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ESSAY WRITING

Transgender Identity and Family Dynamics: Complexities of Acceptance and Rejection

Outline :

A- Introduction

B- An Overview of Transgender Identities

C- Family Dynamics of Transgenders : Issues associated with Acceptance of Transgenders

1- Derogatory societal remarks with religious connotations

2- Greatly laughed upon in social circle

3- Problematic siblinghood

4- Persistent tension of hiding or revealing the kid's true identity

5- Schooling Issues on part of both parents and the trans kid / adult.

6- A looming fear of being kidnapped by trans-communities

7- Marriage related concerns

8- Complaints by neighbouring community

D- Issues related to Rejection of Transgenders

1- Dropped out from school : No formal education

2- No education, no formal mode of earning thus opting for dancing e.t.c.

3- Forced take up by Trans-communities

4- Organised attacks on streets

5- Commonplace sexual molestation

6- Psychological and emotional trauma from being abandoned and never meeting family again.

7- Deprived of due share in inheritance

E- Conclusion

WRITE UP

Humans have this natural tendency of being recognized and acknowledged -ged. and our identification primarily resides upon our individuality and who we are as a person. What if one day you get to know that your identities are a symbol of shame and taboo and that you have to conceal it from other "normal" and "perfect" humans? Because if your true identities get revealed, you will have no right to a normal life. Shocking, is it not? However, this whole dilemma that is shocking and absurd for other humans is very much normal and routine thing for transgenders who face such alienation in their routine life. Their tabooed identities are even a symbol of shame for their families thus they are always in perplexity of whether to accept them or reject them because with acceptance comes

derogation, mockery, social insecurity of the person e.t.c. Meanwhile rejection is accompanied by abandonment issues, sex working, raping e.t.c. Thus, it is a tough decision to make. Consequently acceptance or rejection of transgender identities is a complex phenomenon greatly affecting the individual as well as their families.

Transgressors are those people that do not fit in the binary categorization of women and men. For instance they are either not born with distinct sex i.e intersex or they psychologically do not align with their gender identifications assigned at the time of their birth. i.e gender dysphoria. Both of these cases are recognized as problematic and taboos of the society since they face very strong social exclusion and alienation from other members of the society. In Pakistan, trans people were not even issued national identification card till 2018 when Transgender Person Act was passed and they were recognized as Pakistani nationals.

Transgender people and their families have to face the complexities that come with acceptance of transgender as a part of their family. For instance they have to face inhumane and derogatory remarks with religious connotations from their social circles. Those remarks are solely to degrade that family and marginalize them. It leads to social isolation of that family, as a result of which, living a normal life gets harder day by day. The remarks are of many kinds e.g. the child is a result of parent's sins, the family is cursed and this child is born because of parent's sexual malpractices e.t.c. These remarks become a source of continuous agony for the baby as well as the family.

People also make fun of the trans-persons and their families and laugh on them. They ridicule these families by mimicking or by giving names which become common and stick to that person and their families for the rest of their lives. This gesture is also a source

of social isolation. People make fun of them by calling cissi, hijra, chakka, kusiya e.t.c. Mimick their walking and talking styles and thus makes them a source of laughter.

Siblinghood in such families is also complicated as a result of acceptance of transgender identities. Other apparently normal brothers and sisters of the family find it hard to accompany the trans sibling. They also don't feel comfortable in going out with their trans siblings because of societal taboos and the fear of being cancelled by friends. They oppose familial inclusivity with excuses such as friends cancelling them and their repute being tarnished because of their supposedly 'abnormal' brother or sister. Thus the trans-person gets isolated even at their own home with life getting harder each passing day.

Parents face the complex tension between revealing their trans-kid to the society or not. As they are also afraid of getting socially excluded, they are in a constantly paradoxical situation of loving and acknowledged the trans-person

as their kid or not to reveal that person as their kid to the society due to the fear of mockery and jest. This psychological tug of war sometimes lead to abandoning of kids by their parents. It will be discussed in detail in the next section.

In case of acceptance of trans-person, their schooling and formal education is also a major problem for the parents as well as the person. It is because of the lack of awareness in our societies and lack of social education that people don't feel comfortable around transpeople and even ridicule them badly. Thus it becomes a tough decision for parents to send their trans-kid to formal educational institutes or not.

Even when a family whole heartedly accepts trans-person as a family member, they are always in tension due to their social security and fear of being kidnapped by some non-professional groups who use them for trafficking purpose, begging, dancing and sex work etc. Such fears loom over the family especially

in childhood and get lessened with time. but other factors of social insecurity persist forever.

Transgressors are especially discriminated because of their non-binary sex categorisation thus they are never fit for marriage in normal community. In conservative societies like Pakistan, great importance is given to institution of marriage and parents feel it as their core responsibility. However in case of transgressors, the issue gets tenfold problematic. Sometimes parents hide their kid's true identity and get them married in a fraudulent way which ends up in divorce or even greater backlash from the society ending up in social boycott.

Another issue faced by families of trans people is the torturous behaviour of neighbouring community towards them. As they think of trans-person as a result of sin and a taboo person, they want that person or that family out of their community because as per their perception, that person is a source of evils and wrongdoing in the society. Since the person is associated with all dark

realities of the society, he/she can be a bad influence for their kids and families and because they don't want their families to get corrupted, they force the transgenders or their families out of their neighbouring community - an extreme form of marginalization by the society.

In case the family is not strong enough to face the societal dejection and to support their transgender kid in the face of communal calamity, they end up rejecting their own family person and abandon him/her, leaving them at the hands of an even cruel society which makes life even greater hell for them with no family to support them.

Most primary issue that takes place in case of rejection or abandonment by parents is dropping out from school since they can't afford fee on their own neither are there any formal social institutions to cover it for them.

Thus they get dropped out, as a result of which they never