



# Spatial pattern of pregnancy complication among currently married women in Rajasthan

*Reproductive Health of women is traditionally neglected in Rajasthan society. Pattern of pregnancy complications varies in Rajasthan across districts. This study gives information about the current spatial pattern of antenatal morbidity among women using data from AHS-2013. Treatments of complication vary according to background characteristic of women in Rajasthan society.*

**TEK CHAND SAINI**

## Introduction :

In the 20th century, the process of pregnancy and childbirth became the most significant event in women's life, which is more fatal than tuberculosis or suicide (Kristof, 2014). Anemia in pregnancy is one of the significant causes of low birth weight of an infant and it is a major risk factor for poor pregnancy outcome (Pant, 2008). Women suffered from health complications during pregnancy, which effect on delivery and the health of women and child, in case they are not treated at time of need. Traditionally in India, pregnancy was considered to be a natural condition, not requiring any medical attention (Kulkarni, 2012). The swelling of leg, face and hand (23.8 percent), paleness, giddiness and weakness (35.8 percent), visual disturbances (14.3 percent), and excessive fatigue (24.9 percent), excessive vomiting (23.1 percent) are major complications during pregnancy faced by the majority of women in India. There is regional variation of specific pregnancy related health issues in India.

## Study Area :

Rajasthan is the largest state in terms of physical land in India (342239 km<sup>2</sup>). Rajasthan has 7 administrative divisions with 33 districts; Ajmer, Bharatpur, Bikaner, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Kota, and Udaipur Division. Rajasthan has both physical and cultural diversity. It is also prone to natural disasters like drought in the western part, and flood in the eastern part of the state. More than 60 per cent of the land in Rajasthan is an arid desert with scattered villages. According to Census of India 2011, female literacy (52 %) of Rajasthan is the lowest in India.

## Statement of Problem :

In Rajasthan, women are more vulnerable to morbidity due to unawareness about illness and diseases and socioeconomic and health condition of women.

## Objectives :

The general objective of this study is to analyze the health issues during Pregnancy among currently married in Rajasthan.

(1) To analyze the pattern of pregnancy complications among currently married women at district level in Rajasthan.

(2) To study treatment behavior of women for health complications during pregnancy in Rajasthan.

## Methodology :

The present study is based on secondary source of data available from Annual health survey (AHS) 2013. Sample size for the study is n=60278. A bivariate analysis is used to know the distribution pattern. The methods applied include Maps, tables and appropriate statistical methods. Dependent variables in this study are dichotomous in nature.

## Results :

Table 1 shows that high prevalence of health complications such as excessive vomiting (71 percentage),

**Table: 1. Prevalence of health complication among currently married women in Rajasthan, 2013 (reported for Last Birth)**

Pregnancy Complication	Prevalence rate (100)
Swelling of Hand Feet Face	20.29
Paleness Giddiness Weakness	31.57
Visual Disturbance	11.37
Excessive Fatigue	31.90
Convulsion Not From Fever	13.46
Weak or No Movement Foetus	3.61
Abnormal Position Foetus	3.98
Excessive Vomiting	71.93
Hypertension High BP	7.40
Jaundice	3.22
Excessive Bleeding	2.10
Vaginal Discharge	3.71
Other Pregnancy Problems	3.21

**Source :** Annual Health Survey - 2013, Rajasthan.

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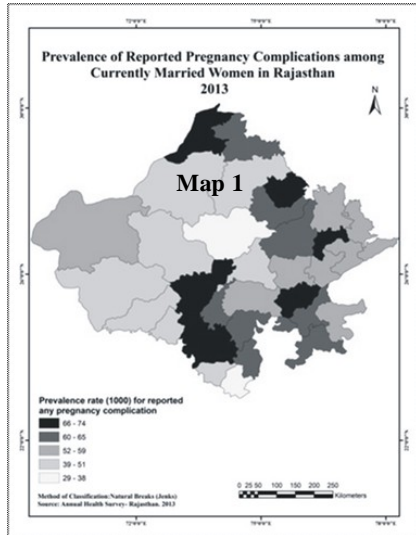
excessive fatigue (32 percentage) and the weakness paleness giddiness (31 percentage) is reported among currently married women in Rajasthan in 2013.

Morbidity of excessive bleeding, jaundice and weakness or no movement of the fetus has reported less prevalence around 3 percent in 2013. Women those registered for an antenatal check-up reported (58 percent) pregnancy complication, which is 5 percent more than those not registered.

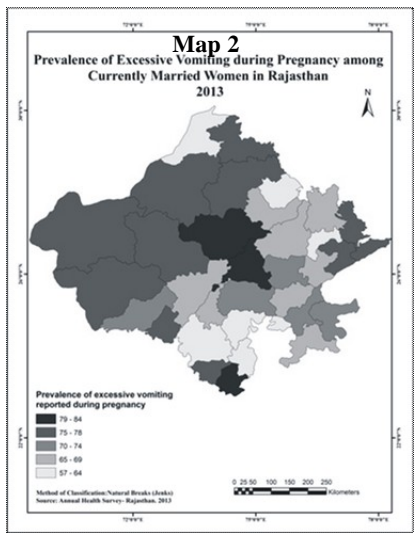
**Spatial Pattern of complications during pregnancy :**

Nearly 56 percent (33,775) of currently married women has experienced any type of complication during last pregnancy. There are 44 percent of women, which do not report any complication, while around 15 percent of women report at-least one problem, 23 percent of women report at-least two-three issues and 17 percent of women had reported 4 & more complications during pregnancy in Rajasthan.

Geographically, map 1 show that the higher concentration of women reporting antenatal morbidity is observed the north, northeast and southeastern part of the state (district of Udaipur division).

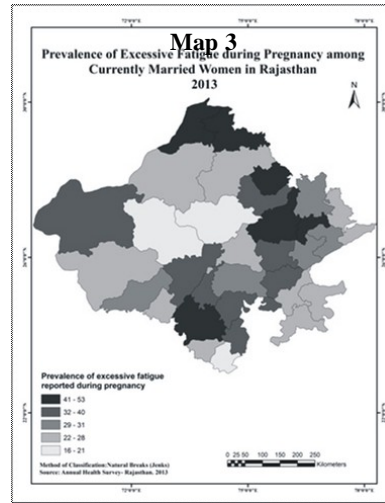


Whereas in districts of the western desert region and the tribal southernmost region, lower antenatal morbidities has been reported. The higher concentration of women who suffered complication in the antenatal period is observed the districts of Jhunjhunu (73 percent), Udaipur (70 percent), Dausa (69 percent) and Bundi (68 percent), whereas Nagaur (28 percent), Baswara (38 percent) and Jodhpur (43 percent) with less percentage.



