptance of their identity.

2.9 Approval of the questionnaire of TG Survey

A meeting was held with Director of Social Justice Department regarding approval of questionnaire of TG Survey on 10th December. The questionnaire was approved in the meeting.

2.10 Meeting of Regional coordinators and District Supervisors

A meeting of the Regional coordinators and district supervisors was organized on December 23rd at SCM center Pattom, Thiruvananthapuram. The meeting with community leaders was primarily to fix the logistics of survey. The distribution of questionnaire for various districts was finalized in the meeting. The total number offoms to be given in each district (after assessing the TG population in each district) and the person to be entrusted with survey in each district was fixed in the meeting. The duties and responsibilities of regional coordinators and district supervisors were formulated in the meeting. It was also decided to conduct review meeting and collection of filled forms every 3 days.

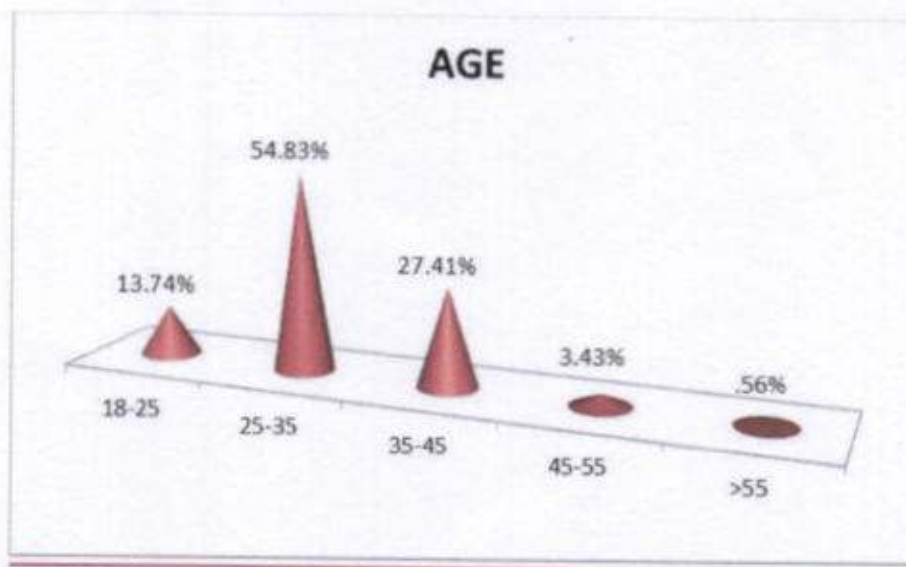
3. RESULTS

The questionnaire for the survey was prepared to gather information on all aspects of the social and personal life of transgenders. The questionnaire is attached in Appendix 1. The survey questions were grouped under the following sections

1. Basic details
2. Awareness about one's body
3. Civil rights
4. Self esteem
5. Right to health
6. Suicide Tendency
7. Right to live with dignity and without violence
8. Equality of opportunity to employment
9. General section to understand the expectations, needs, and priorities

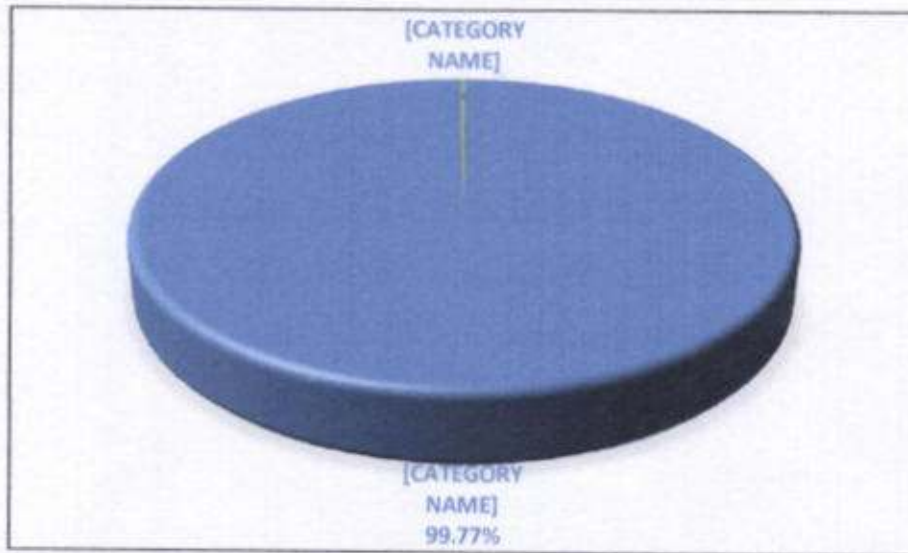
Of the survey forms filled and returned from different districts, it was observed that certain forms were not complete in all aspects. Those forms were not taken for analysis. The analysis was done on 3619 forms. The survey results are compiled in the following sections.

3.1 BASIC DETAILS

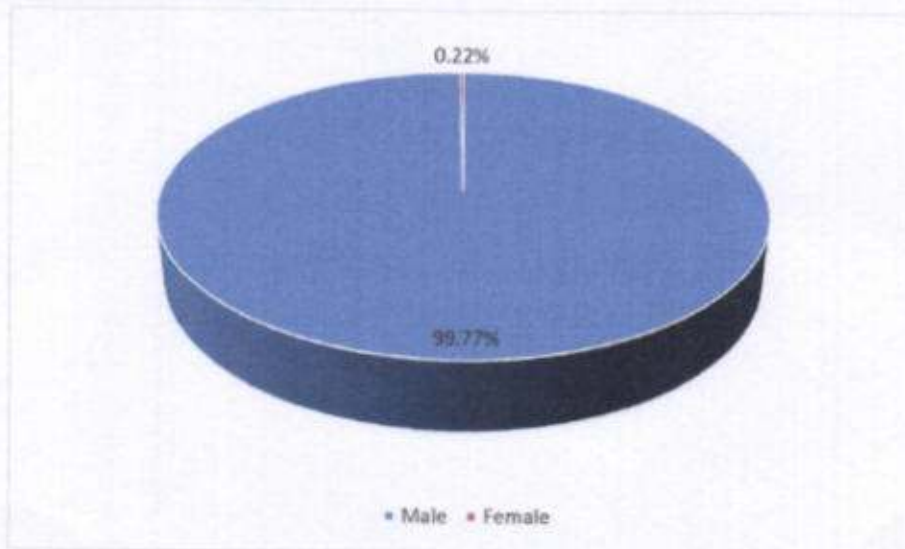


95.98% OF THE TOTAL TG POPULATION PARTICIPATED IN SURVEY IS BELOW 45 YEARS

GENDER



SEX AS IN BIRTH CERTIFICATE



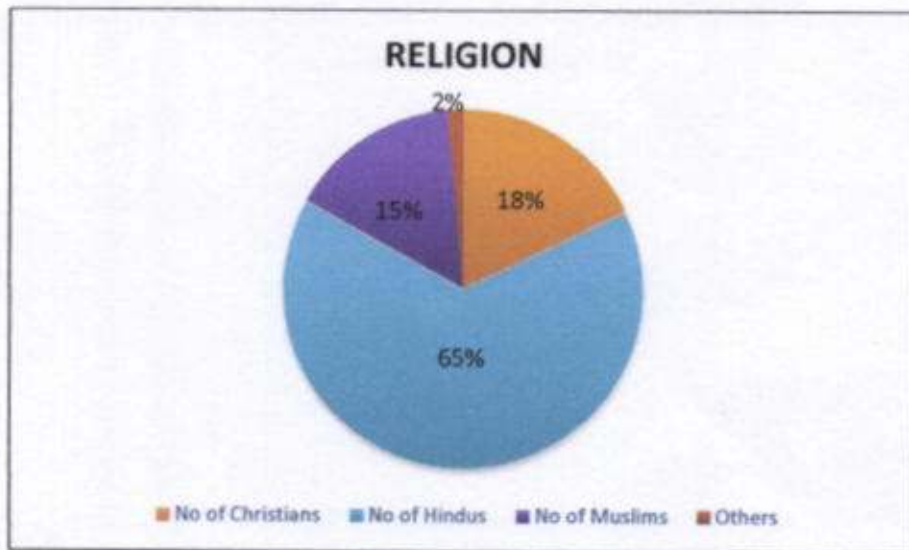
99% AMONG THE RESPONDENTS IS MALE TO FEMALE

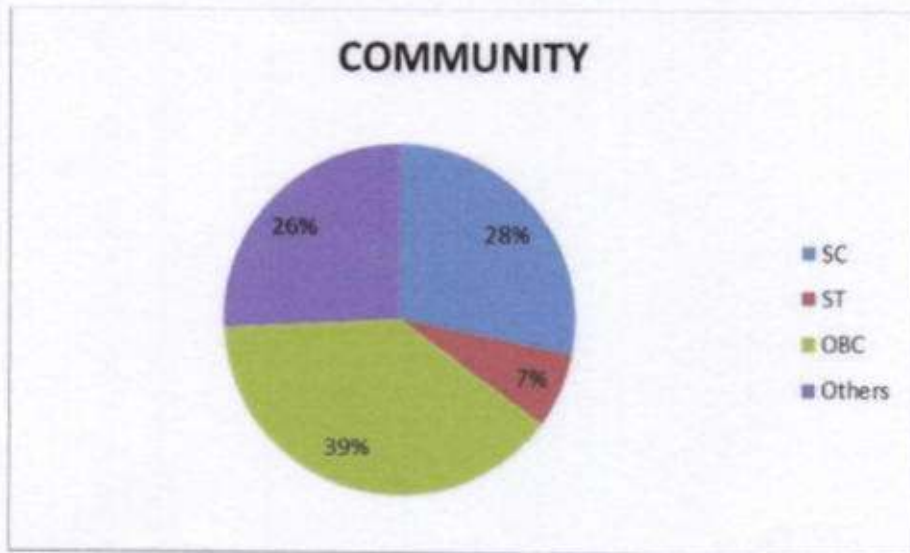
Only male born TGs are able to understand and realize their identity and leave family and society to faraway places to live with their identity. The female born TGs never get such opportunities due to the patriarchal norms of the society.

RELIGION AND CASTE

According to the 2001 Census of India, in the general public population of Kerala, 56% are Hindus, 24% are Muslims, 19% are Christians, and the remaining follow other religions . Out of this 9% are Scheduled Castes and 1.45% are Scheduled Tribes.

The survey results had been used for finding the religion and caste wise demography of the transgender community in Kerala.

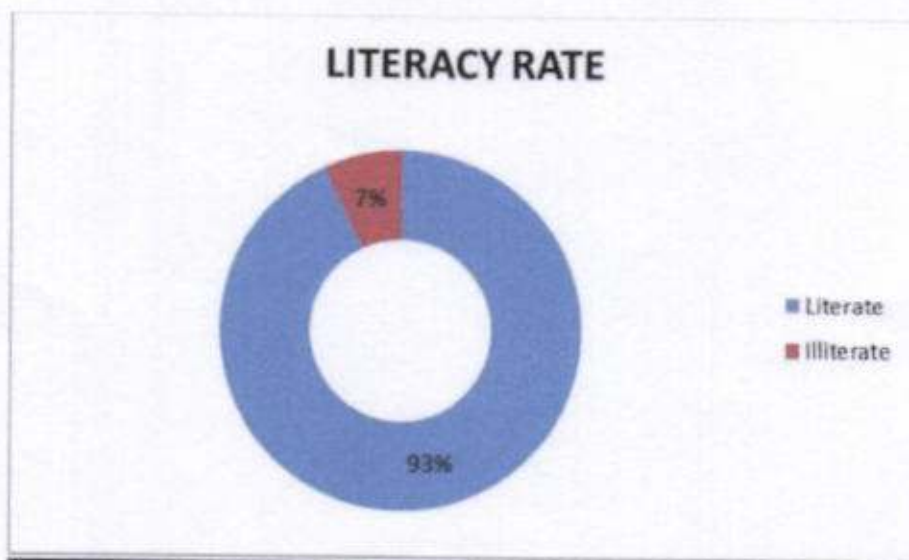


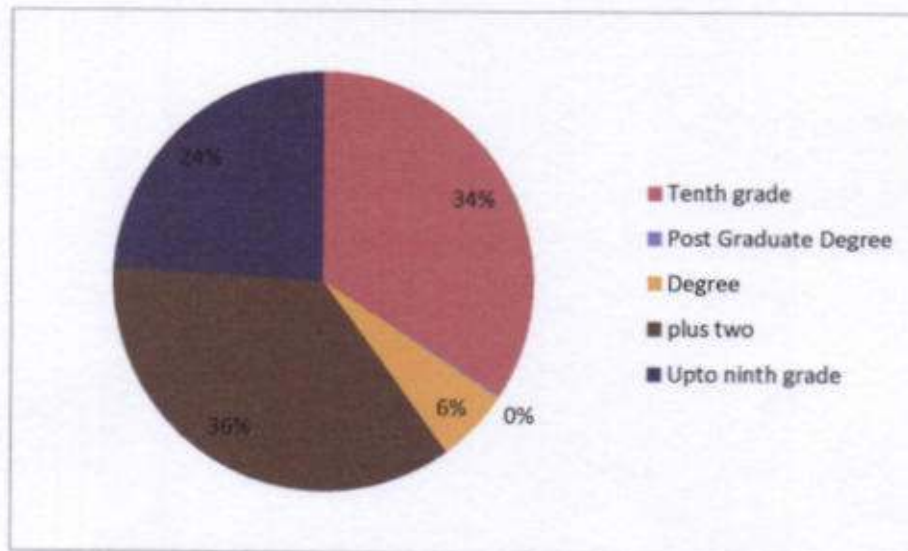


The demography is analogous to that of the general population statistics, which means that transgender community is spread across all castes and religions.

TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY IS UNIFORMLY SPREAD ACROSS ALL MAJOR RELIGIONS AND CASTES

EDUCATION





In terms of educational attainment, 58% of TG students drop out before completing tenth grade (24% drop out even before completion of ninth grade).

THE PERCENTAGE OF SCHOOL DROP OUTS AMONG TG STUDENTS ARE HIGH AND THE NUMBER OF TRANSGENDERS IN HIGHER EDUCATION IS LOW.

Reasons for discontinuing Education:

- Severe harassment makes studies impossible.
- Gender related negative experiences at school.
- Lack of poverty/special educational quota or reservation.
- For those who had to leave school due to harassment, nearly half reported having experienced a negative home environment.

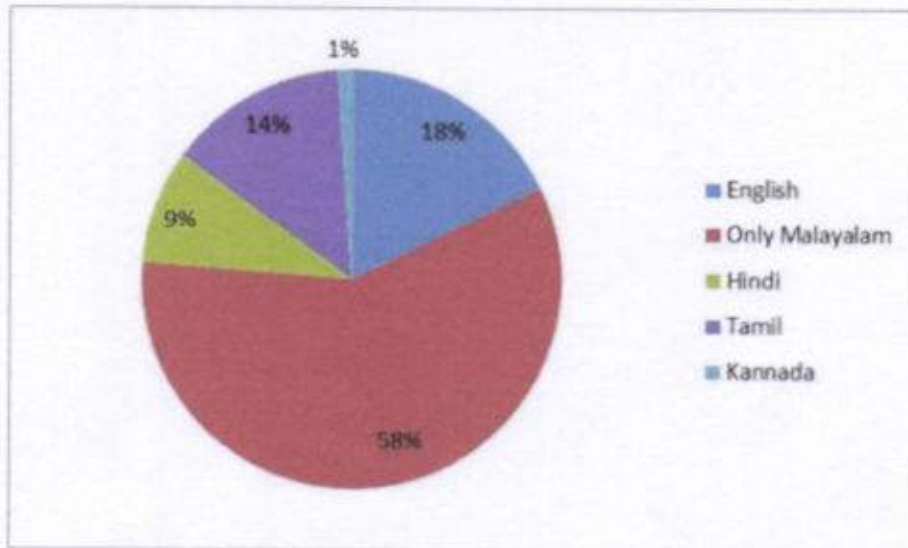
EMPLOYMENT



EMPLOYMENT

The universal declaration of human rights asserts the rights of individuals to work at the job of their choice, receiving equal pay for equal work, without discrimination. Yet far too often, transgender people are denied these basic human rights. It is seen that only 11.6% have regular jobs.

LANGUAGES KNOWN

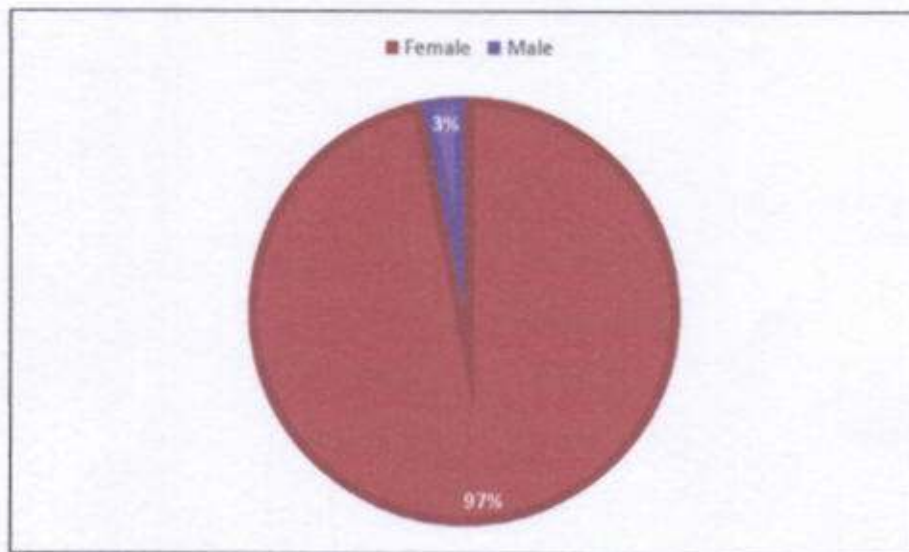


In Kerala the education system includes teaching of 3 languages - Malayalam, English and Hindi. Among transgender community, 58% know only Malayalam. Only 22% know English. 24% know Tamil also and 10% know Hindi also.

