A Case Study of Social, Economic and Political Statuses of Transgender in Peshawar

Authors: Rooh Ullah[1], Maaz Ali[2], Azhar Ali[3]

Abstract

Over the years, Transgender community remained one of the most marginalized segments of society. Issues related to Transgender community are still considered to be a taboo for which a dearth of research studies has been observed. The recent developments people are trying to understand the intensity of their marginalization in terms of their social, economic and political statuses. Consequently, this study focuses to identify and explains social, economic and political statuses of Transgender community in society of Peshawar qualitatively. The methodology chosen for this research study was case study. Literature review was done systematically as well as critically for this research. After literature review knowledge gaps have been identified in terms of social, economic and political statuses of Transgender in Peshawar. A sample of nine (9) respondents was selected through purposive or judgmental sampling. Data has been collected via semi-structured in-depth interviews. The collected data was then transcribed and split and spliced. After transcription, data has been coded and linkages have been established. After linkages, existing framework, derived from literature, was modified with all the newly emerged factors. Furthermore, qualitative analysis revealed the inter-relationship amongst factors, which shows that Transgender community faces marginalization in their social, economic and political statuses in Peshawar.

Keywords: *Transgender, Transgender Education, Transgender Inclusion, Transgender Rights.*

Introduction

In today's changing world, access to facilities and government privileges have improved for many, but marginalized communities like the Transgender community still face significant challenges. With globalization and digitalization, previously hidden issues, including those affecting the Transgender community, are now being discussed openly. People are becoming more aware of these issues and advocating for the rights of Transgender individuals worldwide. This growing awareness is leading to efforts to change policies and social values to better integrate Transgender individuals into society. Despite progress, the Transgender community continues to face discrimination and injustice across social, economic, and political spheres. This study sheds light on the injustices faced by the Transgender community in Peshawar, highlighting the need for broader recognition, economic opportunities, and political integration. Through this research, new factors affecting the Transgender community have been identified, contributing to a modified empirical framework for understanding their experiences and advocating for change.

1.1 Problem statement

Transgender individuals worldwide face discrimination and marginalization across social, economic, and political spheres, making it a challenge for policymakers to address their well-being. In developed societies, efforts are being made to support these communities, but in developing societies like Peshawar, Transgender individuals are pushed to the margins, unable to access the same rights as others. Analysing their deprivation in social, economic, and political domains is crucial to understanding their status. Government policies heavily influence societal attitudes toward marginalized communities, exacerbating their vulnerability to harassment and exclusion. This research aims to investigate the social, economic, and political conditions of the Transgender community in Peshawar to address their grievances and promote social justice.

[1] MS Development Studies IMSciences; roohllhjan@yahoo.com.
[2] MPhil Scholar, Department of Social Work, University of the Punjab; Maazali175@yahoo.com.
[3] Probation & Parole Officer, District Buner; azharjamal720@gmail.com.

1.2 Purpose of the study

The purpose of this study is to identify and explore constructs which contributes in social, economic and political statuses of Trans' community in Peshawar. Furthermore, to extend the boundaries and to propose strategies for Trans communities inclusion in social domains, economic cycle and political process of broader society.

1.3 Scope of the study

The scope of this research study was limited to the Trans' community in society of Peshawar. This study was designed to identify and explore new dimensions and constructs where transgender community of Peshawar feels vulnerable. The data for this specific study was collected from nine participants residing in Peshawar. This research study was limited to find the factors that hinder Transgender community's social inclusion, their economic well-being and political legitimacy. For this purpose researcher interviewed members of Transgender community, expert in this field, members of civil society, member of academia and official from provincial government.

1.4 Objectives of the study

• Identification and exploration of constructs contributing in Transgender community's social, economic and political statuses in society of Peshawar.

• To find out all possible relationships and linkages amongst these constructs.

• To propose strategies for Transgender community's inclusion in social, economic and political domains in society of Peshawar.

1.5 Research questions

• To gather desired and required data for this study, key research questions were;

• What are the constructs that are contributing in social, economic and political position of Transgender community in society of Peshawar?

• What are the possible relationships and linkages amongst these constructs?

• What strategies can help in inclusion of Transgender community in social, economic and political domains in society of Peshawar?

