

# Transgenders, a Marginalized Community and Their Exclusion: a Study

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## Abstract:

*In our society every adultone knows that 'who isTransgender(kinnar/Hijra)'. In Indian society transgenders are the propitious face, Indians call them at the home on auspicious occasions totake their blessings, but peopleafraidof discussing openly about them, minimum number ofdebates are organized by educational institutes, NGOs, governmental and semi governmental organizations. This community is highly marginalized and excluded, they don't have space in Indian constitution and have no rights like- right to property, right to adoption, human rights and other general rights. Transgenders abandon by their natal family and never face them again in the whole life. Researcher thinks the ABANDONMENT is the leading factor for marginalization and exclusion. This article is the part of researcher's thesis titled "Social Exclusion of Transgender in India : A Contemporary study in Agra.In this article only one aspect has touched that family is responsible for their marginalization, discrimination and exclusion.*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Transgenders are those persons whose gender identity doesn't match with biological sex and differ from normal men and women. So transgender community let into those people whose identity and patterns of behavior don't indulgent to stereotypical gender norms. Transgender is an umbrella term that is used to explain a wide range of identity and behavior of sexually different persons. It includes transsexual, transvestite, male and female cross dressers, regardless of sexual orientation, intersex etc. Transgenders don't have physical sex characteristics. In Indian society, transgenders are commonly known as Hijra, kinnar, eunuch, chhakka (in slang language) and also third gender (this word is given by Supreme Court in April, 2014). In Indian society transgender/ hijra is a symbol of fortune. They wear colourful saris, ladies ornaments, make over the face and behave like female. But Transgenders spend their whole life without family support because their family disown in their childhood and hand over to other community (transgender community).

## II. DEFINITIONS

There are some definitions which help to understand the word 'Transgender / Hijra.....

- According to Merriam Webster dictionary , Hijra is, 1- A castrated man placed in charges of a harem or employed as a chamberlain in a palace, 2- A man deprived of the testes or external genitals, 3- One that lacks of virility or power.
- According to Oxford English Dictionary, Hijra is, 1- A man who has been castrated, especially (in the past) one employed to guard the women's living areas at an oriental court, 2- An ineffectual person- thus we may have a nation of political eunuchs.
- According to Motmans, Transgender , a) Anyone who is part of the transgender community; b) A person whose gender identity and /or gender role is different than expected by society in the physical sex of that person, c) An individual who chooses (regular or always) to live in the role that is supposed to belong with the opposite sex (transgender), d) Someone whose gender identity is between a transvestite identity and a transsexual identity.
- Well known supreme court advocate Ms. Laxmi Narayan Tripathi says, A Hijra is someone who is feminine but not a woman, masculine but not a man, a person beyond the boxes of man and woman . The person who follows the rules and regulations of the community, has a guru lives in feminine attire, may not be castrated.
- Very small and noble definition gave by Sarene Nanda, he says about the transgender "Neither man nor woman".

Above definitions explain that 'transgender/hijra' is that human being who has characteristics of both gender i.e. masculine and feminine. Masculine person is physically male who may be castrated or not whereas feminine is physically female. Transgender/ hijra's body that type of body in which female mind traps in

male body therefore transgender behaves like female.

### III. LITERATURE REVIEW

Before starting the research work, researcher studied many articles and field studies, those are from every part of India, and show many troubles of transgenders which they faced in daily life, but researcher noticed one thing that a little studies touched family Abandonment aspect. Here is the summary of some articles / studies.

1- **HARVEY (2008)**, said in his study that since the birth, hijra faces family and society detestations. They strive for acceptance of the family and society too. When the truth of a hijra discloses in front of family, then family forced for leave the home. Due to the pressure of the family they abandon their parental family and start to live far from the home.

2- **UNG LOH (2014)**, consider that, A hijra community is build up when many hijras leaving their homes. There are so many reasons that's why many hijras join this community, a) parents give their baby to hijra groups due to the fear of society, b) adolescents join this group with own willing because they face familial rejection, c) other join this community after becoming adult and even after marriage. In the community Hijras give support and love to each other and even protect to each other from social misbehave & violence.

3- **DUTT (2002)**, said in his article that Hijras walk all around in the society for searching hijra baby and if they conform, they deprive that baby from parents forcibly, the parental family also abandon that baby to avoid the disgrace of society. Hijra community brings up that baby in own society in own manners. Hijras say that we had no space in parental home, this community accept us and allows to live what we want.

Aforementioned literatures show that Transgenders are highly marginalized community in Indian society. They don't have respectful social status. This community faces so many types of discrimination, exploitations and other problems. Whereas family is the most important for growth and progress for every personality but this prime factor is still missing from the eyes of researchers.

