

## Transgender Issues in Pakistani Community

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### Abstract:

*Pakistan is the second largest Islamic state in the world. Islam has given equal rights to everyone. Through electronic and print media, we found that being an Islamic state; still transgender are neglected by the government and the local society. There is many NGO's working for human rights, but also they have ignored the transgender. We found, that in Pakistan the transgender are ignored in every walk of life including, education, government jobs, health care and even security for their life. In 2013, Supreme Court of Pakistan has given rights to transgender which still are not implemented in the community. Not only the society, but their families are not accepting them as their family members. The objectives of this review article were to review and highlight various aspects of issues faced by the transgender community of Pakistan.*

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**Key words:** NGO's, Pakistan, Supreme Court, Transgender

## INTRODUCTION

Who am i? This question was asked me so many times by so called “Humans” all around the world. This question strikes me, why i am like this? Who am i? my identity is not yet confirmed by so many countries, i cannot get the good position in government, even though i cannot get my rights for living my life on my will (Letter of Transgender), the life of transgender has not yet been experienced by any of the person. A case of transgender in Pakistan got flamed when a transgender was shot by unknown militants. The administration got confused where should we took the patient to the male ward or female in mean while he was fighting with death and sadden he lost his life. Who left the questions behind “Are we Humans too, are we national of the country, do we have any “Right to live” in this world.”

Transgender can be by choice or by birth there are some medical terms, which makes them transgender while some of them are transgender by their own choice, according to the report of Young Adult Fertility and Sexually Survey 11% of the active Transgenders are in Philippine ( 2002 Young July 2003). Official reports of Indian Government about the active Third gender, it have found 490,000 are active while transgender activists said this figure are six to seven times higher than official report claimed. Everybody chilled when they found that people identified themselves as Transgender. (Rema Nagarajan, The Times of India 2014). Similarly, there numbers of third generation in Pakistan, statistics are still not yet confirmed by official reports. Though numbers of them are not yet confirmed the Supreme Court of Pakistan give rights to the third gender in all the official documents (Haider 2009). A task was given to Pakistan government by the Supreme Court of Pakistan to

survey about the third generation population and to give equal rights to them (Ali Shah 2012) no such information could be found so far on the progress of this work in Pakistan.

## **TRANSGENDER:**

Transgender is “Vast” term which describe the people whose sexual characteristics identity diverse the form that usually correlate with sex at the time of birth. Many of the transgender live with full-time or part-time as a member of the opposite sex. For example, if male is transgendered he wills to lives like a female if female is transgendered she wills to live like a male. In other words, people who lives with conventional gender are falls outside of identity, appearance or behaviors can be described as the transgender. However, everyone whose outward show or performance is gender-atypical cannot be defined as transgender person (Force, 2006). Transgender a person whose personal identity is not confirm, and opposite from male or female gender. Transgender means one who is not a full male or female. It means those people they belong from third gender is called transgender.

## **TYPES OR CATEGORIES OF TRANSGENDER:**

The word transgender refers to a person whose gender identity differs from the sex to which it is assigned. Men they are assigned but who are recognizable and living is women or who want to change or wish to change their live style its referred to as transgender or transsexual men or its also known as female to male (FTM).

(<http://www.apa.org/topics/lgbt/transgender.aspx>)

## **CAUSES:**

### **Prevalence of transgender in world:**

Transgender population has a very large prevalence in the world. Although worldwide fact and figure of transgender population are unknown with size and numbered. According to united nation High commissioner “that transgender globally need to improve systematic, economically and social rights. And he remark widespread discrimination against third gender. Additionally for transgender protections, care, gender identity legislature is necessary. Like in 2012 Argentinean senate passed the first gender identity law in the world (SariL, et al., 2016).”

### **Transgender in Pakistan:**

In Pakistani Culture and background transgender show a very important roles in different, festivals including marriage ceremony, birthday's, Eid festival and their big events. Still transgender in Pakistan link up to (Murat,Hijra,Khawaja Sara and Khusra) Pakistani given by different names to third gender. It is a group of people they have the lowest degree of right or honor in Pakistan. Because of uneducated and aggressive mind set peoples, even they do not prompt to accept them as a human being of Pakistani society. And from all the part of Pakistan they faced “ignorance” and large “rejection”. According to a recent survey of transgender sex, about one-third of 50 children are noticeable with chronic tendencies / potential. In other words, about 2% of Pakistan's population are struck or affected by transgenderism (Akhtar, 2016). Third gender is firstborn determined by family. In initial glance the families become hyper to kill them or to throw them from their circle because they feel a shamed have a part of family. No one knows being born what sex you belong to? Then why Hijra faced lowborn discrimination in family, communities, social groups, schools, and society it means in every single step of life.

According to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Supreme Court of Pakistan agreed to give transgender equal rights like other citizens of this country with protection under the article 4 and 9 of the Pakistani constitution 1973. In 2013, they got as same rights as all citizens of Pakistan. And the federal and provincial governments give them basic rights of employments, education, health, work in governments different departments during the comparable period of time. Transgender rights and the productive paradoxes of Pakistani policing (Daniela & Devika, 2015)

### **LITERATURE REVIEW:**

This paper examines that how transgender survives in Pakistani society. In Pakistan transgender groups of people generally concerns with dancing, whoring, Street walking. The researcher trying to find out about third gender prevalence, it means the fact and conditions in Pakistani traditional society. In this research paper researcher shows that transgender have basic facility of life, or can Pakistan provide or deprived third gender from these rights of life like Income, Social respect, education, treatment, Sex abuse , marriage, prayerful, political, religiously, freedom, residence issues, and specially personal Safety? On the basis of previous researcher papers have done on this issue so far.

