

## MEDICAL RECTIFICATION OF TRANSGENDERS IN ISLAMIC PERSPECTIVE

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### ABSTRACT

Transgenders are the most neglecting class of every society of the world, especially, in 3<sup>rd</sup> world countries as they are seen by hate and hatred. The present study highlights the causes of transgenderism, the need for medical rectification, available treatments, and the Islamic concept. At presently, many curative measures have been invented by medical science to rectify them. If these methods are used at an early stage or later, their sex can be rectified. As a result, they can spend their lives like normal people to some extent and can get equal opportunity in employment, health care, housing as well as for their self-worth. Furthermore, it will also be helpful for them to live successfully without humiliation.

**KEYWORDS:** Transgender, Hermaphrodite, Medical rectification, Religion, Treatment

### INTRODUCTION

Allah has created human beings as men, women, and eunuchs. The first two types are born in normal ways whereas the eunuch can be called the third gender are born abnormally. It is fact that every male bears XY bearing sperms and every female produces X bearing eggs (Carlson 2013). Therefore, every baby is born with dual genes received Y-chromosomes by the father and X- Chromosomes by the mother respectively. In the initial stage of the prenatal period, the sex of the child cannot be determined till the fourth week of gestation (Jane Coad 2011). Whereas Solari wrote that at the initial stage of pregnancy, every baby is a girl because of the X-chromosomes inherited by the mother. At the 8<sup>th</sup> week of pregnancy Y-chromosomes are active (Solari 1993) and the sex of the child is determined. After the fusion of the sperm and eggs if the baby carries SRY-Chromosomes the baby will be a boy and will develop with testosterone and other masculine hormones and have a clear penis and testes. In the case of XX- Chromosomes' fusion the baby will develop with the female's internal system i.e., gonads, genitals, and reproductive organs.

However, in exceptional circumstances, the development of sex hormones that activate the determination of the gender do not work appropriately on the brain, gonads, and genitals and trigger deviations among them. For example, if the gonads and genitals determine the gender as male while the gender identity which is determined by the brain determined as a female. This discrepancy will be caused by the extra hormones in the system of a mother or with the aid of fetus's insensitivity to the hormones, term as (AIS) "Androgen insensitivity syndrome." This improper

working of the hormones in the mother's womb caused gender dysphoria. It leads to other unusual disorders as well, known as (CAH), congenital adrenal hyperplasia" intersex commonly called hermaphroditism may also result in gender dysphoria.

In one case the adrenal glands i.e., two small glands in a triangular shape, poisoned above the kidneys in a female fetus, produce extraordinary masculine hormones. As a result, the genitals of the female enlarged. While in another case the genitals are increased to such an extent that the baby is assumed as male at the time of birth. In technical terms, the main cause behind this ambiguity is either (5alpha-RD-2) or 17-beta-hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase deficiency (17beta-HSD-3) (Cohen-Kettenis 2005).

There is still another term that alludes to people who have both unequivocal ovarian tissue and testicular elements (Kyu-Rae Kim M.D. 2002). They are very rare with the exception of in Southern Africa, where it is the most common disorder (Bouvattier 2010).

### **Methodology**

The study is descriptive in nature. It analyses the current issue and highlights it. The data is obtained from various libraries and interviews of doctors concerning the field, but the majority of it is obtained from electronic media because the majority of the material is present on it.

### **Symptoms of trans-genders**

Some specific signs of Trans-genders are;

- i. Vague natal genitalia
- ii. Very small penis
- iii. Clitoromegaly (an enlarged clitoris)
- iv. Partial labial fusion
- v. Apparently undescended testes (which may turn out to be ovaries) in boys
- vi. Labial or inguinal (groin) masses -- which may turn out to be testes -- in girls
- vii. Hypospadias (the opening of the penis is somewhere other than at the tip; in females, the urethra (urine canal) opens into the vagina)
- viii. Unusual appearing genitalia at birth
- ix. Electrolyte abnormalities
- x. Delayed or absent puberty
- xi. Unexpected changes at puberty. (Sultan 2004)