The spatial pattern of prevalence of weakness/paleness is opposite to excessive vomiting found in the state. Map 2 and Map 3 show spatial distribution of currently married women, who reported excessive vomiting and

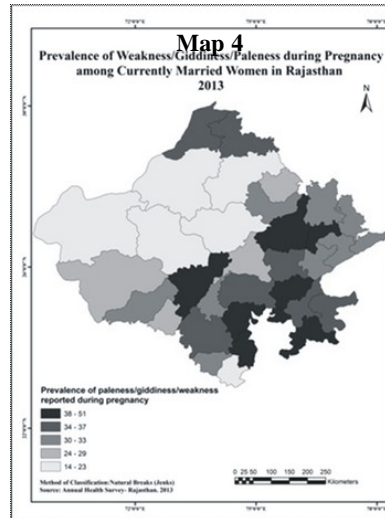
Map 3 show spatial distribution of women, who reported weakness/paleness during last pregnancy in Rajasthan 2013. Higher concentration (38-51%) of women with weakness/paleness was observed in the districts of south and southeast regions, whereas lowest percent (14-23%) observed in the northwestern part of the State. Women suffered from weakness/paleness highest found in Dausa (50 %) and Jaipur (44 %) districts.



highest percent of excessive vomiting, but in case of excessive fatigue reported lowest 21, 15 and 24 percent respectively. In Dausa and Udaipur districts more than half (52 %) women report highest excessive fatigue.

Spatial distribution of convulsion not from fever and abnormal position of the fetus, has observed similar to excessive fatigue in the state in 2013. Udaipur (25 %) and Dausa (23 %) shown highest concentration, while Nagaur (5%), Barmer (6%) districts found with the lowest percent of women, those suffered from convulsion not from fever. A similar pattern of distribution of excessive bleeding among women was observed as found in excessive vomiting in Rajasthan. In Dausa and Ganganagar district each has 6 percent women who suffered from problem of bleeding during the antenatal period.

Similarly, map.4 show spatial distribution of women, who reported weakness/paleness during last pregnancy in Rajasthan 2013.



excessive fatigue in Rajasthan 2013 respectively. Morbidity of excessive vomiting highest (79-84 percent) observed in the central part of the state and medium to high (75-78 percent) in the western part of the state. In Banswara (84 percent), Nagaur (83 percent) and Ajmer (80 percent) districts, women reported the highest percent of excessive vomiting, but in case of excessive fatigue reported lowest 21, 15 and 24 percent respectively. In Dausa and Udaipur districts more than half (52 %) women report highest excessive fatigue.

Higher concentration (38-51%) of women with weakness/paleness was observed in the districts of south and southeast regions, whereas lowest percent (14-23%) observed in the northwestern part of the State. Women suffered from weakness/paleness highest found in Dausa (50 %) and Jaipur (44 %) districts.

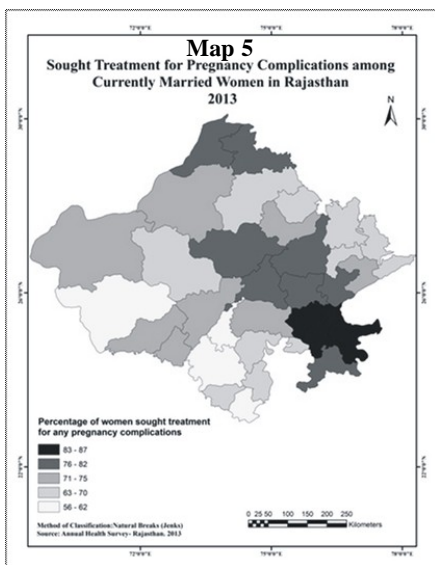
Spatial distribution of visual disturbance and hypertension /high BP among women during pregnancy, both have a similar pattern in the state 2013. Problem of Jaundice among women during pregnancy does not show any geographic concentration. In case of visual disturbance among women higher concentration is found in

Udaipur (24%) district, while lowest is observed in Churu (6%) and Bhratpur (7%) districts.

**Treatment behavior of women for pregnancy complication:**

Treatment behavior of women has been influenced by awareness about danger signs of illness, availability of health facility (distance), affordability of treatment, previous experience with the health providers. More than 92 percent of women have sought treatment for pregnancy complications in the state.

It is observed from map.5 that higher (83-87) percentage of women, who sought treatment for pregnancy complications



was observed in southern parts of the state. Whereas women in western desert part of the state have medium to less tendency for taking treatment during pregnancy. Kota (87%), Bundi (86%) and Baran (84%) districts have the highest percent of women, which sought treatment for pregnancy

complications, whereas the lowest percent of treatment was found in Rajsamand (56%), Udaipur (56%) and Barmer (58%) among women in the Rajasthan 2013.

Table 2 shows the difference in reporting of pregnancy complication and treatment for them according to women's socioeconomic characteristics. It is found that women, who belong to urban area, have higher education level and health insurance report more sickness during pregnancy and also took treatment in higher percent as compared to women who came from a marginalized section of society and remote area. Around 82 percent of women in urban area seek treatment for health problems as compared to 69 percent of women in rural area. In case of place of antenatal check-up, those women who received ANC from private institutions reported higher complications around 70 percent as compared to 55 percent from government institutions. More than half women seek treatment in government health facilities.

**Conclusion :**

A socioeconomic and cultural environment of women, where she lives influences the perception about illness/health complication, which brings huge differences in reporting and prevalence of morbidities. However, women in districts of northern and southern region of the state sought lower treatment in spite of higher reporting their sickness/illness during pregnancy, whereas the higher concentration of women who sought treatment for pregnancy problem was found in southern

**Table 2 : Difference in reporting and treatment of pregnancy complication among currently married women in Rajasthan 2013 (%)**

		Any Pregnancy Problem	Sought Treatment
<b>Residence</b>	Rural	54.66	69.77
	Urban	64.43	82.74
<b>Social Caste Group</b>	SC	54.99	71.51
	ST	53.16	63.43
	Other	57.20	74.25
<b>Religion</b>	Hindu	55.77	71.40
	Muslim	56.39	73.77
	Christian	52.5	76.19
	Sikh	71.25	84.35
	Buddhist	100	100
	Jain	72.57	84.30
<b>Education</b>	NO	52.06	65.61
	Primary	57.73	74.54
	Middle	60.84	79.07
	Secondary	61.13	77.98
	Higher	62.37	78.43
	Graduation	66.01	82.75
<b>Source of treatment</b>	Government	55.11	51.87
	Private	69.19	44.07
	NGO/Self/Other	55.86	4.04

**Source :** Annual Health Survey Rajasthan, 2013.

districts of the Rajasthan.

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## Career Decision Making

*The career decision-making process can be overwhelming, so it is helpful to determine how much time you will spend and when (mornings, evenings). Review how you spend your time to determine what activities you might put on hold, de-emphasize, or change in order to create more time for this process (e.g., evaluate the importance of current commitments such as committee/volunteer work, learn to say “no” to requests that may cause more stress than benefit, or ask others to help with household tasks).*

**DR. VINEETA PANDEY**

### Introduction :

Did you know that most people spend much more time deciding which car to buy than choosing a career: why do they spend so little time on such an important task: Because career decision making is hard work!

Perhaps you have avoided thinking about this decision for other reasons. You may feel that the start of your career is far in the future. Maybe you have bypassed the process and are pursuing a career that fulfills family expectations. Perhaps you assume that you will be happy working in a well-known field like teaching engineering, or medicine and see no reason to research the myriad of other possible occupations. Or perhaps you just don't know how the decision-making process works or where to begin.

