

Recognition by Government

This section covers various identification issues viz, Census, Election Voter's Identity Card, Driving License, Ration Card, PAN card and Passport of eunuchs. At the root is the recognition of them as a separate sexual identity.



Census – The population census has only 2 categories of gender – The concerned officer visits each house and asks for the gender of the person. There is no place for the third gender. They accept whatever is reported. Parents mostly report female for eunuch children. For known eunuchs, there is no count done. Hence, an unknown population of humans exists, not only unaccounted for, but in limbo in a system where their identity cannot be recognised.



Election voter's identity card – Election Commission of India on 12 Nov. 2009 gave transsexuals and eunuchs a distinct identity. Instead of faking themselves as male or female, they can identify themselves in

electoral rolls as 'Others'. Enumerators and booth level officers will also be asked to indicate the sex of eunuchs/transsexuals as 'O' if they so desire, while undertaking any house-to-house enumeration/verification of any application.

Driving License – The author discussed this issue with a Regional Transport Officer in Kolkata. On conditions of anonymity, she confirmed that she and her close colleagues have so far not come across a case where a eunuch has applied for a driving licence. She said that a license is given when the applicant is medically fit and s/he knows how to drive a vehicle. They will issue a driving licence so long as s/he can drive a vehicle

and passes a medical examination. On the licence, there is no space for a third sex. The RTO will mention whatever sex is declared by the applicant (Male or Female).

Ration Card – There is no separate provision for listing sex other than male or female in ration cards. Eunuchs mostly mention female as their category. Issuance of ration cards is a state affair. Some states are considering the issuance of ration cards to eunuchs under 'O' category.



Passport.– Passports can be issued to anybody who is eligible, regardless of gender. There is provision in Passport Application Form (No. 1) for listing gender as Male, Female or Others vide para 3 of the form. Thus, eunuchs have a separate classification for the purpose of identity in passports.

Sports – For ranked sports, declaration of the gender is required. Males compete with other males, females with females. Ambiguity arises when an intersex competes, almost always as a female in the women's category. So in Olympics, Asian Games, and others at the International and National levels, participants are required to undergo oestrogen tests. On failing this they are directed to compete in the male category.

For more than thirty years until 1999, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has conducted genetic 'gender-testing' on all women athletes to make sure that they were 'really female' (this was done to prevent 'sex changers' from competing). In a number of cases, tests conducted on girls suffering from Complete Androgen Insensitivity Syndrome (CAIS) (see page _____) identified them as 'males' and disqualified them from the competition. These were truly tragic mis-identifications, since the presence of the Y chromosome in AIS girls does not make them males genitally, nor does it confer any strength advantage to them. The mislabelling of their gender, often made public, resulted in humiliating the women involved, worsening their gender identity crisis.

Atenas 2004



ATHENS 2004™



The gender-testing screenings were dropped before the summer 2000 Sydney Games. On May 17, 2004, the IOC announced that postoperative transsexual women and men athletes who have undergone sex-change surgery will be eligible for the Olympics if their new gender has been legally recognized and have gone through a minimum two-year period of postoperative hormone therapy.

The decision covering both male-to-female and female-to-male cases, came into effect starting with the XXVIII Athens Olympics in August 2004.

The following measures were approved by the Olympic Board:

1. Sex reassignment before puberty.

It was confirmed that "individuals undergoing sex reassignment of male to female before puberty should be regarded as girls and women" (female), and similarly those undergoing female to male reassignment would be regarded as boys and men (male).

2. Sex reassignment after puberty.


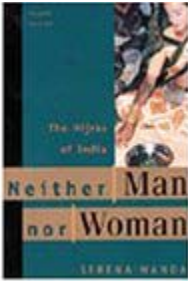
The group recommended that individuals undergoing sex reassignment from male to female after puberty (and vice versa) be eligible for participation in female or male competitions, respectively, under the following conditions:


- a) Surgical anatomical changes have been completed, including external genitalia changes and gonadectomy.
- b) Legal recognition of their assigned sex been conferred by the appropriate official authorities.

- c) Hormonal therapy appropriate for the assigned sex has been administered in a verifiable manner and for a sufficient length of time to minimize gender-related advantages in sport competitions.
- d) No sooner than two years after gonadectomy.

Since transsexuals competing in high-level sports was becoming more common, it was decided that a confidential case-by-case evaluation would also be conducted. In the event that the gender of a competing athlete is questionable, the medical delegate (or equivalent) of the relevant sporting body shall have the authority to take all appropriate measures for the determination of the gender of a competitor.

Earlier Study of Eunuchs

	<p><i>Eunuch - The Third Gender in India</i> Japanese text & Photos by Takeshi Ishikawa Seikyusha Pub. Co.</p>
	<p><i>Neither Man Nor Woman: The Eunuchs of India</i> Serena Nanda Wadsworth Publishing</p>
	<p><i>Lovemaps</i> John Money Irvington Publishers, Inc.</p>
	<p><i>Myself Mona Ahmed</i> Dayanita Singh and Mona Ahmed Scalo Publishers</p>
	<p><i>The Third Sex and Human Rights</i> Rajesh Talwar Gyan Publishing House</p>
	<p><i>Gendered Bodies: The Case of the 'Third Gender' in India</i> Anuja Agrawal 'Contributions to Indian Sociology'</p>
	<p><i>Eunuchs: Who We Are</i> Meena Balaji and other Eunuchs as told to Ruth Lor Malloy Think Asia Publisher</p>
	<p><i>The Truth About Me</i> 1. Revathi Penguin India</p>

	<p>Just Evelyn http://ai.eecs.umich.edu/people/conway/TS/Evelyn/Mom_I_need_to_be_a_girl.pdf</p>
<p>Video</p>	<p><i>India's Ladyboys</i> BBC THREE</p>
<p>Videos</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Child with an Intersex Condition : Total Patient Care 2. Both 3. Is it a Boy or a Girl? (Discovery Channel) 4. Hermaphrodites Speak 5. XXXY – A short documentary about intersex (online) 6. Yellow for Hermaphrodites: Mani's Story <p>http://www.isna.org/videos</p>