



## A VARIOUS ASPECT OF HIJRAS LIFE IN MYTHOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

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**ABSTRACT**

In this study we are going to show the various phases, life style and aspect of hijras with the correlation in our Hindu mythological background. Hijras are generally considered as a Devine, sub demi gods, they have some spiritual power, blessing towards the human welfare, good wishes, luck etc, These powers given by god to him. They are known as a God child, made for some purpose and aim towards the community of living entity. The people of this community also maintain a equilibrium between human entity and nature. There is various cultural aspect of these kind of people regarding to the rituals and workship in our community. God made everyone as a unique character to act their role in this universe. Similarly, these community of people also made for some has some unique characters, features in respect to their god creature. Hindu mythology gives a unique significant value of hijras in human welfare. But there is some social stigma, rejections, discrimination which affects the social, economic, health status of these community of people in our India.

**KEYWORDS :** Hijras, Lgbt, Gender Variance, Prostitutes. Avtar, Masculinity, Femininity. Avtar, Vedic Culture, Ardhnari, Reunion, Masculinity, Femininity. Fertility. Transformation, Nirvana. Aravan, Transformation, Sacrifices. Hijras, Niravana, Guru- Chela. Masculinity, Femininity, Union. Hiv, Marginalization, Disrespectful. Constitutional Rights, Citizenship, Discrimination.

**INTRODUCTION**

The word Hijras refers to the Khawaja Sarah, those people who live in a community made for some purpose towards human welfare, good wishes and their bright future. They are basically a transgender, a person who does not satisfied with their birth assigned sex. They are born in between men and women. Neither a complete men and complete women<sup>[2]</sup>. therefore, every hijras are undergoes into castration or penectomy as per their third gender variance<sup>[4]</sup>. Every hijras considered as transgender but every transgender is not becoming an hijras. Hijras have strong background in our sculpture of Hindu mythology. Now these people are considered as a third gender people according the supreme court decision on 2014.

These community of people belongs to the LGBTQ, which shows an multiple dimensions and variations in gender. Here, L stand for lesbian relates to those females who interested in another female and married him. G stand for the Gay, relates to those male people who interested in another male for married him. B stands for the bisexual, those people who born as either male and female and interested in both the sex, gender. So, there are two categories of Bisexual, male bisexual and female bisexual. Male bisexual having interest in both the female as well as male person. Whereas female bisexual having interest in both the male and female individual. T stands for the transgender person who neither be complete male and female. They are people who does not satisfies with their birth assigned sex. They are considered as two main variety, such as male transgender and female transgender. Male transgender is those who born as a female but having male soul, spiritual power in their body as soon as possible converted into male body transition. Whereas female transgender is those persons who born as a male body but having a female spiritual soul, spirit and converted as soon as female transition. So, these are the two main categorisation of transgender which plays an important role in this group of community. At the end Q stands for queer which means a people who cross dressed in aspect of their gender variance. A male wear female cloth and make their hair style as female

long hair. Similarly, a female wears a male like cloths and dress up a male like short cut hairs.

According to this there are different gender variance seen in our community with number of people with some unique features and characters on him.

In our Hindu mythological background this hijras considered as an reunion of two energy, powers in a single materialism. They exist in everywhere as some Devine and a unique creature of God as an Avtar. In Vedic these genders of people called as Tiritiya prakriti. A third gender of people. There are various characters in Ramayan and Mahabharat which plays an important role as Kinner, Hijras in their life span giving to some purpose towards humanity.

There are some special dimensions of these group of community. Transgender (Hijras) reflects that female soul trapped in a male body, which defined as transgender woman. So, this reflecting as a transitional zone of a two-gender variance.

But on other hand there is no gender of any soul. But still we have this significant value of transgender as a gender variance.

