

Embracing Inclusivity

A Gentle Introduction to the Concept of
Transgender for Indian Kids





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Design Project (SDG Goals)

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WHY I CHOOSE THIS PROJECT

The Reason I choose this project is because looking at teenagers and youngsters around me, the problem they are facing or their attitude towards other gender is due to lack of gender education during their school days. In India this education was always considered as a taboo. It's also important to educate kids about third gender i.e transgender to create sense of awareness and respect toward them.

I feel this education is very important as by incorporating gender education into the curriculum, India can empower its citizens with the knowledge and awareness needed to challenge traditional norms, stereotypes, and discriminatory practices.

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OVERVIEW

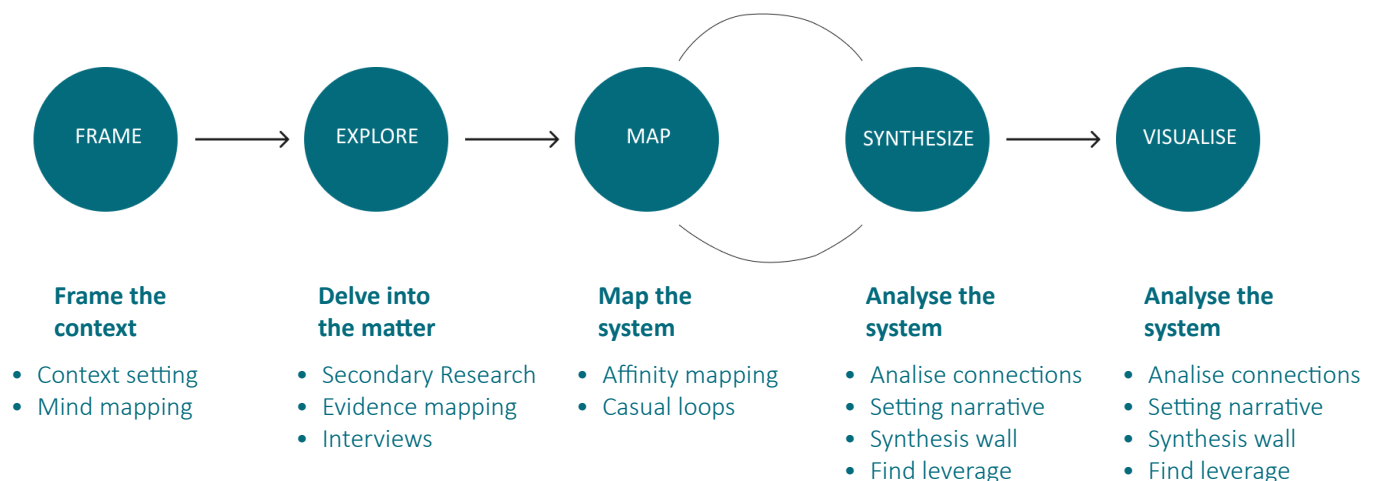
The trans community in India is one of the oldest yet most marginalised. Once a revered community, their current status stays as second-class citizens in post-colonial India.

Their lives are influenced by various factors including social, cultural, and legal norms that contribute to discrimination, prejudice, and exclusion.

The study aims to sensitise the viewer with a deeper understanding of their life and challenges faced by the community and highlight possibilities of systemic interventions for change by keeping in mind kids as target audience.

The outcome of this is an Educational Toy, designed for NGO's and schools to help them take initiative for educating and introducing the term transgender to kids.

PROCESS



RESEARCH

TRANSGENDER

A transgender person is someone whose personal idea of gender does not correlate with his or her assigned gender role.

TRANSGENDER IN INDIA

In the Indian subcontinent, transgender community is recognized as Hijra community. Hijra are eunuchs, intersex people, or transgender people live in communities that follow a kinship system known as guru-chela system.



HOW TRANSGENDER PEOPLE FEEL

- Usually, kids don't think too much about their gender. It feels normal and natural for many girls to be female and for many boys to be male. But that's not true for everyone. Transgender people who are born as boy feel they should be female, and those who are born as girl feels they should be male.
- People who are transgender feel like they're living inside a body that's all wrong for them. They often say they feel "trapped in someone else's body."

PROBLEMS FACED BY TRANSGENDER IN INDIA



HOW CAN ONE BRING CHANGE ?



Understanding Gender and Sexuality

Most people confuse gender identity with sexual attraction towards others. Hence Trans people are suggested alternatives of being gay/lesbian by their social circles. There is a need for awareness



Aiding Parent and Child Relations

Parents with children going through gender dysphoria need support in order to come to terms with and educate themselves. Impulsive reactions by parents and the child could be catastrophic.