So now question arises, what is family and how much important is it for a person? In general awareness, family is a unit of parents and their children, they live together, eat together and share the happiness and sorrow with one-another. Parents provide a place where every child live safely and can enjoy his/her life without any fear. A famous socialist MURDOCK found in his study, 'There is

no society in the world where family is not found therefore family is universal'. He defined that "family is a social group and the attributes of family are reproduction, common residence and economic co-operations". Another thinker, MALINOWASKI says, "family is only a single group that man has brought since animal stage". According to MAC IVER & PAGE, he is also well known socialist, "family is defined by adequate sexual relations and family manages reproduction activities and nurture of kids". On the behalf of these definitions, we can say that family is a social group where parents and kids live together and parents bring up their kids with co-operations and love. Family teaches to their children how to behave with others and make social human being from biological human being through socialization. So this is necessary to explain 'what is socialization'. Socialization is a process of learning by which a human learns and internalizes social norms and values. In this way, family is the primary agency of socialization. Parents teach kids to walk, to eat, to drink, to talk and so on activities. They give emotional, educational, economic support to child because a kid can't grow without family support. But transgenders live, without any support of family, in different community.

Let's have a look of researcher's own study, which has been conducted in Agra in June & July, 2017. Researcher interviewed 27 transgenders in the span of field work and used interview schedule with the help of snow ball technique. Snow ball is a data collection technique in which someone tells about the unit of research/study and that unit again tells about other units of research/study. This process still continues while adequate units of research do not collect. Researcher approaches only one aspect in this article which is most stately for transgender's exclusion in Indian society. No one thinks about when a family abandons his new born child or of 2-3 year going child due to society curse, how can a child grow without family or any support?

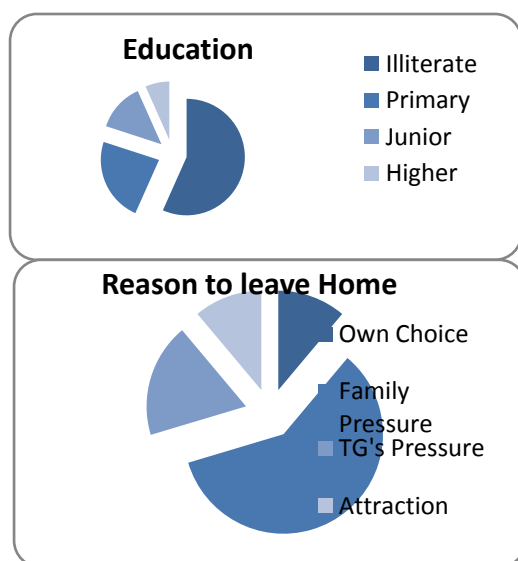
Here are 4 tables and in each tables 3 questions have been put. Besides some general replies transgenders give other informations about them. 1<sup>st</sup> table is about their education, where they live and reasons of leaving their home. 2<sup>nd</sup> table is about the age while their sexually differ identity disclose to society, changes in the behavior of family members with them and after that how did they meet to transgender community. 3<sup>rd</sup> table is about whether they are in contact with family or not, they get any type of support or help from home and transgenders have some expectations from family. 4<sup>th</sup> table is about the behaviour of society and expectations from society.

After analyzing the 3 (table-1) questions of interview-schedule researcher found that almost all

transgender live in community instead of living at home. Without care and support of family they didn't get education, most of them (14) are illiterate, whereas in present time some illiterate transgenders can read and write (learn from each other). Some respondents got primary and junior education (11) whereas only two respondents got higher education and hardly got IV class job. When researcher asked, why did they leave their house, majority of respondents answered (16), Family disowned them, not they themselves due to society curse. Some TGs said that I am TG it's not our fault, God give the birth us like that so who did give authority them (family), that they can leave us alone like orphan. There were also some respondents who left the home on behalf of own choice and some TGs left the home due to attraction towards transgender community.

Table no-1

Questions	Replies	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Education	Illiterate	14	62.96
	Primary	07	25.92
	Junior	04	14.81
	Higher	02	07.40
Live with family	Yes	-	-
	No	27	100
Left the home due to	Own desire	03	11.11
	Family pressure	16	59.25
	TG's pressure	05	18.51
	Attraction towards TG community	03	11.11
Total		27	100