If you delay the decision-making process you may find yourself :

- (i) In a career that doesn't fit with your values, interests, personal attributes, and skills
- (ii) Completing a degree that you have no interest in
- (iii) Feeling your work lacks meaning or challenge
- (iv) Feeling caught between life and work values

(v) Thoughtful decision making paves the way to a satisfying career choice. The more focused you are, the less onerous the process will be. The decision-making process can be used for making many types of career-related choices, including :

- (i) Which training/educational program to pursue.
- (ii) which occupational field to enter. (iii) which paid/volunteer experience would be most satisfying. (iv) whether to change occupations and/or fields. (v) Whether to start a small business.

### Steps to career decision making :

The five steps to career decision making are :

- (i) Create a vision (ii) Make an initial decision (iii) Set a goal (iv) Develop an action plan (v) Take action.

The process of career decision making is not linear, so you may find yourself working through the steps simultaneously or completing one or more steps at a later date.

### Time for career decision making :

The career decision-making process can be overwhelming, so it is helpful to determine how much time you will spend and when (mornings, evenings). Review how you spend your time to determine what activities you might put on hold, de-emphasize, or change in order to create more time for this process (e.g., evaluate the importance of current commitments such as committee/volunteer work, learn to say “no” to requests that may cause more stress than benefit, or ask others to help with household tasks).

There are no definite timelines to follow in the process of career decision making: you may work through it quickly; it may take you six months or a year. Think about your circumstances and set a realistic deadline for yourself. Recording your deadline will help you ensure that it is realized.

Since making a good decision is so important, completing both the “Self assessment” and “Occupational research” modules is critical. If you have completed these two modules, you are well prepared to proceed with the career decision-making process.

### (1) Create a vision :

Proactive decision making begins with a clear vision of what you want your personal and professional life to look like. To be successful in visualizing your future, you need to have a strong desire to achieve your goals. Although it is important to be realistic in what you ultimately envision yourself doing, it is more helpful at this point in the process not to limit yourself to what you consider to be “reality”; instead, let your vision or dream grow. Beware of thoughts that might limit your choices. For example, though it is necessary to consider the effect of your choices on those you love and care about; placing too much emphasis on others' needs may prevent you from identifying and following a truly rewarding career path. your goal for now should be to take an honest look at yourself and your needs for the future.

Begin by asking yourself the following question :

- (i) If you were guaranteed to be successful and to earn a good living ,what type of work would you do?

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(ii) Where would you live?

(iii) what kind of environment would you want? inaction. If you find yourself in this situation, you may benefit from meeting with a career professional. For University of Waterloo students and alumni, Career Exploration & Decision Making appointments may be booked through the Center for Career Action website.

### (2) Make An Initial Decision :

There are a number of ways to assess occupational alternatives. You might prioritize them according to how closely they match your overall. Or you might compare them in terms of advantages, disadvantages, and potential outcomes. Pay attention to your feelings about each alternative : are you sensing excitement? Disenchantment? Though it is important to be logical in the career decision-making process, your gut reaction to an occupation is also important.

After you have made a tentative choice , it's time to set a goal and begin to achieve it.

### (3) Set a Goal :

Effective goal setting allows you to make control of your life. Your attitude is the most important predictor of success in achieving goals. Positive and negative thoughts can affect your level of accomplishment: you are likely to achieve only what you believe you can. A goal is simply a more precise statement of a decision reached in the

To ensure that you achieve your goal, it should meet the following criteria :

(i) **Specific** : a goal is specific when you know exactly what is to be achieved and accomplished

(ii) **Measurable** : measurable goals are quantifiable (e.g., numbers, dollars, percentages )

(iii) **Achievable** : an achievable goal is within your reach (perhaps a stretch) based on your skills and level of motivation

(iv) **Realistic** : a realistic goal is one for which you have the resources (e.g., time for training , money for education , support from significant others)

(v) **Time specific** : a time -specific goal is finite ;it has a deadline (e.g., "by ,2XXX " is much more specific than " soon")

For example, a decision to work in human resources might lead to the following goal statement : "attain a management -level position leading you corporate training in the technology sector with in next five years ."

### (4) Develop an action plan :

(i) what kind of lifestyle would you have ?once you have created a vision that clearly and accurately reflects your desired future ,consider reality and the potential barriers to achieving your goal .in the "self assessment "module ,culture ,disability ,family ,gender ,and sexual orientation were introduced as potential influencing factor in the career decision-making process. You may wish to review the implication of these factors now. Others factor that merit consideration include:

(ii) Self -confidence level

(iii) Finances and socio-economic status

(iv) Be careful not to let one perceived barrier undermine your whole vision, however. Think about ways you might overcome such a barrier and attain your goal. It is usually possible to achieve at least a piece of the vision.

### A word about risk taking :

Every action or decision comes with a certain element of risk; however, so does taking no action. It is important to be realistic about the level of risk you are willing to take: you may wish you were more adventurous (or less so! ) but you will likely not move toward your goal if you are not honest with yourself regarding your risk tolerance. At the same time, analyze any fears you experience: are risks real or imagined: Ask yourself the following questions :

(i) what is the worst that can happen if I pursue this path ? (ii) To realize your specific occupational goal, you will need to make and follow a strategy or action plan. Write it down! There is ample evidence that those who devise and record a concrete plan for reaching a goal are much more likely to attain it. (iii) To reach your goal, you will need to identify the action plan steps, or short-term goals, that will help you attain it. (iv) To develop your action plan steps, refer to your occupational research: the more information you have gathered, the more informed you will be as to what is required to reach your occupational goal. It will also be helpful to be mindful of any potential barriers you identified earlier in ;the process, as well as your ideas about how to overcome them. (v) Once you have devised your action plan, you should construct a detailed plan for taking each step.

### (5) Take action :

**Refer to your plan often** : Are you on track? Is some fine-tuning required? Do the action plan steps you have identified still make sense? Has the goal changed at all? Do you lack information or support? If the basic goal remains the same and the process seems to be on track, add more detail to the steps as they become more imminent. If new information or obstacles have emerged, you may need to make some minor to made rate changes. If the goal has changed, you will need to make major revisions to the action plan.

**As you take action** : you may begin to experience difficulty in moving towards your goal. Sometimes people put so much emphasis on a career decision that they become immobilized with fear or uncertainty. If you find yourself in this situation, you may merely need to give yourself a push; however, if you find that you are really "stuck," you may benefit from consulting a career professional.

**Celebrate accomplishments and milestones : Be kind to yourself** : pursue activities you enjoy and surround yourself with supportive people. Replace self-limiting assumptions and irrational beliefs with positive thoughts and statements. Welcome mistakes: they can enrich your life experience and enhance your learning. And you can use what you learn to revise your current plan and improve future career decisions.

### Conclusion :

You will be more likely to continue moving towards the achievement of your vision.