### **Why Need of Medical Rectification of Transgender?**

All the sexes are determined internally without the interference of the couples therefore such people don't have any fault in wrong body birth. But still, people don't feel their miserliness and blame them as they themselves have created in this way. Their families are not ready to accept them considering a blot on their honors and dignity. In families, they are sexually harassed and cannot find refuge with their parents who thought them faulty rather consoling them. For instance, Hossein M, one of the Trans people says that in his adolescence, he was confronted with a ton of fun by his grown-up cousins and children of his age. They additionally at times, took him to an unoccupied room and sexually violate him. At the point when his parents came to know about it, rather soothing him or finding any cure, they treated him all around gravely. Even his mom stated, "What have I done to deserve having a

sick child?" she drove him out from her home (Sanei 2010). They are likewise treated in all respects gravely by ordinary people. They are viewed as a prostitute. The aggression, mockery, and rejection not only segregate them but also lead towards the withdrawal from society and atrocious efforts to suicide, drugs addiction, and self-mutilation (Devor, Ftm: Female-to-Male Transsexuals in Society 2016).

Transgender people have been facing exploitation and discrimination from police officials, religious departments, health departments, prison departments, school administration, and even from their teachers. When they approach them for help and protection, they could get very little protection rather very often they are rejected. One of the gloomiest parts of Trans-genders individuals' life is that they can't get legitimate assistance from the police if somebody hurts them. The police do not enlist their case. This gives courage to the common people to prod them. One of the Malaysian transgenders narrated her story that once a man who was following her grind into her home, assaulted her, tore open her shirt, and stole her cell phone. She went to the police station to report. They remarked that the man pursued her due to her sexual offer. She was advised to leave the case. She said that she couldn't rely upon the police since they constantly accused the Trans-genders if any incident occurred against them.

They cannot get jobs even if they are eligible because of their transgenderism. Beka, one of the transgender women said that she had been rejected for jobs multiplentimes by an international organization and other employers because of her gender identity (Devor, Ftm: Female-to-Male Transsexuals in Society 2016). As a result, they are forced to join weddings and other social celebrations in the towns in order to earn their livelihood. They perform different shameful activities along with dance in order to earn their bread and butter. Their houses have become sex centers. As a result, the young generation is suffering from many fatal diseases. Presently in Bahawalpur, district of Punjab, Pakistan, we met many Trans-gender people who were begging for their bread. They told us that now the parties are banned by the government, the people are not ready to employ them. So, they have no other means of earning than begging. This situation is not only in Pakistan but also in other parts of the world.

This humiliation has become the part and parcel of their lives. Even the people of the medicinal profession do not comprehend their problems. They taunted them. Naz, one of the Trans-gender women informed that once, she went to Port Dickson General Hospital, a government hospital, for the treatment of low blood pressure in 2008. She was insulted by a medical person. She said that on another occasion, she had to go to the emergency department because of low blood pressure due to over dosing on hormones. She was conscious half, knowing every matter. The apprentices and new doctors surrounded her bed. They opened her clothes and pointed towards the breasts and questioned her gender in a way that she sensed humiliation (<https://www.hrw.org> 2014). The doctors do not like to touch them for examination, considering them as lepers. If they have to touch them, they just touch their sexual organs irrationally. Male Transgender are not spared from such behavior. Ron, a middle-class Trans-gender male said that even he found many doctors open-minded in private sectors in Kuala Lumpur still some doctors do not hesitate to touch private parts. He then talked about his personal experience. Once a

doctor examined his pelvic area, nevertheless, he went there for other issues, entirely unconnected to the genital (<https://www.hrw.org> 2014). Such humiliations forced them to start self-medication. Sometimes they take an overdose of hormones or other medicines which results in dangerous side effects. So, they have to admit to hospitals and have to face humiliation. One of the transgender women mentioned her bitter experience in a hospital in Iran. She said that the whole night she experienced pain, rage, cruelty, and abuse. The next morning, she complained to the in-charge of the ward who just questioned if they raped you? She replied that they did everything except for rape. He responded surprisingly saying that you must be thankful to God as they did not rape you ([6rang.org](http://6rang.org) 2014).

