

SEXUALITY, ALTERNATING GENDER INCONGRUITY AND TRAUMATIC EXISTENCE: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF LAXMI'S ME HIJRA ME LAXMI AND LIVING SMILE VIDYA'S I AM VIDYA

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Abstract

In Indian society transgender is viewed as a menace. Though in the past they acclaim reputable and reputed positions, their present status is in the extinct of existence. They suffer because of ostracism, oppression and hypocritical untouchability. Recently, in literary spaces there a few transgender personalities who pen their traumatic and suffocating experience of existence through their autobiographies. It has attracted the international attention for preserving and upholding their rights. Vidya and Laxmi are the Hijras from two different parts of India the former from Tamilnadu and later, Maharastra. They have penned their life stories in the form of autobiographies entitled as I am Vidya and Me Laxmi me Hijra. They talk about their trials and tribulations in Indian society through their writing. Apart from Me Laxmi, Me Hijra, Laxmi also penned Red Lipstick. This paper is a form of exploration into the life of the transgenders in Indian society. This analysis is a comparative study of the life of two transgenders which can have universal appeal.

Keywords: *Transgenders, Discrimination, Androgynous, cross dressing.*

Globalization has vehemently impacted on the life of people and invariably changed the modes of living, belief system and social access. Even our identities are forged. People have become more materialistic and have built castles around them. The face to face communication is diminished and the technological gadgets have replaced the traditional ways of human communication. Technology has improved and impoverished the standard of living. Even in such times there are some discrimination on the basis of caste, gender, race, class, an etc.

In India it is very common to notice beggars in the streets and ostracism of people based on caste, religion, gender class and race. There are ample evidences whereby one can witness some men in women's attire are begging in the bazars by clapping their hands, sometimes they call men for sex work, sometimes they fight among

themselves and sometimes they are assaulted. These people form the part and parcel of our society but their very existence is threatened and their existential rights are derived by the general public due to their gender binary nature. They are identified as transgender. "Transgender" is a term, used to denote a person whose sense of gender identity or physique may not coincide with their sex, assigned during their birth. Transgender often shortened as "Trans" is an umbrella term, which includes gender binary persons—transmen, transvestites, cross dressers, transsexual. The term transgender was coined by Virginia Prince, a pioneer in the cross dresser movement in United states in 1970. Beasley, in this connection observes: " The term transgender refers to those who reject their socially assigned gender and refuse to place themselves in men and women gender binary"(4). Transgender reject their