Literature Review

Marginalization of some members in societies is as old as history in itself. In every era, in the past, there remained groups who were prone to the malice of injustice and marginalization. These groups were not considered to be equal with those of other segments of society. They face low statuses in one or the other field in the course of their lives. To treat this tumour of injustice about a particular community in society, it needs a firm stand on defined values of that society. Barrett & Scheibe, 2017, while quoting the work of Erving, 1951 and 1963, that progressive societies try to treat this malice but to no or very low satisfactory results. There remain bumps in the lives of those who are living in those conditions/surroundings. Due to the narrow-mindedness of the people, living in those societies, the conditions of few particular groups are not very well. They live in miserable conditions due to their cut-off statuses and their quests for different facilities are ignored by the broader segments. They try to have proper positions in social hierarchy, to be equipped economically and to have political legitimacy. They are not on the same footings with those of other segments of society. They are lagging far behind them in their social recognitions, economic well beings and political integration. This leads such communities to live unproductive lives in broader societies. They have low social status, economic status and political status (Barrett & Scheibe, 2017, Fassinger, 2007, Francine, 2007, Greenberg, 2002, Klawitter, 2011, Levitas, et al., 2007 & Raewyn, 2009).

Different societies are hit differently by the waves of change. In current dynamic world, there are many aspects in different societies which shape the outlook of different communities. This shapes their overall posture regarding their hold over different societal resources and opportunities. These privileges can occur to particular communities at the expense of few others. The privilege communities can influence policies related to them. They have now a permanent slot in policy making and are considered to be the major stakeholders. In recent times, with all the scope of globalization and connectedness, there remain some issues camouflaged and inaccessible like their statuses in the past. These issues were not open for criticism. The time has changed and those issues can be discussed openly and vehemently in recent times. Masses are now in a position to criticize those on the basis of their own understanding and their degrees of importance. The issue of Transgender is one amongst these hot issues which is unsolved till now and which is considered to be a taboo in the mainstream dealings of any society. Trans gender's related issues are now transparent to us and we can see the levels of their marginalization and their less humanly treatments. People's perception and their levels of absorption regarding many issues can make it understandable that we are now trying to evaluate the nature and intensity of all those issues which Transgender community is facing (Barbara, Judith , & Jessic, 2012).

Globalization:

With the growing globalization and more integration of the world, it is evident that majority of the masses are aware of the problems and discriminations related to Transgender. They can interpret and understand issues surrounding Trans' people. They try to resolve and to bring those issues to the fore. Intensity of such steps is rising. There are lobbies for the rights of Transgender with the concerned government's institutions and authorities. They are making grounds for the initiation of practical measures and to make policies conducive enough for the absorption of Transgender. They are trying to make Transgender a protected community. They try to make them a part of the mainstream. All these efforts are taking place in response to the injustices happening with the Transgender community. Another reason is the rising awareness of masses in recent times. Trans' people faces hatred and injustice at every corner of their lives. It is a reality now that Transgender are facing exclusion and injustice. They are the one facing this malice of societal exclusion and injustice- starting from their homes to the schools, markets and everywhere they go. This study is in the light of all the injustices. The injustices they face in terms of their political participation, economic well-beings and social acceptance (Kirsch, 2006).

In order to understand the living standards of these people, we need to look at to the societal behaviour regarding Transgender. It is a reality that Transgender are prone to every kind of discrimination when compared to the mainstream segments such as; male and female. It is not easy for them to have the basic rights promised by government. It is also a reality that in order to get those promised rights they are supposed to struggle really hard. Regardless of their social status in society, Islam gives these people equal rights and statuses like all other humans. But unfortunately it is far from reality in any society of the Muslim world. Basic principles of Islam teaches us harmony and tranquillity with one another. But majority of the masses are not even considering Transgender equal to male and female. It is embedded in the cultural fabrics, which broadly shapes people's behaviours, to consider these Transgender less humans. Transgender are marginalized from the benefits of values of the cultural set-ups due to their ambiguous genders. Culture, which in times proved to be the umbrella of protection and compassion, is not conducive enough for the survival of these people (Elkins & King, 2006)

Discrimination and harassment

In these moral and conscious world events like discrimination and harassment of Transgender is the popular music. They face discrimination in every sphere of their lives. People, instead of being the advocate and protector of their rights and lives, do not let go the chances to ridicule them. In all this uncertainty in the lives of Transgender people, the majority seeks advance mechanisms to harass Transgender. Transgender, as per their established statuses, cannot react in any way to all that is happening to them. Transgender lacks proper recognition in society. The concerned departments are less effective to bring Transgender related issues to the mainstream. Due to their unjust treatments they are absorbing some severe issues which surround them. Societal behaviour holds its currency when it comes to dealing with the issues of marginalized segments in any particular society. In case of Transgender community this society of ours is

not allowing them to get their education in the mainstream institutions. They are pushed to the corner which makes it impossible for them to receive some quality education. When compared to the mainstream societal segments, Transgender community lives a miserable life. Due to their genders they are unable to enjoy the fruits of facilities provided by state. All these attitudes and behaviours make them unproductive. This lead them to live an unproductive life and to be remained a burden on society. All these behaviours on one hand makes these Transgender unproductive, while on the other contribute in their psychological and sociological harms. Due to such kind of behaviours, Transgender are losing their social, political and economic statuses in our society. In order to understand the overall wellbeing of these people, it is imperative to analyse their social acceptance, political participation and economic sustenance and wellbeing (Whittle, 2002).

