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**CHALLENGES AND LIVING PATTERNS OF TRANSGENDER:  
QUALITATIVE EVIDENCES FROM FAISALABAD**

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**Abstract:**

The marginalized community in our society is the transgender. They are facing a number of hurdles than the common person faced. The society discriminates them and shows violent behavior towards them. History shows that the transgender was not marginalized in the sub-continent in the Mughal Era. They performed different types of duties in the palaces. With the passage of time, they were kicked out from the palaces and they started living in the common societies. Now in all the regions of the sub-continent India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh, they are facing socio-economic issues. The purpose of this study is to dig out the socio-economic challenges of the transgender and their living patterns in the district Faisalabad. Qualitative research design was adopted which involved the semi structured in depth interviews. The researchers remained successful to interview the 15 transgender individuals. The results showed that the reasons behind their marginalized status are lack of governmental support,

lack of proper Education, Lack of Job Opportunities and Absence of Knowledge among the common people towards the transgenders.

### **Introduction:**

The transgender people have gender identity and the gender expression that differs from their sex assigned at the birth. Some transgender people who desire medical assistance to the transition from one sex to another identify as transsexual. The transgender is deliberated as the gender queer, intersex, cross dressers transsexual individuals. Different names are given to the transgender in Pakistan as Murat, Hijra, Khawaja Sara and Khusra. From the early childhood, by the society, they are treated and measured the derogative (Stryker, 2013). They face discernment where they live in the schools, at family level closing the doors of ethical employment for them by vulgar and discernment comments by school mates and inhabitants lead them to fly from educational institution. These people are forced to accept such resources of earning which in no case are possible in the Islam and are also not distinguished by the society. According to the law of Pakistan which ruled by the supreme court of Pakistan in 2013, there is no injustices and this non-confirmed the gender identity person have equal rights. The federal and provincial governments directed by court to provide third gender rights in all the fields of life along with inheritance, education, and employment. In different during this period, a department during this period, several transgenders got the chance to work. The socio-economic information is another extension in this achievement. Further study placed on the feedback of third gender views moreover perception into many aspects of third gender community. It is discussed that why third gender people exist in many theories, yet no systematic agreement is present there. Different types of philosophies are sited on medical grounds, cultural, biological, and psychological. How people identify themselves in different cultural, discussed in cultural theory, many cultures entitle our behavior depends upon their gender identity at birth time. It based on sex expressed in terms of chromosomes defined by Biologists. They are called intersex when chromosomes are not in normal order, may called transgender or may not (Davis-Kean, 2005). Lack of data of transgender population is one of the difficulties in addressing the problems of eunuchs. Number of transgenders is between  $\frac{1}{4}$  and 1 % of the total population is estimated in the USA. Transgender are not public that's why exact data is not available. In India shows rough estimates of 1,000,000 among billions individuals are another attempt to trace transgender. In Pakistan, there is very little documented about them but in India many other information are available. There are about 1.5 million eunuchs in Pakistan but there are no official records (Garofalo et al., 2006).

Whenever we study about transgender, we have come to know that some people are not actually transgender by birth, but they change themselves according to their own choice by medical treatment like surgery. A survey conducted by Young Adult Fertility and Sexually in India, which showed that there are 11 percent transgender in India according to the Government statistical data, but the other study which is individually conducted shows that the number of transgender is 490,000 which is six times higher as compared to government report. People enjoyed in the presence of transgender (Rema Nagarajan, 2014). Similarly, in Pakistan According to census report the total number of transgenders is 10,418.