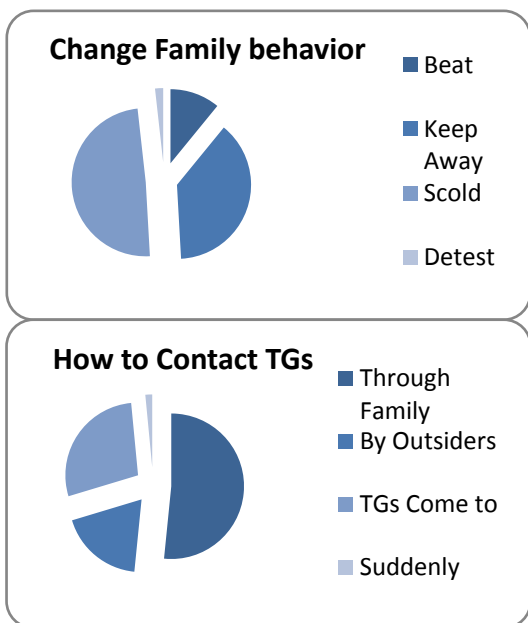
(Question No.-1, Table-1)(Question No.-2, Table-1)

Table-2 tells most of transgenders have been abandoned by their natal family therefore they didn't know the actual age when revealed their identity in front of society. But some transgenders disowned at the age of 6 and 8. All abandoned transgenders heard their childhood story by community's gurus who accepted them from parental family. They didn't know which type of behavior were of family members after disclosing their identity because mostly respondents abandoned in infant age but some TGs who left the home later, explained that family members didn't talk and maintained the distance to them, many times they chided on small mistakes even they beat also. Many families hated and wanted that they should leave the home at any how condition therefore they called transgender community for bringing them. In most of cases family members called this community but in some cases transgenders came themselves because when a child get birth, transgenders keep an eye over those family where a child is born whether it is transgender or not, if born child is TG then this community bring that baby, only 22 % TG respondents confessed that they met transgender community suddenly and they also wanted to live with them therefore they came with them with their consent. Researcher noticed one thing when researcher interacted them, they were feeling alone for sometimes and missing the family's love and care when they saw in surrounding general community. They also wanted to live with family but they could not take any step in this regard because they knew very well that their family will not accept them that's why they are tolerating community's misbehavior, abusive language at all.

Table no-2

Questions	Answers	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Age... when TG identity revealed	Infant/ Don't know	13	48.14
	6	09	33.33
	8	05	18.51
	10	02	07.40
After disclose the identity Family member's behavior changed like	Beat them	02	07.40
	Maintain the distance	07	25.92
	They scold	09	33.33
	They detest	09	33.33
How to contact transgender community	Family member called TG community for handover	11	40.74
	Outsider	04	14.81

y	called transgender community		
	Transgender came to home themselves	06	22.22
	Suddenly contact	06	22.22
Total		27	100



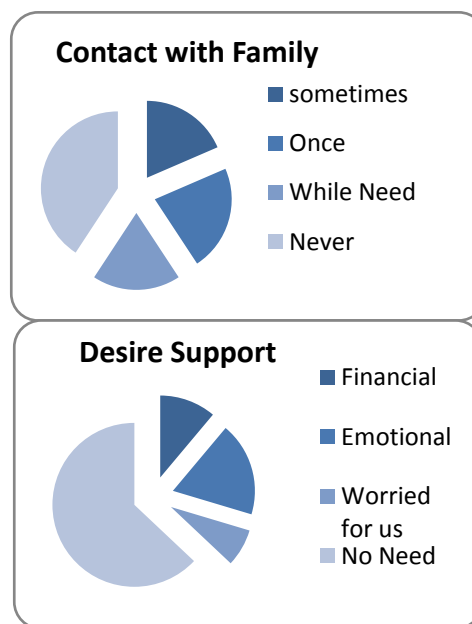
(Question No.-2, Table-2) (Question No-3, Table-2)

Researcher discussed so much matters and got a number of answers in that talking. In that matter some replies are explaining here. First of all no one transgender live with family, they live alone or with transgender community but they really want to contact and communicate with parents and other family members, when they saw the celebration of sibling festival like- Raksha- bandhan and Bhai-dooj, missed their family. Therefore some TGs meet to family time to time but mostly respondents (40%) never met them after entrusted or abandoned. In other hand, some TGs said that they have no financial securities, that's why financial support should be given by their family so that they may be safe in their future. Some TGs wanted that family should give them emotional support, because with the help of support any one can do anything in their life. He or she can climb the Mt. Everest but without support they can drift in many problems. But majority of respondents didn't want any type of support from family. They thought, whenever the support of family was essential in childhood that time family abandoned them, now we are happy in our life and spending our life in own style. Nevertheless they have some expectations that family members should give the respect and consider their

emotions as other gender. Firstly family should consider them as human being and act with them like other human. Some respondents wanted family should secure them against adverse behavior of society. They can also do everything as others if family gives support and facilities them.