Transgender

Transgender, as the name indicates, are people whose gender identities are different from that of mainstream genders such as, male and female. Transgender, being an umbrella term, is used for the people whose gender identities and gender expressions are different and not in alignment with one another. They are the people born with a particular sex but they, most of the times, carry the expressions of the opposite one. This term 'Transgender' includes all those people who are born this way and are ambiguous about their genders. With the advancements in technologies there are now surgeries which can transform anyone's gender in a specific way as per the dominancy of their hormones. In light of these advancements, the term or name Transgender excludes all those who have undergone one or the other kind of such surgeries for sex transformation. Trans-men are those Transgender who are born or assigned the sex of a female but they live their lives the way men do. While Trans-women are those Transgender who are born or assigned the sex of a male but they live their lives the way women do. This distinction clearly eliminates all those Transgender who had transformed their sex through surgeries. Transgender, when we talk about the term, specifies the categories of all those who terms or includes themselves in the broader range of Transgender category. Just the way Chettiar (2015) describes in her work that Transgender, when looked broadly, consists of those whose gender expressions are not align with that of their gender identities. She further augmented about her claim that those people who are born with one or the other kind of sex cannot be included in this but all those who are born with a different sex than those of male or female (Chettiar, 2015 & Mottet, et al., 2011).

Human Right Report 2014

On the other hand a report by Human Rights Watch (2014) explains the term Transgender further in a way that the distinction is much clearer. According to their report, Transgender are those people who are not born with the sex of male or female. Transgender are not born with a specific and prominent sex. It further explains that Transgender, most of the times and in many cases, are confused and not sure about the sex they are born with. They are in a continuous struggle to identify the masculine or feminine characteristics which they are not sure about because their gender lie somewhere in between the two genders i.e. male or female. The report further explains the phenomenon that in many cases the difference is clear between the sexes these Transgender are born with and the gender identities and expressions they are comfortable with. It is their choice to remain in a particular avatar and expression in their lives. Most of the times, the report explains, these Transgender are comfortable with their gender expressions as per their gender identities and preferred gender. It is due to this choice which provides them the opportunity to enjoy the conformity with the preferred gender but in the long run no Transgender would want to permanently adopt the style they once were comfortable with due to the societal attitudes toward them. According to this report of Watch (2014), Transgender, on one hand want to conform to the gender by adopting gender expression and identities, but on the other they do not want to adhere themselves to the gender which is not align with the sex they are born with (Watch H. R., 2014).

Role of Transgender

Transgender, ambiguous and confused in their dealings of gender roles and about their sex, are prone to every kind of ill-treatments. Due to their non-conform gender to those of the mainstream genders make them outlier in the overall society. According to the studies established by Gay and Lesbian Alliance against

Defamation (2007) and UN office for Human Rights (2015), it is worth mentioning that Transgender community throughout the world are facing one or the other kind of discrimination due to their confused and non-conform gender in society. It is this confused status of their sex and further the confusion in their gender role which makes them susceptible to every kind of ill-treatments. Transgender communities are facing issues in every sphere of their lives just because of their confused status. They are lacking basic rights and the value of human beings. Due to all these ill-treatments and mismanagement of authorities in their cases, Transgender communities are living from hand to mouth. They have been forced to live a miserable life in terms of availability of resources and all the basic rights (GLAAD, 2007 & Office for the High Commissioner of Human Rights, 2015).

Social Exclusion

In every society throughout the world there are some standards which guarantee someone's acceptance or rejection on the basis of those defined standards. Those who conform to the standards are accepted by the overall society and by its embedded mechanism of dealing with masses, while on the other hand non-conforming to those standards will result in rejection. Sometimes societal mechanisms play a decisive role to outcast someone who belongs to a different community. The line of inclusion and exclusion has been marked for the purpose to strictly adhere to the principles defined by society and its institutions. Communities and people are included or excluded on the basis of those defined standards and norms. Both the inclusion and exclusion are further divided into themes on the basis of which one will be gauged. In order to fill the social cleavages in broader society, and to make people adhere to societal norms, institutions' role in forming principle and to design strategies are inevitable. They can highlight issues and further mark differences in accepting norms and standards and in those which can lead someone to deviancy. Such lines has to be marked clearly which distinguishes between the conformist and non-conformist individuals and groups. Investigation of social exclusion favors policies and provides guidance to governments and policy makers to hit or design specific area for inclusion and to formulate inclusive policies for excluded groups or communities (Bonner & Luscombe, 2008).