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## Accommodating students of African origin for Elementary, Primary, Secondary and Senior Secondary levels of Education in various schools of India

*The Africa is in the course of developing in terms of the education for all its citizens. Though there is a major accomplishment in development, there is much more to achieve in the fields of elementary, primary, secondary and senior secondary education. At present there is positive approval as more children are making it through primary education in secondary school. Gender gaps have lessened. Many countries have registered a speed of advance that would have been unthinkable when the Millennium Development Goals were established. Yet, on current trends, the objective of universal primary education will be missed by a broad scope, leaving millions of children out of school and there are worrying indications that the development may be slowing. Meanwhile, many of the children in school are receiving an education of such awful quality that they are learning very little. Far from accumulating "21st century skills", millions of Africa's children are emerging from elementary, primary, secondary and senior secondary levels of school lacking basic literacy and numeracy. On the other side, India has evolved its education system over the years. The country has well laid plans and strategies to develop the human resources in the fields of science, technology, medicine, law, arts and management. The education process has gradually developed in India containing detailed syllabus, timetables, activities and Co curricular events which promote all round development of the children when studying in elementary, primary and secondary levels of education.*

**PRASHANT SUNIL BORDE**

### **(1) Introduction :**

Education has the potential to transform Africa's social and economic development. Unlocking that potential will require governments to act with urgency on three fronts :

- (i) Every government needs to redouble its efforts to ensure that all children are in school.
- (ii) Far greater attention must be directed towards the quality of education and learning achievement;
- (iii) Governments need to put equity as their education strategies.

Africa is a youthful continent: nearly 41% of its population are under the age of 18. To address the unique challenges of this demographic structure, the African Union (AU) has adopted a 50-year Agenda 2063 to help guide the socioeconomic transformation of the continent with particular reference to the youth. One of the objectives of Agenda 2063 is to reposition the continent as a strategic player in the global economy through

improved education and application of science and technology in development.

In India more than half of the population lives in the villages. The role of rural India towards the economic development is not hidden from any of us. Earlier the people used to correlate rural development with agricultural development and thus focus was only on the increased agricultural production. But with the changing time, this misbelieve has also changed. Today the perception of rural development is fundamentally different that it was used to be 2 or 3 decades ago. Now rural development includes development and improving the quality of life of rural people. It constitutes an improvement in their health and nutrition, knowledge of trade, banking, finances, law, basic security framework, moral policing, human rights, education, safe and healthy environment, fairness in income distribution and no discrimination in gender. The education at rural levels has shown great change in the development pattern.

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**(2) Aim :**

The paper proposes the theme of “accommodating students of African origin for elementary, primary, secondary and senior secondary levels of education in various schools of India” that combine research, teaching, community service and thinking of the common goal of developmental operations. This process is different from the commercialized private educational institutions whose main aim is to market the knowledge and education by means of setting up huge universities wherein the maximum profits and advantages remain with stronger and economically better class of the society.

**(3) Details :**

The idea therefore is not just to create linkages between the activities of education, but to pursue them in a coordinated way for the much larger strength of the population in acceptable, affordable, cooperative and developmental manner than providing superior education to the lesser selective population. This theme does not advocate creating the additional construction of universities, but attempts to project to accommodate the students of all types of background in the present set up of educational institutions existing in India. This will ensure development in diverse fields such as self sustenance, learning moral and ethics, vocational subjects such as agriculture, health, industry, services, and environment to advance sustainable development and inclusive growth. The following are steps for pursuing this ideology.

(i) The first step is to identify economic capabilities of the larger section of the youth population of African origin (i.e. Students) to which this facility to be benefitted.

(ii) The second step is to work on the minimum acceptable cost of education for these students in India.

(iii) The third step is to coordinate on the educational program in various schools such as Kendriya Vidyalaya, Madhyamic Vidyalayas, Navodaya Vidyalaya, etc. at various urban and rural locations. This would primarily be worked for determining the language, academic subjects, Co curricular activities, bridging the cultural differences.

(iv) The fourth step is to monitor the progress and take feedback on the development.

In African countries due to isolation, less connectivity, armed group activities, mercenary involvement in the exploitation of resources by private players, unsteady government, lack of rules and procedures, etc. Most of the population is faced with no option but learning the survival. The poverty and absence of order create problems and has been always detrimental to the wellbeing of the society. In result the young population in most of the places have forgotten the essence of civilization. Most of the youth are involved in child soldiers, self styled leaders, thoughtless provoking in creating disorder issues, mass killings, genocide activities, anti-government activities, etc. The

various forms of civilization such as autocracy, democracy, socialism, capitalism, fundamentalism and fanatics are all mixed up as per the convenience of few people and have divided the population and made a significant disorder in the way of living. This has led to weak into weaker and strong into a stronger. Even if children in the most of the African region manage to enrol in school, they may end up learning nothing. This has created a great divide between rich and poor class of the society. Education is one of the most powerful instruments for reducing poverty and inequality of society. Education is the key to enhance India's competitiveness in the global economy. Therefore, ensuring access to quality education for all, in particular for the poor population, is central to the economic and social development. The rapid expansion of the education system has brought several pertinent issues related to the standards of its quality and equal availability of education facilities to all the categories of people of the society.

**(4) Present Set Up :**

In India only a few International Schools are facilitating education facilities to the students of African Origin. Most of these schools are residential schools under the aegis of trust of private agencies. Generally they charge US\$ 4000 per semester and are located in urban locations. Assuming other expenses of Visa, Security deposit, air ticket to home country, approximately ranging from US\$ 500 to 1200 depending on the lifestyle adopted by the individual, the cost of education would be in the range of US\$ 9000 to US\$ 10000 per annum. The general rates of education per annum in USD (\$) in Indian schools for Indian students are as under.

Class	Non residential school				Residential School			
	Urban location		Semi urban/ rural location		Urban location		Semi urban/ rural location	
	From	To	From	To	From	To	From	To
1 to 6	620	2310	130	770	1850	9240	620	2310
7 to 10	740	2770	150	930	2220	11080	740	2770
10 to 12	890	3330	180	1110	2660	13300	890	3330

**(5) Recommendations :**

If the coordination, mutual cooperation and planning of resources for accommodating the larger section of students African origin in semi urban/ rural locations in Indian residential/ non residential schools are done at Ministry levels of both the countries as part of improving international relations and mutually benefiting educational programs, it would benefit the society as a whole. The cost of education would fall to the level of US\$ 1000 to US\$ 4000 per annum. The primary language of instructions can be English for easy learning. The effort has to be taken by the state government in respect of the protection and legal aspects in a simplified manner with respect to these individuals. In the first stage of implementing this theme, the acceptance level of the common population and the capability of the state have to be taken. The projects also can have an idea of Learn and Earn schemes.

## (6) Advantages :

Following are the advantages of accommodating students of African origin for Elementary, Primary, Secondary and Senior Secondary levels of Education in various schools of India.

(i) This would benefit larger section of the society of African origin to learn at lower costs.

(ii) This education would be in financial capability of larger sections of the society.

(iii) It would help in mutual understanding and improving the international relations of both the countries.

(iv) It would also assist in the exploration of natural resources in Africa through increased levels of joint programs.

(v) This would decrease the exploitation by the capitalist or fundamentalist organizations that had only priority as profits and not the society development and peace.

(vi) It would increase the educational standards and awareness of the larger sections of society of African origin in terms of rights, duties, responsibilities, mutual respect, traditions, law, order, etc. which will help in bringing peace.

## (7) Gray Areas :

Most of the states in the India follow the belief of "Atithi devo Bhav" that means all the guests are to be treated like a god. However, at places there have been cases of discrimination, agitations and intolerances reported between the population of African Origin and Indian residents.