### **Objectives:**

Keeping in view the significance of this study, the following objectives were followed;

1. To study the socio-economic characteristics of transgender
2. To investigate about their living patterns

3. To find out the challenges that the transgender faced in society
4. To suggest research-based recommendation for improving their condition/situation and making them useful segment of the society

### **Review of Literature:**

The rights of the transgender are emerging issue in all over the world. The governments of the developed nations have started legislation about their rights. Whereas, the developing nations still need to work about the rights of the transgender. Being a Muslim country, Pakistan should give rights to the transgender as it is mentioned in their religion as well but culturally, the society is conservative regarding this matter. Few important studies are discussed below:

Rajkumar (2016) stated that education is the basic element for the development of any democratic country (Lipset, 1959). Countries cannot make progress without the education of its individuals. Fundamental key approach of Law of India is providing equal rights and prospect to all citizens including third gender. Everyone has gender identity in India. In India gender is classified in three groups' male, female, and transgender (Rellis, 2007). A four year ago in 2016 Indian Govt. approved the status of Hijras according to the census of 2011 there are approximately 48 lakh transgenders are living in India which are facing social economic problem. In the earlier time transgender were respected in the community but now in the present era they are facing lot of problems like discrimination, harassment. After the decision of Supreme Court of India, Govt. will be providing the basic facilities like shelter house, education now the transgender will improve their education by getting admission in schools and colleges, as per role of Supreme Court there will equal opportunity in education and jobs. As we now that the transgenders are marginalized people and they also depressed of culturally and socially sharing and always ignored by the family members and people of the society in this study we trying to improving the knowledge about the transgender which reflect that what kind of hurdles in social structure particularly in education and employment further we are trying to know their status in Indian society (Kakati et al., 2009). The third genders are totally illegible in the community continually neglecting their identity they are losing their confidence they are stressed and they face in justice at every stage this paper also anticipated to show their problems and trying to recognize the social situation in the community the secondary data of this study discover sociological discover view point of transgender (MacDonnell & Grigorovich, 2012).

Atheque & Rajathurai (2016) explained that the Transgender people are marginal group in the society. They suffer from lack of continuity in their identity, the lack of self-esteem, overemphasized and unwanted distinctiveness and injustice at every turn. This study intended to expose sufferings, discrimination, and marginalization of third person, to understand the social position of transgender, to explain everyday issues of transgender and to assess support system of transgender through the sociology of third gender. This study used only secondary data to explore Sociological perspective of Third gender (Lev, 2013).

Rajul et al., (2015) stated in this research paper the researcher focused on the socio-economic problems of the transgender in Tamil Nadu and some methods to improve the status. This research is based on secondary data. All kind of secondary data are collected from the books, periodicals, research publications, web sites and official publications of Government and other agencies. In the research, research says, "Fight with the HIV/ AIDS there is a big volume in India that Indian Govt. can handle the situation and can provide basic human rights to the transgender to achieve this targets India should cancel the exception unfair law for transgender. To overcome all these objects shul be revoke present in tolerance law and pass

equal chance law on the bases of gender and sexuality fruit full changing of proper law should be approved and with help of different organizations and law force agencies (Sreejesh et al., 2014). To accomplish these goals, however, India must repeal current discriminatory laws and enact equal opportunity legislation based on gender and sexuality.” To attain all these goals must repeal current discriminatory laws and enact equal opportunity legislation based on gender and sexuality. In order to bring meaningful changes, formal legislation must be passed, and with the help of the human rights activists and unions, the legislation could very well happen along the lines of the recent supreme Court judgment where third gender are legally recognized as third gender (MacKinnon, 1991).

Previous studies show that there is a little work done on these problems. In an English newspaper Pakistan, a piece of article available which is written by Mahwish Akhter, she mentioned the answers which are related to the LGBT she said that “people feel as a distress and dishonor in culture of Pakistan.” There is no source of income except bagging, dancing, and singing etc. transgender are forced to live outside of the people societies. They have their own colonies or slums. If they are facially assault, then these people have no personal life security and social respect. Similarly, several articles were written in newspapers and documentaries were made to highlight the issue of transgender on country level as well as on provisional level. In case of sexual harassment no one is ready to support them. The Supreme Court of Pakistan 11 years ago in 2009 declared that transgender has equal right as other citizens have. The Supreme Court also issued the national identity card and declared that Government will provide free education, health facility and jobs but until now society is not ready to accept them as the respectable part of their society. They are normally engaged in begging, street walking, sex work and dancing on functions like birth of a child and marriages.