It is evident now that Transgender community is the most marginalized society who faces high levels of discrimination throughout the world. This contributes in the risk of their poor health. Though researchers are unable to establish a proper linkage between gender non-conformity which is considered to be a prominent force behind one's low and stigmatized social status and their discrimination. This further accelerates their poor health conditions. Social fabrics have been designed in a way that it can't absorb those individuals who deviate from binary gender mechanisms. This system, which favours only two genders, is so discriminative for these Transgender that they at times find it hard to access different resources for their livelihood or to announce a recognized status or position in society ((Andrews, 2012, Bilodeau, 2005 & Taylor, 2014).

Economic Status/Exclusion of Transgender

In order to understand economic status of a particular group or community in broader societal settings, it is imperative to understand overall socioeconomic status of all groups residing in that particular social setting. Socioeconomic status is all relevant to the realms of behavioural and different social sciences. One can find its traces in the field of research, to practice means in society, in all paradigms of education and, most importantly, advocacy in society. All these further contribute to portray a decent and understandable picture of society. Socioeconomic status, though a broader phenomenon, is not relevant and related to income but to different other fields at the same time. It encompasses not only income of an individual or group but their levels of educational attainment, the financial security they required, their perception o

Political Status/ Exclusion of Transgender

Politics and political participation can provide people with a proper channel to address their grievances in a broader setup. Political status of every strata in society provide them with an opportunity to inculcate their say in broader policy formulation. This makes them able to influence policy makers to include or address their issues. Being aware of political rights can shape your position in society. Political participation is the source through which one can make their presence legitimate in society. They can access resources

available for all members without any hurdle or confusion. Those who lack this basic facility and recognition always found themselves on the edge of a sword. They can't say anything about societal inhuman treatment due to their low political status and participation. Politics shapes most of the broader policies and attitudes of members. This can influence their behaviour on every tier of their lives. Broader recognition can make someone an honourable member of society. This can be worse in situations when some communities or group will find themselves facing the brunt of overall society's negative attitudes and further of the inhuman policies related to them. In case of recognition they can access all resources and opportunities which can make them valuable members of society. Through this way they can add their share in societal well-being. Due to political recognition of every group or community in society, they further advance cohesiveness and harmony while remaining members of broader society. There are instances when state's machinery facilitates such moves and proves itself to be a sole advocate of their political rights, but there are also times when states turn blind eye and deaf ear towards such issues (Levitas, 2006).

Research Methodology

Theoretical framework

In the field of research theoretical frameworks are used for conducting different research studies. These occur in different fields of science as well as in social sciences. Theoretical frameworks serve as pathways, not strict but flexible ones, for those studies. It can provide proper lens and guidance to researchers for their researches. Every theoretical framework consists of different concepts and definitions relevant to that specific study, for instance social exclusion of Transgender can be a concept which can be divided into sub-concepts of social, economic and political. This helps in development of a theory in that regard. It helps researchers to understand those theories and concepts relevant to a particular problem under study. This further helps in managing the link with broader studies in surroundings to that problem. Theories have to be selected on the basis of their relevance. They must be align with the concept of easy application in a defined setting and how greatly these theories can explain those problems. Theoretical frameworks for such studies are well articulated and easily manageable (Bae, 2019).

Methodology Overview This chapter provides a comprehensive overview of the methodology and methods used in the study. It begins with an explanation of the research paradigm, specifically social constructivism, and justifies its use. The research approach, design, and strategy are discussed, along with the rationale for employing a case study as the research strategy. Details about the sampling technique, data collection tools, and process are provided to ensure a systematic understanding of the research. The chapter also addresses research credibility, transferability, dependability, and confirm ability, as well as ethical considerations.

Case Study Location: Peshawar The case study is based in Peshawar, a diverse city with various gender identities, including the Transgender community. Transgender individuals reside within their own communities led by an elder called Guru. Peshawar's societal structure is divided along traditional gender lines, with strict adherence to gender roles. Transgender individuals face societal backlash due to their non-conformity to these norms, leading to grievances and discrimination. The chapter highlights the challenges faced by the Transgender community in Peshawar's broader social settings.

Research Approach: Qualitative Methodology

Overview: This study adopts a qualitative research approach to gain insight into the lives of individuals within social settings, particularly focusing on the experiences of the Transgender community in Peshawar.