(i) The Indian population has their own culture and traditions and not all of them accept the migrating persons.

(ii) The food habits of regions are different.

(iii) The language difference exists in both the communities.

(iv) The cost of transportation is relatively high.

## (8) Summary :

Africa's most significant challenge is to invest in capacity building through enhanced education system at elementary, primary, secondary and senior secondary levels. The basic education is the foundation for development in the fields of science, technology, engineering, medicines, law, administration, management, hospitality, politics, etc. This would only help them to diversify the economy away from a historical dependence on natural resources. Though the country has an enormous amount of natural resources, the actual use of it is limited to educated foreign persons, who at times resort to the exploitation without concerning the development of the countries. The long term solution is the empowerment of the local population that can be made only by way of education. India large sets up evolved over the years for imparting the education. These educational facilities at elementary, primary, secondary and senior secondary levels when provided to the students of the African origin would help them bring about enormous

change in the way of living and also improve the international relations.

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## The BRICS : An Analysis

*This paper deals with the analysis of the meeting of the BRICS countries held in Yekaterinburg on June 16. The study has been made to know about what are the issues which were discussed in the meeting, and what were the key problems these countries are facing. Key Words : Growth, demand, GDP, fiscal.*

**DR. SMRITI KHURASIA\* & MRS. PALLAVI SAXENA\*\***

### **I**ntroduction :

The summit between Brazil, Russia, India and China in the Russian city of Yekaterinberg on June 16 marked the first such official meeting of a group largely confined to the pages of economic analysis. Signals from BRIC members suggesting they want to reduce their dollar assets and increase the use of domestic currencies in international trade have attracted much media attention and added to pressure on the dollar.

However, the inaugural summit focused primarily on forging common positions on financial regulatory reform and climate change, rather than foreign exchange rate management. However, this meeting remains more political than economic. While the contribution of these economies to global growth is set to increase over the next decade, their different interests suggest that forgoing common positions may be difficult.

The relatively more optimistic growth expectations for the BRIC countries has analysts speaking again of the “decoupling” theory, which holds that parts of Europe and Asia are detaching themselves from the U.S. economy. In particular, India and China are expected to be among the very few countries that will grow at or above 5% this year, contributing the bulk of global growth even as most of the advanced economies remain far in recessionary territory. The strong inflow of foreign investment into local markets has already triggered central banks to intervene and start to build international reserves once more.

There is a risk that government stimulus might be prompting asset bubbles and not a real increase in domestic demand. Domestic demand in India and Brazil shows signs

of resilience. Russia, though, is likely to experience a growth contraction of over 5% as domestic consumption and construction suffer. So, will BRIC domestic demand hold up, and can it fill the gap from a reduction in demand among the G-3 especially the U.S.?

In particular, India and China are net commodity importers, while Russia and, to a lesser extent, Brazil depend on commodity exports. Today, I survey the ways in which these economies were buffeted by the financial crisis and global recession and assess their ability to make the structural reforms needed to foster long-term growth.

### **The Outlook of The Brazil is Improving :**

The Brazilian economy has certainly felt the pinch of the global economic crisis as demand for its exports remains significantly lower, investments contracted sharply due to a much tighter credit environment and business and consumer confidence were damaged. Moreover, Brazilian corporations had significant dollar liabilities, leaving them vulnerable to the fall in the Brazilian real.

In the longer term, the Brazilian economy will only return to sustained growth if reforms contribute to productivity gains. Such a framework would require a more efficient tax system, increased trade liberalization, wiser government investments and a more efficient set of labor laws, among other things.

### **India - Slow Reforms Constrain Potential Growth :**

Capital inflows and the IT boom played a large role in driving job creation, investment and asset bubbles in recent years. India's high dependence on foreign capital and IT exports increased its vulnerability to the global crisis. As a

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result, GDP growth in 2009 might fall to around 5% from the buoyant 8% - 9% of recent years.

Yet, fiscal, monetary and credit measures are helping sustain growth. And a large consumption base, especially in rural and semi-urban areas, has sustained demand and corporate sales. Strong consumer demand and private sector investment plus a large share of government spending in GDP will certainly help fuel recovery. Yet a sluggish global recovery and lower credit growth would constrain the ability of private sector spending to drive growth, leading to a U-shaped recovery.

The large fiscal deficit (over 10% of GDP during 2008-2009) could stifle recovery in the next few years. Rising government borrowings could crowd out investment and invoke further rating downgrades. But overcoming structural deficits requires politically unviable measures like reducing farm and fuel subsidies. Instead, the government might focus on expanding domestic production capacities and acquiring energy stakes abroad.

India's IT sector may find it difficult to maintain its outsourcing competitiveness as cost differentials with the West have waned since the last recession, other low-cost locations have emerged and the U.S. plans to raise taxes on outsourcing companies. To keep up, the sector needs to move to higher-end services and also expand the domestic client base.

**China - Elusive Domestic Demand :**

The Chinese government launched one of the most aggressive policy responses to the crisis, rolling out fiscal and monetary easing beginning in the fall of 2008, which has helped the economy accelerate from the near stall at the turn of the year.

The Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) reflects that the Chinese manufacturing sector was the first to resume expanding, the property market is stabilizing on price cuts and ample domestic liquidity and retail sales are increasing. However, inventory restocking has almost been completed, meaning China could find it difficult to return to the 10% growth of recent years should external demand remain sluggish.

Unlike the other three countries, foreign investment in the domestic equity market is limited in China, keeping it less affected by foreign portfolio inflows than its counterparts. The development of a more significant domestic institutional investor base could be crucial to reducing vulnerabilities to foreign investment flows and might temper the speculative nature of the domestic equity markets.

**Russia - Still An Oily Story :**

Russia, often seems like the odd man out in the BRIC group and it seems particularly so this year. The fall in oil production and revenue along with the whiplash of the capital outflows on its heavy-borrowing banks and corporations will lead Russia to a severe economic contraction in 2009. Despite the more than doubling of crude oil prices

since mid-March, Russia will have a difficult 2009 as financial sector vulnerabilities persist, construction remains weak, job losses rise and real incomes fall.

Once again, Russia faces the challenge of managing hot money inflows surging into the domestic equity market, which has outperformed other emerging markets. As a result, the central bank is now intervening to keep the ruble from climbing too fast.

Despite some recapitalization of the banking sector, lending remains subdued, meaning that sectors like construction, which drove domestic demand, are likely to be weaker for some time to come. Falling real wages will weigh on consumption in 2009 even as manufacturing continues to show signs of contraction.

**Conclusion :**

The BRICS are expected to seek a common platform for advanced economies to commit to deeper carbon emissions cuts than are currently pledged. India and Brazil have been reluctant to join the global climate change regime that will replace the Kyoto Protocol. India's climate policy stance has been criticized as it has abstained from signing the global emission reduction norms. While China has taken unilateral action to encourage the turnover of its auto fleet and reduce polluting heavy industries, it is reluctant to take steps that might limit its potential growth.