Life is considered as union of mind, body and spirit. Similarly, in dimensions of transgender this mind is not matched with their anatomical structure of body, which already define as materialism. The intellectual property of this mind like will, emotions, desire is always opposite to the body. Suppose if there is a person who born as a male but their intellectual property, mind is more towards feminine characters. So, they are not satisfied with their gender hence they undergo into the transition of female asper their intellectual property (mind) called as (MTF) Similarly in case of a person born as female but their intellectual property, mind is more towards the masculine character, so they do not satisfy with their gender and undergoes into the transition into male body called as (FTM). When these group of people join a community towards

human welfare and good wishes they are called as Hijras.

There are various synonyms of Hijras such as in Tamil nadu they are called as Aravani, in Andra Pradesh they are called as shiv shakti, in Maharashtra, Karnataka, they are servant of goddess Renuka Devi and jogtas.

The main significant part of hijras community is clapping. This sound of clapping defines some significant role in energy, they sound like a different. There is some special features and uniqueness in their life style habits. Which reflect some message towards philosophical background.

In our society these people live and in search of himself. they join a group of community which similar as him. They come under the influence of God. Which defines as a creature of this universe. And complete their whole life style in serve of humanity, wellness.

In our society there are some myth related to gender variance like they accepted only two gender people of male and female sex, on other hand they did not accepted this third gender people. Because they consider him as an something abnormal to him. They did not understand and accepted this multiple dimensions, features of gender. So, there is rejection, discrimination, social violence, stigma towards these gender and community of people. Because their life style, habits and characters are very different from others one.

Hence it affected their social, economic, educational status and health status.

There are less resources, facilities towards these genders of people. They always treated like a different, therefore excluded from our society. The most important thing is many Hijras are work like a prostitute, sex worker. They highly involved in a sexual activity<sup>[1]</sup>.

These people are specially inviting and plays an important role in occasion of child birth and marriages for their good luck and wishes<sup>[3]</sup>.

Hijras belongs to all cast, religion and community. They spread all over the areas<sup>[5]</sup>.

### SPIRIT OF HIJRAS

Basically hijras, Kinner derived as reunion of two energy together in a single materialism. Which makes some uniqueness in their special characters. There are two soul of masculinity and femininity. Masculinity is derived from lord Shiva and femininity is derived from goddesses shakti. Therefore, hijras are considered as neither a complete male and female. They have special power of these two energies. Every science is derived from two basic component such as philosophical background and scientific background. This philosophical relates to non-materialism and scientific relates to materialism. Hence in aspect of philosophical background if two energy meet together one or one is always a one. In mathematical expression  $[1 + 1 = 1]$ . On other hand in materialism, non-philosophical background this one and, one unites together and form two. In mathematical expression it is  $[1 + 1 = 2]$ .

Therefore, hijras born as a reunion of these two sources of energy together in some purpose of human welfare.

These spirits have some special features like they always work together, they never be separated out, their dependency is togetherness. The effect of these two energies are also to be different on body parts. Such as the masculinity energy is dominating more towards the right sided of body whereas the femininity energy is dominating more towards on the left sided

body part.

So according to this there is equal division, uniformity of both these energies in a single whole body. These union of two different energies act on body. under the influence of God as curses and manifest as an Avtar (blessing) to him.

These two energies are never overlap together. They always remain constant and uniform in a same direction. Which does not affect from external, environmental stimuli.

When we talk about the nature of these two energies, one is dominating and another one is recessive.

## BACKGROUND OF HIJRAS IN HINDU MYTHOLOGY

### A. HIJRAS IN RAMAYAN

There were many stories regarding to Hijras in our mythological background. In times of Ramayan, ram was fought with demon Ravenna and go to the sri lanka to bring his wife, sita. And again, back to the India.

Before this, his father commanded that ram leave to ayodhya and go to the forest for atleast 14 years. As a result, ram went, the whole individuals and citizen was followed him. Because the citizen of ayodhya loved ram so much, they came behind ram. As ram were came to banks of river at edge of the forest, he returns to people and said, ladies and gents please wipe your tears and go away. There are some group of people who were not men or a woman so, they were stayed there because ram did not ask to them to go away.

