

TRANScend, an initiative by The Humsafar Trust and supported by Sapient India, aims to enhance socio-economic inclusion of transgender people in India. It works towards enhancing inclusivity and acceptance of transgender communities in India through research and intervention into the socioeconomic and educational needs of community, skills and capacity building, sensitization of stakeholders (corporates and educational institutions), and providing the pathways to accessing services like Aadhaar cards, PAN, cards, changes of gazette details (name, gender, etc), and bank accounts.

In its first pilot phase, the project was implemented in Delhi, Mumbai and Bangalore. As part of this pilot phase, a first of its kind baseline research on socio-economic needs of the transgender community in India was conducted using quantitative survey with 518 transpersons and qualitative in-depth interviews with 17 transpersons in Bangalore, Delhi and Mumbai. The research was conducted by community researchers from partner organisations who were duly trained in conducting scientific research by the HST research team. In addition to the training of Research investigators, two more capacity building workshops were conducted and a total of 63 transpersons, representatives from the partner CBOs and Transmen representatives from the three project sites, attended these 3 workshops on legal awareness, advocacy strategies, creating and strengthening Transgender Welfare Boards (TWB), effective use of social media in branding and running campaigns and effective interaction with print and electronic media. 163 transpersons were enrolled in 17 skill building programs in Delhi, Mumbai and Bangalore in the pilot phase of the project. An important part of this process was to sensitize institutions conducting these courses and ensure that the transgender persons are able to become part of the skills development programs without being subjected to issues of stigma and discrimination. Drawing from the work done by The Humsafar Trust to create awareness on gender and sexuality in health care set ups, legal spaces and with other stakeholders, we developed more specialized content to target educational institutes and corporations, especially around issues of transgender inclusion. The manuals created under TRANScend formed the basis of a module developed to conduct awareness and sensitisation workshops in the three project sites of Mumbai, Delhi and Bangalore. A total of 35 workshops were conducted (15 with educational institutes and 20 with corporates) with 1089 people attending these workshops. 557 social entitlement and identity documents were made for transgender individuals in Bangalore, Mumbai and Delhi.

The second phase of TRANScend, starting from April 2018, is aimed at consolidating the capacities of the CBOs on conducting advocacy activities and further developing their capacities on resource mobilization to scale up their advocacy activities. It is also aimed towards initiating a structured process of advocacy with educational institutes and corporates drawing from the successful development of manuals and modules for sensitization of corporates and educational institutes and conducting workshops with 35 such entities in the pilot phase.