

THE PSYCHOSEXUALITY PROBLEMS OF TRANSGENDER IN LIVING SMILE VIDHYA'S I AM VIDHYA AND JAZZ JENNINGS BEING JAZZ: MY LIFE AS A TRANSGENDER TEEN

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Abstract

The term sex and gender are concepts used by researchers and feminist writers to know the difference between biological male and female and socially based man and woman. When a child is born, it is labelled as boy or girl depending on their sex. The characterization of the child is based on the genital difference and the individuals are then socialized according to specific gender operation and roles. Genitals and the reproductive organs are the only difference between the male and female child when they are born but the society makes difference between a boy and girl through gender constructions. Those things are either socially constructed nor created biologically. The psychosexuality of society denies the independence of a women and she is forced to accept the life of housework and childbearing and men are to meant to be superior to women that is to follow their instructions. This paper deals the psychosexuality problems of the third gender issues in Being Jazz and I am Vidhya. The two characters Jazz and Vidhya suffer a lot for their gender identity.

Keywords: gender issues, transgender, identity, suffering, psychosexuality

Patriarchy is basically a social system in which male upholds the primary power and predominant role of either political, social or control over the property. In the contemporary society, power is primary held the by the adult men but women are disadvantaged and oppressed. Male violence against women in priority groups also face multiple oppression in the society through race, class and sexuality. Through gender characteristics, masculinity and femininity depend on the context of biological sex.

Gender itself is a construction of patriarchy. Like most forms of oppression. Patriarchy is one which holds up the traditional male qualities as central. Both male and female are affected by the portal of gender in patriarchy. It looks at how women are seen as negative coverage of sexual violence. And men occupy top leadership positions which are often exhibited through traditional male traits. And women are often given low salaries. Those are the ideas always state that the society characterizes male and female on different grounds.

From early history, we can find a trace of transgender. Susan Stryker in his book *Transgender History* says “Transgender is a word that has come into widespread use only in a couple of decades, its meaning are still under construction” (15). Transgender varies as much as gender itself and it always depends on historical and cultural context. This transgender falls into lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender literature those people are called as LGBT.

LGBT history dates back to the first recorded instances of same sex love and sexuality of ancient civilizations, involving the history of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people and cultures around the world. Even after many centuries, LGBT people are still resulting in shame suppression and secrecy. In 1994 the annual observance of LGBT history month began in the US, and it has been picked up in other countries. This observance involves highlighting the history of the people, LGBT rights and related civil rights movement.

There are lots of transgender- related topics which discusses the personal issues something that an individual experience inwardly and work to bring into reality by sharing it with others. There are many autobiographies of people who have changed sex as an increasing number of self-help guide books for people contemplating such a change. There are now a lot of good documentary films and shows that show about the transgender.

Jennings a notable transgender teenage girl, is popular for being one of the youngest publicly documented people to be identified as a transgender figure. Jazz Jennings in her autobiography book *Being Jazz: My life as a Transgender Teen* talks about her own experience as a transgender teen. Jazz Jennings is one of the youngest and most prominent voices in the national discussion about gender identity. At the age of five, Jazz transitioned her life as a girl, with the support of her parents. A year later, her parents allowed her share her incredible journey in her remarkable memoir, Jazz reflects her own public experience and how they helped to shape the mainstream attitude towards the transgender community. Jazz has faced many challenges, bullying, discrimination and rejection, yet she preserves, as she educates other about her on his journey, standing together against those who don't understand the meaning of tolerance and unconditional love.

Jazz shifting live as a girl didn't happen overnight. She overcame more discrimination from her schools, friends and also in public. Ever since from small, she came to know she was a girl “A girl tapped in a boy body”. When she informed her mom about the change, she was asked to wait to identify as a girl in public. Most of the people kept their children away from Jazz in schools. Jazz everyday faces a new challenge in her life. While her primary school, allowed her to dress as a girl, she was not permitted to use girls' toilet. She was not allowed to play in a girls' football teams and she is banned for two years from playing her favourite sport, football. The other problem she faced in school is making friends. Whenever she finds a new friend, they backbite about her. This kind of talks made her feel low. In her day to day life, she is fighting for acceptance and understanding.