FAMILY LIFE

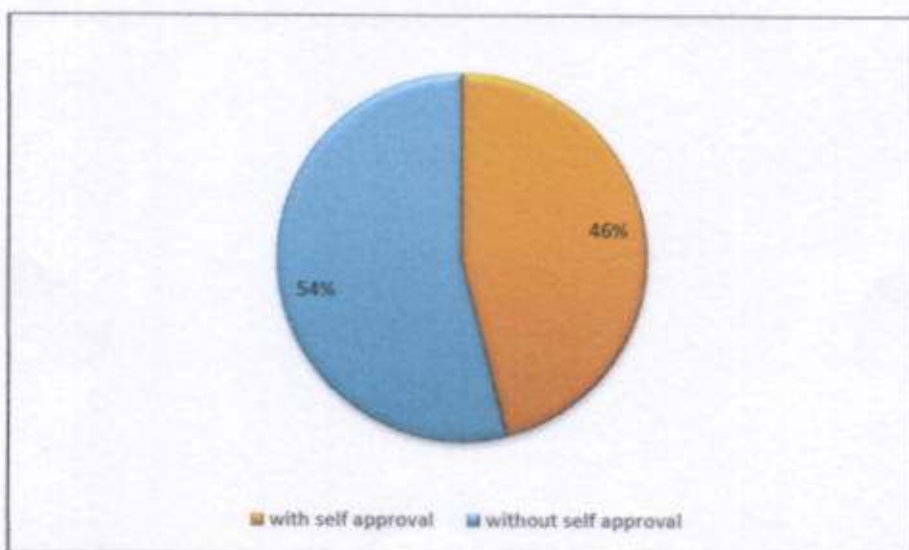


WHOM DO YOU MARRY

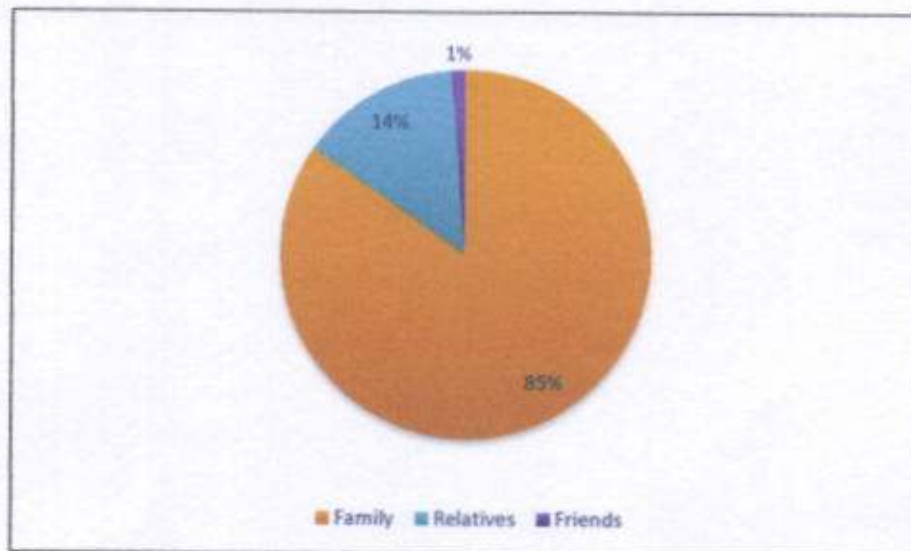


97% OF RESPONDENTS HAVE BEEN MARRIED TO FEMALE. SINCE 99% OF TRANSGENDERS INTERVIEWED ARE MALE TO FEMALE, THE MARRIAGE MAY BE CONDUCTED AGAINST THEIR WISH.

IS IT ON YOUR OWN INTEREST?

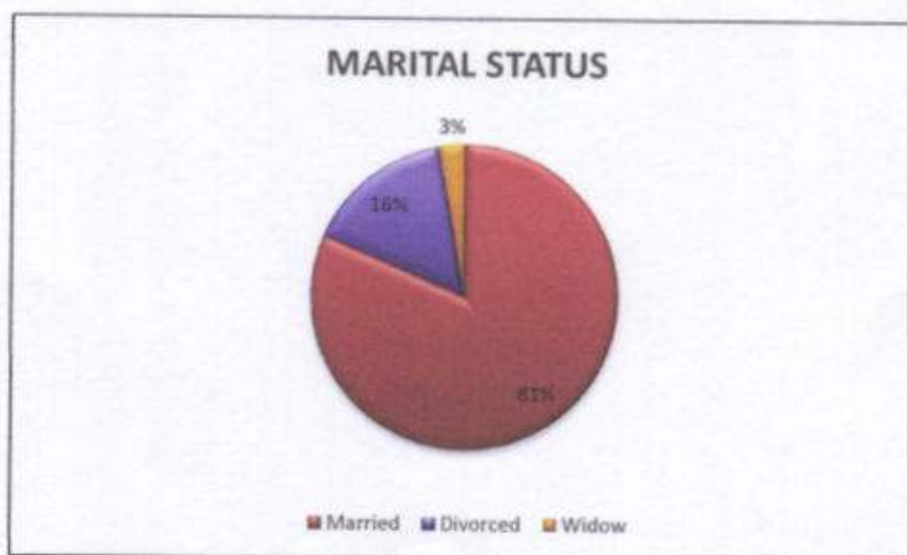


IF NOT, THEN ON WHOSE INTEREST?

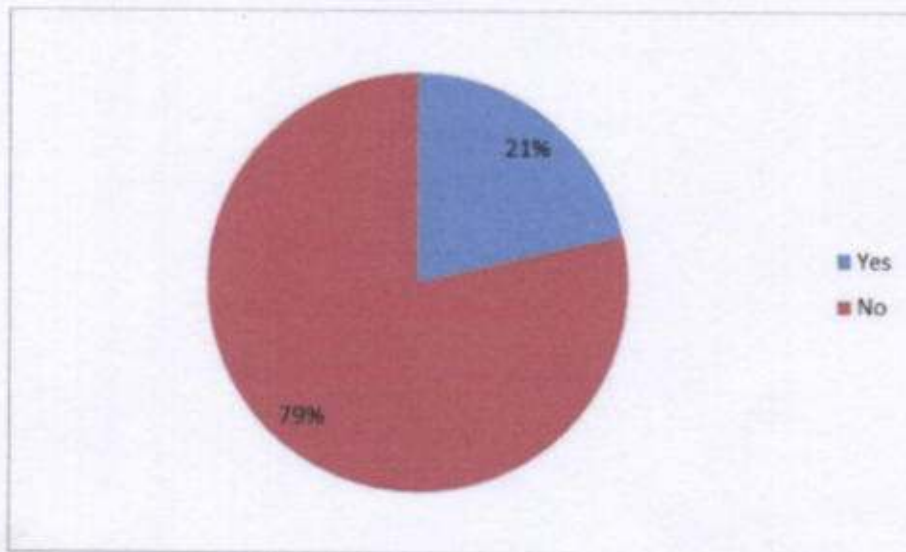


54% OF THEM MARRIED WITHOUT SELF-APPROVAL AND 85% OF THEM MARRIED DUE TO COMPULSION FROM FAMILY

CURRENT MARITAL STATUS

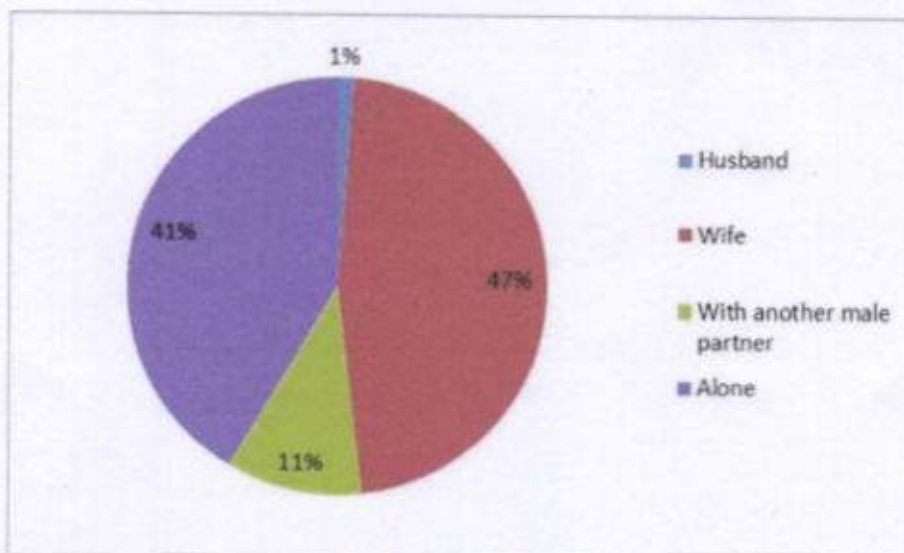


DO YOU HAVE KIDS?



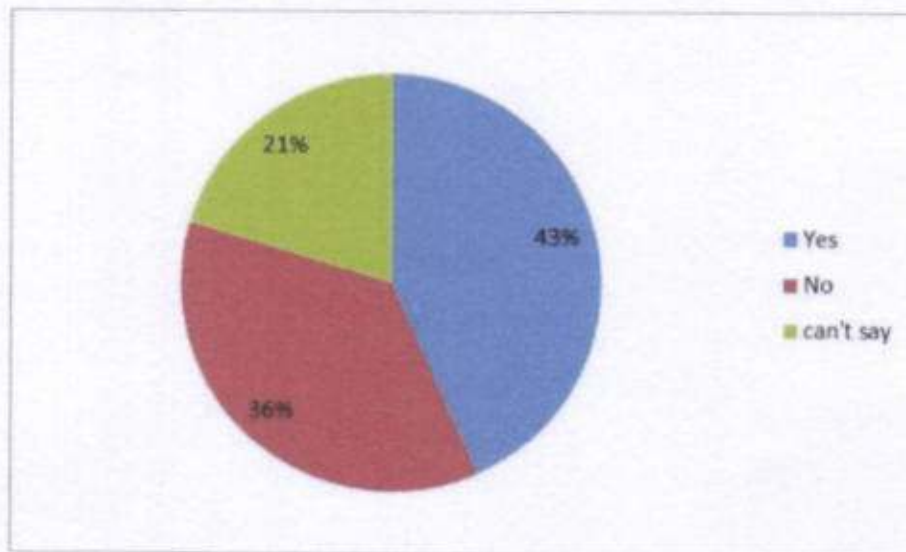
THE MALE TO FEMALE TRANSGENDERS ARE FORCED TO MARRY FEMALES AND TO HAVE KIDS

WHOM DO YOU LIVE WITH?

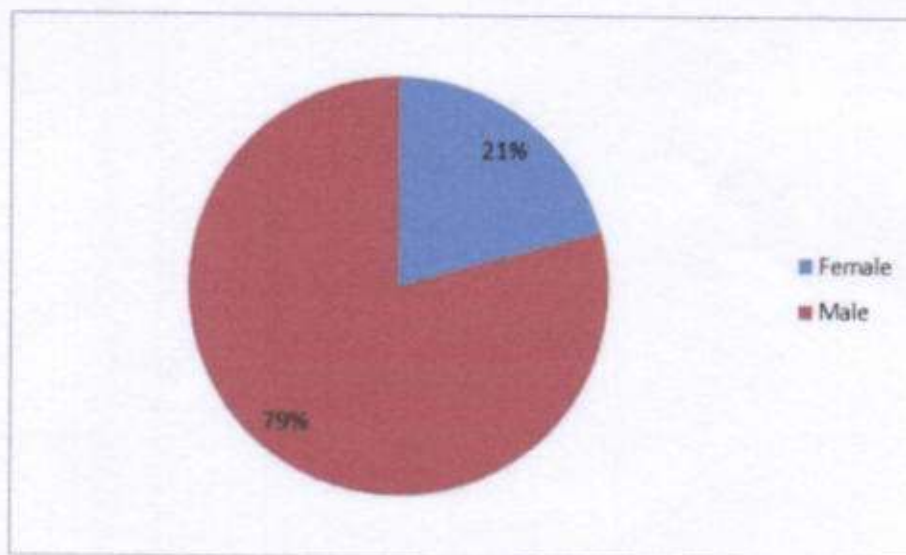


41% OF TRANSGENDERS ARE LIVING ALONE

DO YOU HAVE A PLAN TO MARRY IN FUTURE?

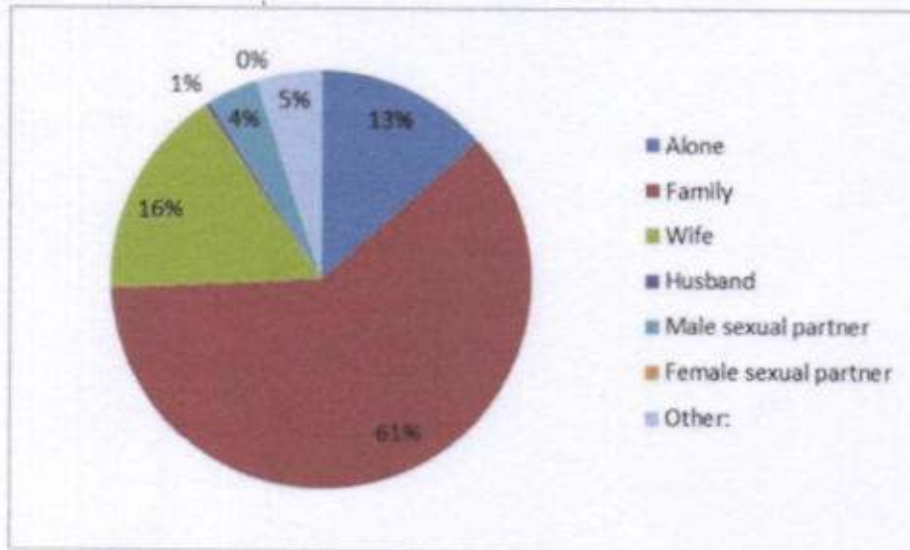


IF YES WHOM DO YOU WISH TO MARRY?



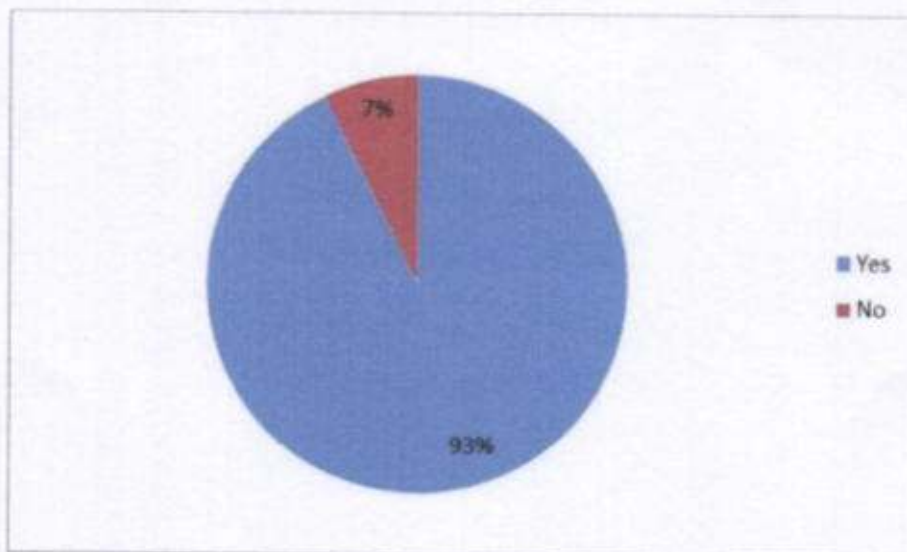
PEOPLE WHO WISH TO REMARRY CERTAINLY WISHES TO MARRY A MALEAS MAJORITY OF THE RESPONDENTS WERE MALE TO FEMALE

WHOM DO YOU STAY WITH?

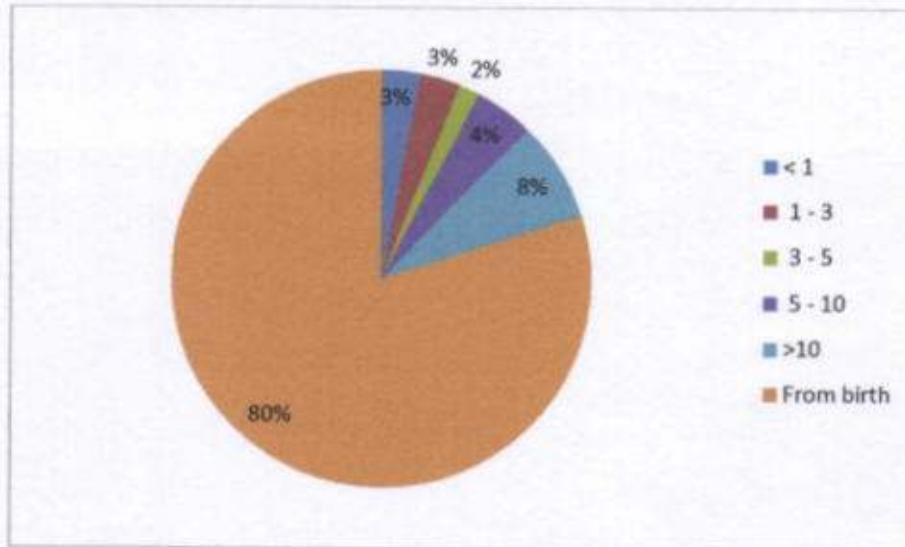


PLACE OF STAY

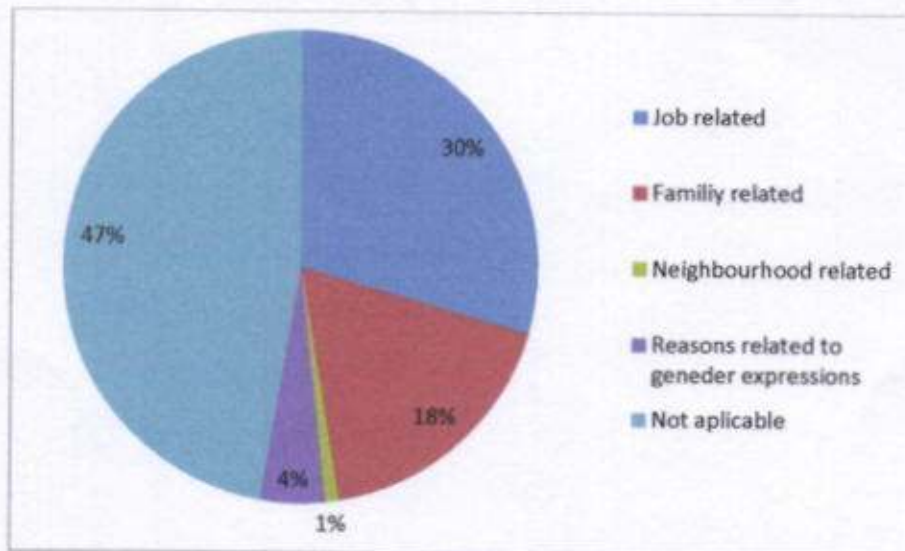
CURRENTLY STAYING IN SAME DISTRICT?



HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN STAYING IN CURRENT PLACE?