### **Methodology:**

The present research was conducted in District Faisalabad. In-depth semi structured interviews were conducted with the transgender individuals who are residing in in different locations of District Faisalabad to know their views and experience about socio-economic issues and their living standards in the year 2020. Target population of my study was different areas of Faisalabad particularly Aminpur Bangla, and Marzipur where it is reported that mostly transgender were living. Many transgender/Hijras are living in these areas. In total, 15 respondents were interviewed through snow-ball sampling technique. Interview guide was arranged for conducting in depth interviews. Several questions were asked by the researcher to probe the fact under various themes. The researcher recorded the answer in written form because the interview was conducted in a very conservative rural background and topic was sensitive. In this condition it was better to make notes rather than to record the answers. All the interview ranges from 25 – 30 minutes.

### **Results and Discussions:**

These interviews provided us the information about transgender socio-economic issues faced in the society and about their living patterns. These are following:

### **1. Demographic Outlook of the data:**

There are few quantitative facts that were from the qualitative data. More than 80% were male transgender because the male transgender ratio is more than female transgender in the universe, and it was easy to access for the transgender. Many transgender were in the age of 20 to 30 years and 60 % transgender were illiterate because of social hurdles. Due to relegation many transgender monthly incomes are 10,000 to 20,000 PKR. They are facing delinquent in social interaction in the area. Mainstream of transgender, who were respondents, told that society's behavior is very rough and cruel toward them. Due to this discrimination in the society transgender have no opportunities of job in any field and only source of their income is dancing, begging and sex work.

### **2. Lack of Basic Needs (Family and Shelter)**

Family is the basic institution for an individual. But unluckily, transgender also faced the different types of discrimination at the different level of their age.

One of the transgender Aima said that "When she visits the family members, she doesn't wear feminine dress. Her family gets worried about what other people will think about her. Different types of reaction she has faced in general society." One heart touching comment was that "my family did not own me. I was too young when my family left me with guru. They felt ashamed to keep me with themselves. They cannot introduce me to our relative and friends. I was a stigma for them".

Trawick (1990) presented same results that family members often do not support transgender. A variety of problems that include verbal and physical abuse, isolation and rejection, denial of family property is faced by transgender in family. One transgender respondent said that:

"I have not told anyone in my family about myself, because I know that they will not understand. They will probably not believe me or maybe get angry, and will never accept me as I am". The housing is another issue after family. It is very difficult for the transgender to get a house on rent. The respondents said that "it was very difficult for the transgender to obtain a house for living. In society, nobody wishes to rent out their house to the transgender".

### **3. Lack of Human Capital Formation (Education, Health and Employment)**

Education is also the basic need to survive in the society but the transgender cannot make choices about their education. Their acceptance in educational institutions is less as compare to other segment of society. The children and their parents are reluctant on their entry in schools. One transgender stated that "their education is not important at all. The guru always thought that we should earn something at the end of the day. In case of attending school, we cannot earn and this makes our situation worse so we often did not prefer to go to school". One of the respondents stated that "government is not offering any scholarship or financial aid for them and they are not investing for their education". Another respondent stated that "The right to education is a fundamental right and all steps should be taken by the government to ensure proper education for us and in this respect proper legislation should be made like in other countries".

They are not only excluded from the social mainstream but also from the health centers as well. There is need for social acceptance of transgender group in health institutions as well as in other sectors of society. One of them stated that "there is no space for them in hospitals for treatment. The people don't like them in wards. They thought that we are inferior to them and we have communal diseases that are harmful for them". One of the respondents added that

“there is no space available for them in hospital wards. The authorities do not admit them in women’s ward because women do not feel comfortable or free in their presence and in men’s ward, they face sexual abuse. Besides, there are no separate toilet facilities for transgender people in anywhere in the country”. Additional another respondent said that “we cannot make decision either we admitted in hospital ward of male or female”.

One respondent said, “The behavior of doctor and nurses totally changed when they know that the patient is transgender and do not provides proper facilities to them”. In the answer of another question regarding their health, the researcher asked them about their awareness regarding contraceptive methods. All the respondents said that they knew a little bit about contraceptive methods but they are living in such a miserable condition that investing in contraceptive is a secondary choice.

