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**DETERMINANTS OF SOCIAL ADJUSTMENT OF TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY IN
DISTRICT FAISALABAD, PUNJAB, PAKISTAN**

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KEYWORDS	ABSTRACT
Transgender, Social Adjustment, Economics, Geographic	The diversity in religions, races, communities, and languages are more easily acceptable than diversity in sexual orientation. There is need of development in the area of the sexual identities globally and in Pakistan specifically. This marginalized group of individuals is facing social exclusion in the society, in terms of attaining equal social opportunities of the productive life. This study investigates societal challenges specifically in economical and geographical fields of life that are affecting transgender and their emerging issues. The study was quantitative in nature and use semi structured interview schedule as tool for data collection. The target population was transgender of urban area and researcher used a case study method to collect the data in person communication with them as per need of research. The transgender has risk of housing crisis and homelessness arising from rejection by family, neighbor force to left home, and members of local community. Government should offer them valuable jobs and secure residences.
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INTRODUCTION

Gender studies are important part of Sociological studies whereas, country like Pakistan, transgender is a neglected part in the research and society found it a taboo to talk about transgender. While, study of transgender group is very essential for the society as number of developed countries are now focusing on rights of this marginalized group. Pakistan is traditional country and male dominant society that is lagging behind in this race of rights for marginalized groups of its society. Keeping in view importance and need of research in this sector, the present article focused on this marginalized group. The main purpose of the present research was to check out effects of biological and socio-cultural factors that affects gender identity and its role in society. Sex is main biological factor including male, female and transgender as this factor is by nature not by the nurture. Human are helpless in front of nature whereas on other hand, society doesn't give space to those individuals

who are not male/female by nature. In this connection, the acceptance level is very low and they face high discrimination in society. Thus, gender is socially constructed factor and every society in different context define its own gender roles that they are expecting from their individuals.

Male and female are accepted sex and their gender roles are defined but third gender is considered useless in society and face discrimination because of their biological structure. In Pakistan, they faced violence including physical, psychological and sexual as well since of their gender orientation. Other sex minorities are also facing problems in such factors like; age, religion, ethnicity, and in the socio-economic status as well. These problems got severe for transgender individuals. Their gender orientation affects their access to the public services included; education, health, economic resources, protection, housing and many others. The gender identity and gender roles are different than biological sex (male, female and transgender) and every society measure it and assign it to its individuals. The transgender is further divided into two types and two umbrella terms are used. One term is "Trans men" who are those men assigned women by birth while the second was "Trans women" a woman who are assigned men by birth. The transgender is not included those who are masculine and feminine (Forsyth et al., 2014).

Background and Context

Transgender are not new in sub-continent. Their background moved to Mughal rulers in India and they were very respectable persons in their royal palaces. They were assigned vital duties specifically related to Mughal females. They had respect and enjoyed unique status at that time. Afterwards, British rule started, they lost their respect and discriminated. At that time, they were declared as criminal according to the act of CTA (Criminal Tribe Act) in 1987 (Liaqat Ali Khan, 2017). The specific term "Hijra" is used for them in Asia and in Pakistan, they are commonly known as "Khwajasiras". The transgender was excluded from society and they faced difficulties. They did not get respect and acceptance; neither from their family and nor from their friends. Majority of them were forced to leave their families and join the transgender community. The only livelihood options left for them were sexual work, dancing and singing in public gatherings. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), were working to support them in case of health diseases and other well beings. NGOs also supported them financially. People commonly believed that khwajasiras had the ability to bless or curse because of their sexual orientation (Faris, 2014). In Asia, they are engaged in prostitution, dancing, and singing, and they often dressed up like females as they give the impression of female. In India and Pakistan, Hijra are living in feminine gender role since of their third-sexual orientation.

Transgender in Pakistan

The transgender has been discriminated in their social life as well as in their economic life. Their only source of wage in Pakistan was performing in social functions. Some of them

were running their own business-like beauty salons, tailoring and few other feminism skills. But majority of them were not appreciated in society. The society only allowed them to dance in the birth and marriage ceremonies of the people (Abdullah et al., 2012). These all differences are created in culture of Pakistan but the religion Islam is not discriminating them on the base of their gender orientation. Islam gave them a sacred position in the society in time the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and Islam is securing their rights as well. This community was come into sight at tombs and shrines. This marginalized community considered as an active organization for their rights in society (Marmon, 1995). Pakistan is an Islamic country but still status of transgender is defined by culture but not by religion and they had no sacred place in society.