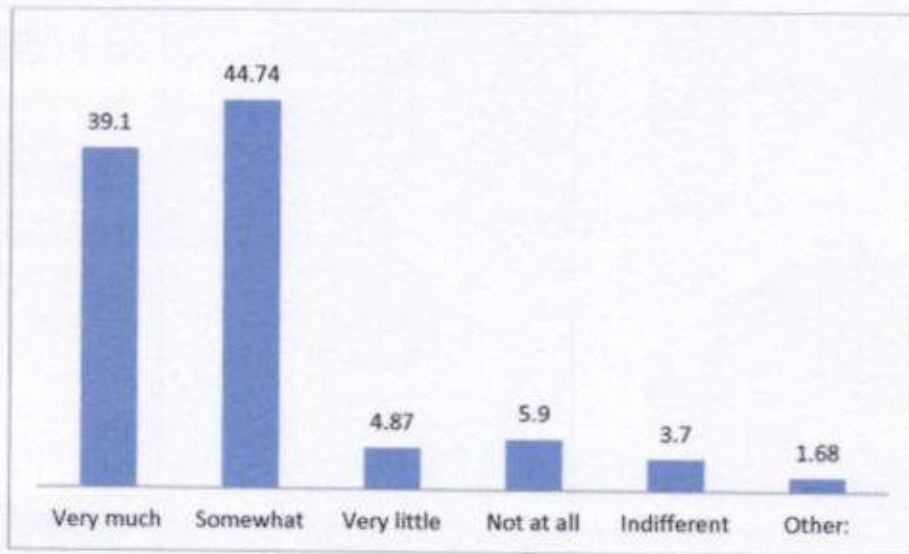
REASON TO STAY IN A DIFFERENT DISTRICT



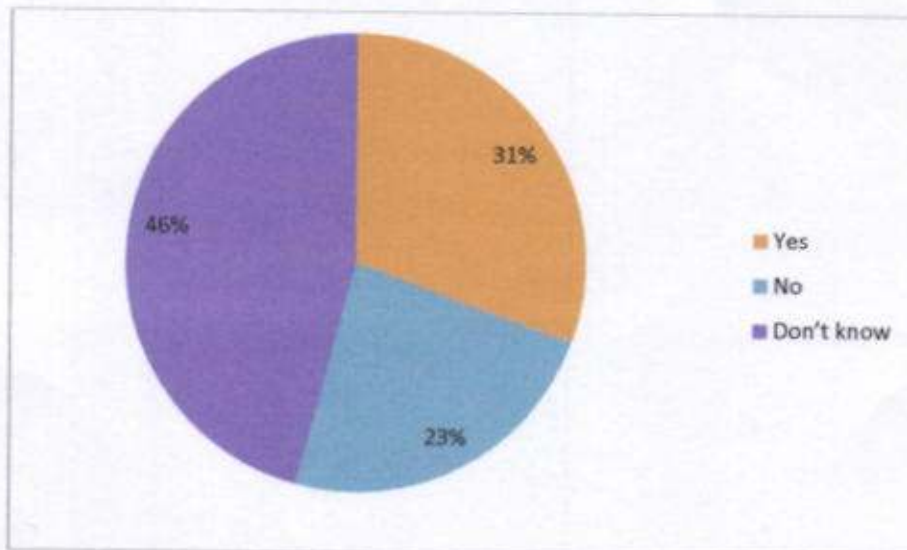
23% OF THE RESPONDANTS HAVE TO SHIFT TO OTHER DISTRICTS DUE TO GENDER RELATED ISSUES, WHEN THEIR GENDER IDENTITY IS REVEALED.

3.2 SECTION II-AWARENESS ABOUT YOUR BODY

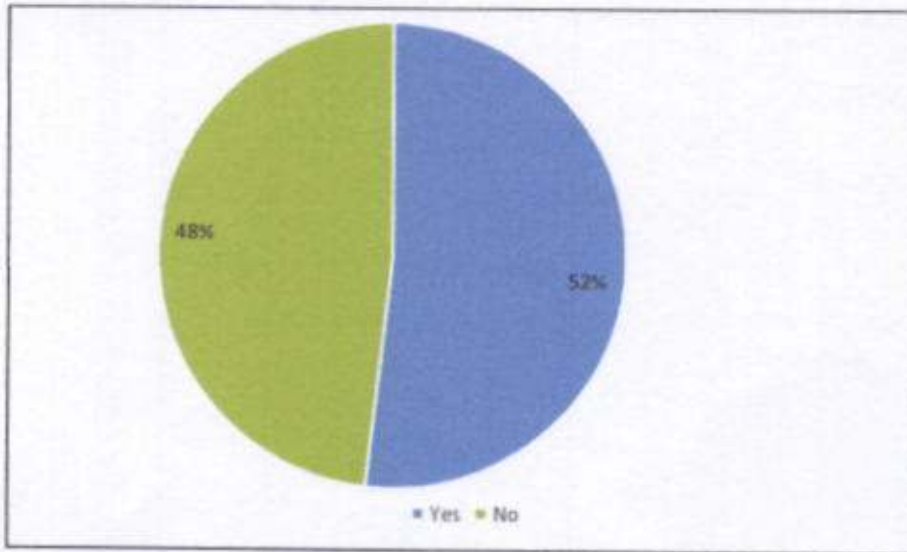
ARE YOU HAPPY WITH YOUR PRESENT PHYSICAL CONDITION?



DO YOU FEEL THAT PEOPLE APPRECIATE YOUR PHYSICAL APPEARANCE?

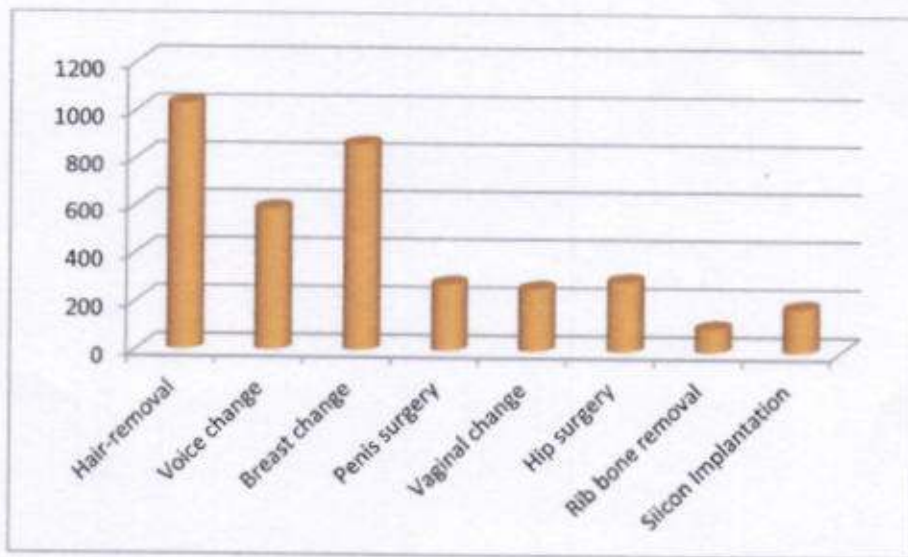


HAVE YOU FELT A NEED TO CHANGE YOUR PHYSICAL APPEARANCE?



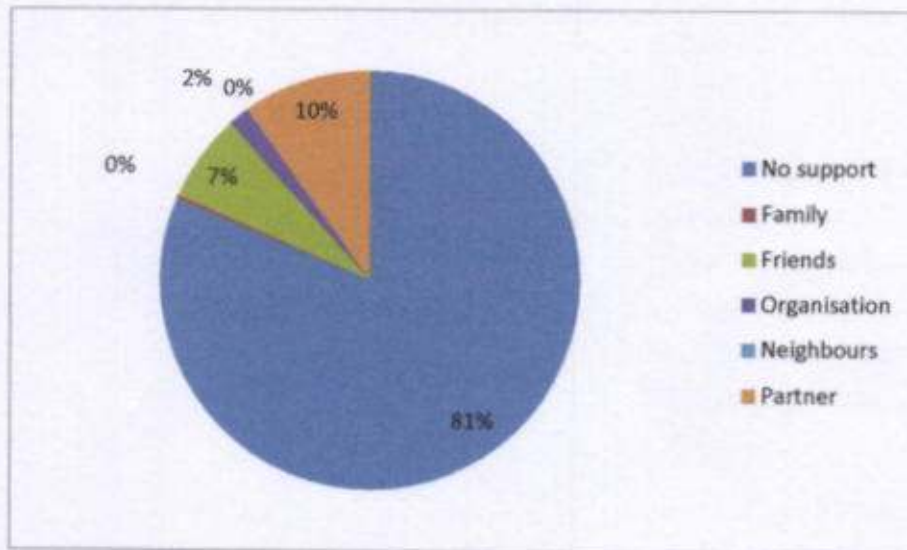
MAJORITY OF TRANSGENDERS WISH TO CHANGE THEIR PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

IF YES, WHAT KIND OF CHANGE?



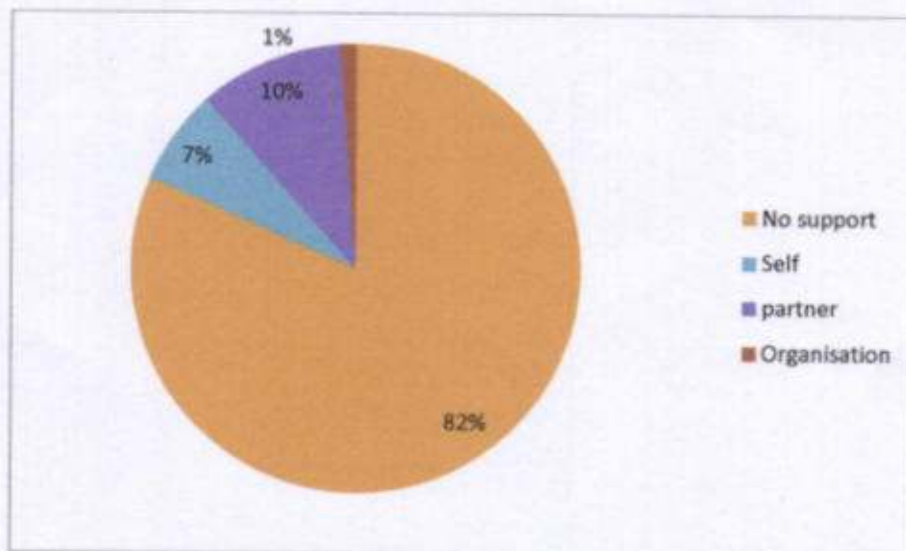
THE TG COMMUNITY NEED CHANGE IN PHYSICAL APPEARANCE THROUGH SEX REASSIGNMENT SURGERY

DO YOU HAVE SUPPORT FROM ANY PERSON FOR THE CHANGES REQUIRED IN YOUR PHYSICAL APPEARANCE?



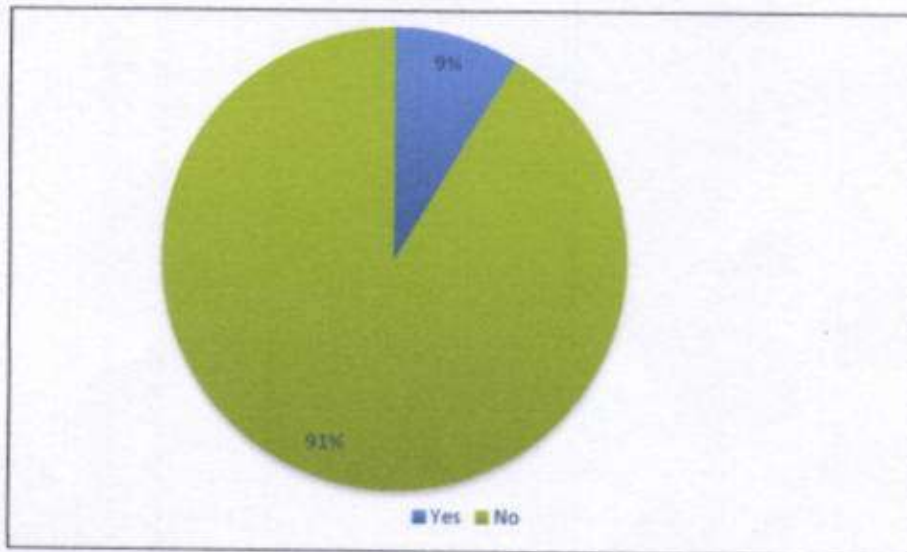
81% OF RESPONDANTS DON'T HAVE ANY SUPPORT FOR SRS SURGERY

WHO FINANCIALLY SUPPORTED YOU FOR CHANGES IN YOUR PHYSICAL APPEARANCE?



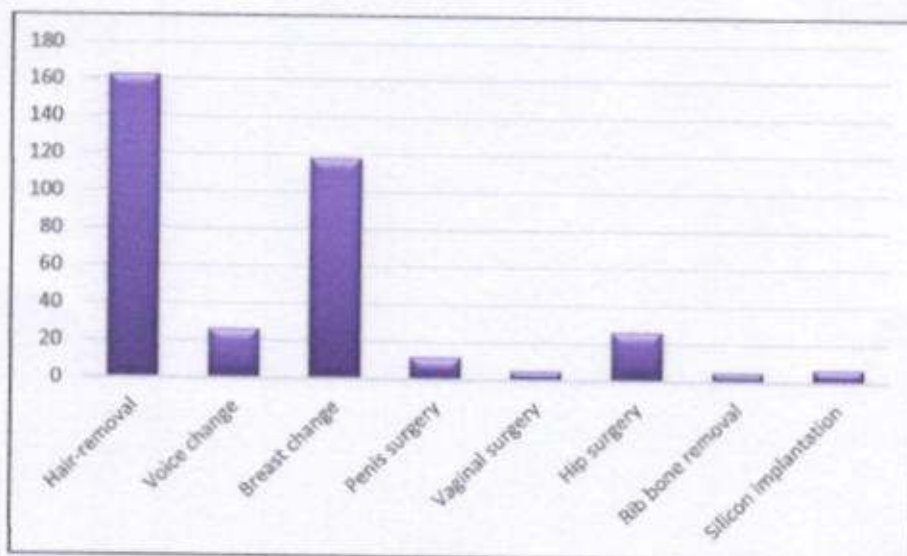
82% OF RESPONDANTS SAID THAT THEY DIDN'T GET ANY FINANCIALLY SUPPORT FOR SRS SURGERY

DID YOU CHANGE YOUR PHYSICAL APPEARANCE THROUGH MEDICINE/OPERATION?



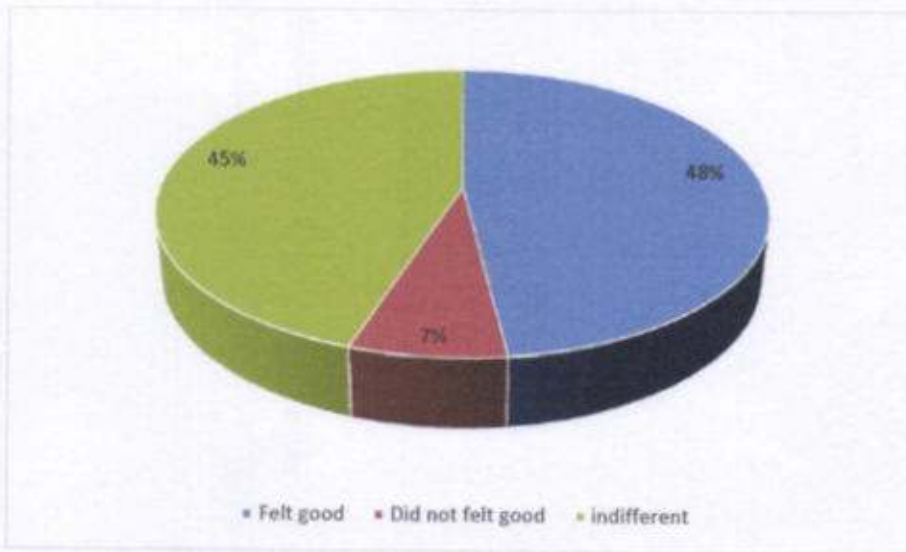
ONLY 9% OF RESPONDANTS HAD DONE CHANGE IN PHYSICAL APPEARANCE THROUGH SURGERY OR MEDICINE

IF YES, WHAT CHANGES?



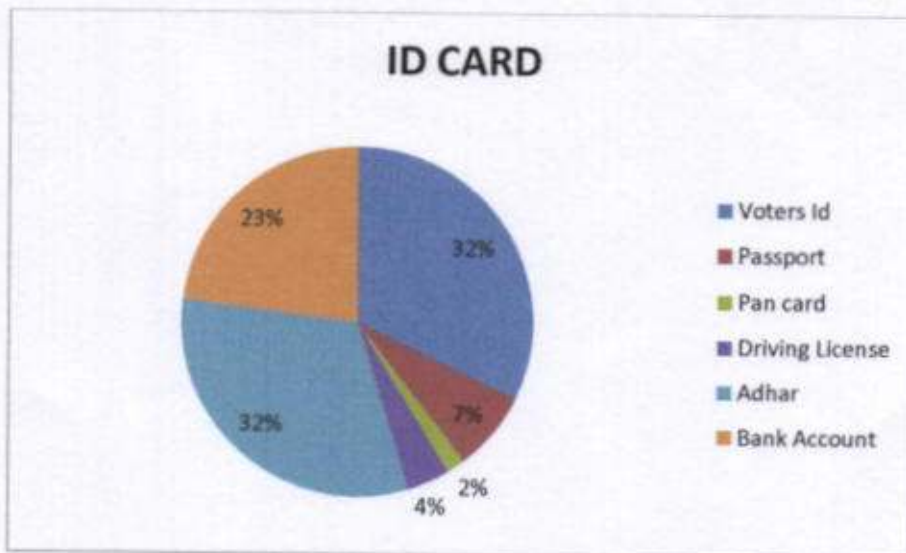
OUT OF THE 3619, ONLY LESS THAN 162 HAVE DONE ANY SURGERY OR HORMONE TREATMENT

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE PHYSICAL CHANGES YOU HAD UNDERGONE BEFORE?



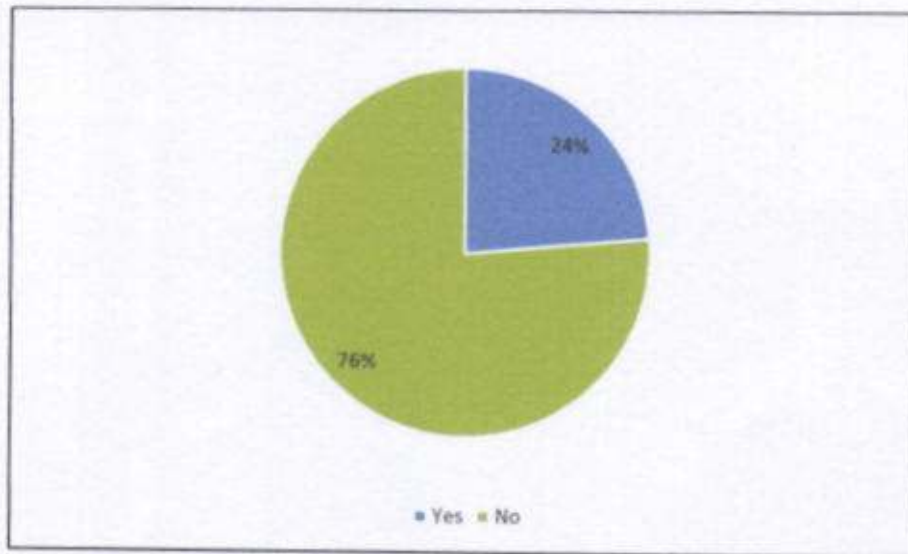
3.3 SECTION III-CIVIL RIGHTS

IDENTITY CARDS



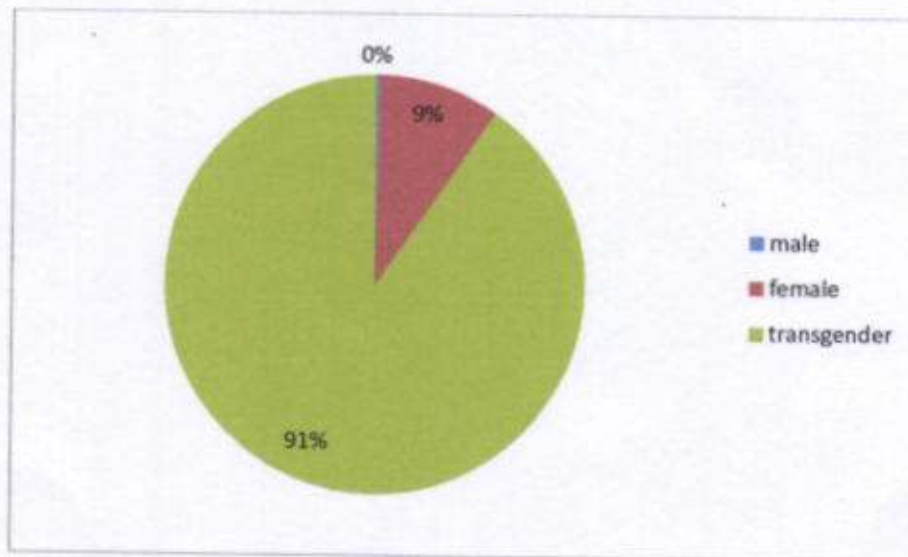
ONLY 2% HAVE PAN CARD, 4% HAVE DRIVING LICENSE AND ONLY 7% HAVE PASSPORT

HAVE YOU BEEN ABLE TO REGISTER GENDER IDENTITY THE WAY YOU LIKE IN ANY ID CARD?