Rationale: Qualitative research is chosen for its ability to explore subjective phenomena and understand the embedded mechanisms of societies and cultures. It allows for the exploration of factors and constructs rather than experimental testing.

Process: Qualitative studies follow defined steps, including identifying the phenomenon, gathering supporting data, and interpreting the information collected.

Contextual Understanding: Qualitative research focuses on understanding phenomena within their social contexts, utilizing interactions and exposure of social actors to study behavioural patterns.

Alignment with Constructivism: Due to its subjective nature, qualitative research aligns well with the constructivist school of thought, enabling researchers to explore subjective constructs.

Validity and Investigation: Qualitative research is valuable for investigating phenomena, discovering and exploring meanings, and drawing linkages among different constructs.

Appropriateness for the Study: A qualitative exploratory approach is considered appropriate for identifying and exploring different factors and constructs related to Transgender social, economic, and political statuses in Peshawar.

Effectiveness: Qualitative research is effective in obtaining culturally specific information about values, opinions, behaviours, and social contexts of particular populations, all of which are subjective in nature.

The Case-Study

Trans gender's social, economic and political statuses in society of Peshawar have been studied for this research. The case was their social, economic and political status in the broader social domain of Peshawar. Being different from mainstream genders of this society, they are prone to every kind of injustice and harassment. Transgender community lives in a defined set up in this society. A guru (an elder Transgender) led them in their quests in daily routines. Based on the purposive or judgmental sampling technique, Researcher tried to convince the guru for the interview but the offer was declined due to guru's stretched schedule. There is no compulsion on anyone for the interview, therefore the guru further asked different other members for the interview. The researcher selected those Trans members who were in a position to answer the interview questions. Transgender communities residing in different parts of the city were contacted for interview purpose and the same methods were followed. Constructs leading to their low status; socially, economically and politically, are not known in mainstream literature in Peshawar. They are excluded from all mainstream jobs, facilities and opportunities which are available to other segments of society. Government to consider its role is not paying much heed to cater issues surround this community of Transgender in Peshawar. There is a ray of hope in coming years that government will play its required role (Elkins & King, 2006).

Case Study Design

Transgender community, who reside in Peshawar, social, economic and political statuses have been considered for this research to be studied in detail and to explore new dimensions to these particular aspects in their lives. As Yin (2003) has argued that, researcher can carefully and with full attention consider a case for all its constructs and multiple aspects when they study a single or particular case. The uniqueness of any social phenomenon can't be denied in the face of new explorations. Therefore, it is imperative for researchers to consider any case with full attention and focus (Yin R. K., 2003).

While focusing on a single phenomenon, which can pave ways for the possibilities to contribute in the already existing knowledge about that particular phenomenon. This can further build a theory on its own if all the aspects to that phenomenon are considered logically (Yin R. K., 2009).

Research Method

In qualitative studies one of the most effective tools which have been used for data collection is interview. This enables the researcher to understand the embedded subjectivity in any phenomena and have a proper view regarding the reality of that particular problem. Interviews can be of structured nature, can be semi-structured, can be unstructured and can be narrative, depend on the nature of the study and desired information. For this study semi-structured interviews have been used which is a suitable tool to explore new dimensions to any phenomena in qualitative studies. Semi-structured interviews makes the participants

comfortable with the environment after which researcher ask them about their experiences regarding a particular phenomenon (Creswell, 2014).

In data collection semi-structured interviews have been used to have a deep insight of the respondents' experiences with any phenomena. For exploration of new constructs, collected data was then transcribed. Semi-structured interviews make respondents, as well as researcher, involved in a deep manner. Participant share information while researcher interpret and note that information with them (Galletta, 2013).

Sampling and Data Collection: Purposive Sampling

Sampling Technique: Purposive or judgmental sampling technique is adopted based on the research strategy and objectives. Participants were selected from the Transgender community of Peshawar, experts in Transgender-related issues, members of CSOs, academia, and government officials.

Rationale for Selection: Participants were chosen based on their knowledge and awareness of Transgender issues, residing in Peshawar. Selection criteria included individuals with potential involvement in the research process and ability to provide valid information based on their experiences.

Selection Criteria: Participants were selected for their understanding of Transgender community issues, while those from the broader community were excluded due to limited awareness. Positions or roles of participants did not hinder their ability to comprehend and respond to Transgender issues.

Usefulness of Purposive Sampling: Purposive sampling is effective when the number of participants is limited and detailed interviews are required to explore issues thoroughly.

Interview Process: Interviews were conducted with four Transgender individuals from the community, one academic, one expert in Transgender issues, two CSO members, and one government official. Interviews were conducted at different times and places, with flexible durations averaging about half an hour per session.

