

PalArch's Journal of Archaeology of Egypt / Egyptology

TRANSGENDERISM, SOCIETAL DYSPHORIA, AND RESTORATION OF THEIR SOCIAL PRESTIGE.

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Dr. Muhammad Yaseen, Dr. Muhammad Imran, Dr. Ammara Rehman, Humaira Khalil, Farzana Iqbal, Dr. Muhammad Ayaz. Transgenderism, Societal Dysphoria, And Restoration of Their Social Prestige. -- PalArch's Journal of Archaeology of Egypt/Egyptology 19(1), 581-589. ISSN 1567-214x

Key Words: Transgender, Transsexuals, Change of Sex, Intersex, Khuntha, Hejira

ABSTRACT:

Allah has not only created human beings but also raised their status. As Holy Quran says **وَلَقَدْ** **إِنشَأْنَا الْإِنسَانَ فِي أَحْسَنِ تَقْوِيمٍ** and **كَرَّمْنَا بَنِي آدَمَ**. Modern days Muslims have forgotten these sayings of Almighty and divided the people into two categories according to their own will.

Born in normal.

Born in abnormalities.

The second type of people are called by different names i.e., Khunsa, Hejira, Transgender, Transsexual, and Intersex, etc. They are commonly called 3rd gender. They are humiliated in every society especially in 3rd world countries. Wherever they are seen, people give mocking gestures. The youngsters and children follow them and pass derogatory remarks for them. They are also considered sexual phenomena. The question arises in the minds of sensible people, what are their faults if they are created in this stature. It is the will of Allah, the Creator who creates them according to His Will. These people are facing insulting behavior from the people. Their families are not ready to accommodate them. They are not able to get jobs or houses on rent. They are forced to live in their communities, where they are forced to follow the commands of their gurus in order to earn bread and butter and shelter. Even they are forced to beg and involve in sexual activities to live. As a result, the localities, they are living, are suffering from aids and other fatal diseases. In modern days medical inventions have brought a revolution in every field. The diseases which were never cured are now treated effectively. People who are born in the wrong bodies can be treated by hormones therapy and sex-change surgery. Resultantly, they can be able to live a respectable life in society. This paper discusses; How sex is determined? societal behaviors with Trans genders, The behavior of the prophet (PBUH) with trans genders, the available treatments, advantages of sex change.

Determination Of Sex:

Every person has dual genes, which he/she gets from his/her parents equally i.e., one from father while the other from the mother respectively. In the initial stage of pregnancy, every baby is a girl because of the inheritance of X-chromosomes which are active at that time. But as soon as the baby reaches the eighth week of the pregnancy, the inherited Y chromosomes become active.¹

It is worthy to note that male always carries X and Y chromosomes while the female has only X chromosomes. If the baby got the X sex chromosome from the father, he will be a female and develop with female hormones which develop her internal system i.e., gonads, genitals, and reproductive organs. As a result, the baby will be female internally and apparently. On the other hand, if the baby has inherited Y chromosomes from his father, he will be developed as a boy as the Y sex chromosome produce testosterone and other masculine hormones which develop the mannish features like penis and testes, etc. in this way the baby is appeared as a male both internally and outwardly.

Thus, usually, a girl is developed with XX sex chromosome whereas a boy with XY sex chromosome.² However, in exceptional circumstances, the development of sex hormones that activate the determination of the gender do not work appropriately on the brain, gonads, and genitals and trigger deviations among them. For example, if the gonads and genitals determine the gender as male while the gender identity which is determined by the brain determined as a female. This discrepancy will be caused by the extra hormones in the system of a mother or with the aid of fetus's insensitivity to the hormones, term as (AIS) "Androgen insensitivity syndrome." This improper working of the hormones in the mother's womb caused gender dysphoria. It leads to other unusual disorders

¹ Solari, Alberto J. Sex chromosomes and sex determination in vertebrates. CRC Press, 1993.86.

²Shaffer, David David Reed, and Katherine Kipp. Developmental Psychology: Childhood & Adolescence: Childhood and Adolescence. Cengage Learning, 2010.83

as well, known as (CAH), congenital adrenal hyperplasia” intersex commonly called hermaphroditism may also result in gender dysphoria.