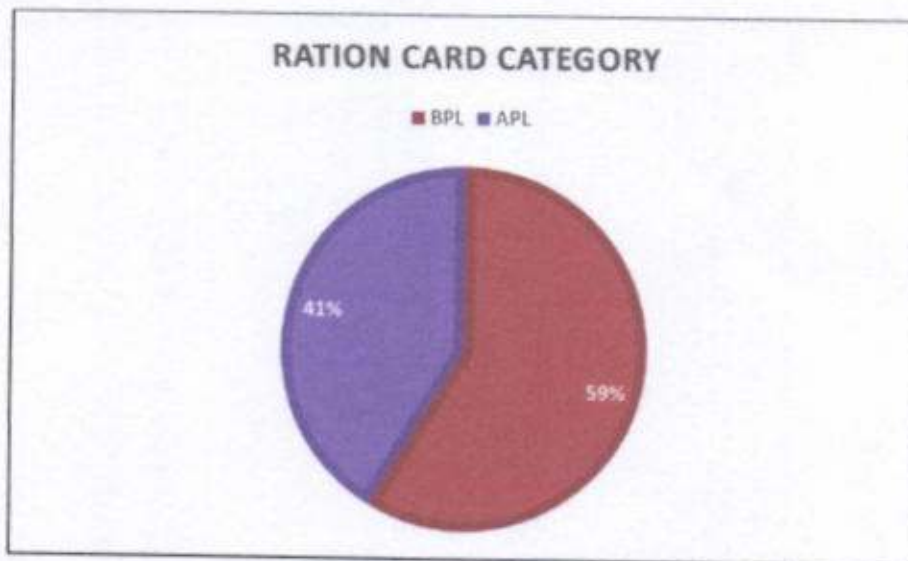
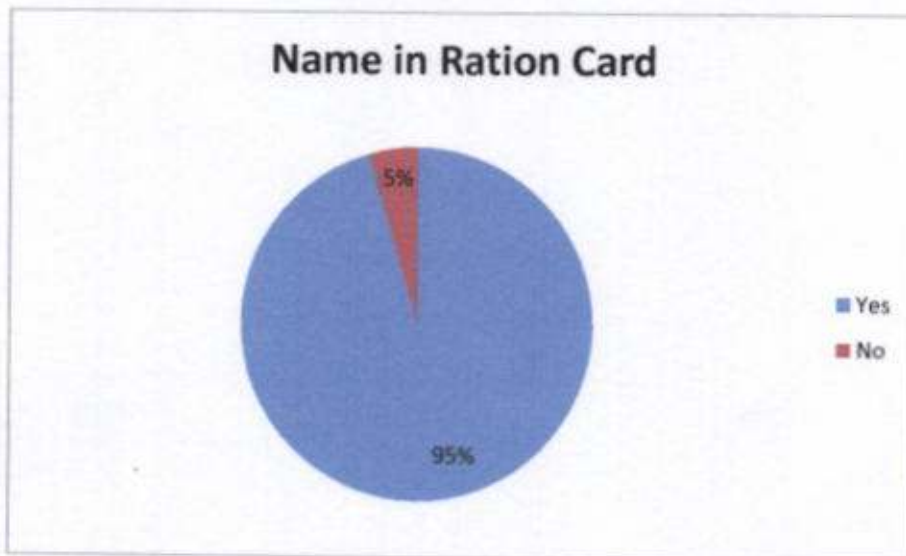
MOST OF THE TRANSGENDERS COULD NOT REGISTER THEIR GENDER IDENTITY THE WAY THEY WANT IN ANY OF THE ID CARDS

IF NO, WHICH GENDER DO YOU WISH TO REGISTER?



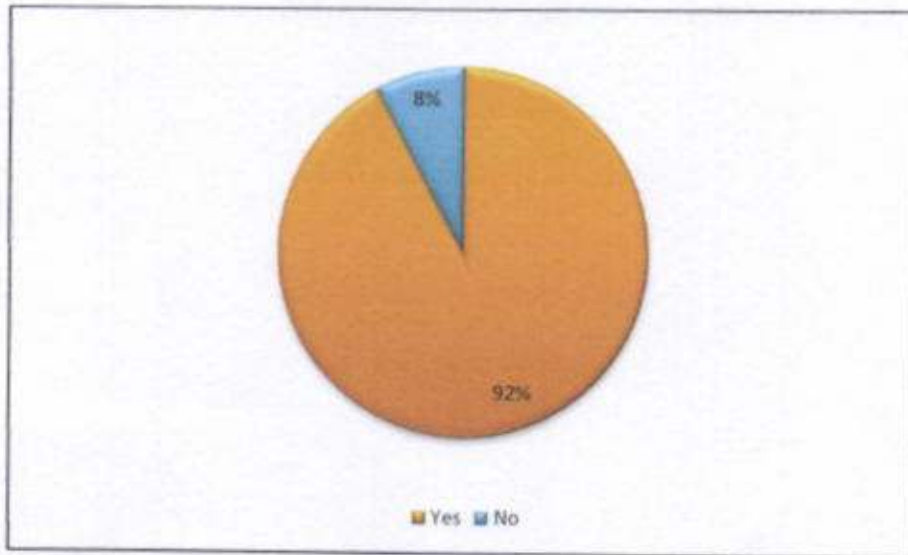
91% OF THE RECONDANTS WANT TO REGISTER THEIR IDENTITY AS TRANSGENDER

DO YOU HAVE YOUR NAME ON RATION-CARD?

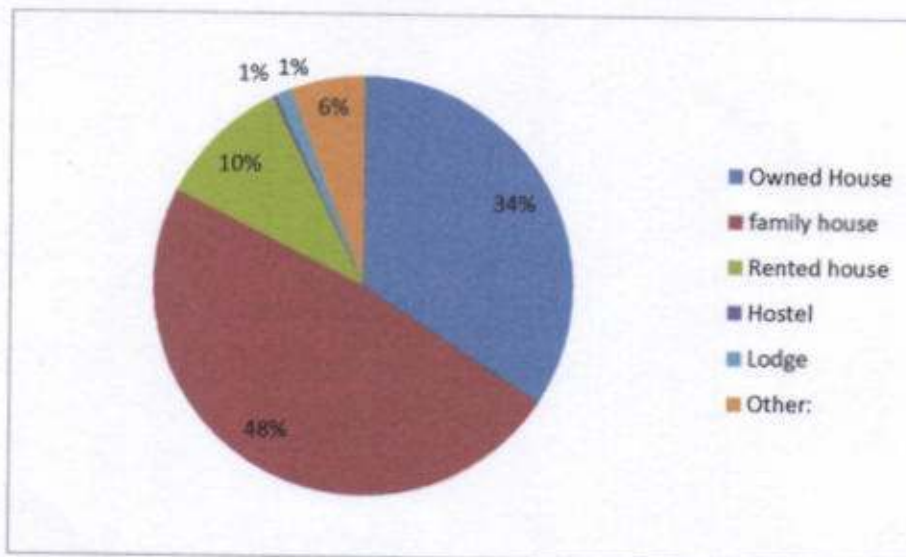


59% OF RESPONDENTS HAVE THEIR RATION CARD IN BPL CATEGORY

DO YOU HAVE A PLACE TO STAY?



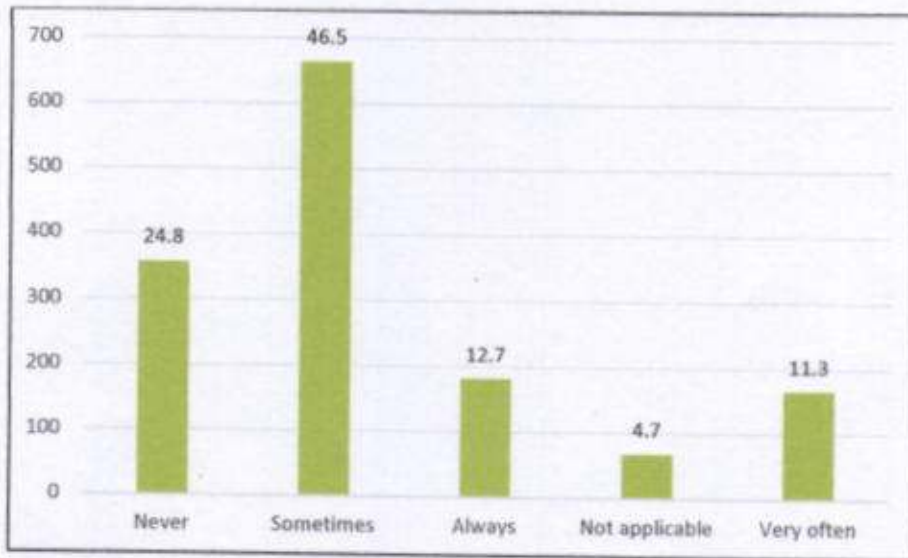
IF YES:



3.4 SECTION IV: SELF ESTEEM

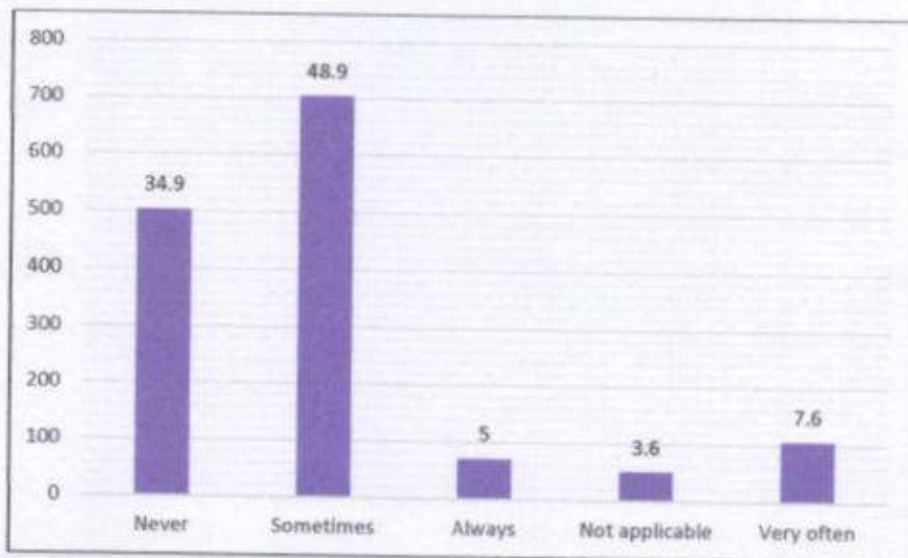
SEXUALITY AND FAMILY RELATIONS

DO YOU FEEL THAT PEOPLE WILL NOT LIKE TO MEET OR TALK TO YOU IF THEY FIND OUT YOUR GENDER IDENTITY?

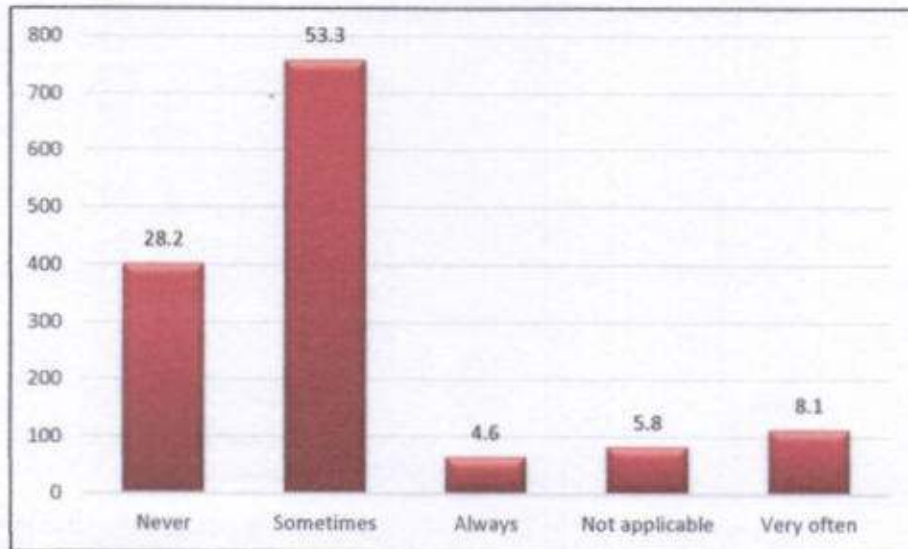


MOST OF THE TRANSGENDER POPULATION FEELS THAT THEY WON'T BE ACCEPTED IF THEIR SEXUALITY IS REVEALED

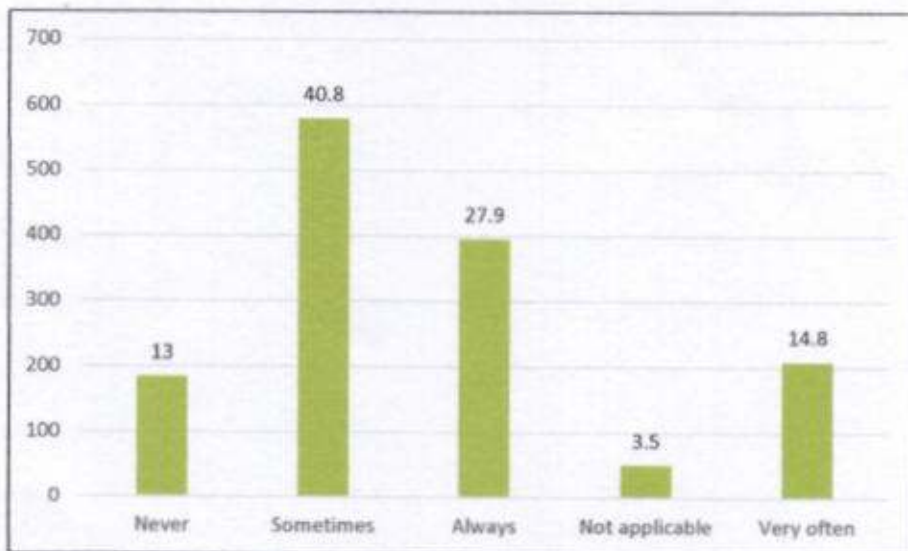
DO YOU HAVE LOSS OF CONFIDENCE ABOUT YOURSELF AS A SEXUAL PARTNER?



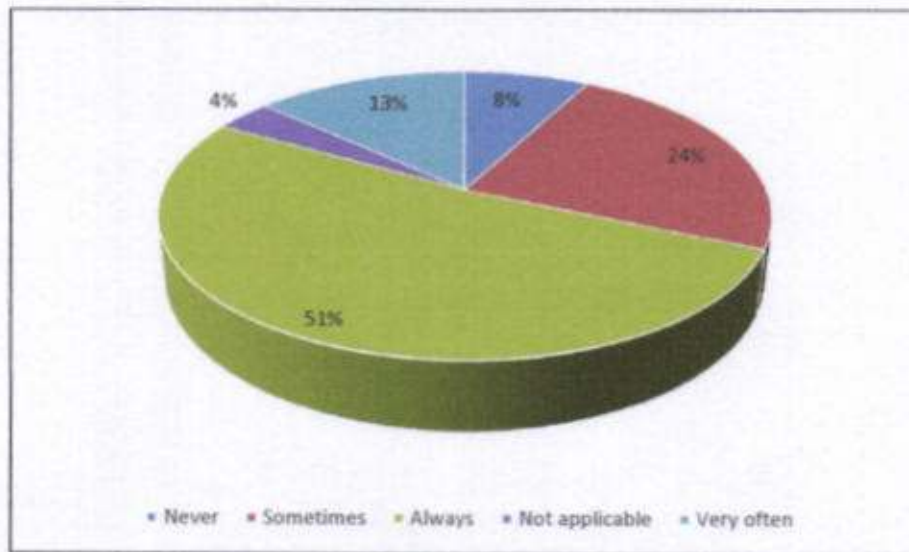
DO YOU FEEL DISSATISFACTION IN YOUR SEXUAL RELATION?



ARE YOU SATISFIED IN YOUR SEXUAL LIFE?

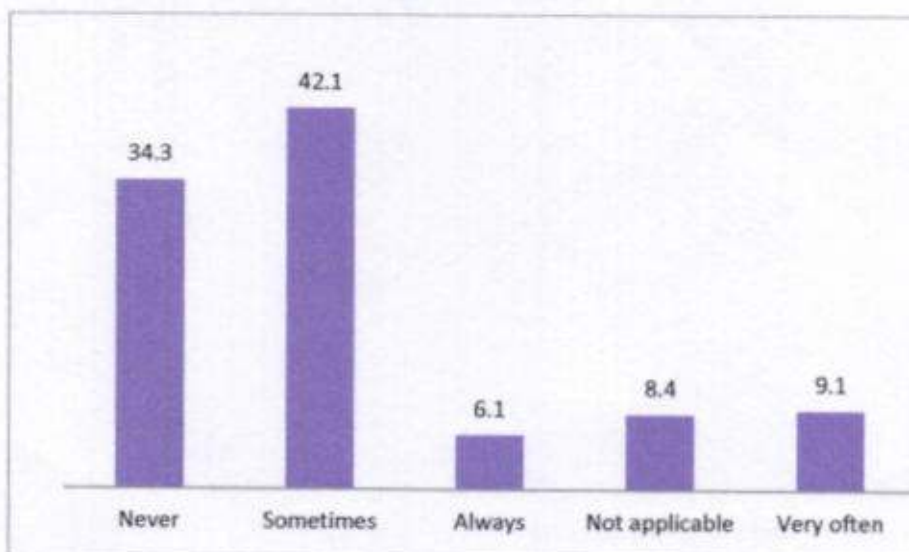


DO YOU HIDE YOUR GENDER IDENTITY FROM YOUR FAMILY MEMBERS?