According to the Pakistani English news paper ([www.pstimes.com](http://www.pstimes.com)) (Pakistan state times in Article which was published by Mehwish Akhter on wed, Apr 20<sup>th</sup>,2016. Answer is very simple and attractive uncomplicated that transgender and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) area of people are recognized as a shame and ignominy in the Pakistani culture. They don't have sources of income without dancing, singing etc. they are bound to live outside of common societies, and to make their own colonies. And in case of any physical attacks they don't have social respect and personal life safety. If

they face criminal victimizations or sexual harassment these persons or individuals acquire no help or support of society or government or non government organization. In 2009 The supreme court former chief justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry declare rights that they are third gender and they have equal rights with national ID card with free education, jobs and health care. But members of transgender community they don't have these rights it is just certain records on papers. According to Farzana Jan the corporate executive of the transgender peoples of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, " In a video report of Voice of America Pashto that it is the reality that when we started our endeavor for ours rights then we faced alot of problems. And she said that from 2015 to 2016, 40 to 45 (khwaja sara) harass , kidnapped, raped and killed by some groups. And these groups giving us threats of life they want to depressed our voice in society. Now I realized that we are inhuman we are not the part of this society, I don't know that we are animals or what but humans love with animals if they have a dog or cat they give it a proper food, milk shelter everything which they need. According to "Naila Nazir\*& Aqsa Yasir" that in Pakistan there are no official record of third gender documented, but approximately the transgender are 1.5 million. Previous research shows that the total number statistics accurate of transgender are unknown actually in province of KP.

Queer theory was first rise up in 1990s.Teresa de lauretis create verbally the term "queer theory" she have been discussed this first about Special issues of differences in a conference at the university of California. Queer theory is "concentration on igniter between Sex activity, gender and desire".(11/4/2016) 04:34am online  
([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Queer\\_theory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Queer_theory)).

All the above studies mentioned that there is direful need to solve the troubles of third gender of unemployment, low income, health, medication, houses, jobs, respect, social

gathering rights, gender equality, fundamental rights and life safety, in the Society especially in an underdeveloped country such as like Pakistan.

## **ALISHA TRANSGENDER TRAGEDY IN PESHAEAR (KPK)**

Peshawar is the Capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, the entire population of the province is twenty one million. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is composed of 25 districts. In Peshawar a recently dreadfully tragedy of Alisha a transgender community activist 23 years old, was shot anonymously seven times on Sunday night and left in a serious state and Alisha needing emergency this horrifying attack was in Peshawar but the Lady Rendering Hospital (LRH) staff of doctor's and nurse were not ready to treat ALISHA is like a human. And they spent four hours to decide where to put him/her in male or female ward? Due to careless care, Alisha left the world leaving the question behind. Who am I? What am I? why I am not treated like a human being like other treated. She left the world on the black day of 25<sup>th</sup> of May in LRH helpless.

According to the "dailymail.co.uk daily" news article that the Peshawar LRH hospital staff didn't give her/him the medical care essential to save her life. and the Trance Action Alliance (TAA) this Support group of third gender declared protest and claims about Alisha mistreatment. They said that after our protested Alisha was shifted to female ward but female patients had also not acceptable her being transgender and they said "we really don't know what to do and where to go". The transgender Alisha speaking out before giving her soul " that we are the most defenseless part of society but the government gives us none of the rights due to over gender". and more she said " that Society does not accept us I think Government and society should recognized us as disabled or special persons by the society she said we are facing more

difficulties and discrimination because of more traditional societies and not just Peshawar local government denying our rights but nationwide our communities in Pakistan facing same problems (CALDERWOOD, 2016).

According to Human rights campaign (HRC) in August 2003 at that time, the organization of Islamic conference and the associated countries, specially Pakistan, Malaysia, Egypt, united nation members and Saudi Arabia, and all Muslims countries and local governors, Muslim states media at large scale anti it (Javaid & Eleni, 2013).

## **RELIGION AND TRANSGENDER:**

The relationship between religion and LGBT are variegated widely around the globe. Majority of the adults in United States of America (USA) describe themselves as religious. 70% of the Americans attend the religious services once per year at least, while 90% engage themselves in private acts like daily prayer (Davis et al. 2005, Masen, Brett, Billy, & Tubbs, 2005).

In November 2016 Saudi Arabia bans transgenders to allow them to get the VISA for Religious pilgrimage to Mecca "UMRAH" notification were issued and all the travel agents shall be bound to it (Daily Pakistan 2016). According to Qamar Naseem (activist with trans action KP Pakistan) that the country rejected the discussion leading to only resulting more confusion. Javed Ahmad Ghamidi a religious scholar told to the Pakistan Express Tribune Newspaper, "that government has no rights to prohibit transgender people performing hajj". Transgender people are self-conscious, reasonable, body differences do not make them less human beings, they have rights to be treated equally. He told to the newspaper, "that Mecca is the house of ALLAH so everyone should be allowed to see it (Browning, 2016).

This is not a big issue it is just a medical disorder in the hormones don't make it too much complicated or no need to



make it stigma or taboo, nobody is responsible for it (Khanzada, 2016). All those who are medical fit so what and those who born with medical disease are not their fault either. In our society they are considered an alien, even though they are third gender still they have right to live among us (Hassan, 2016). God have created them and they do accept God have created them, they have same rights to live among. Even if we look into Islamic Law they have given full and equal rights. According to the Islamic law all those parents who are not take care of such kids are violates the law and they should be consider the criminals (Ghamdi, 2016). Misbehave with transgender considered “SIN” according to Religion.

A transgender by himself was accepted by his family and supported. But still the society are not accepting him as an human being (Khan, 2016). President of Shemale foundation, there are good and bad people in the society. Those who are bad what respect they can give us? (Bobby, 2016).

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