In one case the adrenal glands i.e., two small glands in a triangular shape, poisoned above the kidneys in a female fetus, produce extraordinary masculine hormones. As a result, the genitals of the female enlarged. While in another case the genitals are increased to such an extent that the baby is assumed as male at the time of birth. In technical terms, the main cause behind this ambiguity is either “5alpha-RD-2” or “17-beta-hydroxysteroid” “dehydrogenase deficiency” (17beta-HSD-3).³ There is still another term, called intersex. In this situation, the baby is born with two genitalia i.e., the organs of male and female at the same time.

A few of the signs of Trans genders are.

- (a) Vague natal genitalia
- (b) Very small penis
- (c) Clitoromegaly (an enlarged clitoris)
- (d) Partial labial fusion
- (e) Apparently undescended testes (which may turn out to be ovaries) in boys
- (f) Labial or inguinal (groin) masses -- which may turn out to be testes -- in girls
- (g) Hypospadias (the opening of the penis is somewhere other than at the tip; in females, the urethra (urine canal) opens into the vagina)
- (h) Unusual appearing genitalia at birth
- (i) Electrolyte abnormalities
- (j) Delayed or absent puberty
- (k) Unexpected changes at puberty.⁴

Societal Behaviors:

All the sexes are determined internally without the interference of the couples therefore such people don't have any fault in wrong body birth. But still, people don't feel their miserliness and blame them as they themselves created them in this way. Their families are not ready to accept them considering them a blot on their honors and dignity. In their families, they are sexually harassed and cannot find refuge with their parents who thought them faulty rather consoling them. For instance, Hossein M, one of the Trans people says that in his adolescence, he was confronted with a ton of fun by his grown-up cousins and children of his age. They additionally at times, took him to an unoccupied room and sexually violate him. At the point when his parents came to know about it, rather soothing him or finding any cure, they treated him all around gravely. Even his mom stated, "What have I done to deserve having a sick child"? She drove him out of

³ Cohen-Kettenis, Peggy T. "Gender change in 46, XY persons with 5 α -reductase-2 deficiency and 17 β -hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase-3 deficiency." *Archives of Sexual Behavior* 34, no. 4 (2005): 399-410.

⁴ Muhammad Yaseen, Asia Shabbir, MEDICAL RECTIFICATION OF TRANSGENDERS IN ISLAMIC PERSPECTIVE, Xi'an Shiyou Daxue Xuebao (Ziran Kexue Ban)/ Journal of Xi'an Shiyou University, Natural Sciences Edition, DOI 10.17605/OSF.IO/86W3M, Vol: 65 Issue 01 | 2022

her home.⁵ They are likewise treated in all respects gravely by ordinary people. They are viewed as a prostitute. The aggression, mockery, and rejection not only segregate them but also lead towards the withdrawal from society and atrocious efforts to suicide, drugs addiction, and self-mutilation.⁶

Transgender people have been facing exploitation and discrimination from police officials, religious departments, health departments, prison departments, school administration, and even from their teachers. When they approach them for help and protection, they could get very little protection rather very often they are rejected. One of the gloomiest parts of TS individuals' life is that they can't get legitimate assistance from the police if somebody hurts them. The police do not enlist their case. This gives courage to the common people to prod them. One of the Malaysian transgenders narrated her story once a man who was following her went into her home, assaulted her, tore open her shirt, and stole her cell phone. She went to the police station to report. They remarked that the man pursued her due to her sexual offer. She was advised to leave the case. As indicated by her the police never investigate the issue. She said that she couldn't rely upon the police since they constantly accused transsexuals if any occurrence occurred against them.⁷ They cannot get jobs even if they are eligible for them because of their transgenderism. Beka, one of the TS women said that she had been rejected for jobs multiple times by an international organization and other employers because of her gender identity.⁸ As a result, they are forced to join weddings and other social celebrations in the towns in order to earn their livelihood. They perform different shameful activities along with dance in order to earn their bread and butter. Their houses have become sex centers. As a result, the young generation is suffering from many fatal diseases. Presently in Bahawalpur, district of Punjab, Pakistan, I met many TS people who were begging for their bread. They told me that now the parties are banned by the government, the people are not ready to employ them. So, they have no other means of earning than begging. This situation is not only in Pakistan but also in other parts of the world.