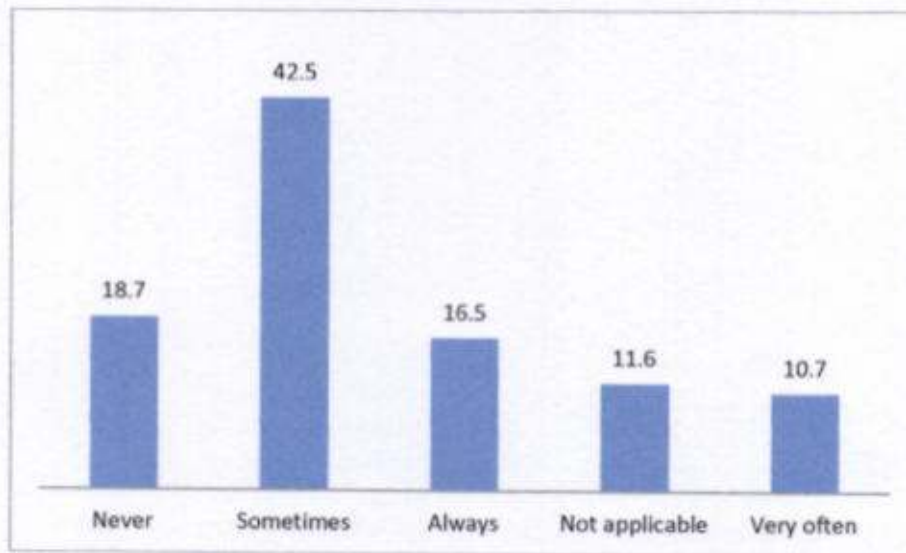
ONLY 8% OF RESPONDANTS WERE ABLE REVEAL THEIR GENDER IDENTITY IN FAMILY MEMBERS

DO YOU FEEL THAT YOU ARE AN UNWANTED MEMBER IN THE FAMILY?

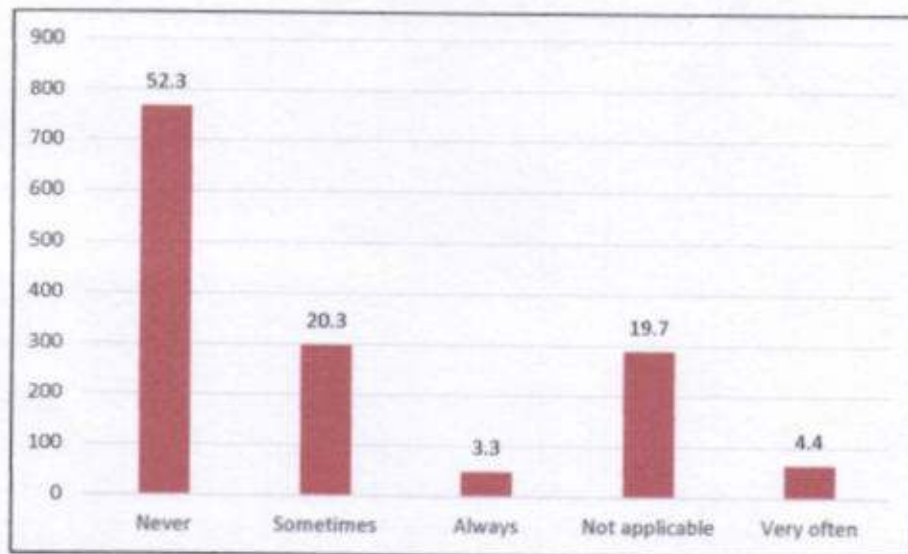


57.3% OF RESPONDANTS FEEL THAT THEY ARE AN UNWANTED MEMBER IN THE FAMILY

IF YOUR GENDER IDENTITY IS NOT ACCEPTED BY YOUR FAMILY MEMBERS
WILL YOU BE UNHAPPY?

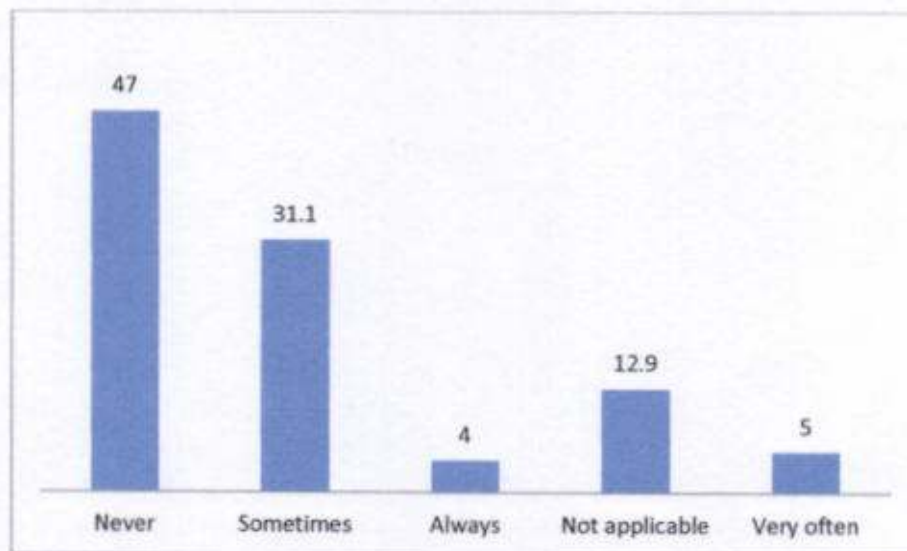


HAVE YOU BEEN DENIED FAMILY PROPERTY RIGHTS DUE TO YOUR GENDER?



NEARLY 50% OF TRANSGENDERS ARE DENIED FAMILY PROPERTY RIGHTS DUE
TO GENDER IDENTITY

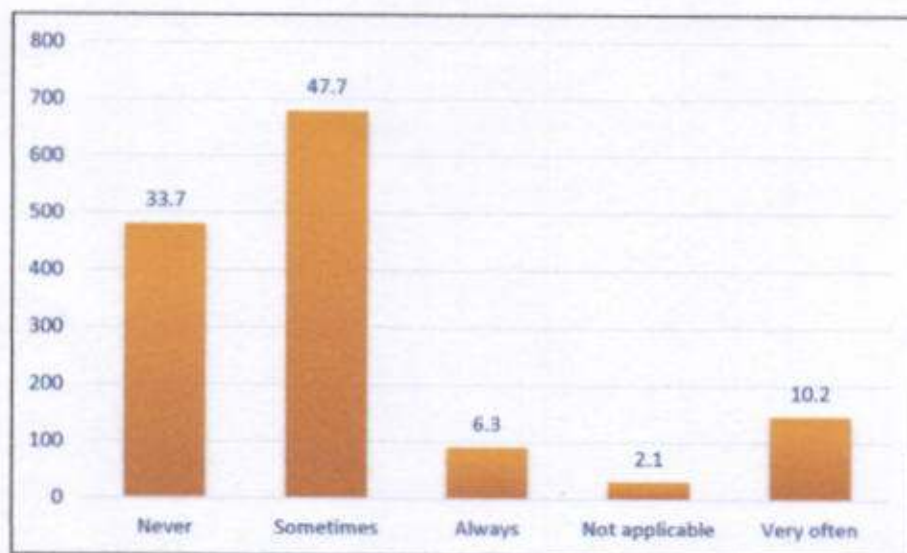
HAVE YOU BEEN FINANCIALLY EXPLOITED BECAUSE OF YOUR GENDER BY YOUR FAMILY/PARTNER?



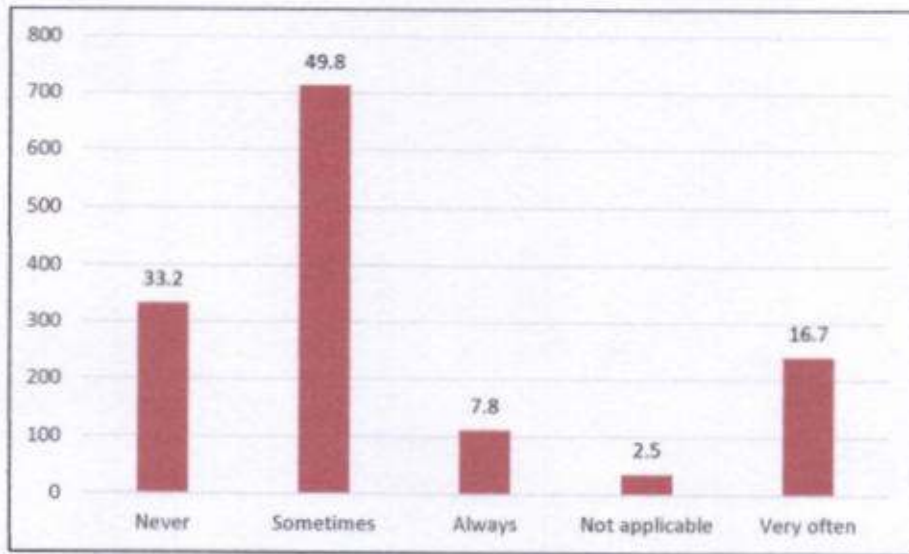
TRANSGENDERS ARE FINANCIALLY EXPLOITED JUST BECAUSE OF THEIR GENDER IDENTITY

SOCIAL LIFE

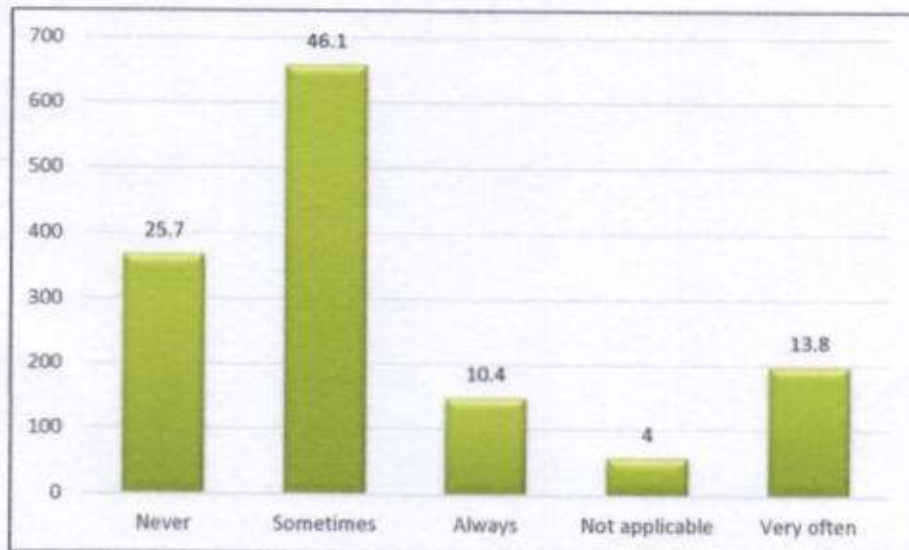
DO YOU FEEL THAT ARE NOT ABLE TO MAKE FRIENDS?



DO YOU FEEL DISCOMFORT WHEN YOU ASSOCIATE WITH PEOPLE OUTSIDE YOUR COMMUNITY?

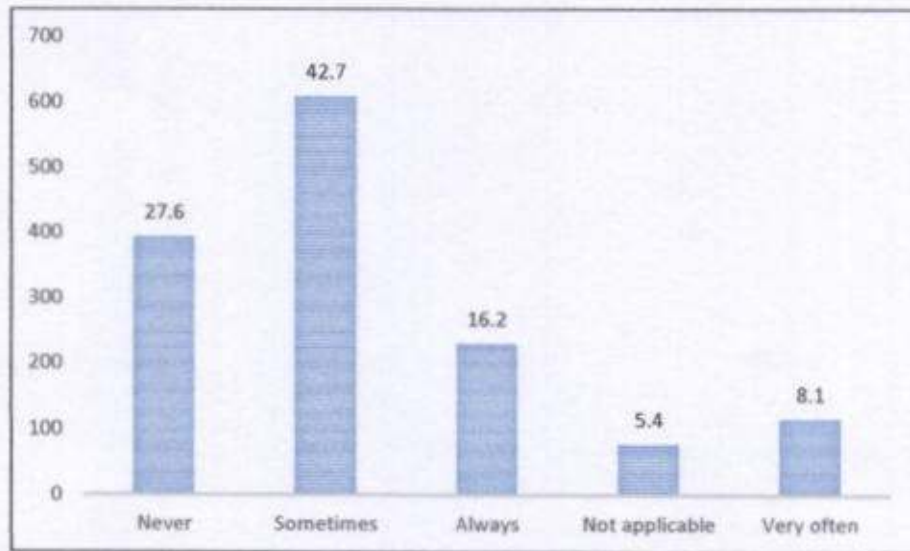


WHEN YOU ATTEND A FUNCTION DO YOU FEEL YOU ARE NOT FIT TO BE THERE AMONGST OTHERS?

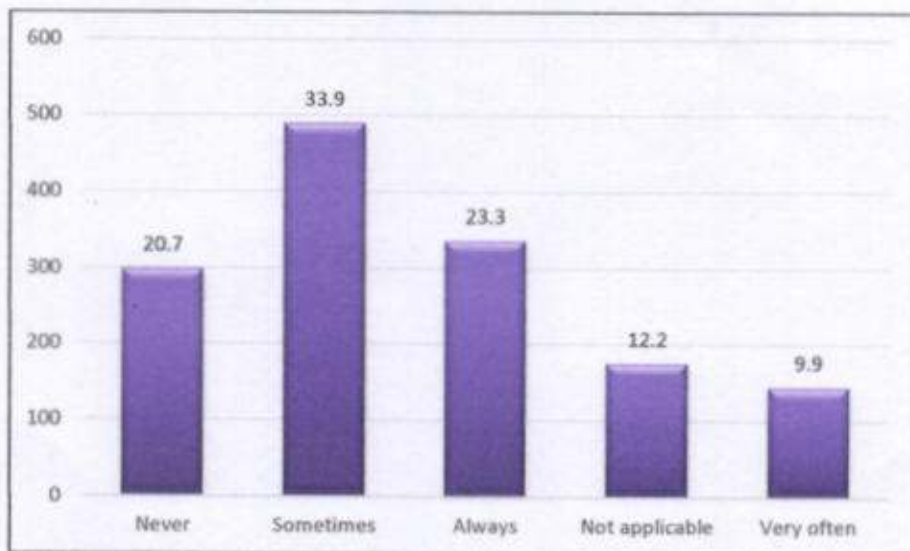


MOST OF THE RESPONDANTS FEEL THEY ARE NOT FIT TO BE AMONGST OTHERS.

ARE YOU CONFIDENT TO FACE POLICE?

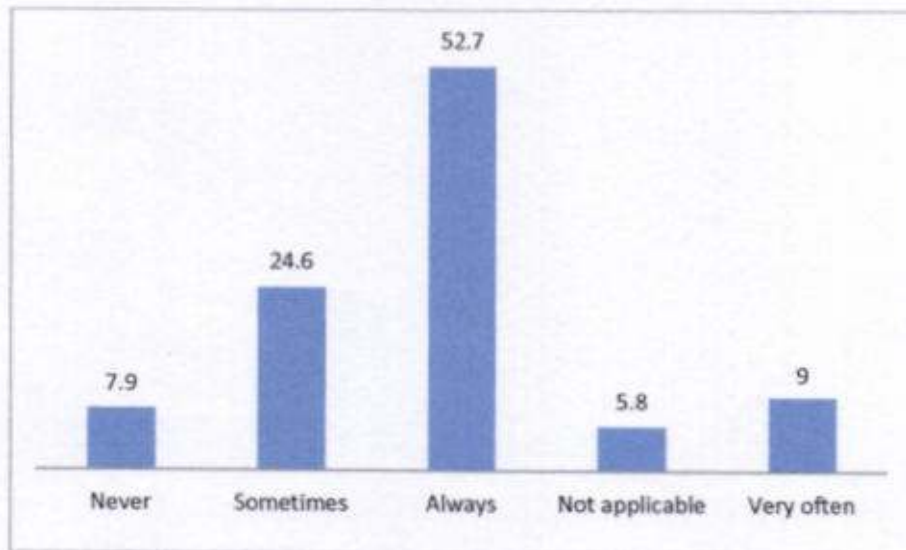


ARE YOU GIVEN THE BASIC CONSIDERATION TO ACCESS FACILITIES SUCH AS HOSPITAL AND TOILET?



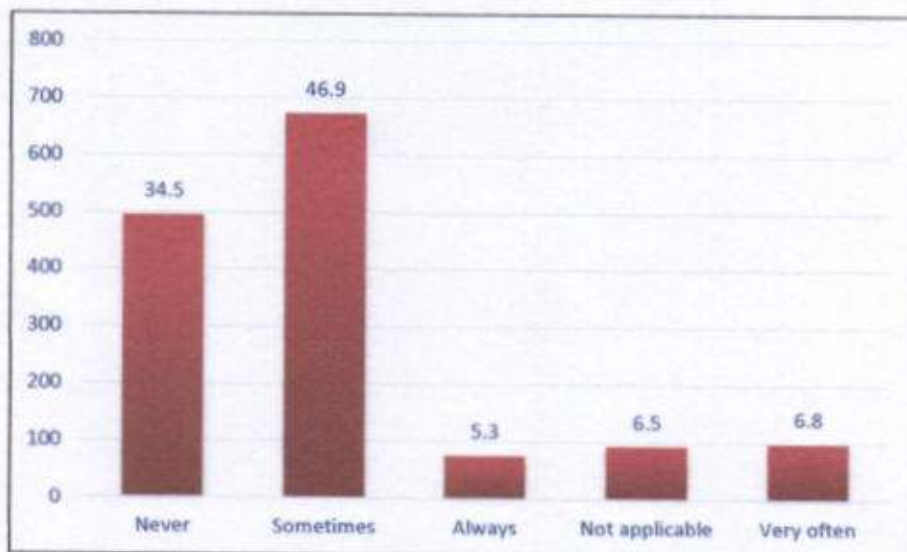
MORE THAN HALF THE POPULATION ARE NOT GIVEN CONSIDERATION TO ACCESS FACILITIES SUCH AS HOSPITAL AND TOILET.

DO YOU WISH TO GET ACCEPTANCE LIKE OTHERS IN THE SOCIETY?



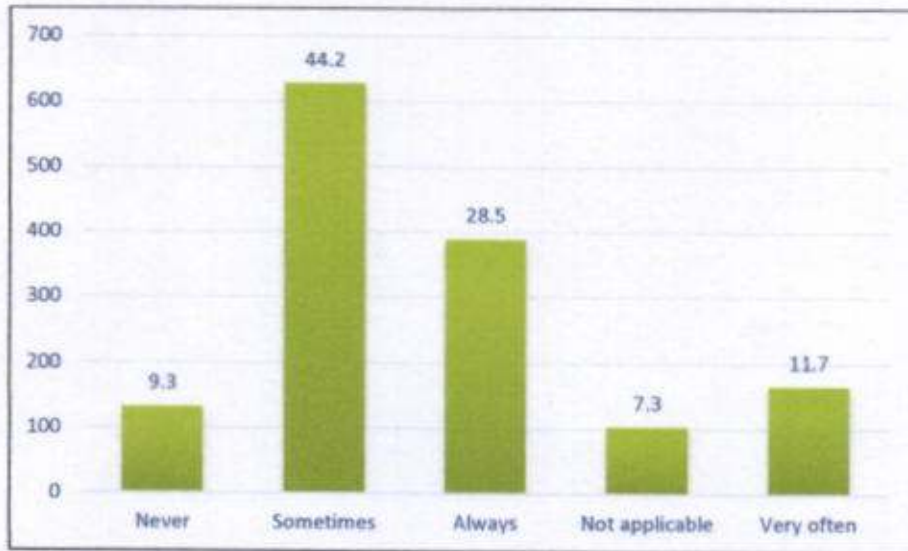
SELF ASSESSMENT

HAVE YOU FELT YOU'RE A USELESS PERSON TO ALL?