Similarly, Trawick (1990) represented the same result that sexual and reproductive health needs of transgender are often not adequately addressed. Most transgender person does not get adequate state’s support (except TamilNadu) for sex transition surgeries such as hormone administration, emasculation, and breast augmentation surgery. This explored the impact of discrimination and stigma on health care access for rural and urban transgender individuals. The also stated that the behavior of the healthcare staff was not good with transgender.

After family, housing, health and education, employment is another basic need and transgender are deprived in this field too. The transgender are not involved in proper job opportunities. They are working as sex workers, dancers in events and beggars. Appropriate and respectable employment opportunities are important for uplifting the life standard of this marginalized group. One of the respondents said that “they are not engaged in proper economic activities. Society did not accept them in respected occupations. Government should think about their employment in decent conditions”.

Rellis (2007) revealed that one of the respondents stated that “I had to drop out of school because of depression/anxiety. I have been unable to work and unemployed since. I now feel a sense of dread about finding a job because I am afraid, I will be discriminated again. That despite my intelligence, skills, and capabilities, that I won’t be hired because of assumptions they have about transgender/transsexual people.”

#### **4. Discrimination and Social Exclusion from the Society:**

The researcher asked respondents about the experience of discrimination that they ever faced on the basis of their gender identity. One of the respondents said that she never face discrimination she shared the incident of her friend who has to suffer. She was the only respondent who stated that otherwise all the other 14 respondents stated that they often felt discriminated in the society. One of them stated, “the people don’t understand that we are human beings too. They humiliate us very often and their face expressions changed when they see us”. Previous research shows that society often stigmatises and discriminate transgender based on their sexuality or gender identity. Social stigma includes being looked down upon, labelling and negative/generalised attitude towards such as sex work or sex solicitors. She said, “In every function of dancing few people verbally abused her. And one day she was physically abused by a man during walking beside the road. She got minor injury in that fight. This type of social exclusion from mainstream society also arise discrimination.” One transgender said, “Mostly people behave good about 75% people accept her presence and never harass her”.

The researcher noticed that the transgender are so much humiliated that their definition got changed. They only consider abused verbally, physically or sexually. They did not consider

them excluded if someone looks down upon them. They are used to of the public insult and consider it as their fate. They thought that they deserve this. They are not born for respect and love.

### **Conclusion:**

In our Pakistani community eunuch has very short space in socio-cultural, political sphere and economical participation. The eunuch community cannot get proper benefits and advantages from isolated and conservative social structure and social institutions. Transgender are unable to use authority or to dig out enjoy citizenship lights and their social institution, home or in society. Their living patterns are marginalized and it was difficult for them to fulfill their basic needs. They are living in hand to mouth condition so the investment in education and human capital is a secondary option for them. The first preference is to fulfill their basic needs like food, clothing, and shelter.

During the time of conducting research, researcher tried to explore the most valid and important information with respect to their character of hijras in the society. The information was evident from our study that most of the transgender are socially excluded from offering a duty and performing a role of a normal human being with respect to precedent social norm. Transgender people are bearing discrimination and exclusion at every stage since from childhood to old age. Even their families did not own them and they became stigma for their families. The attitude of the society towards them is unbearable. Their living conditions are poor and the area where they were living was not fulfilling the requirements of hygienic environment.

### **Suggestions and Recommendations:**

There are few research based suggestions that should follow to improve the situation of the transgender. They are like other human beings so we should treat them as human beings and the society should accept their presence. The family should understand the gender identity and should not make them separate from the other family members. They should be treated like normal children. Parents should take care the company of their children so that we can minimize the change of gender by choice. Government institution and local administration should support these families and should provide special assistance to poor family. People with sexual deformity should support financial, by this way they will be able acceptable in their own intimate and society. Government should give or share quota in job in every field of life so that they be able to head a normal lifestyle. Government should create awareness among the people at local level because the people can maintain a pleasure full behavior with transgender. Government should start such types of program in which knowledge can be built regarding AIDS / HIV to the transgender. The medical staff should treat them equally. Government should specify a job category that they can perform as it was in the Mughal Era. The government should focus on their education so that they can be the fruitful part of the society.

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