This humiliation has become the part and parcel of their lives. Even the people of the medicinal profession do not comprehend their problems. They taunted them. Naz, one of the transgender women informed that once, she went to Port Dickson General Hospital, a government hospital, for the treatment of low blood pressure in 2008. She was insulted by a medical person. She said that on another occasion, she had to go to the emergency department due to low blood pressure because of overdosing on hormones. She was conscious half, knowing every matter. The apprentices and new doctors surrounded her bed. They opened her clothes pointed towards the breasts and questioned about her gender in a way

⁵ Sanei, Faraz. "We are a Buried Generation": Discrimination and Violence Against Sexual Minorities in Iran. Human Rights Watch, 2010 <https://www.hrw.org/report/2010/12/15/we-are-buried-generation/discrimination-and-violence-against-sexual-minorities> (March, 26, 2019).

⁶ Devor, Aaron. FTM: Female-to-male transsexuals in society. Indiana University Press, 2016, 306

⁷ "I'm Scared to Be a Woman," Human Rights Abuses Against Transgender People in Malaysia September 24, 2014, <https://www.hrw.org/report/2014/09/24/im-scared-be-woman/human-rights-abuses-against-transgender-people-malaysia>

⁸ ibd

that she sensed humiliation.⁹ The doctors do not like to touch them for examining considering them as lepers. If they have to touch them, they just touch their sexual organs irrationally. Male Transgender are not spared from such behavior. Ron, a middle-class TS male said that even he found many doctors open-minded in private sectors in Kuala Lumpur still some doctors do not hesitate to touch private parts. He then said about his personal experience, that once a doctor examined his pelvic area, nevertheless, he went there for other issues, entirely unconnected to the genital.¹⁰ Such humiliations forced them to start self-medication. Sometimes they take an overdose of hormones or other medicines which results in dangerous side effects. So, they have to admit to hospitals and have to face humiliation. One of the transgender women mentioned her bitter experience in a hospital in Iran. The whole night she experienced pain, rage, cruelty, and abuse. The next morning, she complained to the in-charge of the ward who just questioned if they raped you? She replied that they did everything except for rape. He responded surprisingly saying that you must be thankful to God as they did not rape you.¹¹

Sonia one of the 28 years old Iranian transgender narrated, “Everyone in school used to mock me, even the principal and the vice-principal. They used to call me sissy boy. I had nowhere to turn to. They told me I was acting like a faggot. My father thought I was playing with his reputation and bringing shame onto him. I used to cry a lot and felt guilty. I was in my third year of middle school when my classmates started sexually harassing me, fingering me, or forcing themselves on me from behind. Children would insult me, using vivid sexual language. Once, one of the classmates pulled his pants down and asked other children to call me over”.¹² The state of affairs in the boys’ high school was not much better for her. She further said, “When I was in my second year of high school four students pinned my arms and legs to [undress me and] see my genitalia”.¹³

On the educational side, most transgender students cannot access schools because of the illegalization of sexual orientation and discrimination in schools. In third-world countries, it is impossible for them to seek admission. In advanced countries, if they are able to get admission, they have to face extreme violence, persecution, and bullying from their classmates and even from their teachers. It is cleared by this report of “GLSEN” (Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network) the largest”, “LGBTQ” (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans & Queer) Educational Organization in the USA, stated, “Transgender students face much higher levels of harassment and violence than lesbians, gays, and bisexual students. And these high levels of victimization result in these students

⁹ Ibd, Human Rights Watch interview with Naz, Seremban, January 15, 2014 (accessed 27 March 2019)

¹⁰ Ibd, Ron (pseudonym), Kuala Lumpur, January 23, 2014 (accessed 27 March 2019)

¹¹, Kayseri, Soheil, Stop Reparative Therapies & Mandatory Sex Reassignment Surgeries, Homophobia, Transphobia and Health Care Abuses in the Islamic Republic of Iran, <http://6rang.org/english/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Stop-Reperative-TherapiesMandatory-Sex-Reassignment-Surgeries.pdf>

¹² Human Rights Report Being Transgender in Iran, 59-60

<https://www.outrightinternational.org/sites/default/files/OutRightTransReport.pdf>

¹³ ibd

missing more school, receiving lower grades, and feeling isolated and not part of the school community”¹⁴.