Table no-3

Questions	Replies	Frequency	Percentage
Contact with family members	Sometimes they meet us	05	18.51
	Once met	06	22.22
	Whenever need	05	18.51
	Never meet	11	40.74
Gain any type of support from family	Financial support	03	11.11
	Emotional support	05	18.51
	Concern about me	02	07.40
	No support	17	62.96
Expectations from family	Respect emotions	07	25.92
	Support	10	37.03
	Defend from adverse behavior of society	09	33.33
	Help in over all development	01	3.70

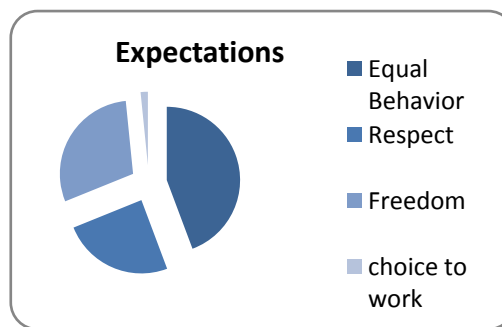
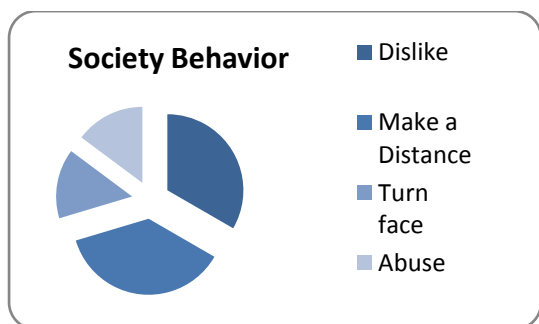


(Question No.-1, Table-3) (Question No.-3, Table-3)

According to the transgender respondents society dislike (33%) and whenever they go to market to purchase the necessary items, the peoples turn their face and use abusive language for them (14%). Peoples assume that we are not so good that's why when we are in front of them, they turn the face (14%) and they maintain the gap between us. Here a theory of socialization is applied "Cooley's 'Looking Glass self Theory' ". In this theory Cooley says that human consider himself after the analysis of society's view. If society thinks good for you then you will also think good for yourself but the view of society for you is not so good, you will also consider yourself bad. Same like that theory when the peoples think bad, they also have inferiority feelings for themselves that's why 22% respondents assume that God makes us by mistake and this is a fault of God and they hate themselves too.

Table no-4

Questions	Replies	Frequency	Percentage
Society Behaviour	Dislike	09	33.33
	Maintain the distance	10	37.03
	Turn the face	04	14.81
	Abuse	04	14.81
What do you think about yourself	Not so good	07	25.92
	Inferiority	10	37.03
	Fault of God	06	22.22
	Hate to yourself	04	14.81
Expectations from society	Equal behavior	09	33.33
	Respect	05	18.51
	Give freedom	06	22.22
	Work choice	07	25.92



(Question No.-1, Table-4)(Question No.-3, Table-4)

Society also reacts as they are from other world therefore they want to tell something to society.... they are also human being, they eat, fresh up, sleep, do works and so on, like others, God makes them and also gives hands, legs, eyes, nose, stomach as others have, whereas God didn't differentiate, why does society reacts like they are not a society member. Therefore they have some expectations from society for proper behaviour that society dislike, turn the face, use abusive language and other adverse behavior, they tolerate all that forcibly that's why they have inferiority complex and hate to themselves, feel not so good and ultimately consider as fault of God... but they really want that society gives respect their gender because they being are called by us in our auspicious ceremony to get their blessings for our prosperities and when our work have done then we hate them. They can do everything like others so society should give equal rights, duties and opportunities, they can prove themselves. They want to freedom to walk, to work, to live and in every field of life.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

Researcher, researched in Agra in June-July 2017 and interviewed 27 transgenders . In this article covered only one field of transgender's life which is prime factor of their discrimination and exclusion. Their families disown them at infant age, they grow up without family and their support. Therefore researcher would like to give some suggestions to those families who abandoned their new born baby whereas there are some suggestions for society too.

- 1- The family should carry and bring up them as others.
- 2- God creates them as other therefore family should also grow up and give attention little more rather than others.
- 3- When a family will stand behind them, they can grow themselves so every family should stand and support.
- 4- They are normal human being as others, parents should provide good education after getting literacy, they can get a better job as comparison to present.

- 5- They are also a part of society so society should change stereotype views & thinking and also consider them as other human beings.

## V. CONCLUSION

Transgenders face multiple forms of torture, exploitation, discrimination, etc. due to family shunned. Transgenders are marginalized and excluded from familial, social and cultural participation yet. Families abnegate them in their childhood that's why they couldn't get education and secure their future. If parents accept them as other own child, society can't tease and can't create the problems in their way. They spend life with a group or community, this community give different types of support like- moral, financial, cultural etc. and develop the strength for tolerate the societal misbehave. Families and Society will have to change and give the acceptance them.

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