Jazz is finally in cloud nine with her new reality. But Jazz parents couldn't immediately adjust to the new reality. In this place Freud's theory of sublimation takes place. Sublimation is the unconscious mental process by which intellectual and socially unacceptable energy are transformed into a non-instinctual, socially acceptable activity. Suppressed or inhibited thought is promoted into something nobler and socially acceptable.

Another writer in India who talks about the transgender people as the same with her personal experience. The pathetic state of transgender is brought out in the text *I am Vidya: A Transgender's Journey through the life of Vidya* who was originally named as Saravanan by her parents in Tamilnadu a state that is located in southern tip of India. Despite being a M.A linguistic graduate, the life of Vidya proves to be a state of turmoil. The life of Vidya from her birth to the present and her demand for the basic rights of transgender portrays the plight of thousands of unknown transgenders in India.

Born on 25 March 1982, Vidya was named as Saravanan by her father as she was born after the prayers offered to deity Murugan. Her father Ramaswami craved for a boy baby and as a sixth child Saravanan was supposed to fulfil their desire and of course the birth of Saravanan brought them great joy and the mother Veeramma too would have least expected the future that would change Saravanan into Vidya. Being born as a boy, Vidya received great attention from the parents. The sisters Radha and Manju poured their love on Vidya. Saravanan (Vidya) was supposed to study devoid of any domestic work however; often the trouble broke between Ramaswami and Vidya during the exam results.

Vidya through her autobiography presents the distinction between the sex reassignment operation carried in countries that legally acknowledge them and the Nirvana operation carried out in India without government approval. The readers are enlightened to know the incorporation of facial feminization, speech therapy, breast augmentation and the insertion of a plastic vagina. She talks about the RLT (real life testing) being carried out before sex reassignment surgery. In contrast to the above, in India no Sex reassignment surgery takes place. HIV test alone is conducted prior to the operation without any proper procedures. The operation is carried out in lack of anaesthesia and mere castration of the body organ takes place. Vidya being educated also undertakes the operation illegally only for the desire of leading a life like woman. There was no medicine or suggestion even after the operation. Just hot water was splashed on the operated part as a home remedy to prevent infection. Again, the other transgenders were caring and she describes the rituals in detail after the operation. The ritual is conducted in a grand manner inviting all the other tyrannies. It is really a big day for Vidya acknowledging the transformation from Saravanan to Vidya. As Vidya achieves the desired end she gradually shifts back to her family. She leaves stealthily from transgender circle in Pune as she won't get the approval for the permanent move from them. The family accepts her but staying without a job causes agitation and it becomes a great burden for Vidya. She moves and stays with different friends. The professors and friends help her by all means for basic needs and finally after desperate struggle she settles in a job. She approves her boss and the friends. Life seems to get settled

down for Vidya but she is conscious about thousands of other transgenders who needs rehabilitation.

The struggle for a transgender in India does not stop with finding a job. In the last chapter “I want to live-with pride” she lists down the various efforts that she has taken to secure the basic rights. As a first step she wanted to change her name for Saravanan to Living Smile Vidya in gazette. She mentions the sex change operation as the reason for the change of name in the application and it gets rejected by the government. Vidya sought the help of the lawyer and filed a public interest litigation demanding franchise for transgenders. She got a positive reply stating “tirunangais could choose male or female as their gender. . . some of them had voter ID cards as a result” (Vidya, 133). Even after the court order Vidya had to run from pillar to the post to change her name. She was shuttled between the court and the various government offices. She had to face insults, hurts from innumerable people including women and kids. She laments over the unfulfilled desire of changing her name.

More or less to be conclude, transgenders face problems wherever they go. Changing their gender is like they are born again. According to transgender, identifying gender is a big problem. While identifying their gender they may undergo into various psychological problems such as depression, stress, anxiety, self-harming, thoughts and so on. In both the novels we can find Vidhya and Jazz facing lot of problems from their childhood. They both face problems in wearing dress, making friends, most important is using bathrooms and their love life. Though they are kids they overcame every problem and they made society to understand their inner feelings. The next step is to conceive the family and society for the transition. The only difference in both the novels are Jazz got support from her family and Vidhya didn't. The most important thing is the positive vibration they spread though they get negative commands.

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