Prophet's Behavior:

On the other hand, in the early period of Islam, they were allowed to have an association with women because it was expected that they did not have a sexual interest like normal men. The permission was given them as Holy Quran says in Surah al-Noor, “And tell the believing women to reduce [some] of their vision and guard their private parts and not expose their adornment except that which [necessarily] appears thereof and to wrap [a portion of] their headcovers over their chests and not expose their adornment except to their husbands, their fathers, their husbands' fathers, their sons, their husbands' sons, their brothers, their brothers' sons, their sisters' sons, their women, that which their right hands possess, or those male attendants having no physical desire or children who are not yet aware of the private aspects of women. And let them not stamp their feet to make known what they conceal of their adornment. And turn to Allah in repentance, all of you, O believers that you might succeed.”¹⁵ During the prophet's (PBUH) period they visited his wives as well. They also played an important role as matchmakers. For example, once H. Aisha (Allah may please her) asked “Annah” one of the transgenders to find a suitable match for her brother Abdul Rahman.¹⁶ During that period they attended the congregational prayers, participated in jihad. They had the right of inheritance

But at the same time, some of the impersonate transgender were found. Who just disguised themselves in the shape of transgenderism only to get closer to women? They endangered the social fabric and incited passions with music and intimated descriptions of respectable ladies to perfect strangers, therefore, they were the main reasons for the banishment by prophet (PBUH). It is mentioned in Sahih Bukhari, “Narrated Umm Salama that while the Prophet was with her, there was an effeminate man in the house. The effeminate man said to Umm Salma's brother, 'Abdullah bin Abi Umaiyya, “If Allah should make you conquer At-Tā'if tomorrow, I recommend that you take the daughter of Ghailān (in marriage) for (she is so fat) that she shows four folds of flesh when facing you and eight when she turns her back.” Thereupon the Prophet said (to us), “This (effeminate man) should never enter upon you (0 women!)”¹⁷

¹⁴ Greytak, Emily A., Joseph G. Kosciw, and Elizabeth M. Diaz. *Harsh Realities: The Experiences of Transgender Youth in Our Nation's Schools*. Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN). 121 West 27th Street Suite 804, New York, NY 10001, 2009.

¹⁵ Al-Hilali, Muhammad Taqi-ud-Din, and Muhammad Muhsin Khan. "Noble Quran." English Translation of the Meaning and Commentary, Saudi Arabia: King Fahd complex for the printing of the Holy Quran (1996).

¹⁶ Rowson, Everett K. "The effeminates of early Medina." *Journal of the American Oriental Society* (1991): 678.

¹⁷ al-Buḥārī, Muḥammad Ibn-Ismā'īl, and Muḥammad Muḥsin Ḥān. The translation of the meanings of Saḥīḥ Al-Bukhārī: Arabic-English. Chapter, 114, 5235. Vol. 7. Saudi Arabia, Darussalam, 1997.

¹⁸ Muhammad Yaseen, Asia Shabbir, MEDICAL RECTIFICATION OF TRANSGENDERS IN ISLAMIC PERSPECTIVE, Xi'an Shiyou Daxue Xuebao (Ziran Kexue Ban)/ Journal of Xi'an Shiyou University, Natural Sciences Edition, DOI 10.17605/OSF.IO/86W3M, Vol: 65 Issue 01 | 2022

¹⁹At-Tirmidhi, H. M. "Jami at-Tirmidhi." English-Arabic. Translated to English by Abu Khaliyi. Chapter 27, 2038 Saudi Arabia, Darussalam (2007).

The Available Treatments:

When transgender people are not able to adjust themselves in their societies. They are expelled from their houses, so they are forced to have sexual relations with others in order to have a bed to sleep in. Ultimately, they become gays or drag queens and join their clubs. Hence, it is necessary to take some affirmative and concrete steps to save them from the hands of the fortune hunters. At presently two types of treatment are available.

Hormones Therapy:

As soon as the doctors diagnose transgenderism, they start Hormone Therapy at the first stage. It replaces the natural hormones with the opposite gender. The Transsexual women will be given androgens, (Male hormones), and men will receive estrogen and progesterone. (Female hormones) which develop the secondary sex characteristics. Extensive doses of feminine hormones will be given to men with the objective that the effects of androgens might be overwhelmed. Similarly, the mannish hormones, testosterone will be given to women. Once, this treatment takes place, changes will seem all-around rapidly. Their body will get masculine or feminine appearance accordingly. With hormones therapy the size of the larynx and the vocal cords cannot be changed therefore voices of both genders will be changed slightly.

Sex Reassignment Surgery:

When the hormone therapy is finalized the second phase of the treatment is started which is called "Sex Reassignment Surgery". This surgery is of two types.