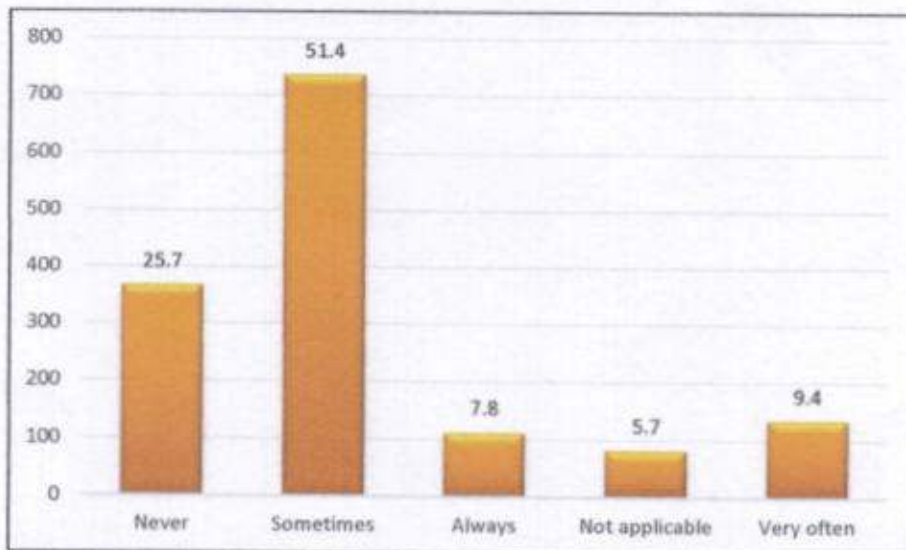


MORE THAN 80% OF RESPONDANTS FEEL THAT THEY ARE USELESS

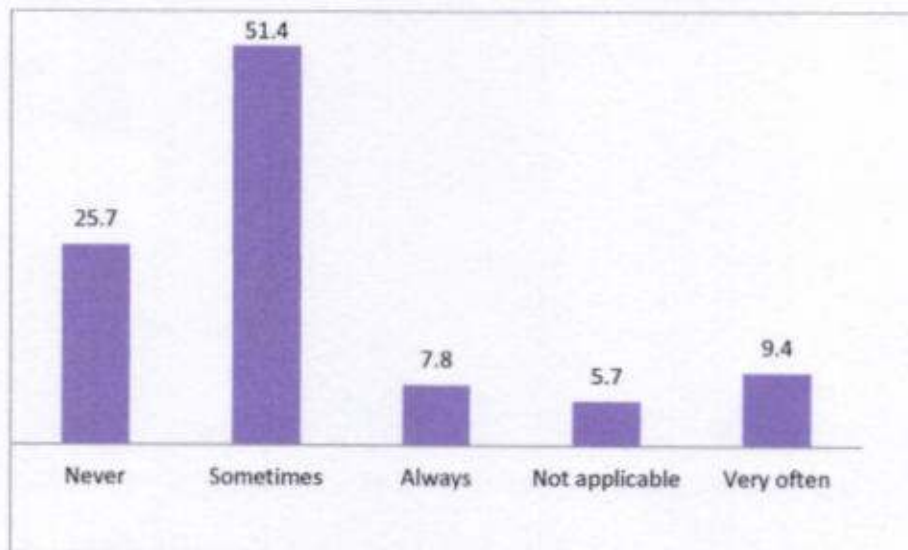
ARE YOU HAPPY /SATISFIED WITH FIGHT FOR YOUR RIGHTS?



ARE YOU ABLE TO LOVE YOURSELF AND GAIN SATISFACTION THE WAY YOU ARE?

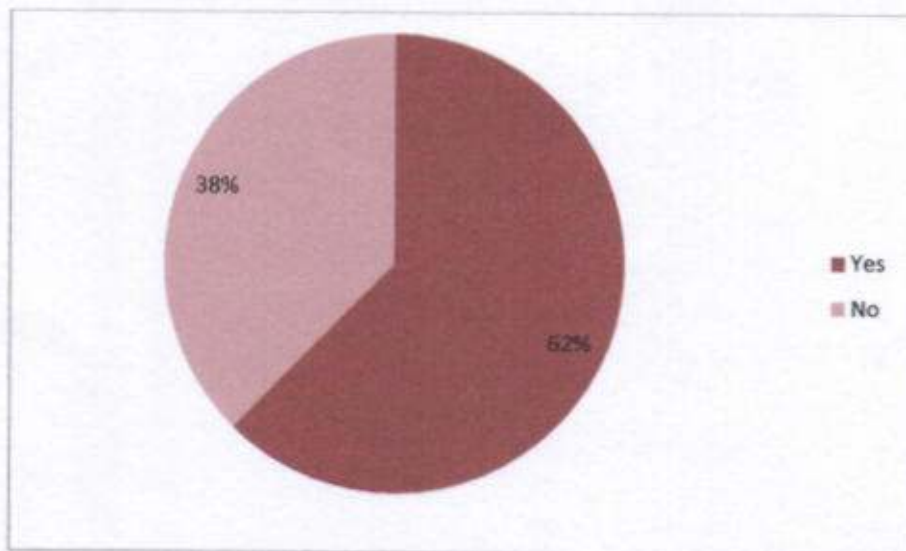


HAVE YOU FELT HELPLESS IN DIFFICULT TIMES AND FELT YOU ARE USELESS?



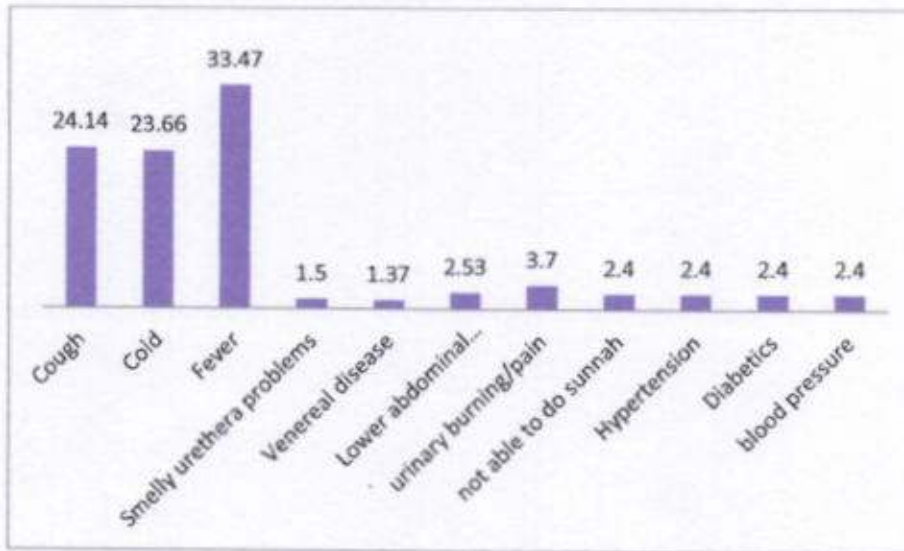
3.5 SECTION V: RIGHT TO HEALTH

DID YOU HAVE ANY HEALTH ISSUES BEFORE?

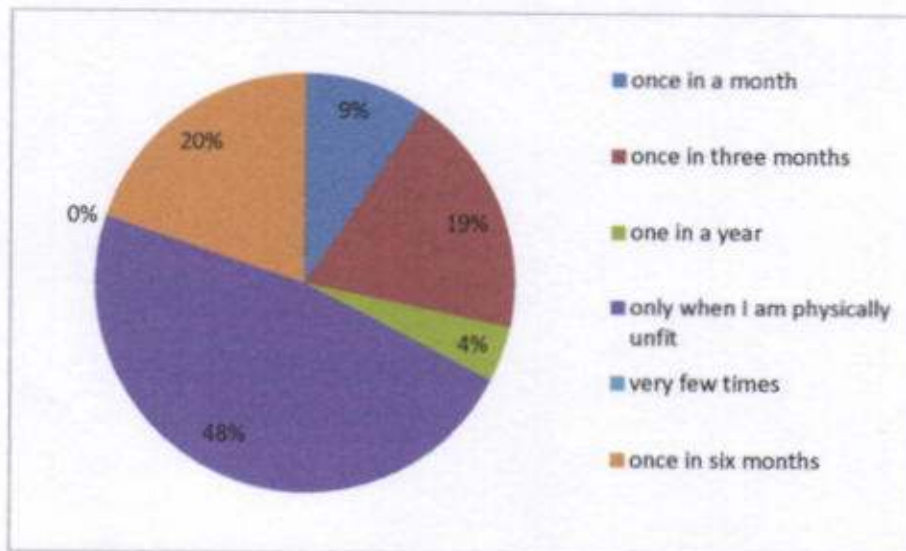


62% OF RESPONDANTS HAVE HEALTH ISSUES

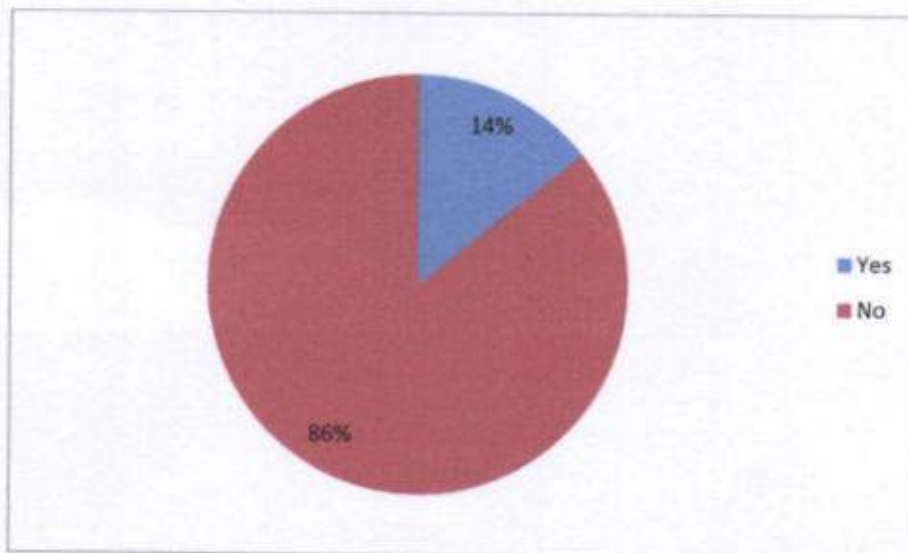
WHAT TYPE OF HEALTH PROBLEMS HAVE YOU FACED?



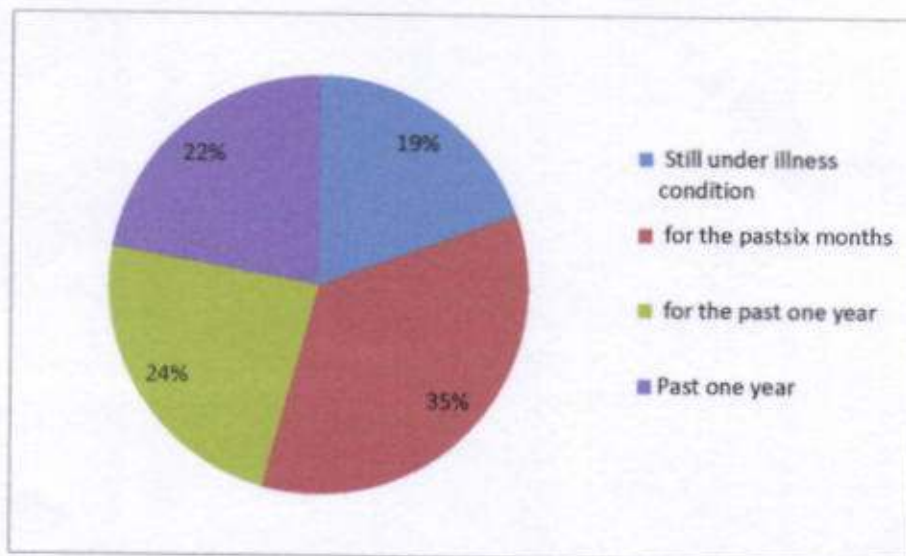
HOW OFTEN HAVE YOU CONSULTED/BEEN MEDICATED FOR PHYSICAL PROBLEMS?



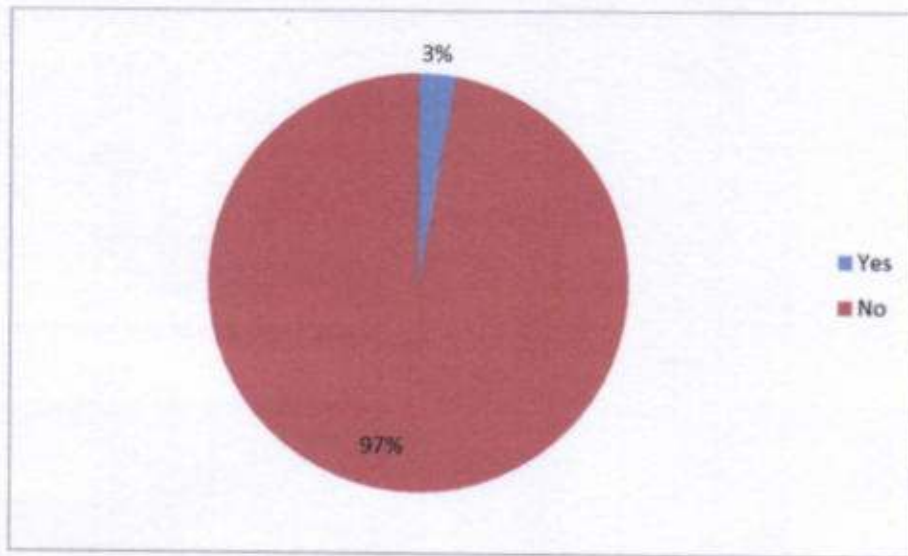
ARE YOU MEDICATED CURRENTLY FOR ANY HEALTH PROBLEMS?



IF YES:



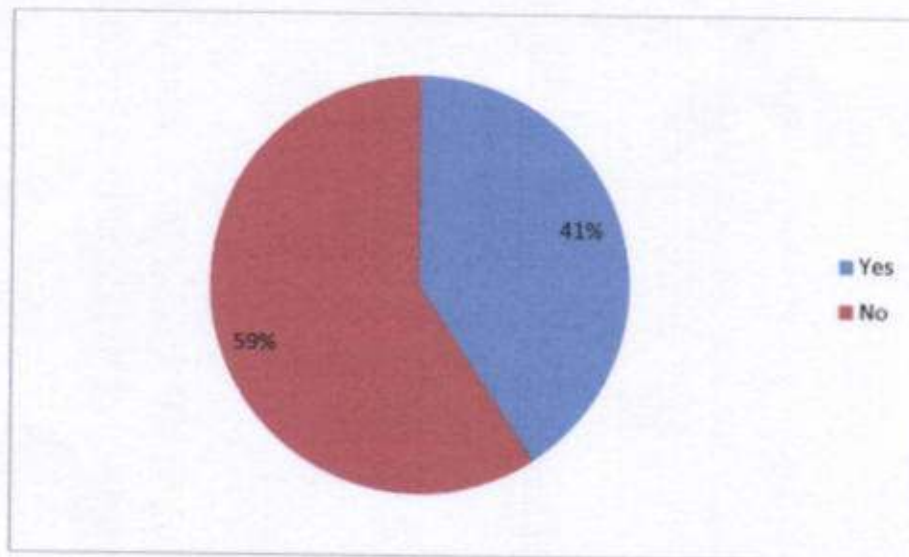
HAVE YOU EVER UNDERGONE ANY HORMONE TREATMENT?



ONLY 3% HAD UNDERGONE HORMONE TREATMENT

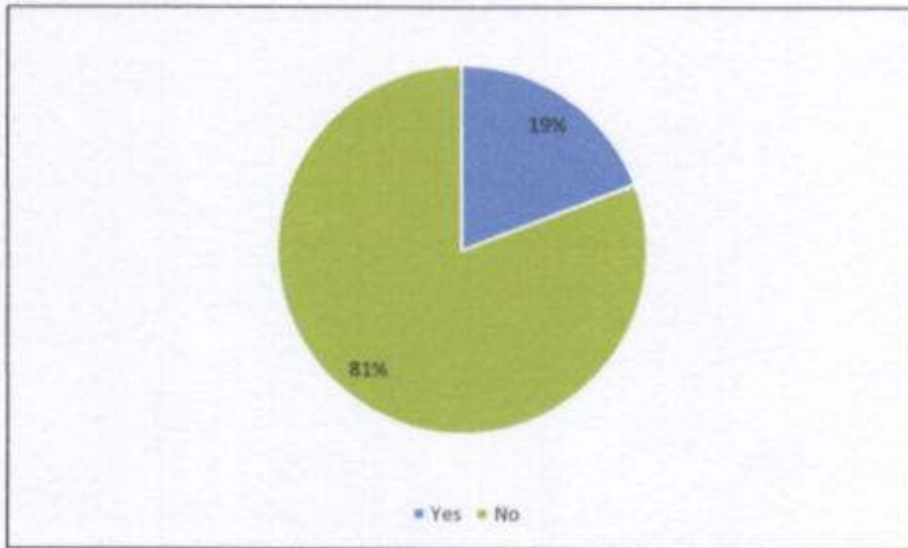
3.6 SECTION VI-SUICIDE TENDENCY

IN THE PAST ONE YEAR HAVE YOU EVER FELT THAT YOU WERE DEAD?



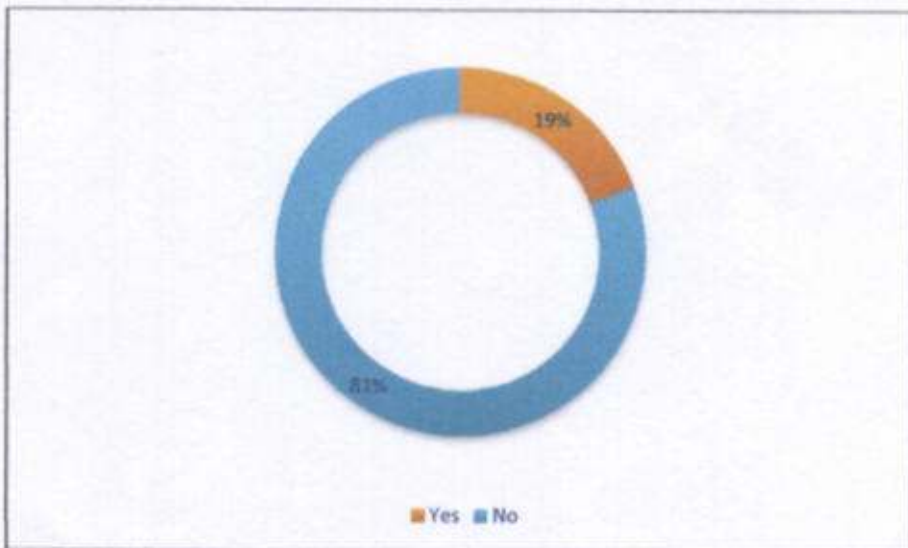
41% FELT THEY WERE DEAD IN THE PAST ONE YEAR

IN THE PAST ONE YEAR HAVE YOU FEEL LIKE HURTING/INJURING YOURSELF?

