

# Transgender and a *Hijra* : A Literary Review of Global Differences

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**Abstract:** Literature is a homestead to many literary theories integral to the understanding of the general reader. One of them is Transgender studies, a subfield of queer studies and a post-structural field of literature, whose proper definition is still in dispute. It has recently grown into a big picture, the reason is, the social exclusion, unemployment and economic vulnerability. The situation is particularly different in the Western Countries. The Review Article attempts to present the difference of being a transgender in India and a transgender outside India.

**Key Words:** Transgender, Third gender, Hijra, Discrimination and Society.

## 1. INTRODUCTION:

Looking for accurate definition upon the Search Engine Operation, every story tends to show a contradictory story. This is very apt when a theory becomes a transgender theory; it loses its meaning in the context of South Asia. Losing a meaning suggests, it would be no more significant in the Universe. The question arises, has it been any important earlier? Will it be ultimately important to anyone?

## 2. DISCUSSION:

As far as the dynamics and properties are concerned, what stimulates the development and change within the system depends upon the attitudes of people. In simple terms, it is an intense dislike against the Third gender. This hatred is associated with the feelings of disgust against anything offensive. Physical reactions are provoked if something abnormal takes place in the traditional environment. Later, it is shaped into an argument of Gender Construction, in which they are supposed to express themselves within the defined framework of lesbian and gay community. If not, would be denied the due preference.

## 3. EASTERN PERSPECTIVE:

It is essential for a country to realize that the divergence is an important aspect of a progressive society. Coincidentally, the books written about *hijras* get eliminated by the time they are published. In the context of Hindi cinema, they are depicted as comical figure or a stereotype of rejection. They are directed in a sense to evoke a moment of laughter and then forgotten after the curtain falls down. In reality, the audience remains aloof of anybody who is different to them in a physique or a social behaviour. They are made to believe *hijras* are not humans, but a disgrace to humanity. Providing employment to them would result in giving up their own. Their habitation has to be outside the periphery.

## 4. WESTERN PERSPECTIVE:

Nevertheless, on the Western front, writing a history of Tran sexuality has now become a pivotal part of social activities. That is how they are progressing. For this very reason, the countries, boasts of having the host of Trans writers, who are coming together with a certain goal to challenge the base opinions of society. The vox populi of writers is to modulate gender identities and initiate a discussion. Within this discussion, these writers want to create a discourse by sharing their personal experiences in the form of *Autobiography* and *Memoirs*. They believe it can help in exposing the truth about trans politics.

To name a few, Viviane Namaste appears as a leading Canadian feminist researcher, who felt that the struggles of trans people have been ignored due to their marginality. She pointed out the hypocrisy of Women's centres and Social Service Organization in Canada and Quebec. Belonging to the margins of social and political groups, discrimination is instigated on the basis of First nation and Quebecois and due to other reasons like color and gender. The women are in the midst of developing the policies under this framework. Her *Sex change, Social change: Reflections on Identity, Institutions, and Imperialism*, (2005) is noticeable in this regard. Who is there to decide -who is or is not a woman. The text was an arraignment on those who were chewing over the idea of becoming allies to transgendered and transsexual people. Viviane has questioned the absence of debate within the feminist's territory. The history of transsexual prostitutes, drug users and prisoners is portrayed within Canada. The work is based on the primary sources- Interviews, public speeches and Essays.

Patrick Califia, an American non-fiction writer of lesbian erotica and gender identity situated his works on the BDMS subculture and gender dysphoria. In his article *Manliness* he has shared his transition from female to male at the age of 45. He doesn't understand the force of society to make him conform to his masculinity.

“...By coming out to ourselves, we free up the energy we spent keeping a part of ourselves hidden...” (Patrick Califia)

Sandy Stone is another legend of Transgender studies in America. Though her works have been constantly bombarded by Janice Raymond in ‘*The transsexual Empire: The Making of the She Male*, still Stone come to be seen as a prominent figure through her work ‘*Empire Strikes Back: A Posttranssexual Manifesto*’ (1983). It is perceived as,

“...the protean text from which contemporary transgender studies emerged...In the wake of (the) article, a gradual but steady body of new academic and creative work by transgender people has gradually taken shape, which has enriched virtually every academic and artistic discipline with new critical perspectives on gender...”

(Cited by Susan Stryker and Stephen Whittle in *Transgendered Studies Reader*, 2006)

The wish to protest against the selfish ideology is observed within. All these writers are meant to create a discourse to bring about the social change in the society. The same kind of political action is established.

## 5. CONTRADICTION BELIEFS:

Considering the East, the circumstances vary, just like the name from *Transgender* to *Hijra*. Abuse and violence come to be noticed as an everyday reality for Third gender. Many of them are born with a different gender till they join *kothis* and become a part of another community. They are subject to face lack of Educational opportunities, Medical treatment and negation of human rights. Even some are shooed away from renting a house in a colony. In order to camouflage their identities from their tribes, they are obliged to live apart. Moreover, some don't chose to lead their lives into *Deras*. They have a strong desire to gain intellectual, moral and social skills like others. However, the perils of being exploitation lurk behind; they constantly get harassed by the masses. Not safe in the society, they are vulnerable to be attacked and murdered. Violent methods are used by the authority to stop them. Left with no valid option, they are forced to enter into the prostitution and drug industry.

Cities like Delhi, Bangalore and Calcutta became the chief states in holding the first LGBT parades in 2008; Tamil Nadu and Kerala, the first two cities to come out with the Third gender policies in India; Kolkata, the first state to give an employment to the eunuchs in CPVC-Civic Police Volunteer Force. Various NGOs and radical activists are rigorously engaged in supporting the social cause.

Whatever, questions are still raised upon the confused state of a third gender, without regard to the fact that they have formed a significant part in the historical phase of Hindustan. They have been known for contributing to the important rituals and culture in Asian societies, wedding ceremonies and childbirth. Howbeit, there are not plenty of books available in the market that portrays them in a prudent manner.

## 6. CONCLUSION:

Hence, the review article has well documented the numerous ways a transgender is looked down upon in the Universe. The English name ‘Transgender’, suggests a quality of thinking and living, whereas the term ‘*Hijra*’ is seen as synonymous with hostility, social alienation and unemployment. A soul trapped in a wrong body, struggles and suffers throughout, has to embrace the two personalities simultaneously. If only literature could help realize the audience that sometimes strange things happen, the social taboo could be seen as coherent among the common people. Nonetheless, there is a long battle to fight before a desired conclusion could be drawn.

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