Socio-Cultural Factors Influence

The socio-cultural view of the society is a unique way to understand the trends of society. These views helped us to understand human conduct and let us know that how social qualities of the society effect individual qualities and conduct. Social qualities were vital to see other people behavior as well as to see themselves. The socio-cultural model of the study highlighted that media, peer group and family were the important indicators for the social adjustment of an individual in society (Thompson et al., 1999). We could not deny the role of sociological factors in averting eunuchs from the customary norms and values of Pakistani society. The study demonstrated that significant majority of this marginalized group was separated socially, financially, physically and politically as well. This group was facing physical, verbal, and sexually abuse in the society. In this connection, Eunuchs were engaged in sexual work for their survival and existence. Thus, in general, they were jobless however they were engaged in beggary, dancing and singing at functions, servant, and prostitution.

This study showed the conservative thoughts of the society towards the acceptance of this marginalized group. Even though, their parents were not accepting them as their family members and felt ashamed to stay with them. In this connection, the behavior of parents was also violent and intolerable. They were also enforced to accept heterosexist regime in different contexts. Their families beat them often because of their sexual orientation while they were not the responsible of this and even ban the child to enter in the house (Ahmed, 2014).

Objectives of Study

1. To explore the demographic information of transgender community in particular context.
2. To look at their economic activities and its effect on their social life in particular background.
3. To highlight the residential issues of under study marginalized group in particular setting

4. To suggest suitable measures for the right protection of this marginalized group in particular context.

LITERATURE REVIEW

[Richardson \(1998\)](#) studied the social rejection factors and how these factors effect on citizenship? In different countries, the law and government gave the choice of open life to transgender but in some nationalities like Pakistani, they were not the respectable citizens of society. The family rejection was big issue in society and transgender had no attendant legitimate citizens. The transgender network in Pakistan often did not get their rights; The police misbehaved with them whenever they demand equality for themselves. The decision of rights should not base on the sexual orientation of humans but it should be based on humanity and basic rights should be equal for all. [Bryan \(2002\)](#) mainly studies distinguish contrasts between different categories of transgender like; lesbian, gay, and others. They and their partner faced homeless as well as physical and emotional troubles. The young transgender individuals were forced to left their homes as they were often become the victim of domestic violence. They only had the choice to leave their homes and became the part of transgender community.

The people and society did not allow them to stay in their geographical boundaries like streets and colonies. This geographical exclusion is just because they joined transgender community. The results depicted that the transgender face a number of challenges on base of their sexual orientation. These challenges were exclusion, isolation, and discrimination by family members, in the educational institutions as well as from peer group. They were homeless and their family members were not supporting them. The school conditions did not help them to continue their education and they had no friends in normal community as people did not like them to be their friends. [Mottet \(2006\)](#) explored the challenges of transgender individuals, and discussed their experiences about their economic situation and residence. The shelters in United States were isolated on basis of gender orientation and transgender faced problems for safe and sufficient residence and homes. A number of safe houses were generally not safe for transgender. They were ignored and reasonable protection was not available there.

The people did not respect their sexual orientation. The researcher suggested based upon findings that the staff of these shelter homes should be trained to solve their problems and to contact with neighbors. The shelter home policies should be in clear written form like; the staff should respect the transgender, facilitate them, provision of better sanitation conditions and housing. The harassment policies should be clear as well. [Manzoor et al., \(2011\)](#) found that the Hijras were living in shut collectives who go about as person nuclear families with the Guru. They were serving guru and called Chelas. They were the source of salary generating for these gurus who were mostly with the same gender orientation but mostly elder than all. The expenses of running a family in Pakistan were considerably high

and it was increasing day by day in last few decades. [Altilio \(2011\)](#) reported that 90% of transgender were facing occupational discrimination and unemployed rate was doubled among them as compare to general population. Consequently, more than half of them were facing harassment during assessing public services. Many of the respondents were homeless.

The research findings showed that 41% tried to attempt suicide due to those issues and disrespect that they faced in their life. They lost their job because of their sexual direction and insight. The fact was that transgender individuals faced double rate of joblessness. 90% of them were dealing with separate attitude and lower facilities at workplace. Their education was low as their family could not afford their education as well as they were not willing to invest in their education. [Lenning et al., \(2012\)](#) found out that transgender was facing a number of issues in their life specifically psychological and financial issues. There was a relationship between change in gender and problems they faced. The researcher found that economic problems led them to psychological problems. In this connection, the society felt ashamed to be in contact with them and often they were the taboo in society. Therefore, their gender identity was complex and they faced discrimination. In this connection, the change in the behavior of people can solve the problem of transgender but change cannot be the part of the society until we would not study and perceived their problem.