In educational side most of the transgender students cannot access to schools because of the illegalization of sexual orientation and discrimination in schools. In third-world countries, it is impossible for them to seek admission. In advanced countries, if they are able to get admission, they have to face extreme violence, persecution, and bullying from their classmates and even from their teachers. Sonia one of the 28 years old Iranian transgender narrated, "Everyone in school used to mock me, even the principal and the vice-principal. They used to call me "Sissy boy." I had nowhere to turn to. They told me I was "acting like a faggot." My father thought I was playing with his reputation and bringing shame unto him. I used to cry a lot and felt guilty. She again said that she was in her third year of middle school when her classmates started sexually harassing her, fingering her, or forcing themselves on her from behind. Children would insult her, using vivid sexual language. Once, one of the classmates pulled her pants down and asked other children to call her over". (Human Rights Report Being Transgender in Iran n.d.) The state of affairs in the boys' high school were not much better for her. She further said, "When I was in my second year of high school, four students pinned my arms and legs to undress me and see my genitalia" (Human Rights Report Being Transgender in Iran n.d.).

It is cleared by this report of "GLSEN" (Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network), "LGBTQ" (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans & Queer) the largest educational organization in the USA, stated, "Transgender students face much higher levels of harassment and violence than lesbians, gays, and bisexual students. And these high levels of victimization result in these students missing more school, receiving lower grades, and feeling isolated and not part of the school community" (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov> n.d.).

### **The available treatments**

When transgender people are not able to adjust themselves in their societies. They are expelled from their houses so they are forced to have sexual relations with others in order to have a bed to sleep in. Ultimately, they become gays or drag queens and join their clubs. Hence, it is necessary to take some affirmative and concrete steps to save them from the hands of the fortune hunters. At presently two types of treatment are available.

#### **(a) Hormones Therapy**

As soon as the doctors diagnose transgenderism, they start Hormone Therapy at the first stage. It replaces the natural hormones with the opposite gender. The Transsexual women will be given androgens, (Male hormones), and men will receive

estrogen and progesterone. (Female hormones) which develop the secondary sex characteristics. Extensive doses of feminine hormones will be given to men with the objective that the effects of androgens might be overwhelmed. Similarly, the mannish hormones, testosterone will be given to the woman. Once, this treatment takes place, changes will seem all-around rapidly. Their body will get masculine or feminine appearance accordingly. With hormones therapy the size of the larynx and the vocal cords cannot be changed therefore voices of both genders will be changed slightly. (Janina K. Casper 2006)

### **(b) Sex Reassignment Surgery**

When the hormone therapy is finalized the second phase of the treatment is started which is called "Sex Reassignment Surgery". Two major surgeries i.e., top and bottom are performed to change their appearance. These surgeries include;

#### **(i) Male to Female Surgery**

In the first stage of the surgical procedure, the doctors used "Breast augmentation" to stimulate or to develop natural breasts. The silicon envelopes with saline (saltwater) may also be placed either behind the breast's glands or behind the pectoralis major muscle of the chest. (Gianna E. Israel, Transgender Care: Recommended Guidelines, Practical Information, and Personal Accounts 1997)

After this surgery, vaginoplasty is performed to create a new vagina. Finally, the face, nose, and chin, etc. are also operated to give the appearance of a female.

#### **(ii) Female to male surgery**

While converting male from female, on the first step the breasts are removed, and the nipple complex is repositioned to give the look of a masculine chest (Gianna E. Israel, Transgender Care: Recommended Guidelines, Practical Information, and Personal Accounts 2001). Then penis is constructed by the tissues either taken from the forearm, thigh, lower abdomen or groin (Schechter, Surgical Management of the Transgender Patient 2016). Its cost in private is about 200,000 but free of cost in government hospitals, according to Dr. Muhammad Mughese Amin. (Senior plastic surgeon in Bahawal Victoria Hospital Bahawalpur) Some people implant a silicon penis containing an erectile device for erection (Schechter, Surgical Management of the Transgender Patient 2016).

### **Types of implantations of penis**

Three types of penile implantation are commonly used for the erection and sexual intercourse.

#### **Three-piece inflatable pump**

In this process "two cylinders" are placed in the penis, an "inflatable pump" in scrotum and a "fluid filled container" in abdomen. These are connected by a special tubing. For the erection, pump is squeezed which releases fluid from the cylinder and makes the penis flaccid. The erection feels like the original erection. (Galan n.d.) Deflation pump is pressed simply to end the erection ([www.trans-health.com](http://www.trans-health.com) › penile-implants-guide 2013).