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## हिजड़ों का सामाजिक जीवन और उनकी समस्याएँ

प्रस्तुत शोधपत्र में हिजड़ों के सामाजिक जीवन और उनकी समस्याओं पर आधारित है। भारत में हिजड़े मुख्य रूप से परंपरागत व्यवसायों के साथ जुड़े रहते हैं। लोक प्रचलित धार्मिक प्रथा के अनुसार विवाह समारोह और घर में बच्चे के जन्म के समय उनकी उपस्थिति शुभ मानी जाती है। ऐसा कहा जाता है कि किन्नरों में दैवीय शक्तियाँ हैं। उन्हें नववधु या नवजात बच्चों पर प्रजनन क्षमता प्रदान करने के लिए विशेष शक्तियों के साथ सम्पन्न माना जाता है। ये वर्ग समाज की मुख्यधारा से जुड़ना चाहता है। वे समाज में अपनी हिस्सेदारी चाहते हैं। उनकी बुनियादी आवश्यकताओं को समझना चाहते हैं। इस दुनिया के तीन प्रतिशत हिजड़ों को मामूली चीरफाड़ के द्वारा पुरुष या स्त्री बनाया जा सकता है। उन्हें जागरूक करना है। हमारी तरह वे भी मनुष्य ही हैं। वे भी समाज का अंग हैं। उनका दर्द, हमारा दर्द है। उनके दर्द को मिटाना हमारा भी कर्तव्य है। उन्हें छोड़ना नहीं चाहिए। उन्हें मनुष्य के रूप में अपनाना है। वे केवल सभी को आशीष देना चाहते हैं। दूसरों के सुख से उन्हें खुशी होती है। खुशी से वे नाचते, गाते व बजाते हैं। आम मनुष्य के समान उनमें भी संवेदनाएँ हैं।

डॉ. बेबी सुमंगला पी.वी.

‘हिजड़ा’ एक उर्दू-हिन्दुस्तानी शब्द है। हिन्दी में उधार लिया गया यह शब्द दक्षिण एशिया में प्रचलित है। हिजड़ों से अभिप्राय उन लोगों से है, जिसके जननांग पूरी तरह विकसित न हो पाए हो या पुरुष होने पर भी स्त्रीय स्वभाव के लोग, जिन्हें पुरुषों की जगह स्त्रियों के बीच रहने में सहजता महसूस होती है। हिजड़े परिवार, सम्मान, अधिकार आदि से वंचित लोग हैं। हिजड़ों की विचित्र जिन्दगी है। यह वर्ग ‘थर्ड जेंडर’, ‘किन्नर’, ‘ख्याजासरा’ आदि नामों से पुकारा जाता है। सम्य समाज उन्हें ‘लौंडों’ ‘लौंडोबाजों’, ‘लेस्वियन्स’, ‘गे’, ‘हिजड़े’ आदि नामों से पुकारते हैं। तेलुगु समाज में इन्हें ‘माडा’ और ‘कोज्जा’ कहते हैं। अत्यन्त लज्जाजनक गालियों के रूप में इन शब्दों का प्रयोग किया जाता है।

हिजड़ों की चार शाखाएँ होती हैं, ये हैं बुचरा, नीलिमा, मानसा और हंसा। बुचरा जन्मजात हिजड़ा होते हैं। नीलिमा स्वयं बने, मनसा स्वेच्छा से शामिल तथा हंसा शारीरिक कमी के कारण बने हिजड़े हैं। असली हिजड़ा मन व आत्मा से स्त्री होता है। शरीर उसका पुरुष की तरह हो सकता है। मन से वह एक पुरुष का साथ चाहता है। लिंगच्छेदन कर बनाए गए हिजड़ों को ‘छिनरा’ और नकली हिजड़ा बने मर्दों को ‘अनुआ’ कहते हैं।

संपूर्ण देश में चौदह से पन्द्रह लाख हिजड़े हैं। इनमें से आधे नकली हैं। भारत में ‘मनसा’ और ‘हंसा’ हिजड़े अधिक देखने को मिलते हैं, लेकिन जन्मजात हिजड़ों की संख्या चार सौ के आसपास है।

अपने अधिकार के लिए उन्हें बहुत संघर्ष करना पड़ता है। घर के लोग भी उन्हें घृणा की दृष्टि से देखते हैं। अपने घर में हमें

जितना स्थान और प्यार मिलता है, उनको कभी भी ये नहीं मिलता। आसपास के लोग भी बुरी दृष्टि से उन्हें देखते हैं।

एक परिवार में बुचरा का जन्म होता है, तो घरवाले जल्दी ही उसे दूर करने का प्रयास करते हैं, क्योंकि उनका विश्वास है कि यह जानकर लोगों को हिजड़े के पिता के पुरुषत्व पर संदेह होगा और बड़े होने पर परिवार की प्रतिष्ठा भी नष्ट होगी जाएगी। इसलिए वे बहुत जल्दी ही उन्हें हिजड़ों के बीच में पहुँचाते हैं। उन्हें हिजड़ों के बीच छोड़ने के पहले एक डाक्टर से सलाह लेने का प्रयास करने के बारे में भी वे नहीं सोचते। कोई इन हिजड़ों से अच्छी तरह बर्ताव नहीं करता। उन्हें कोई काम-धंधा नहीं देता। नौवीं या दसवीं कक्षा के बाद इनकी पढाई छूट जाती है। स्कूल के छात्र उन्हें घृणा की दृष्टि से देखते हैं। ऐसा भी कहा जाता है कि शिक्षक भी उनसे अच्छी तरह व्यवहार नहीं करते। अपने मन की वेदना कहने के लिए भी उनके पास कोई नहीं है। इसी प्रकार के अनेक कारणों से उनका स्कूल जाना बंद हो जाता है। सामाजिक और आर्थिक तौर पर ये असुरक्षित हैं। घर से विस्थापन का दर्द उन्हें सहना पड़ता है। लोग उन्हें हिजड़ा शब्द से पुकारने लगते हैं। ये लड़कियों के बाथरूम में जा नहीं सकते, क्योंकि उन्हें देखकर लड़कियाँ भाग जाएंगी। पुरुषों के बाथरूम का उपयोग उनके लिए शारीरिक रूप में असुविधाजनक भी हो सकता है। किसी मन्दिर में इनके लिए विधिवत् पूजा का कोई प्रावधान नहीं है। इसलिए उनकी ईश्वर आराधना और पूजा कार्य अपने घर तक ही सीमित होता है। इसलिए उनकी प्रथाएँ एवं अनुष्ठान लगभग गोपनीय होते हैं।

सहायक प्राध्यापक ( हिन्दी विभाग ), महात्मा गाँधी गवर्नमेंट आर्ट्स कॉलेज, माहि ( केरल )

हिजड़ों को अनेक प्रकार के दुःख सहना पड़ते हैं। उनकी गलती यह है कि उनका जन्म एक हिजड़े के रूप में हुआ है। असल में वह उनकी गलती नहीं है।

हिजड़े हमारे समाज का अभिन्न अंग हैं। जब तक हम उन्हें अधिकार नहीं देते, तब तक हम मनुष्य कहने के लिए योग्य नहीं हैं। हम मानववाद के हकदार भी नहीं हैं। जब से स्त्री पुरुष का अस्तित्व हमारे समाज में है, तब से ये भी हैं। पुराणों में उन्हें शिखण्डी, किन्नर, बृहन्नला आदि नामों से पुकारा गया है। पहले नवाबों, सुल्तानों ने इन्हें सिर्फ हरम की चौकीदारी के लिए ही योग्य माना था। बाद में ये लोग सिर्फ नाच-गाकर अपना पेट पालते थे। आज ये दोनों काम भी खत्म हो गए हैं।