They remained stay and waiting for the ram around 14 years. When ram return from lanka and he was found that a group of people still waiting for him. So, he said to these people why you didn't return. These people told to ram that you said ladies and gents but not our community. So, we still waiting for you. Hence, there is some tears rolling from the eyes of ram and they all were blessed by ram. They have power to bless good fortune and fertility.

### B. HIJRAS IN MAHABHARAT

There are many characters plays their role in the Mahabharat. There was a Vedic culture which allowing the transgender people to live accordingly to their gender. Arjuna and brhinnala. There was a character of arjuna lives incognito for the one year as a part of the prince because he must pay for losing a game of dice and also rejecting the advances of one of celestial nymphs. Therefore, arjuna decides to hide himself in the guise of eunuchs / transvestite, then he wears a bangles made of white conch, braiding his hairs like a woman, clothing himself like an female and serving the ladies of king court (Rajagopalachari 1980).

On other hand there was an important role, character in Mahabharat named as sikhandi he was neither a men and woman. Lies in between the men and woman and having a rightful place in the society. Shikhandi was a powerful and strong character.

There was an important character in Mahabharat Aravan a son of arjuna. He asked to lord Krishna about their three boons. In her third boons he was asked to lord Krishna to be married before his death. But there was a problem that no king married their daughter for aravan to knowing that next day he died. Hence to fulfil these third boons of aravan lord Krishna himself took an Avtar of Mohini as a female spirit and become bride for aravan for one day, and married him to fulfil their wishes. And next day when aravan sacrificed his life and Mohini mourn aravan's death after his sacrifices<sup>[6]</sup>.

### ORIGIN OF HIJRAS- 'ARDHNARISHWAR'

As we know hijras are neither a man and woman, they always

lie in between the gender of men and woman. According to our Hindu mythology background this kind of people are considered as a Ardhnari, half woman god. In ancient time there was a story that brahma a creature of this universe face some problems regarding the upcoming junration because on that time brahma created the junration of male dominating, a men but the junration does not go forward so due to this problem brahma go to the supreme of god lord Shiva and said about these junration problem in this earth. Hence, lord Shiva shows their Avtar of Ardhnarishwar. In which half right sided part of body covers masculinity of lord Shiva and half left sided part of the body covers by the feminity shakti. As a result, brahma recognise them and create a woman in this earth to continue the next junration in corresponded to men. From this concept it was found that hijras are the creature of lord Shiva (masculinity) and shakti (feminity) with their union in a single material body, entity

### BAHUCHARA MATA- HIJRAS

In hijras community Bahuchara Mata, recognized as a form of the mother goddess. Is a household deity that is worshipped, mostly, for her perceived ability to bring fertility to people, specifically childless couples and newlyweds. Women will also pray to her if they want specifically male children.

Although the Bahuchara Mata is praised for her ability to bring good fortune in the form of the male children and fertility, she is also capable of bringing the horrible misfortunes to those one who deceive her on that time.

There are some variations in mythological stories of this Bahuchara Mata. In these stories' thieves are trying to take away her virtue in the rape. In another story, she attempts to war off their advances by the cutting of their breast to maintain her virtue and purity.

On other hand thieves succeed in raping her and she consequently transforms them into the eunuchs to speak her ability to bodily transformation. Therefore, hijras castrate themselves in her name. this occasion is known as a Nirvana, when a newly transgender women enter in the community of hijras. Hence, this Bahuchara Mata is one of the goddesses of Hijras community<sup>[9]</sup>.

### MARRIAGE OF HIJRAS LIFE

In southern India, there is a eighteen day festival from which one day marriage with the Aravan. There was a hero in Mahabharat named as Aravan a son of Arjun who sacrifices his life. On other hand there is transformation of lord Krishna as a female form of Mohini to married with Aravan before his death to fulfil their last wishes.