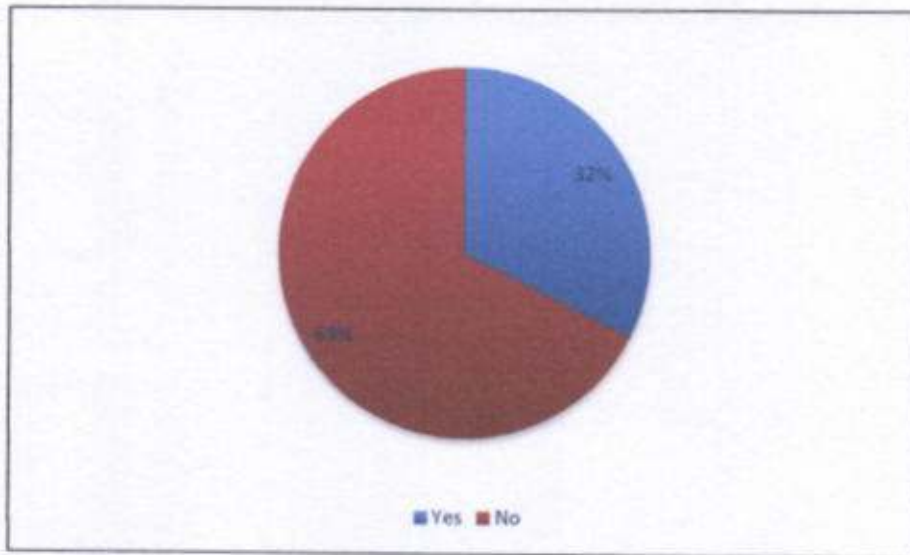


19% HAVE FELT LIKE HURTING/INJURING THEMSELVES WITHIN THE PAST ONE YEAR

HAVE YOU EVER TRIED TO HURT YOURSELF DELIBERATELY?

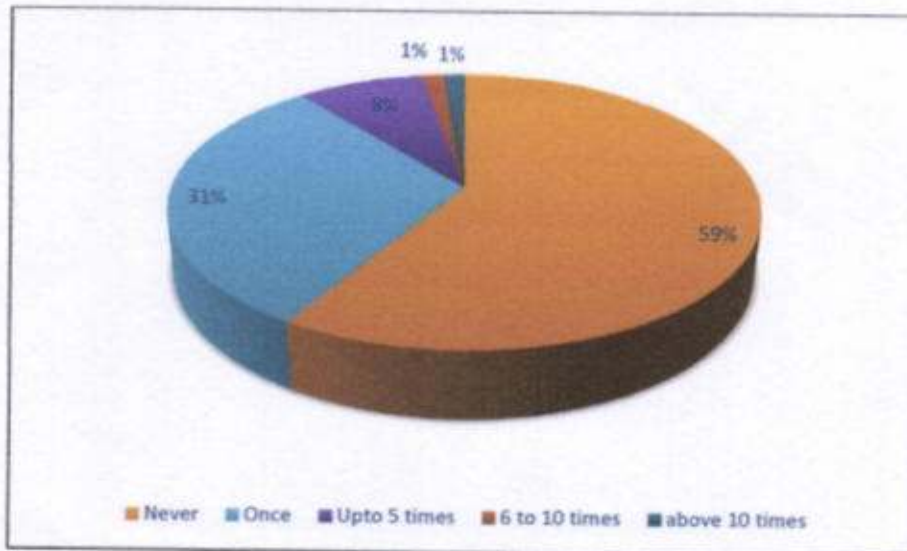


HAVE YOU EVER TRIED TO ATTEMPT SUICIDE?



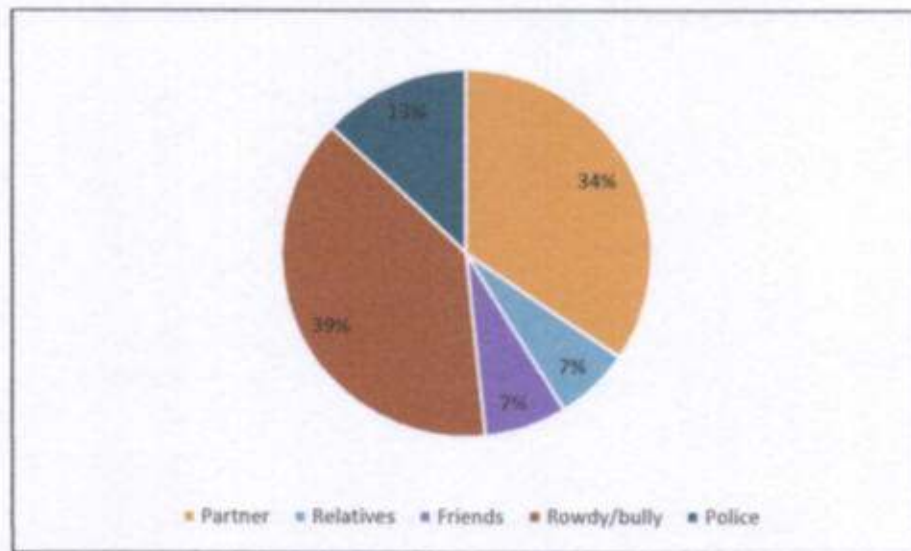
3.7 SECTION VII: RIGHT TO LIVE WITH DIGNITY AND WITHOUT VIOLENCE

IN THE PAST SIX MONTHS, HOW MANY TIMES WERE YOU HARRASSED OR PUT IN DANGER BY SOMEONE?

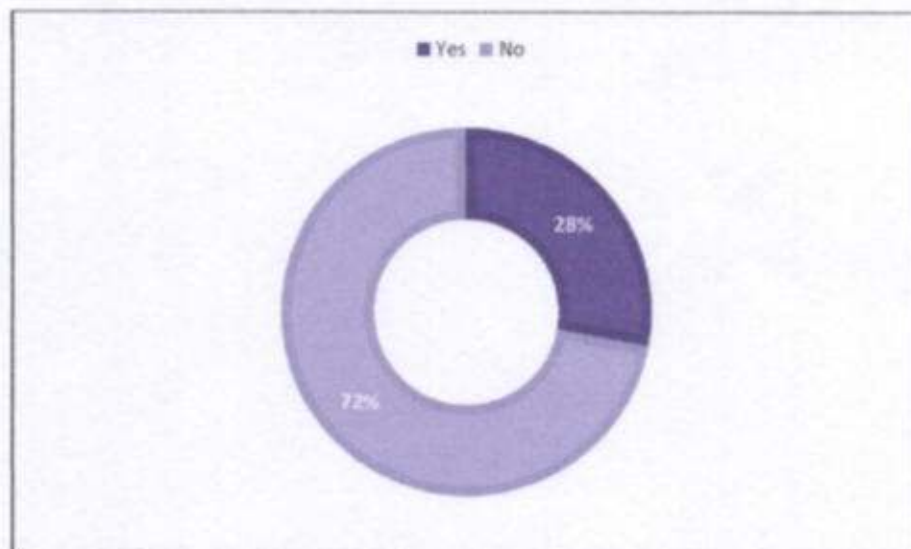


MANY OF THE RESPONDANTS WERE SUBJECTED TO HARRASSMENT EVEN UPTO 10 TIMES IN PAST SIX MONTHS

IF YES, WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE

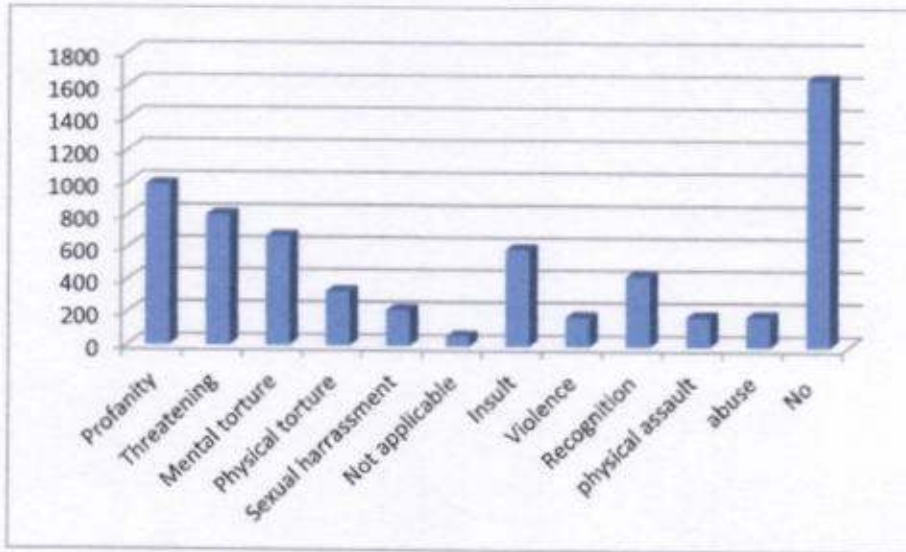


IN THE PAST ONE YEAR HAVE YOU BEEN SEXUALLY HARRASSED OR FORCED FOR SEX?

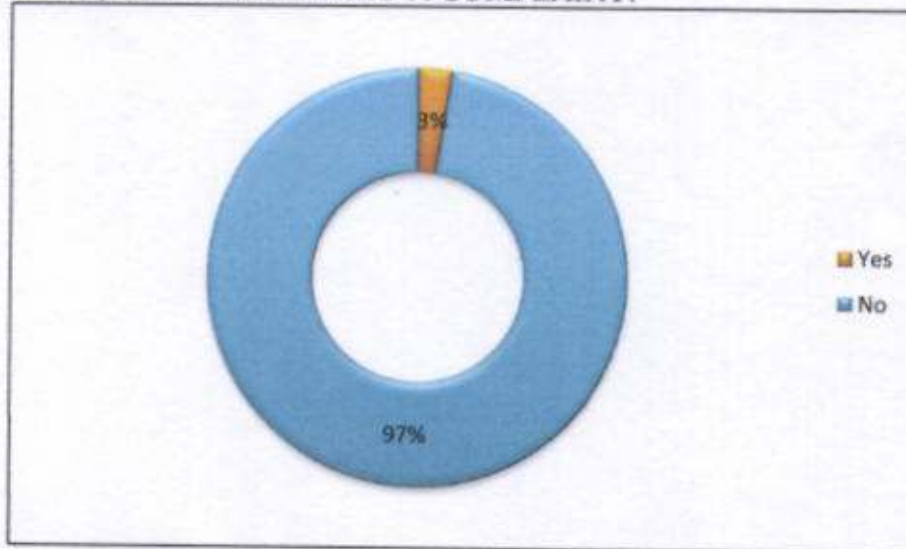


28% OF THE RESPONDANTS WERE SUBJECTED TO SEXUAL HARRASSMENT OR FORCED SEX

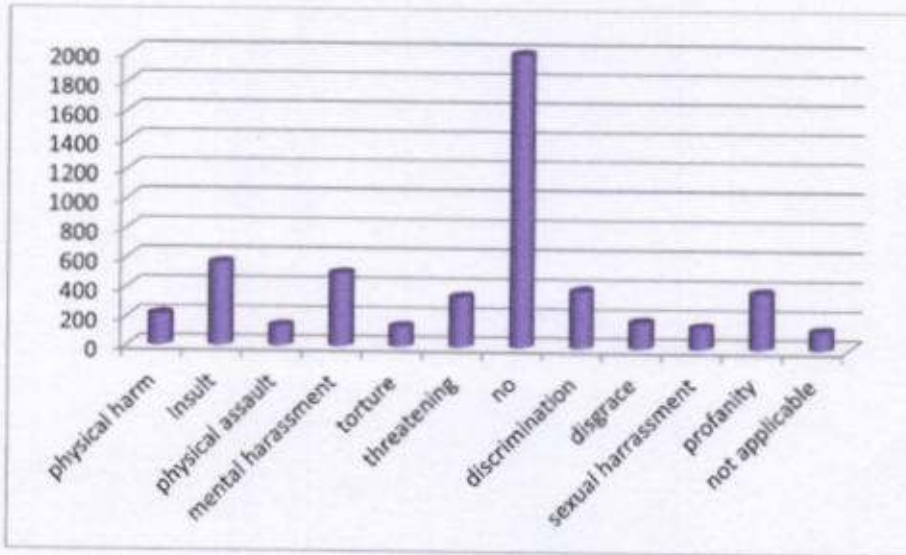
HAVE YOU FACED ANY OF THE BELOW FROM POLICE?



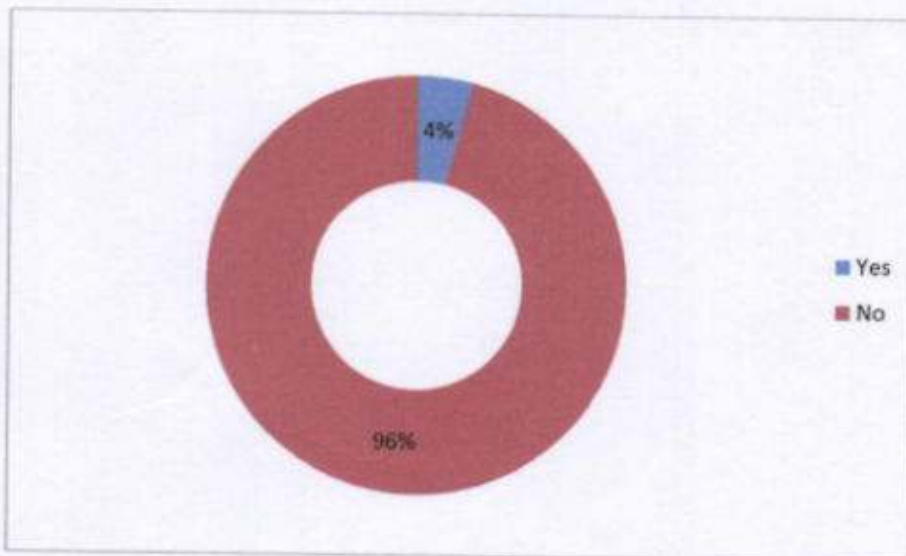
IF YES, HAVE YOU RAISED A COMPLAINT?



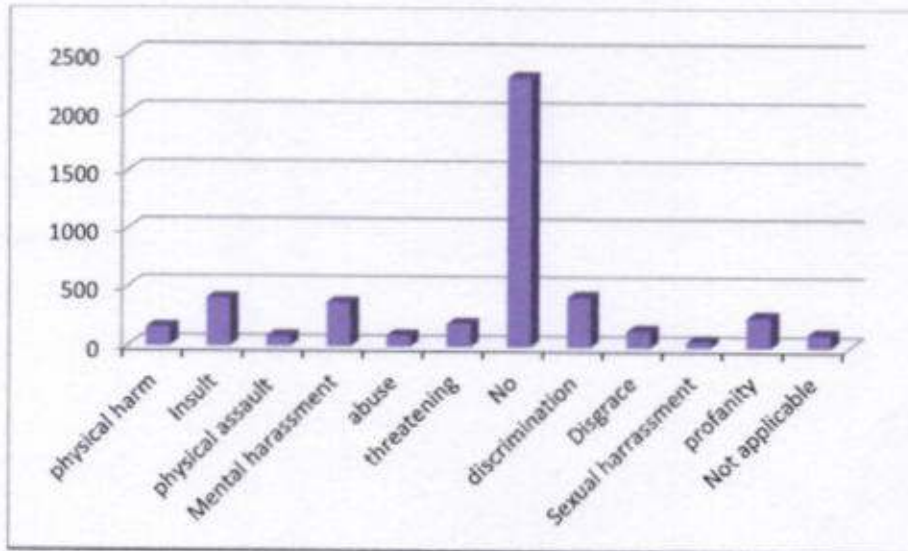
HAVE YOU FACED THE BELOW AT WORK PLACE?



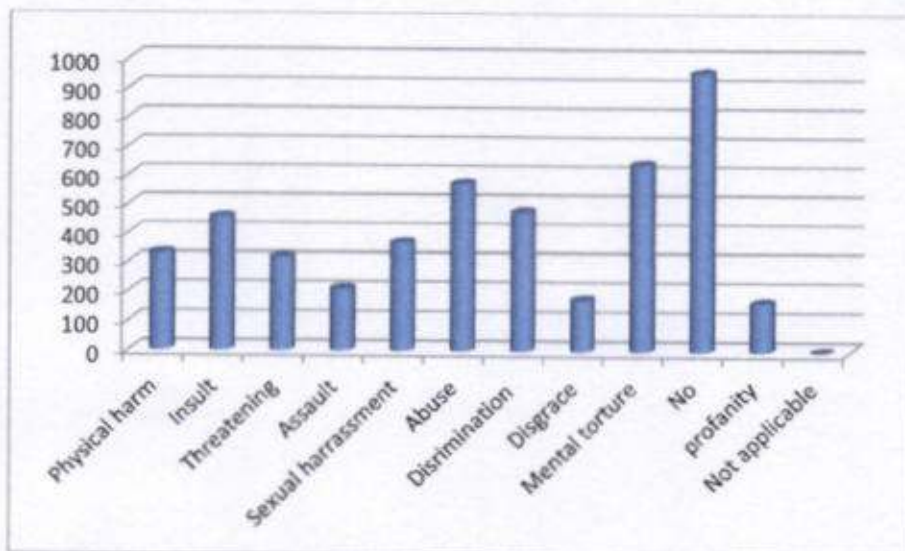
IF YES, HAVE YOU RAISED A COMPLAINT?



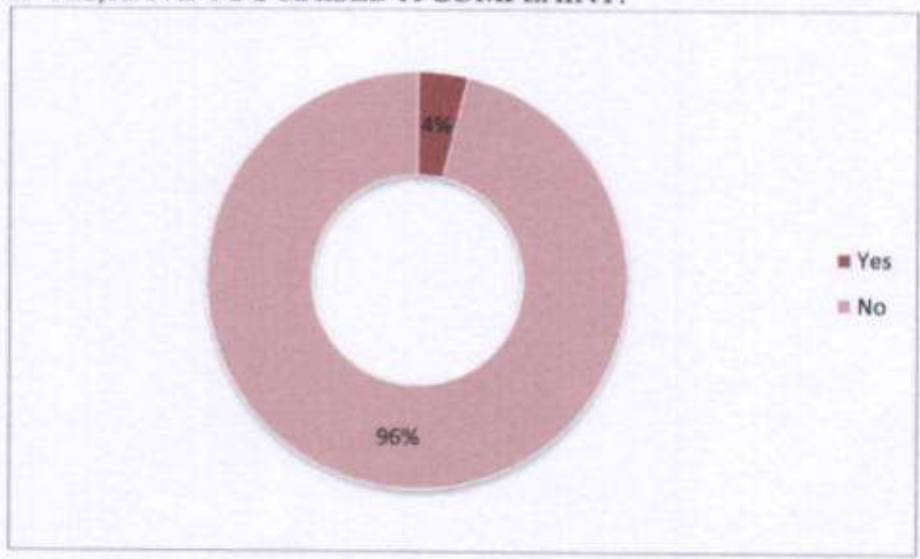
HAVE YOU FACED THE FOLLOWING FROM HOSPITALS IN THE NAME OF GENDER IDENTITY?