जन्मजात हिजड़े बहुत कम हैं। अन्य जबरन बनाये जाते हैं। निष्कलंक युवकों के यौनांग काटकर उन्हें हिजड़ा बना दिया जाता है। युवकों का लिंग काटकर हिजड़ा बनाने के लिए हिजड़ों ने अपने डाक्टर रखे हुए हैं। प्रकृति ने हिजड़ों के साथ अन्याय किया है। यह अन्याय वे जीवन भर ढोते हैं। उनका कोई अस्तित्व नहीं है।

दक्षिण में ये एक परिवार के सदस्य के रूप में जीते हैं। उस परिवार में पुरुष नहीं होगा, केवल नारियाँ होती हैं। सभी जाति की स्त्रियाँ यहाँ मिलजुलकर बिना कोई भेदभाव के बहुत प्यार से रहती हैं। उस परिवार में कोई नानी है, माँ है, बहन है, बेटा है, चाची है। माँ को गुरु कहा जाता है। बेटा को चेला। यह पारिवारिक पद्धति देश भर के किन्नरों को बाँधकर रखती है। इस परिवार के बाहर के हिजड़ों को भी वे इस परिवार के सदस्य माना जाता है।

तमिलनाडु में किन्नर (हिजड़ा) स्वयं थिरु नागगाई (ईश्वर पुत्री) मानते हैं और अरुवानी कहलाना पसन्द करते हैं। वे हिन्दू देवता अर्जुन पुत्र अर्वाण की पूजा करते हैं। तमिलनाडु में विल्लुपुरम जिले के कुरांगम गाँव में स्थित मन्दिर है, कूथान्डावार। वहाँ हर साल अप्रैल-मई महीने में 18 दिन महोत्सव मनाया जाता है। इसमें भाग लेने के लिए देश-विदेश से हजारों किन्नर पहुँचते हैं। सारे किन्नर अर्वाण देवता से ब्याह रचाते हैं। रातभर नाच-गाना होता है। अगले दिन सुबह-सुबह अर्वाण के बलि चढ़ने के बाद उनकी मृत्यु का शोक मनाते हैं। अपनी चुड़ियाँ फोड़ते हैं। इस कूथान्डावार उत्सव में किन्नरों के बीच में सौन्दर्य प्रतियोगिताएँ, नृत्य, गायन प्रतियोगिताएँ आदि आयोजित की जाती हैं। इसी प्रकार केरल में आमप्पा और चामप्पा बिहक उत्सव, कार्नाटक येल्लामा देवी उत्सव एवं गुजरात में गरबा नृत्य गायन व अन्य रंगारंग कार्यक्रम होते हैं। इसी स्थान पर अर्जुन ने हिजड़ा रूप धरा था और बृहन्नला कहलाए। हिजड़ा सामाजिक संगठन के कई पहलुओं को इस्लाम से लिया जाता है। हिजड़े की रस्म भागीदारी स्पष्ट रूप से हिन्दु मूल है। हिजड़े शिव या कृष्ण की पूजा करते हैं।

हमारे भारत में अधिकांश हिजड़े समूहों में रहते हैं। वे सात घरों में संगठित हैं। ये घर घरानों के नाम से जाने जाते हैं। इनका केन्द्र हैदराबाद, पुणे, मुंबई जैसे शहरों में है। हर एक घराने का एक मुखिया होता है। मुखिया को नायक कहते हैं। नायक गुरु की नियुक्ति करता है। गुरु अपने चेलों को गाना-नाचना, बधाई सिखाता है।

गुरु के स्थान को गुरुधाम कहा जाता है। धाम से जुड़े हिजड़े कमाई का एक हिस्सा गुरुधाम में जमा करते हैं। एक गुरु की देखरेख में पाँच या उससे अधिक चले होते हैं। गुरु का कर्तव्य है,

चेलों की रक्षा करना। समुदाय के भीतर और बाहर उनकी रक्षा करना ही उनका मूल धर्म है। कानून की निर्माता गुरु ही है। यदि कोई चेला गलती करता है, तो गलती के अनुसार भिन्न-भिन्न प्रकार के दण्ड देने का अधिकार गुरु को है।

हिजड़ों में इंसानियत है। बिना कुछ किये धन कमाना उनको पसंद नहीं है। चोरी, भीख माँगना, हिंसा करना आदि को वे भयंकर पाप समझते हैं। गिरिया बनाना भी उन्हें बहुत अच्छा नहीं लगता। इन लोगों ने यदि गिरिया बना भी लिया, तो पूरी उम्र उसके साथ या उनके नाम पर व्यतीत करते हैं। हिजड़े जिन्हें अपने पति मानते हैं या जिनसे शादी करते हैं, उन्हें गिरिया कहते हैं।

वात्सल्य से उनका मन भरा-पूरा होता है, फिर भी उन्हें समाज में कोई स्थान नहीं दिया जाता है। समाज में पुत्र उत्पन्न होने पर वे नाचते हैं, गाते हैं, ठनगन करते हैं और अधिक से अधिक धन उगाहते हैं। यह धन ही उनकी आजीविका है।

अब तक हिजड़ों की समाज में कोई सुनिश्चित जगह नहीं है। उनके प्रति समाज की उपेक्षा भाव उन्हें संगठित होकर जीविकोपार्जन के लिए बाध्य करती है।

ये वर्ग समाज की मुख्य धारा से जुड़ना चाहता है। वे समाज में अपनी हिस्सेदारी चाहते हैं। उनकी बुनियादी आवश्यकताओं को समझना चाहते हैं। इस दुनिया के तीन प्रतिशत हिजड़ों को मामूली चीरफाड़ के द्वारा पुरुष या स्त्री बनाया जा सकता है। उन्हें जागरूक करना है। हमारी तरह वे भी मनुष्य ही हैं। वे भी समाज का अंग हैं। उनका दर्द, हमारा दर्द है। उनके दर्द को मिटाना हमारा भी कर्तव्य है। उन्हें छोड़ना नहीं चाहिए। उन्हें मनुष्य के रूप में अपनाना है। वे केवल सभी को आशीष देना चाहते हैं। दूसरों के सुख से उन्हें खुशी होती है। खुशी से वे नाचते, गाते बजाते हैं। आम मनुष्य के समान इनमें भी संवेदनाएँ हैं।

हिजड़ों को ऊपर उठाने के लिए सरकारी या गैर-सरकारी कठिन श्रम की आवश्यकता है। जो हिजड़े काबिल हैं, उन्हें शिक्षा, नौकरी आदि क्षेत्रों में स्थान देना है। ऐसा किया गया, तो वे अपने जीवन में आगे बढ़ सकते हैं और वे अपने समाज की सहायता कर सकते हैं।