#### **Two-piece inflatable**

Through the surgical process, two cylinders are inserted into the shaft of the penis along with the hydraulic pump and a reservoir with the saline in the scrotum. For erection hydraulic pump is pressed which conveys the saline to the cylinders from

the reservoir. And for deflation, the penis is bent down gently for six to twelve seconds (www.trans-health.com › penile-implants-guide 2013) the release valve on the pump drains the saline from the cylinders to the reservoir. (Loren S Schechter 2018)It is available even in Bahawalpur, Punjab, Pakistan but its cost is about 400,000, according to Dr. Muhammad Mughese Amin.

#### **Noninflatable implantation:**

It is comprised of “Simirigid malleable” and “nonmalleable” rods. (S. B. Francisco E. Martins 2019) In this process one or two bendable and position able rods are used. They contain out coating of silicon and inner stainless-steel core or inter locking plastic joints. Its use is very simple. Just bend the penis in erect position for erection and bend it down to end the erection (www.trans-health.com › penile-implants-guide 2013).Different sizes are available and very easy to manipulate. They are not commonly implanted because it creates constant pressure on “phallic structure” and a risk of erosion (S. B. Francisco E. Martins 2019).

#### **Implications of Medical Rectification**

Medical rectification is currently available for those people who are born in wrong body. If they get benefit from this procedure, they will be able to spend a normal life. They may get education and jobs according to their ability and capability. They may be equally treated with other children in homes and society. They may register their case in police and other legal departments. They may be well treated in streets rather jeering upon them. They do not perform dances in functions and be mocked and humiliated. They may not be discriminated in hospitals or raped by the people. They may not adopt begging or sexual activities for their living.

With reference to the discussion with Dr. Muhammad Zubair Ahmed, Professor of neonatal & pediatric surgery, and Dr. Muhammad Mughese Amin professor of plastic surgery, it is concluded that if the patients born in wrong bodies arrive in early stages i.e., within a year then it is possible to restore their sex. If the internal organs are missed, their external organs and appearance can be made according to desired sex. Although they can spend their lives like normal people, can perform sexual activities but cannot impregnate their partners. we think something is better than nothing. In this way, at least, they can save themselves from the miseries faced by the Trans-genders. But those people who had castrated themselves if wish, can be restored and impregnate their partners.

#### **Religious Perspective**

Some people consider that change of sex indeed changes in the creation of Allah and a great sin. There is no doubt in it, if the person having fully developed organs change sex because only, he/she is not satisfied with it, it would be a major sin. But those people who are born in wrong body can seek help by either means of treatment allowed in Islam as Holy Prophet (PBUH) himself allowed for medication on different occasion's e.g., Narrated Abu Huraira: The Prophet said, "There is no disease that Allah has created, except that He also has created its treatment." (Bukhari, The translation of the meanings of Sahîh Al-Bukhâri: Arabic-English. 1997) Another Hadith is mentioned in Jami al-Tirmidhi, Usamah bin Sharik said: Some Bedouins asked: 'O Messenger of Allah (SAW) shall we treat (our ill)?' He said: 'Yes, O worshipers of Allah! Use remedies. For disease.' They said: 'O Messenger of Allah (SAW)! What is it?' He said: 'Old age' (Tirmidhi 2007). According to Abu Dawud the

permission of operation was given by Prophet (PBUH). Narrated Jabir ibn Abdullah: The Prophet (PUBH) sent a physician to Ubayy (ibn Ka'b), and he cut his vein" (Dawud 1984).

Most of the "Hanfi" and "Maliki" said that medical treatment is Mubah i.e., permitted. While according to the "Shaafis", Qaadi Ibn Aqeel and Ibn al-Jawzi said that it is Mustahab i.e., recommended as Holy Prophet himself instructions for the cure and cupping clearly indicate the permission of medical treatment (Peter Radan 2004).

## CONCLUSION

Transgenderism is one of the grimmest issues of our present era. We are far away from the essence of Islam and its teachings. Masses are fully unaware of the determination of sex. Even well-educated people either neglect this fact or show carelessness in the matters of transgenderism. None of us is ready to accommodate them in our homes and do not hesitate to deprive them of their rightful share of the inheritance. We propel them in hijra communities to become burden for our societies. We should remember that we can never choose our sex. Verily, Allah does not discriminate between genders. Who are we to do so? Further when Prophet (PBUH) is permitted to seek medical treatment then why should we be hesitant? Finally, transgenderism can be cured through medication or surgery according to the requirement of the patients on doctors' advice.

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