

## **Socio-Economic Problems Faced by Transgenders and its Impact on their Lives in Tench Bhatta Rawalpindi**

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### **Abstract:**

*Transgender discrimination and their socio-economic problems is a global issue and a problem that even developed nations of the world are facing. The study focused on the socio-economic problems faced by transgenders, their rights and livelihood strategies. The major variables of the study were education, occupation, income and health. This study was conducted in Tench Bhatta and some of its adjacent areas like Allama Iqbal Colony(People's Colony), Qasai chowk, Afshan Colony, Bakra Mandi and Dhoke Chauhdrian in Rawalpindi district. Purposive sampling technique was used on a sample of 120 selected transgenders. 120 In Depth Interviews (IDIs) were collected and five case studies were taken. Then the data was analyzed through SPSS. It was concluded that majority of the transgenders were devoid of their basic rights, were facing violence of different types and used some kind of drugs to avoid the tensions of their daily life.*

**Keywords:** Transgender, livelihood, health

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

Transgenders have different gender identification from other. They are not like other males and females. They are born with that gender naturally but they feels they fit against wrong in

the body. If we talk about the report that was generated by Jajia which almost shows the record that there are around 800,000 cross-sexual exist in Pakistan. People normally don't like to accept them in their society and in Pakistan there is not any specific allocation for them and also people don't like to work with them. Due to people behavior they feels disappointed and restricted from other activities of Life (Tufail, 2006).

It was reported by old lesbian gays bisexual transgenders (LGBT) that they are victimized at an average of 4 times in their lifetime in the form of verbal, physical and sexual abuse due to their sexual orientation. These observations were further categorized as 55 percent was reported as verbal abuse and rest of the 45 percent was sexual abuse and physical violence. Incident for adults aged 50 and older was even higher, with approximately six incidents over the course of their lives (Fredriksen *et al.*, 2011).

The life of transgender people is highly dependent on the factors such as partiality, injustice and bias and more inclination and favoritism of such factors on other genders. They feel highly stressed due to mental state resulting from above related factors in their normal daily life zones comprising of job recruitment, relationship status and health well-being. They feel they are given less priority and discrimated on such areas as compared to other genders resulting into several mental disorders. In order to survive this societal discrimination they seek refuge under the protection of several drug addictions, smoking and alcohol consumption. However, this approach towards life can lead them to different kinds of depressions transgender people might be confronting. In contact of the ingredients involved in these hazardous life challenging activities they dwell themselves on the edge of horrendous life threatening viruses (Hunt, 2012).

In 2006-2007 a research study was conducted in America at GLSEN's fifth National School. To explore the differences between transgenders and other students a full sample of 6207

LGBT students was taken. Experiences of 259 students who were identified as transgenders were recorded specifically in this report. Age category for these transgender students was 13 to 20. It was significant in the report that harassment and violence rate for transgender students was higher than the LGBT students. These circumstances of victimization were highly responsible for absentees of such students from school, not good at study and feeling isolation from other students and community. This is not only the behavior of community but officials are also responsible for these results as school administration has advised separate locker room, dress codes, bathrooms, which leads to more challenges and barriers by transgender students because they are not identified as female or male (Greytak *et al.*, 2009).

Transgender individuals encounter one of the most health and wellness dangers because of the absence of understanding and problems that a lot of times go unaddressed. Often these individuals are also scared to report any kind of health issue as a result of the homophobic mindset of others around them. In a short article released by the Stanford School of Medicine, it was discovered that also within the clinical area; pupils are not being instructed the health and wellness concerns that the LGBT area encounters. This as well ends up being a deterrent for the transgender individuals to report any type of on-going health issue. Social preconception, ostracization, disappointments, aggressive actions, and so on, all these add to health and wellness concerns with these individuals to go unreported and ignored a lot of the moments. As a result of the absence of research study and techniques of therapy being not available, the transgender usually encounters health and wellness threats such as self-destructive propensities, chemical abuse, human immunodeficiency 412-79 infection (HIV) infection, cervical or bust cancer cells and obtained immunodeficiency disorder. Since they really feel various from their peers, and additionally due to the continuous

mockery dealt with, they often tend to separate themselves psychologically, at some point to pull away right into their very own coverings. It is approximated that these individuals have to do with 3 times most likely to make an effort at self-destruction than others under clinical depression (Johametal, 2013).

## **II. METHODOLOGY**

The study was conducted in Tench Bhatta and some of its adjacent areas like Allama Iqbal Colony(People's Colony), Qasai chowk, Afshan Colony, Bakra Mandi and Dhoke Chauhdrian in Rawalpindi district. 120 transgenders were selected from the specific areas by utilizing purposive sampling technique. In-depth interview including both open ended and close ended questions was designed and pretested. The collected data was analyzed through SPSS (Statistical Procedures for Social Sciences). Results were tabulated and discussed.