Participant Diversity: Participants varied in age and experiences, providing a comprehensive perspective on Transgender issues in Peshawar.

Data Analysis Method

In qualitative research data analysis has done to understand any phenomena under consideration in details. It provides suitable grounds for research after literature and during collection of data (Boeije, 2010 & Denzin & Lincoln, 2000).

This helps in discovering the main idea of any research study. In qualitative research data analysis draw logical linkages in information which is collected via observation, interviews and documentation (Caudle, 2004).

Table 4.1: Tabulated form of Research Onion for 'Being a Transgender. "A case study of Social, economic and political statuses of transgender in Peshawar"

Tabulated form of Research Onion for 'Being a Transgender. A case study of Social, Economic and Political Statuses of Transgender in Peshawar.	
Choices	Mono Method: Qualitative Research
Philosophies	Social Constructivism
Approaches	Inductive
Strategies	Case Study
Time Horizon	Cross-sectional: Many Individual at Single time
Technique and Procedure	1). Data Collection:

	Semi Structure Interview 2). Data Analysis: Thematic Analysis

(Saunders, Lewis, & Thornhill, 2009)

Questions from Theoretical framework

Due to qualitative nature of this specific study researcher has used semi-structured interviews to collect data from participants. In order to have valid results from respondent, two types of interviews were designed for data collection purposes. Transgender participants were asked about their experiences in all social, economic and political domains of their lives. While about the same questions expert of Transgender community in Peshawar, member of academia, government official and members of CSOs were asked to share their views of Transgender community social, economic and political statuses. All participants were contacted prior to interviews and their permission was asked. Researcher has interviewed four Transgender from Transgender community of Peshawar; one member of academia; one expert of Transgender community related issues in Peshawar; two members of CSO and one government official. Questions which researcher has asked Transgender to give their input about are;

- How do you feel about your social rights in this society? Can you access such rights without any hardship?

- How do you feel about your participation in societal matters? Do you feel excluded in terms of your participation in such matters?

- Do you feel deprived materially? In terms of Jobs, opportunities etc.? How would you describe your position?

- How would you describe your position over different societal resources?

- Can you access available economic resources in this society? Do you feel excluded from economic stream?

- How would you explain your integration in broader policies?

- How would you explain your political position in this society? Keeping in view your current political status.

- How would you describe the new developments for Transgender community in the process of receiving NIC's?

- If you can highlight some other issues which Transgender community faces in society of Peshawar?

In the same manner for collecting data from other poll of participants, which includes; member of academia, expert of Transgender community's issues, government official, members of CSOs, following questions were asked in their interviews;

- How do you feel about Transgender community's social rights in this society? Can they access such rights without any hardship?

- How do you feel about participation of Transgender community in societal matters? Do they feel excluded in terms of their participation in such matters?

- Do Transgender community's members feel deprived materially? In terms of Jobs, opportunities etc.? How would you describe their position?

- How would you describe Transgender community members' position over different societal resources?

- Can Transgender community's members access available economic resources in this society? Do they feel excluded from economic stream?

- How would you explain Transgender community's integration in broader policies?

- How would you explain Transgender community's political position in this society? Keeping in view their current political status.

- How would you describe the new developments for Transgender community in the process of receiving NIC's?

Interviews for Transgender participants

Each participant from Transgender community has been asked about their view regarding all these nine questions. Researcher recorded their responses to all these questions the way they shared their answers and experiences. All the eight questions, except of the last one, were about their social, economic and political positions or statuses in Peshawar. Question number 1 and 2 were about their social status while questions 3, 4 and 5 were about their economic position in society. Question 6, 7 and 8 were about their political position in broader society of Peshawar. Question number 9 was about new constructs and factors which, as per their own experiences and exposure, are important in all the mentioned domains of society.

Research Questions	Interview Questions
Research Question 1:	Interview Question (1-2)
Research Question 2:	Interview Question (3, 4, 5)
Research Question 3:	Interview Question (6, 7, 8)

Interview of Expert, Academia, Government official, Members of CSO's

Questions which were designed for Transgender community's participants were asked from expert of Transgender community issues; member from academia; official from government and members of CSO's. They were asked to share their view point about those questions and issues regarding Transgender community. These participants were asked to share their own understandings and how they saw issues surrounding Transgender community of Peshawar. All these participants were asked in the same manner to explore some new constructs and that to highlight the severity of all the mentioned issues to Transgender community.

Data Collection

Sub-theme: Access to Healthcare and Surgical Procedures

This sub-theme pertains to the challenges faced by transgender individuals in accessing healthcare services, particularly gender-affirming surgeries. The thematic analysis rule involves identifying patterns in responses related to the lack of financial support and facilities for surgical procedures.