[Nazir and Aqsa \(2013\)](#) studied the relationship of occupational status of the transgender and their abilities and eagerness to be the part of respectable professions. Most of them were uneducated that's why they were engaged in low level occupations especially that were not respectable in society like singing and dancing. Other better occupations and business needed their strong willingness and commitment as well as the education and training. Government should support them in different walks of life. Government can help them financially to solve their income and literacy issues and government should fix quota for third gender in jobs. The unemployment rate was high among them as they had no technical skill development and society did not refer them to be the part of respectable livelihood. [Sameeta et al. \(2018\)](#) studied the association of the demographic factors and success rate among them. Demographic factors included age, sex, education, residence, and the occupation. In this connection, the results revealed that there was no relationship existed among the above-mentioned demographic factors as well as the prosperity of the transgender.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The target population of present study was transgender individuals of District Faisalabad. The researcher interviewed the 20 transgender individuals from the urban boundaries of the city. The research was quantitative in nature and respondents were approached with help of snowball sampling technique. Semi Structured Interview Schedule was developed

to collect maximum feedback of respondents. It included both structured and unstructured questions which focused on their economic and geographical conditions. The questions included regarding their occupations and the area/housing where they were living and the problems they faced in this context. Each interview took amid 20-45 minutes to complete. All the interviews were recorded after the permission of the respondents and afterwards these interviews were written as it is and further translated into English language. Thus, classification and categories were made for responses. Classes were assigned particular codes and SPSS were used to analyze data. Exploratory statistics were used to summarize the uniqueness of variables. The results were presented in tabulated form and descriptive interpretations were made.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

In the light of data obtained from the quantitative research shows the following important findings of the study. Only (20%) respondent easily fulfill their basic needs but majority of the respondents (80%) having problems to meet needs. According to (60%) respondents they said that they have no equal job opportunity so majority of them (80%) have tension towards their financial matters. The most hazardous thing for the transgender is physically harassment/ sexually abused in our society. They discussed about this with great pain and told (95%) of the respondents that they face physically harassment/ sexually abused. (60%) told they joking and teasing behavior of other society members towards them and (85%) respondents shared that they are the victim of forced sex and some time they are paid or some time not. A very low number of respondents contacted only (30%), show satisfaction towards the government facilities provided to them while majority were found unsatisfied. Most of transgenders (60%) told that it was very tough to get education and enjoy other facilitates in community, due to discriminatory attitude they are excluded. Therefore, such uncertain circumstances create a horrible terror for their survival.

In this connection, (70%) of the respondent talked about their living that they are forced by their face families to left home, because they feel shame to live in the same home, this situation was very painful for transgender. Moreover, during discussing the living, (95%) of the respondents told they are feeling insecure in rented homes because they could not get the rented homes at suitable and secure locations. The results have been provided the significant insight about the phenomena under considerations. They are continuously forced by the neighbor to change home, if they get good location with help of property dealers. So, they face tortured or inhuman social treatment and some time they have to pay double rent for rented homes to live at peaceful locations. Only (30%) respondents said that they have easy access to politicians if need help, only (10%) have their CNICs and cast vote during elections. All transgender (100%) is agreed and told that the government should take step and start special initiatives like schooling, skill trainings development for only our community.

CONCLUSION

It is concluded that the effect of socio cultural on social marginalization and social life of the transgender, which is a result of on the economic status of transgender in Pakistan. Transgender in history working as harem keepers and court advisors its economic status has been on a decline but know profession in modern day is dancing, begging and sex-work and also earn from these professions. They do not have valuable good jobs like in market because lack of academic qualification. They face ill-treatment of the stake holders and the teasing behavior of the colleagues. Even they were not able to full fill their basic needs ad they also confront harassment n financial demand. The transgender has risk of housing crisis and homelessness arising from rejection by family, neighbors force to left home, and also members of their local community. The owner of the house force to pay double rent of the house. If government solves their problems geographical and financial make their life comfortable and productive for society.

Recommendation

1. The government should organize awareness programs and targeted population should be family, educational institutions, as well as the general public so that they can understand the biological differences as well as gender orientation and respect these differences.
2. The government should provide financial assistance for transgender children like scholarships for their studies, books, hostel facilities. They should seek loans then push up small-scale businesses like fruit sellers/vegetable vendors. The government should provide financial assistance and support and micro-credit facilities when they are young.
3. The government should support them financially as they cannot work in their old age and don't have any other respectable source of earning. Society must also be contributed to the fulfillment of their basic needs like; food, shelter, clothing and affection, as well as respect for them without any discrimination of their biological differences.
4. The private sector like industry should also contribute to this affair by offering good jobs to them, a safe working environment and moral encouragement to earn with respect. All the stakeholders of society including government, non-government organizations, community, industry, employers, political councils, and religious leaders should make efforts for the rights of transgender.
5. The law enforcement agencies should protect the transgender from any kind of the violence and misbehave based on their gender. Therefore, in the case of violent victimization, strict actions should be taken against criminals that can be a lesson for the future.
6. Similarly, safe shelter homes should be built for them where they can stay with protection and safety as mostly, they lived with their gurus in the unhygienic and insecure areas.

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