Bridging the knowledge gaps

Lack of research on Transpeople has slowed down a lot of innovations in the fields of medicine, employment and policies. There is an urgent need to create systems to collect data to bridge the knowledge gaps.



Need for Gender diverse amenities

By providing gender-neutral or gender-inclusive facilities, organizations and public spaces can create a more welcoming environment where everyone feels respected, values, and comfortable which can promote equality and social acceptance.



Need for Educating about Gender from Young Age

Educating and introducing about gender and Transgender in India to help create awareness and fostering lasting social change for future generations.



Support through Transition

The person going through medical and legal transitioning needs support in a variety of forms. It involves variety of stakeholders like doctors, lawyers, etc along with tedious process. Co-operation from these professionals can support through process for the individual.



Need for Inclusive Language

Inclusive language is crucial in acknowledging and normalizing individuals existence and identities, serving as an initial step to wards acceptance and fostering lasting societal change for future generations.



Need for Platonic Safe Spaces

There is a need to create spaces that facilitate connections between cisgender and transgender individuals.



Opportunities for Empowerment

Hijra community has a strong hierarchy that forces the individual to be stuck in the vicious cycle of undignifies jobs. There is need to create opportunities to help break this cycle of individuals.

KNOW THAT CHILDREN UNDERSTAND GENDER BY KINDERGARTEN

Children understand the difference between men and women according to their gender expression by the ages of two or three, and they can identify themselves as a boy or a girl at that point. Sometimes their concept of gender will fluctuate, but by the age of five, children typically have a consistent gender and start taking on the gender roles used in their community. They will see toys and clothes as gendered. For example, they'll say a race car is a boy's toy and a tutu is a girl's clothes. As children age, their sense of identity solidifies. If that identity is not what they were assigned at birth, children can become anxious or distressed; that is why affirming a transgender child is so important.



Since gender identity is formed as early as between three and seven years old, waiting until after grade 5, or worse, high school health class, to discuss gender identity is too late. Ignoring that transgender people exist doesn't make things better for anyone. Kids are smart, and if you purposefully avoid discussing something, they will assume the topic is bad or off limits. We risk teaching them there's something inherently bad about gender diversity by omission. Making transgender a taboo subject can destroy the self-esteem of a child who feels differently from male and female stereotypes.

It creates "othering" instead of belonging and a ripe situation for bullying.



UNDESRTANDING FROM SURVEYS

In my recent survey, diving into conversations with adults in India about "transgender" topics revealed a wealth of detailed insights:

- 1. Diverse Opinions:** Among adults, the range of thoughts on transgender matters is influenced not only by culture but also by personal experiences and exposure to information. Some associate positive experiences, while others might have reservations.
- 2. Knowledge Gaps:** The survey brought to light varying degrees of familiarity with transgender issues. Some adults expressed a need for more information, underlining specific areas where awareness campaigns could be particularly impactful.
- 3. Timing Complexities:** Adults exhibited nuanced views on when discussions about transgender topics are most appropriate. Factors like personal experiences, cultural context, and age played roles in shaping these perspectives, suggesting a need for tailored communication strategies.
- 4. Communication Challenges:** The survey uncovered a spectrum of communication challenges, ranging from discomfort to unfamiliarity with suitable language. This emphasizes the importance of creating safe and accessible spaces for dialogue around transgender issues.
- 5. Institutional Expectations:** Expectations regarding the role of institutions in educating about transgender matters varied widely. Some adults looked to schools and community organizations for comprehensive education, while others emphasized the importance of respecting diverse perspectives in educational approaches.



This detailed understanding serves as a roadmap for developing strategies that not only respect the diversity of beliefs among adults in India but also actively promote empathy, understanding, and acceptance of transgender identities. It underscores the need for multifaceted educational initiatives that consider the complex fabric of societal perspectives and experiences.

DELIVERABLE

PROBLEM STATEMENT

Bridging Understanding and Fostering Inclusivity through the Introduction of the Concept of “Transgender” to Children (age 5-10).

EXPLANATION

In our contemporary society characterized by diversity and progress, a notable challenge emerges in nurturing a sense of acceptance and understanding among the younger demographic. An observable gap exists in their comprehension of the term “transgender,” denoting individuals whose gender identity deviates from their assigned sex at birth. Addressing this gap and cultivating an environment of empathy necessitates an approach that introduces these concepts to young minds in an accessible manner. By doing so, we aim to equip the upcoming generation with the capacity to honour and respect the spectrum of gender identities, thereby contributing to a more harmonious and inclusive societal framework.