Summary: In this research study, Transgender individuals in Peshawar encounter significant barriers in accessing healthcare services, particularly gender-affirming surgeries. Responses highlight the pervasive issue of financial insecurity, with many individuals unable to afford the necessary procedures. The absence of institutional support further exacerbates their challenges, leading to psychological distress and material hardships. Overall, the sub-theme underscores the urgent need for improved access to healthcare resources and financial assistance for transgender individuals in the region.

Sub-theme: Security and Justice

This sub-theme focuses on the experiences of transgender individuals with law enforcement and the justice system. The thematic analysis rule involves identifying recurring concerns related to security, incarceration, and treatment by authorities.

Summary: In this qualitative study, Transgender individuals in Peshawar face significant challenges with security and justice, as highlighted by their interactions with law enforcement and the justice system. Responses emphasize the lack of separate accommodations in police stations and prisons, leading to discomfort and vulnerability. Additionally, discriminatory treatment by authorities exacerbates feelings of marginalization and exclusion. Overall, the sub-theme underscores the need for reforms to ensure the safety and fair treatment of transgender individuals within the legal system.

Sub-theme: Political Disparities Faced by the Transgender Community

This sub-theme explores the political disparities experienced by the transgender community in Peshawar. The thematic analysis rule involves examining how the lack of political recognition and participation affects transgender individuals' access to rights, resources, and opportunities in society.

Summary: The sub-theme highlights the significant political disparities faced by the transgender community in Peshawar. Responses underscore the community's exclusion from political participation and influence due to societal attitudes and institutional neglect. Transgender individuals express frustration at their inability to exercise political rights, which hinders their ability to shape policies that affect them. Despite some government efforts to address transgender rights and inclusion, progress remains slow, with many barriers, including bureaucratic hurdles and societal stigmas, impeding meaningful change. The lack of political integration leaves transgender individuals marginalized and unable to advocate effectively for their needs and concerns. Moreover, the absence of National Identification Cards (NICs) further exacerbates their political disenfranchisement, as these documents are essential for participating in political processes. Overall, the sub-theme underscores the urgent need for greater political recognition and inclusion of the transgender community to address systemic inequalities and ensure their full participation in society.

Sub-theme: Access to Public Facilities and Religious Spaces

This sub-theme explores the difficulties transgender individuals encounter in accessing public facilities and religious spaces. The thematic analysis rule involves identifying common issues related to restroom access, religious exclusion, and societal stigma.

Summary: In this article, Transgender individuals in Peshawar face significant obstacles in accessing public facilities and religious spaces, as highlighted by their experiences with restroom access and religious exclusion. Responses reveal the lack of gender-neutral restrooms and the societal stigma associated with transgender individuals. Furthermore, the exclusion from religious spaces exacerbates feelings of isolation and marginalization. Overall, the sub-theme emphasizes the importance of creating more inclusive environments and challenging societal norms that perpetuate discrimination against transgender individuals.

Sub-them: National Identity Cards

This sub-theme delves into the significance of obtaining National Identification Cards (NICs) for transgender individuals in Peshawar. The thematic analysis rule involves identifying common sentiments regarding the role of NICs in enabling access to rights, resources, and equitable treatment in society.

Summary: In this study, The availability of NICs holds immense importance for transgender individuals in Peshawar, as it serves as a crucial document for asserting their identity and claiming their rights. Responses emphasize that possessing NICs allows transgender individuals to navigate various societal institutions and demand fair treatment. While efforts have been made by the government to include transgender individuals in official documents, challenges persist in the process of obtaining NICs for many members of the community. The absence of NICs can leave individuals vulnerable to discrimination and exclusion from essential resources and opportunities. Despite progress in recognizing the third gender and integrating transgender individuals into policymaking, societal stigmas and bureaucratic hurdles continue to hinder

their full inclusion and participation in society. Overall, the sub-theme highlights the on-going struggle of transgender individuals to obtain NICs and the enduring importance of this document in shaping their experiences and opportunities in broader society.

Sub-theme: Lack of Access to Economic Resources for the Transgender Community

This sub-theme explores the challenges faced by the transgender community in accessing economic resources in Peshawar. The thematic analysis rule involves examining how the exclusion from economic opportunities impacts the community's livelihoods and well-being.