अशिक्षा, अन्य व्यवसाय में जुड़ने के अवसर की कमी, आर्थिक दुर्दशा, परिवार से भावनात्मक लगाव न होना आदि कारण अधिकांश हिजड़ों को यौन कर्म की ओर ले जाता है, लेकिन लोग सोचते हैं कि सभी हिजड़े ऐसे हैं। इसी कारण से हिजड़ों से समाज उपेक्षा करता है। इस्लाम धर्म की अपेक्षा हिन्दू धर्म, बौद्ध, सिक्ख, जैन आदि धर्मों में इन्हें काफी सम्मान मिला है। वे लोग इनका आशीर्वाद और मंगल कामना पाने की इच्छुक हैं।

भारत में हिजड़े मुख्य रूप से परंपरागत व्यवसायों के साथ जुड़े रहते हैं। लोक प्रचलित धार्मिक प्रथा के अनुसार विवाह समारोह और घर में बच्चे के जन्म के समय उनकी उपस्थिति शुभ मानी जाती है। ऐसा कहा जाता है कि किन्नरों में दैवीय शक्तियाँ हैं। उन्हें नववधू या नवजात बच्चों पर प्रजनन क्षमता प्रदान करने के लिए विशेष शक्तियों के साथ संपन्न माना जाता है।

18 वीं 19 वीं शताब्दी में हिन्दू और मुस्लिम हिजड़े एक साथ नहीं रहते थे, लेकिन अब ऐसा नहीं है। क्योंकि पहले की तरह अब उन्हें किसी से संरक्षण प्राप्त नहीं है।

आजकल कुछ लोगों के माध्यम से हिजड़ों की दशा की ओर ध्यान दिया जा रहा है। वे स्वयं अपने अधिकारों के प्रति जागृत हो रहे हैं। वे अपने अधिकार या समाज के लिए आवाज उठा रहे हैं। अपने अस्तित्व के लिए वे निरंतर प्रयास कर रहे हैं। उनकी समस्याओं को खोलकर दिखाने में टी.वी चैनल जैसा संचार माध्यम का विशेष योगदान है।

यूरोप में हिजड़ों को बिलकुल आम आदमी की तरह ही देखा जाता है। वहाँ हमारी तरह वे स्कूल जाते हैं, नौकरी करते हैं, वहाँ इनकी कोई अलग पहचान नहीं है।

हाल में ही दिल्ली नगर निगम ने हिजड़ों को हर महीने एक हजार रुपये पेंशन देने की घोषणा की है, लेकिन किन्नरों की स्थिति में बदलाव लाने के लिए यह बहुत बहुत कम है।

किन्नरों को तमिलनाडु सरकार द्वारा पूरा सहयोग मिला है। हाल ही में 'ट्रांसजेंडर वेलफेयर बोर्ड' का गठन भी किया गया है। पूरे देश में यह इस प्रकार का पहला कदम है। सरकार ने शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में उनके लिए आरक्षण की व्यवस्था भी की है। कुछ विश्वविद्यालयों में हिजड़ों के लिए मुक्त शिक्षा की व्यवस्था है। ये सरकार किन्नरों के स्वास्थ्य के प्रति भी विशेष ध्यान दे रही है। लिंग परिवर्तन की चिकित्सा की भी व्यवस्था है। इससे किन्नरों को अब कुछ हद तक समाज में गौरव का स्थान प्राप्त हो रहा है। उनके अपने पहचान पत्र भी हैं। सरकार ने उनके लिए घर की व्यवस्था भी की है।

मुख्य चुनाव आयुक्त टी.एन शेषन ने लैंगिक विकलांगों के मतदान के अधिकार को अनुमति दी थी। मतदाता के तौर पर किन्नरों को महिलाओं के रूप में दर्ज किया जाता है। राजनीति में सबसे पहली सफलता पाने वाली किन्नर हिसार, हरियाना की शोभा नेहरू है। वह 1995 में हुए नगर निगम के चुनाव में शहर के वार्ड नंबर नौ की पार्षद चुनी गई थी। इसके बाद श्री गंगा नगर राजस्थान में एक किन्नर बसंती भी पार्षद चुनी गईं। इसी साल के आरंभ में हुए चुनाव में शोभा नेहरू पुनः पार्षद चुनी गईं। राजनीति में अच्छी सफलता किन्नरों को मध्यप्रदेश में मिली। सन् 2002 में वहाँ किन्नर, विधायक, महापौर और पार्षद थे। देश की पहली किन्नर विधायक शबनम मौसी शहडोल जिले के सोहागपुर विधानसभा सीट से चुनी गई थी। प्रदेश में 2002 में हुए स्थानीय निकाय चुनाव में चार किन्नर चुने गए थे।

20 वीं सदी के बाद से कुछ हिजड़ा कार्यकर्ताओं और पश्चिमी गैर सरकारी संगठनों (एन. जी. ओ) द्वारा न तो आदमी और न महिला के रूप में, बल्कि एक तीसरे लिंग के रूप में ही हिजड़ा वर्ग को सरकारी मान्यता के लिए प्रयास किया था। इसके फलस्वरूप बंगाल देश ने सफलतापूर्वक मान्यता प्रदान की और शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में प्राथमिकता के लिए पात्र घोषित किया गया।

भारत में अप्रैल 2014 में भारतीय सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने किन्नरों को तृतीय लिंग घोषित किया है। सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने हिजड़ों के प्रति समाज को अपनी सोच बदलने पर जोर देते हुए उन्हें आरक्षण देने की बात कही।

नवंबर 2009 में चुनाव आयोग ने इन्हें अन्य की श्रेणी में शामिल कर मतदाता पहचान पत्र दिया और उसी के फलस्वरूप 28,341 तृतीय लिंगी मतदाता के रूप में देश में पंजीकृत हैं, 4, 177

तृतीय लिंगी मतदाता—18—19 वर्ष आयु वर्ग के हैं। इस प्रकार राजनीतिक दृष्टि से इन्हें महत्व प्रदान किया गया है।

माननीय उच्चतम न्यायालय ने अपने निर्णय में सरकार को दिशा—निर्देश देते हुए कहा है कि वे इस तीसरे लैंगिक समूह को समाज का एक उपेक्षित और पिछड़ा वर्ग मानकर उनकी अच्छाई के लिए विशेष सुविधाएँ उपलब्ध कराएं।

मानवाधिकार संगठनों की माँग पर विश्व के कई देशों में हिजड़ों की भलाई के लिए कानून बनाए जा रहे हैं और सामाजिक रूढ़ियों को तोड़ने का भरपूर प्रयास किया जा रहा है।

आजकल केरल सरकार ने यहाँ के हर जिले के पाँच—पाँच हिजड़ों को सरकार के व्यय में टैक्सी ड्रायविंग प्रशिक्षण देकर लायसेंस देने का फैसला किया है। इसके पहले सरकार 'कोच्चि मेट्रो' में हिजड़ों को नौकरी देती थी। केरल के कालिकट जिले के अस्पताल में हिजड़ों के इलाज के लिए एक दिन आरक्षित किया गया है।

समाज, परिवार, सब कहीं से उपेक्षित हिजड़ों को ये सभी बातें खुश करने वाली हैं। इसी प्रकार हमें उच्च स्तर पर उन्हें आगे लाना है। ऐसा करें तो यह उनके लिए, हमारे लिए और हमारे देश के लिए गर्व की बात होगी।



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