There is a festival devoted to the male to female transformation of transgender woman. In a town of koovagam, near Chennai in state of Tamil Nadu. In the month of chitirai (April-May). At the koothandavar temple. Around many transgender persons from all over the world. They all are going to participating in these festivals and become a Mohini as a incarnation of lord Krishna and married to aravan and on next day they going to state of mourning and widowhood. so, every transgender woman devoted to sacrifices of Aravan in Mahabharat. Hence in Tamil nadu every transgender woman said to be Aravani. This is a major festival in our Indian<sup>[7]</sup>.

### HOW TO BECAME A HIJRAS

When a person born a male gender but not satisfied with their birth assigned sex due to their female soul so he first lives their society and go to the search of himself. As a result, he goes to the rituals of gharana, he is basically castrated and this procedure is generally known as a niravana. The whole ritual is celebrated as a ceremony and after this male became a

hijras/ chela of the guru. So, in hijras community this guru chela plays an important role in their whole life span. Guru is a main leader of every chela. Guru is there is no member of men in this community, only there is a sister, mother and daughter. Guru plays an important role in chela as if her mother, father everything.

After entering in this community, a person should understand and accept all the rituals, background study of the hijras life style. For participating in various ceremonies like child borth and marriages for performing their dance and clapping to give blessing and good wishes to that community.

### SIGNIFICANCE OF CLAPPING

Hijras has special features of clap, because as we know that hijras are those people who neither be a men and woman. They lie in between the men and woman or somewhat they have all and equal quality, combination of men and woman so this signifies that when they clap there is union of these two different energies of masculinity as well as feminity togetherness. In during clapping when one hand meets to another hand so it defines that one energy meets to another energy in a single materialism. This plays an important role. In our street, colony, areas when these people came so first, they clap. The sound of their clapping is loud and different. Which shows something in their uniqueness. On other hand when hijras people give blessing and curses to any one individual so they also clap. Which is somewhat a transformation of the energy from one state to another one for some purpose behind it.

### EARNING SOURCE OF HIJRAS

In the community of hijras life the main source of their earning is Badhai as perform their dance in special places, ceremony of child birth and marriages, to give their blessing and good fortune to the newly born baby and newly married couple for their upcoming life. This plays an important role in our Hindu mythological background. On other hand these hijras are also going to bagging in the street, public places, in traffic signals because there are no such resources, job opportunity, right to career as similar as non-transgender person have. So, they have a poor economic status. Due to these hijras are also becoming a sex worker. To sale their body for earning.

### KIND OF HIJRAS

There are mainly four types of hijras. Such as;

1. Intersexual / hermaphrodite- these are the person who born as both male and female genital organs. There are three main categories. Such as;
  - a. True hermaphrodite- they are basically a person who born with the both testis and ovaries in a body.
  - b. Female hermaphrodite- they are born as XX chromosome with internal female organ but their external genitalia like a male one.
  - c. Male Hermaphrodite- they are born as a male with XY chromosome having a internal male genitalia but external genitalia like an female one.

### 2. IMPOTENT PERSON-

These are the impotent who does not participate in any sexual activity and reproductive life due to their impotency. They are not able to give an birth of a child so they faces so social stigma. Hence, welcome in the community of hijras life style.

### 3. TRANSSEXUAL PERSON-

They are such kind person who born as a male body with complete male genitals but they are not satisfied with their birth sex. So, they unsatisfied with their gender and want to change their body by some surgeries called as sex reassignment surgeries, where transition of male to female body. They are named as transgender woman. They became an hijras.

There are two main categories, such as;

- a. Castrated men hijras- they are such men who remove their pennis and join the hijras community.
- b. Non- castrated men- they are such men who did not remove their pennis but join the hijras community.
4. Fake hijras- they are such kind so person who dressed up like a female, clap in public places for the purpose of bagging and earn money only<sup>[7]</sup>

### LIFE STYLE OF HIJRAS

These people are always live in a community, group, locality and they call everyone as she and dress up like a woman and do ever work in their house like a woman. They talk, walk, do everything like a woman. They usually live in a rent houses with four to five members.