- (i) Male to female surgery.
- (ii) Female to male surgery.¹⁸

It is the foremost duty of the parents to consult the doctors as soon as they found their children are born in the wrong bodies. They should not hesitate to take benefits from the modern techniques of treatment. These days medical science invented different solutions for these people. I discussed this with Professor Dr. Zubair and professor Dr. Mughees who told me that such people can be treated in two ways if they consult the doctors. In the first stage, hormones therapy is used. If it does not work, then a sex change operation is performed. They have operated a number of people born in wrong bodies. Even they have implanted penis made by the tissues taken from the arm or silicones. The artificial vagina. Both of the parts work properly depending upon the availability of the internal organs. Upon my discussion of what steps can be taken for the grown-up transgender people. They replied that if their internal organs like the uterus etc. are missing but have a vagina only for urinating, it can be functional. She can become a second wife but cannot produce children. The same case will be for males. Whose penis can be functioning but cannot impregnate his partner. Their breasts can be enlarged are removed. But those who castrated themselves can be restored. Some people might think that when they are not able to impregnate their partners what the avail is to change the sex. They should remember the

plight of those people and think that if their appearance is changed, the common people will not recognize them as transgender, so they can live with others in normal ways. Further, there are many men who have very small kids and do not remarry for the future of their children. Such women can be served as second wives and spend a respectful life. Such men and women can also be married even both cannot conceive children but can live in a society like normal people.

Permission For Sex Change:

Some people consider that change of sex indeed changes in the creation of Allah and a great sin. There is no doubt in it if the person has fully developed organs change the sex because only, he is not satisfied with it, it would be a major sin. But those people who are born in the wrong body can seek help by either means of treatment allowed in Islam as Holy Prophet (PBUH) himself allowed for medication on different occasion's e.g., Narrated Abu Huraira, the Prophet said, "There is no disease that Allah has created, except that He also has created its treatment."¹⁸ Another Hadith is mentioned in Jami al-Tirmidhi, Usamah bin Sharik said: Some Bedouins asked: 'O Messenger of Allah (SAW) shall we treat (our ill)?' He said, "Yes, O worshipers of Allah! Use remedies. For indeed Allah did not make a disease but He made a cure for it' - or - 'a remedy. Except for one disease.' They said: 'O Messenger of Allah (SAW)! What is it?' He said: 'Old age.'¹⁹

According to Abu Dawud the permission of operation was given by Prophet (PBUH). Narrated Jabir ibn Abdullah, "The Prophet (PUBH) sent a physician to Ubayy (ibn Ka'b), and he cut his vein".²⁰

These Ahadith validate the treatments of the diseases. Transgenderism is also one of the major diseases so it can be cured through medicine or surgery in form of a change of sex.

Advantages Of Change of Sex:

Change of sex is currently available for the wrong body-born people. If they get to benefit from this procedure, they will be able to spend a normal life like common people. They may get an education and then jobs according to their ability and capability. They may be equally treated with other children in homes and society. They may register their case in police and other legal departments. They may be well treated in the streets rather than jeering upon them. They do not perform dances in functions and be mocked and humiliated. They may not be discriminated against in hospitals or raped by the people. They may not adopt begging or sexual activities for their living.

¹⁸²⁰Dawud, Sunan Abu. "English translation with explanatory notes by Prof." Ahmad Hasan 1 (1984): chapter 22,3855.

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CONCLUSION:

Transgenderism is one of the grimmest issues of our present societies. We are far away from the essence of Islam and its teachings. Masses are fully unaware of the determination of sex. Even well-educated people either neglect this fact or show carelessness in the matters of transgenderism. None of us is ready to preserve them in our homes and deprive them of their rightful share of the inheritance. We propel them in hijra communities to become a burden for our societies. We should remember that we can never choose to be men women or transgender, yet we are born as one, and verily, God does not discriminate between genders, who are we to do so? Further when Prophet (PBUH) is allowed to seek medical treatment then why should we be hesitant? Finally, it is the duty of the parents, teachers, and generally of the society to educate our generation to respect transgender people, facilitate them. If it is possible the topic of transgender may be included in the syllabus of colleges and university level to educate the real concept of transgenderism to young generations. If the budget allows the separate institutions are open for them. Especially the government should open separate wards to treat them free of cost. The doctors should condemn those people to castrate those who have fully developed organs so that they may not become a blot for the wrong body-born people. The parents should be motivated to consult the doctors as soon as they came to know that their kids are born in the wrong bodies.

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