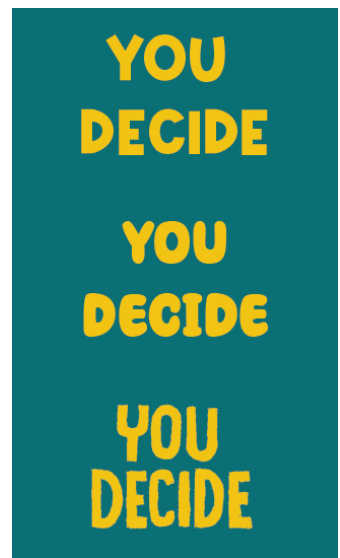
A LITTLE TOY WITH A BIG MISSION

Awareness of transgender rights has increased significantly in recent years, but so has transphobia. And transphobia is incredibly harmful, with research reporting that 41% of trans people have attempted suicide. Nobody is born transphobic, so to make the world a more accepting place for trans youth, we knew where to start: with a toy.

Through active engagement with this innovative toy, we have the opportunity to enlighten our younger generation about the presence of diverse gender identities, while nurturing an inclusive perspective for all genders.

This toy serves as a valuable tool to introduce children to the concept of gender diversity, with a special emphasis on transgender individuals, from a very early age. This early education paves the way for our future generations to develop a profound respect for all gender identities. Additionally, it creates a supportive environment for transgender individuals to embrace their true selves, fostering a culture of openness and acceptance.

Because you have the power to determine your own identity and expressing your true self. That’s why we’re thrilled to introduce our toy, “YOU DECIDE”.



STAGES IN THE LIFE OF A TRANSGENDER

HAPPY- Starts life happily unaware of what gender even is.

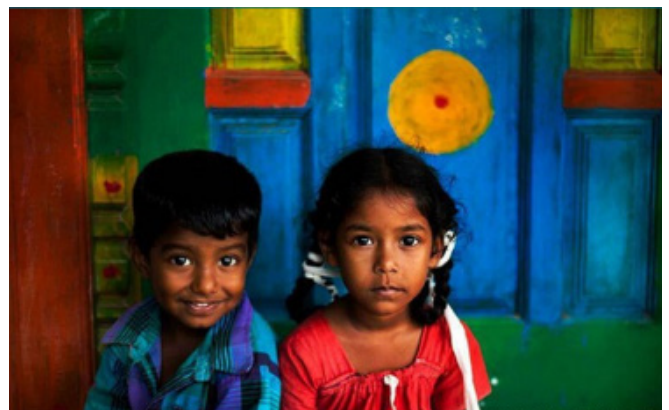
EXPLORING - Begins to explore gender identity through play (playing characters of father/housewife etc)

QUESTIONING- Starts questioning cultural gender norms and how he fits or doesn't fit with them.

CONFLICTED - Constantly torn between internal feelings and external expectations.

ISOLATED- Isolates himself from friends, family and school after years of not feeling accepted.

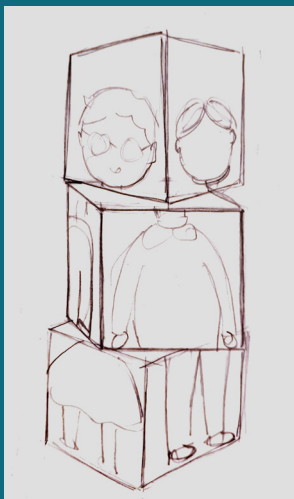
SUPPORTED- Finally feels accepted and supported in expression of their true identity.



MOODBOARD



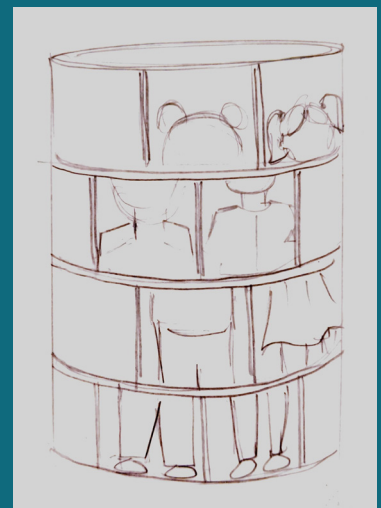
INITIAL STAGES



Arranging cubes with different gender characters according to you choice.



Each side has different stages of life of a trans kid which can be showed and educated using this toy.



Rotating the form with different gender characters according to you choice.

PROTOTYPE



FINAL OUTCOME

TOY



PACKAGING