## **III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Relationship between dependent and independent variables:**

Tables 1-3 present the association of age with numerous variables. This association has been achieved after various tests, the extremely critical relationship between the age of the respondents and the frequency of their drug usage was observed. Old age persons have a greater prevalence of drug usage than those belonging to younger and middle age groups. When the framework of hijras is being designed, the older ones are often left alone and not linked with their families and relatives which results in them taking refuge in drugs to dodge loneliness. Another reason of transgenders finding solace in drugs and alcohol according to Hunt (2012) is because of the massive communal burden they face.

The relationship of education with three dependent variables was tested and data is presented in **(Tables 4-6)**. The data revealed a highly significant association between education and health problems, which means that increase in education leads to decrease in health problems. Xeric (2010) also studied about transgenders health problems. He stated that handling of transgenders in hospitals is a big problem as when a transgender has to be admitting in hospital, doctors do not understand in which region they should be placed.

Table 5 sheds light on a very important connection that exists amidst literacy and drug abuse. The statistics expose the inversely proportional relation existing between literacy rates and the frequency of drug usage. The respondents belonging to the low education bracket have high drug consumption and those belonging to the high education bracket have nearly zero drug addiction. This revelation clearly states that the education level of the respondents is very closely related to drug abuse.

The relationship that connects learning and awareness with brutality and attack is negligible. In most cases, the attacks and confusion is carried out by individuals who are foreign to the respondent's neighborhood and hold their own thoughts and opinions that cannot be intimidated. Due to this reason, the level of information and awareness the respondents have does not linearly relate to the clashes they counter.

## **CONCLUSION**

Transgenders face many problems in their lives. They are not acceptable at public places. They face violence of different types including social, verbal and economic violence. In order to cope with the tensions and depressions of their lives transgenders usually become addicted to drugs. The recent study showed that majority of the respondents had low level of education and those who are almost uneducated are more prone to use drugs. Respondents who are somewhat educated experience less

health problems. Separate schools, colleges and vocational centers should be opened by the government for transgenders where they can get proper education and learn skills that can be used as a source of income and dignity for them.

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**Table 1: Association between age and health problems**

| Age    | Health problems |              |        |
|--------|-----------------|--------------|--------|
|        | Poor            | Satisfactory | Good   |
| Young  | 27.53%          | 57.97%       | 14.49% |
| Middle | 32.5%           | 52.5%        | 15%    |
| Old    | 45.45%          | 54.54%       | 0      |

**Chi-square= 2.701\* df = 4**

The chi-square value (2.701) shows a non significant association between age and health problems.

**Table 2: Association between age and drug abuse**

| Age    | Drug abuse |        |        |
|--------|------------|--------|--------|
|        | Low        | Medium | High   |
| Young  | 70.45%     | 18.18% | 11.36% |
| Middle | 53.12%     | 43.75% | 3.12%  |
| Old    | 33.33%     | 0      | 66.66% |

**Chi-square= 24.657\* df = 4**

The chi-square value (24.657) shows a highly significant association between drug abuse and age.

**Table 3: Association between age and violence**

| Age    | Violence |        |      |
|--------|----------|--------|------|
|        | Low      | Medium | High |
| Young  | 34.78%   | 65.21% | 0    |
| Middle | 55%      | 42.5%  | 2.5% |
| Old    | 63.63%   | 36.36% | 0    |

**Chi-square= 8.423\* df = 4**

The chi-square value (8.423) shows a non significant association between violence and age.

**Table 4: Association between education and health problems**

| Education | Health problems |              |        |
|-----------|-----------------|--------------|--------|
|           | Poor            | Satisfactory | Good   |
| Low       | 31.94%          | 47.22%       | 20.83% |
| Medium    | 48.14%          | 48.14%       | 3.70%  |
| High      | 4.76%           | 95.23%       | 0      |

**Chi-square= 22.281\* df = 4**

The chi-square value (22.281) shows a highly significant association between education and health problems.



**Table 5: Association between education and drug abuse**

| Education | Drug abuse |        |        |
|-----------|------------|--------|--------|
|           | Low        | Medium | High   |
| Low       | 45.45%     | 31.81% | 22.72% |
| Medium    | 65.21%     | 34.78% | 0      |
| High      | 100%       | 0      | 0      |

**Chi-square= 19.064\* df = 4**

The chi-square value (19.064) shows a significant association between education and drug abuse.

**Table 6: Association between education and violence**

| Education | Violence |        |       |
|-----------|----------|--------|-------|
|           | Low      | Medium | High  |
| Low       | 45.83%   | 52.77% | 1.38% |
| Medium    | 51.85%   | 48.14% | 0     |
| High      | 28.57%   | 71.42% | 0     |

**Chi-square= 3.455 \* df = 4**

The chi-square value (3.455) shows a non significant association between education and violence.