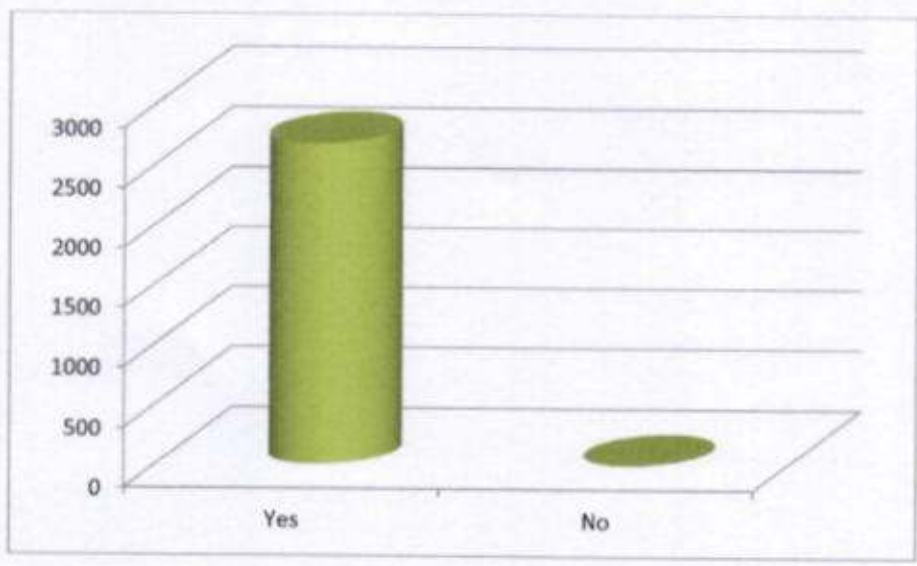
HAVE YOU FACED THE BELOW IN YOUR SCHOOL/COLLEGE?



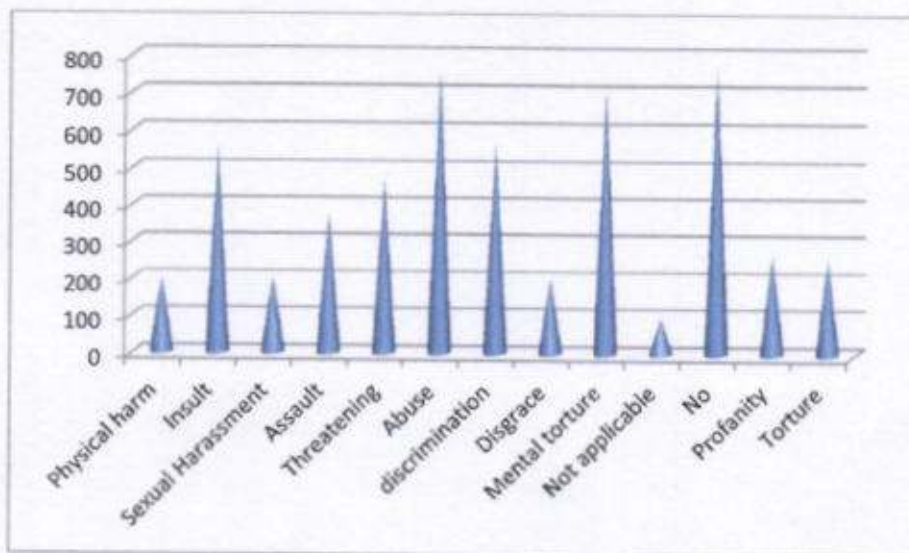
IF YES,HAVE YOU RAISED A COMPLAINT?



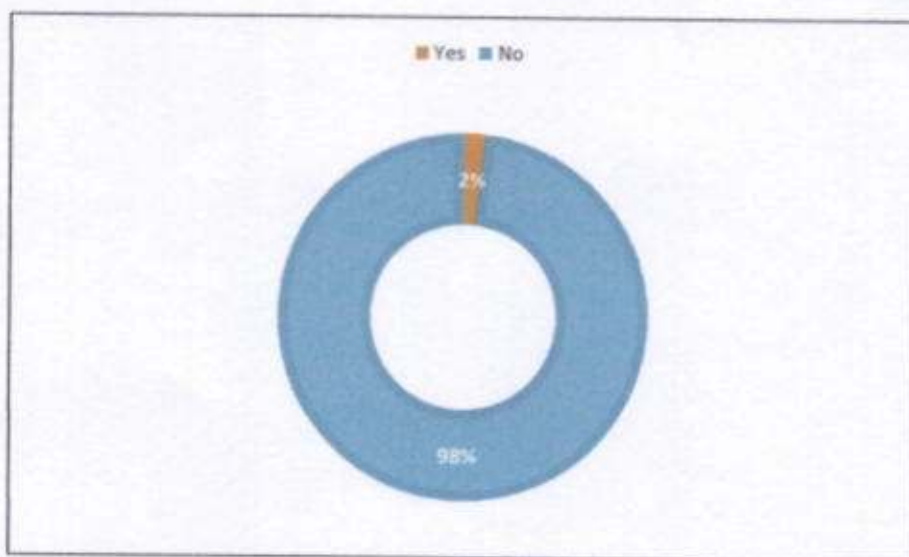
HAVE YOU DISCONTINUED YOUR EDUCATION DUE TO VIOLENCE /SEXUAL HARRASMENT?



DO YOU FACE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING FROM ANY PUBLIC PLACE BECAUSE OF YOUR GENDER?



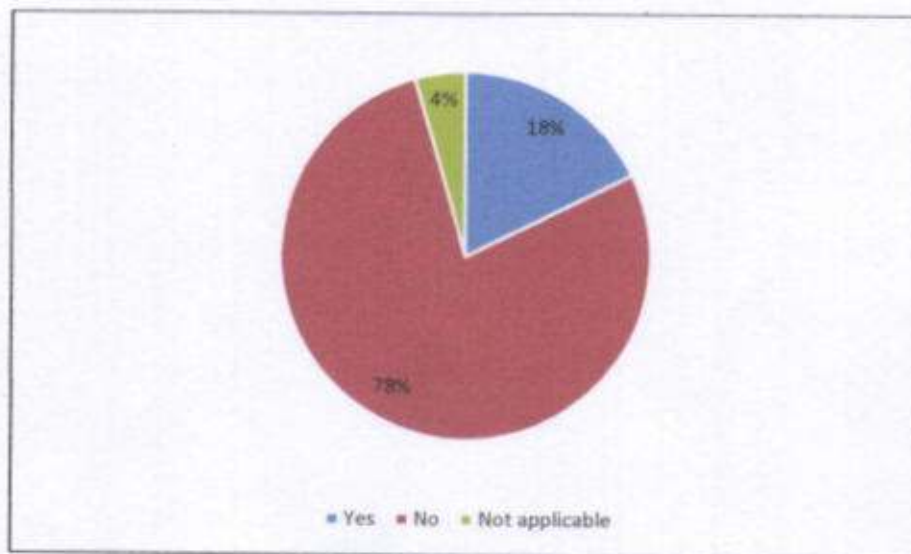
IF YES, HAVE YOU RAISED A COMPLAINT?



3.8 Section VIII: Equality to opportunity to employment

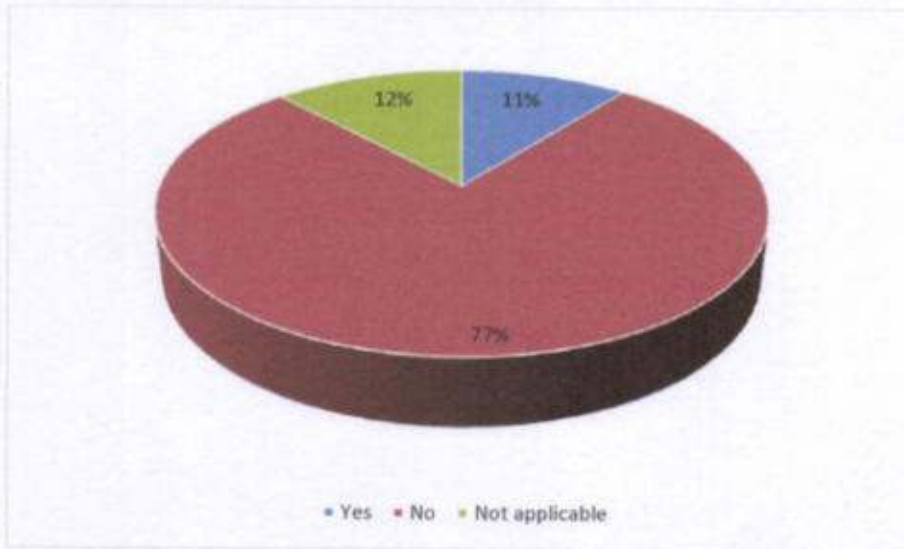
Transgender people are targets of discrimination in many areas of their lives; this marginalization exposes them to tremendous social and economic insecurity.

HAVE YOU REVEALED YOUR TRANSGENDER IDENTITY AT WORK?

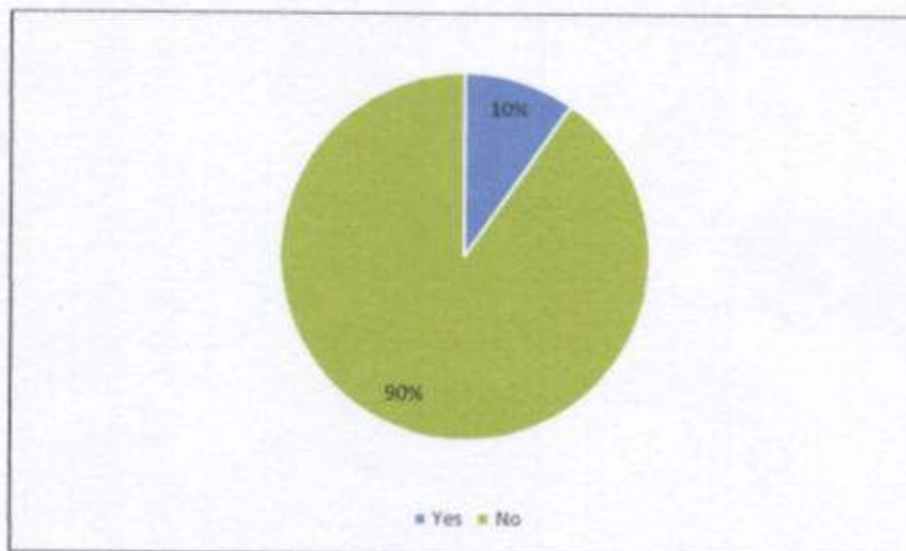


ONLY 18% OF RESPONDENTS HAVE REVEALED THEIR GENDER IDENTITY AT WORK PLACES. 78% DIDN'T REVEAL BECAUSE THEY FEAR THAT THEY WILL LOSE JOB BECAUSE OF THIS.

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN DENIED A JOB DUE TO YOUR SEXUALITY?



HAVE YOU BEEN DENIED PROMOTION IN THE NAME OF YOUR SEXUALITY?



3.9 SECTION IX: GENERAL SECTION

This section is aimed at providing the respondents an opportunity to express their expectations from the govt. for the welfare of transgender community,

suggestions and any other matter they want to express. The section contained the following two questions.

1. What are your expectations from the govt. for the progress / welfare of persons belonging to transgender community?
2. Do you want to tell any other matter not included in the questionnaire?

The suggestions given by the respondents corresponding to the questions are categorized as listed below.

1. Acceptance of transgender identity
2. Educational Reservation
3. Reservation for government jobs
4. Monetary funds for housing facilities
5. Pension schemes
6. TG ID card
7. Same sex marriage
8. Property rights
9. Adoption rights
10. Freedom for cross-dressing
11. Protection against violence
12. Care home for aged transgender
13. Awareness to public, media, judiciary, health sector, police and govt. officials
14. Transgender Welfare Board
15. Free SRS facility
16. Crisis Management Center
17. 24X7 TG help line
18. Repealing of IPC 377
19. Include TG along with female and male option in all applications
20. Separate toilet facilities at public places

4. SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Transgender people face injustice from their families, schools, workplaces, markets and shops, hotel front desk, doctors' offices, emergency rooms, public places, and at the hands of landlords, police officers, health care workers and other service providers. The gravity of the issues faced by TGs is reflected in the results of the TG survey conducted among more than 4000 community members.

The survey results provide a broad indicator of the issues as well as the status and problems of TG community in the state. It also provides valuable evidence of how transgender persons in Kerala experience bias-motivated discrimination, stigmatization, violence and harassment in different areas of life, including employment, education, healthcare, housing and other services.

Along with this another major outcome of this process was the unique experience gained by the TG community members. They got opportunity to

- i) understand the basic concepts of sex, gender and sexuality through the series of trainings by experts
- ii) participate in the preparation of questionnaire
- iii) frame the logistics for the conduct of the survey
- iv) understand and realize their issues through discussions in the community
- v) realize that the issues they face are not something that they alone face; rather faced by other community members also. This in fact is a psychological empowerment for them and generated a hope that these can be overcome through collective efforts

The findings of the survey are expected to provide the basic information for the state govt. to formulate policies, welfare schemes and other measures to ensure justice for the transgenders in Kerala. The summary of the results and recommendations coming out of these is outlined below.

4.1 SUMMARY OF RESULTS

The major findings of the survey is summarized in to i) Access to capabilities, Economic opportunities, assets and services, ii) Right to dignity & Violence against TG and iii) Right to Expression.

1. Access to Capabilities, Economic Opportunities, Assets And Services

- 58% of TG students drop out before completing tenth grade (24% drop out even before completion of ninth grade).

Reasons for this include:

- Severe harassment making studies impossible.
- Gender related negative experiences at school.
- Lack of poverty/special educational quota or reservation.
- For those who had to leave school due to harassment, nearly half reported of having experienced a negative home environment;
- 54% of the respondents had a monthly income of less than Rs. 5000/-;
- Only 11.62% have regular jobs;

2. Right to Dignity & Violence Against TG

- 52% of the TGs are facing harassment from the police.
- 70.3% are not confident to face the police;
- 28% have been sexually harassed by partners within one year;
- 96% do not raise complaints against violence because of their gender identity.

3. Right to Expression

- 76% are unable to register gender identity the way they choose in application form for an id card or other services.
- 78% have not revealed their gender identity at work due to fear of discrimination.
- 51% always hide their gender identity from the family;
- 81% who wish to change their identity have no support from anywhere for the changes required in their physical appearance;
- 91% have not changed physical appearance through medicine/surgery.
- 41% of them have felt that they were dead within one year.

- 19% of them had tried to hurt themselves deliberately.
- 32% of them had tried to attempt suicide within one year;
- 52% felt a need to change their physical appearance.

4.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations based on i) the findings of the survey and from ii) the suggestions and expectations of the transgender community members are given below. The recommendations have been finalized through community consultations and discussions with experts.

GENERAL

1. Ensure all Government Departments and public authorities to extend a non-discriminatory treatment to TGs.
2. Provide barrier-free access to education, public transport, health, social security, and other services.
3. Government agencies, including LSGs managing public places must ensure equal access to TG community
4. Include TG as a third gender in all application forms for services, employment, and other benefits to ensure benefits
5. Provide free legal aid to TG seeking redressal against discrimination and violence.
6. Take steps to prevent TGs from being punished or harassed for cross-dressing and their gender-specific behavior.
7. Providing opportunities for enhancing their artistic skills as well as facilitate their participation in state and other festivals to perform.
8. Every police station should amend forms to record and compile statistics of crime against TGs.
9. TG help line (24x7) and crisis management centre - run by the Social Justice Department with the help of NGOs (working in the field of TGs) and CBOs.
10. Action against parents who desert or abuse their gender non-conforming children and against doctors who undertake any kinds of unethical conversion therapy
11. Sexual assault, sexual harassment and domestic violence laws should be TG inclusive. The State Government should take action to ensure that laws against gender-based violence are made TG-friendly.

12. The Juvenile Justice Act should also address the concerns of gender non-conforming children and therefore the Act should be suitably modified/amended
13. Criminal and disciplinary action against persons of authority including delinquent police official in cases of violations of human rights of TG persons
14. Ensure the rights of TGs regarding marriage, partnership, living relationship and parenting within existing laws.
15. Ensure separate toilet facilities for TGs.
16. Equitable rights in public decision making bodies that affect TGs - social, administrative, and political
17. Those involved with the family court system should be educated about transgender community, their continuing ability to be good parents, and the destructive consequences of separating parents and children.
18. Adoption and foster care agencies should be educated and establish policies of nondiscrimination for potential parents based on gender identity/expression.

EDUCATION

1. Educational institutions/Universities should issue a TG Policy to address issues gender non-conforming students and TG students as well as establish an anti-discrimination cell to monitor any form of discrimination/harassment.
2. Educational institutions/Universities must include an option for transgender along with male and female in all forms.
3. The school curriculum starting with the upper primary level should take care of raising awareness of school students towards TGs.
4. The school teachers should be given training for getting awareness on TG related issues and to properly manage, help and guide gender non-confirming children
5. School counselors should be aware of the potential challenges transgender youth may be facing at home as well as in school, so that they can provide needed assistance.

HEALTH

1. TGs should be included in the free of cost health insurance schemes provided for BPL category of Central and State Govt.
2. Health insurance card should be issued to the TGs.

3. A fund should be established for Sex Reassignment Surgery (SRS) in Government hospitals.
4. All Govt. hospitals should have policies on registration and admission of TGs, training and sensitization of health care providers about TGs and their health issues.
5. Directives should be issued by the Department of Health to all hospitals to provide health care facilities to them without any discrimination, so that they can access all hospitals without hesitation.
6. Proper counseling to TGs about options available in relation to gender transition and proper post-operative follow-up counseling and support, should be given.
7. Separate HIV Zero-surveillance Centres should be established to address several sexual health issues faced by TGs.
8. Scheme on Provision of Food - BPL Ration food cards under Public Distribution System should be given to the TGs to provide food at free/subsidized cost.

EMPLOYMENT

1. Self-employment grants must be made available to TG to initiate activities related to raising incomes as well as TG Interests
2. Workplaces/ offices in public and private sector need to sensitize employers and employees on issues of TG. Anti-discrimination policies must be instituted and meaningfully implemented in the processes of hiring, retention, promotion and employee benefit schemes. Workplace sexual harassment policies should be made TG inclusive.
3. Respondents in this study faced overwhelming bias and mistreatment in the workplace due to gender identity and expression. Employment discrimination has devastating effects on transgender people and must be confronted and eradicated.