They spend their money in purchasing of the makeup kit and jewellery because their main earning is Badhai, participating in ceremony of child birth and marriages. So, they look like a beautiful lady with attractiveness in their personality. and the most important thing is they celebrates every ceremony like their happiness. So, they are very open and true hearted personality. there are lots of discrimination, rejections, stigma from our society towards this kind of people but still they live very happiest person in this world. This is a special feature of hijras life. They started every morning as a new one. They mostly travelled in the rickshaw. Because when they travelled in buses so men touch him on any body parts, they pass comments on him and the most important thing is there is no compartment of transgender person. There is only two main compartments of men and woman. So, it shows some kind of rejection and exclusion to these people.

### HEALTH STATUS HIJRAS

In hijras community the HIV human immune deficiency virus infection and other sexually transmitted infection is very commonly seen. Because hijras also involved in a sex worker, selling their body to earn money. There is no such precautions, measurement in the health status of these group of people<sup>[10]</sup>.

### SOCIAL STATUS HIJRAS

Hijras faces many discriminations, marginalization, abuses in our India. Discrimination regarding to their class, to their gender identity, all these things make stigmatized. They are firstly rejected from their family, social organizations and suffered form various form of social exclusion. They are mostly forced into the ritualized bagging because of no proper education system, no proper health care system, employment system giving to him. So, they are mostly excluded from our society<sup>[11]</sup>.

### HEALTH CARE SYSTEM- HIJRAS

In our health care system these hijras does not treated like another patients. They addressed him in a very disrespectful manner. When the transgender is reluctant to show their ano rectal area. So, they are very subjected to abusive language by the physician examination or somewhat of the paramedical staff. They are generally admitted under the male ward of sexually transmitted infections to their castration and cross dressing<sup>[12]</sup>.

### LEGAL POSITION OF HIJRAS IN, 2014, SUPREME COURT-

Judgment (National legal services authority union of India) that affirms the constitutional rights towards the transgender people and their communities.

Thus, it gives a legal recognition of the transgender person as subjective of citizenship and their rights<sup>[13]</sup>.

### TRANSGENDER PROTECTION BILL (2016)-

In this bill the definition, description of transgender is

partially, half male and female or combination of both the male and female. They are neither be a complete male and female. They are belonging to such who are not satisfied with the gender assignment at during the birth. There are two main categories of these genders. Such as; transgender men and transgender woman.

Highlights of bill;

1. They must obtain a certificate as a identity proof and invoke right under the bill. There is a screening committee granted by district magistrate with some members. Such as;
  - a. Medical officer.
  - b. Psychologist, psychiatrist.
  - c. District welfare officer.
  - d. Transgender person.

There is some offence to these kinds of people. If they beg, denied access to public place, physically, sexually abuses. So, 2 years imprisonment and fine.

2. There is right for education.
3. Right for employment.
4. Right for health care system.

These rights made to prevent all the discrimination towards the transgender people.

### METHODOLOGY

The data is collected from the various research papers, research articles, various journals and combined it to form a generalised conclusion of given data. Databases like Google scholar were used for collecting the articles.

### RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Hijras are the part of our society with strong mythological background and considered under the third gender because they are neither men and woman. They lie in between the men and woman. Female soul trapped in a male body called as male transgender. They leave social network and go to search of himself and join a community and live in respect to their own culture and religion for fulfilment of some good purpose in their life.

As per this whole literature work, it was found that hijras has a strong mythological background. They have special features of god as a Avtar or blessing on him and they plays an important role in our society as a luck and good fortunes. They are excepted under the third gender category as per Vedic literature. But still there are some rejection and discrimination phases in hijras life. They excluded from our society and marginalized. There is lack of economic source, health care system, educational support, employment support which all decreases their social status. They are God own children. Made for some good purpose, but we forced him into bagging, as a sexual worker, prostitution etc. Hijras dances in every ceremony of child birth and marriages as their own celebration for giving blessing, good fortune to people in their upcoming life but still our society rejected these people. Therefore, these people face so many social stigma from birth to death.

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