Summary: The sub-theme highlights the significant barriers faced by the transgender community in accessing economic resources in Peshawar. Responses emphasize the community's exclusion from mainstream economic activities and the consequent impact on their livelihoods. Transgender individuals express frustration at their inability to compete for jobs and earn sustainable incomes, citing societal discrimination and lack of skills as major obstacles. Despite the recognition of economic resources as essential for shaping lives and societal interactions, transgender individuals are marginalized and limited to low-paying occupations. This exclusion perpetuates a cycle of poverty and alienation, with limited avenues for socio-economic advancement. Efforts by some government and civil society organizations to address these disparities are noted, but systemic challenges persist, hindering meaningful change. Overall, the sub-theme underscores the urgent need for greater inclusion of the transgender community in economic opportunities to alleviate poverty and promote social integration.

Sub-theme: Restriction in Social Participation

This sub-theme delves into the restricted social participation and material deprivation experienced by the transgender community in Peshawar. The thematic analysis rule involves examining how these factors contribute to the community's marginalization and hinder their ability to access opportunities for social and economic advancement.

Summary: This study shows that, the dual challenges faced by the transgender community in Peshawar: limited social participation and material deprivation. Participants emphasize the community's exclusion from societal engagement due to discrimination and stigma surrounding their gender identity. Additionally, they discuss the lack of access to essential resources and opportunities, which perpetuates cycles of poverty and marginalization. Despite efforts by some governmental and civil society organizations to address these issues, systemic barriers persist, hindering meaningful change. The sub-theme underscores the urgent need for comprehensive policies and interventions to promote social inclusion and economic empowerment for the transgender community.

Conclusion

This single case study focused on the social, economic, and political statuses of the Transgender community in Peshawar. Through purposive sampling, seven participants were selected, including members of the Transgender community, academia, experts, government officials, and civil society members. Semi-structured interviews were conducted, and the collected data was coded and analysed. The study revealed established issues such as social non-recognition, economic disparities, and political inequalities. While some issues may vary across regions, certain factors, such as the inability to have partners and lack of access to essential facilities, were universally observed. Participants also highlighted new challenges, including the absence of community centres and insurance coverage, indicating the need for further research and policy intervention to address the marginalized status of the Transgender community.

Summary of Research Outcomes

This comprehensive study sheds light on the multifaceted challenges faced by the transgender community in Peshawar. It underscores the critical lack of essential services and support systems, ranging from psychological and physical therapies to surgeries for sex transformation. Moreover, the absence of

protection, security measures, and basic facilities like separate schools, restrooms, and community centres exacerbates their vulnerability to harassment and exploitation.

The study also highlights systemic issues such as family rejection, exclusion from mainstream employment and media, and the inability to access financial services like loans and insurance. These barriers not only hinder their socio-economic progress but also perpetuate their marginalization and social exclusion.

Despite the grim realities depicted, the study offers valuable insights for policymakers, NGOs, and civil society organizations. By identifying gaps in existing support structures and proposing targeted interventions, it provides a roadmap for addressing the needs and rights of transgender individuals in Peshawar. From capacity-building initiatives to policy reforms aimed at changing societal attitudes, the study advocates for comprehensive measures to empower and integrate the transgender community into mainstream society.

Ultimately, this research serves as a call to action, urging stakeholders to collaborate in creating an inclusive and equitable environment where transgender individuals can thrive and fulfil their potential. Through collective efforts and sustained advocacy, meaningful change can be achieved to improve the lives of transgender people in Peshawar and beyond.

Recommendations

- Provide transgender community members with access to all facilities and basic necessities in society.
- Investigate the causes of societal deviance among transgender individuals and integrate them into the educational system.
- Establish separate schools for transgender individuals if mainstream educational institutions reject them.
- Utilize transgender community members' services in various fields such as the police department, banks, and other organizations.
- Private institutions can offer employment opportunities to transgender individuals in roles such as receptionists and cashiers.
- Government should facilitate micro-credit for transgender individuals to promote their economic development and employment.
- Provide economic opportunities for transgender individuals through government and non-governmental organizations.
- Offer vocational training and establish community centers for transgender individuals to enhance their capacities and contribute to society.
- Implement projects aimed at changing the societal outlook towards transgender individuals to ensure their security.
- Engage religious leaders in building positive narratives and attitudes towards transgender individuals and provide them with religious education.
- Government should advance positive narratives about transgender individuals and educate the public about their needs and place in society.
- Conduct awareness seminars by government and private organizations to educate the public about their interactions with transgender individuals and prevent societal conflicts.

References

Allegra, G., & Ilan, M. (2007). Gender Nonconformity as a Target of Prejudice, Discrimination, and Violence Against LGB Individuals. Journal of LGBT Health Research, 30.

Amankwaa, & Linda. (2016). Creating Protocols for Trustworthiness in Qualitative Research. Journal of Cultural Diversity, 7.

Baxter, P. (2008). Qualitative Case Study Methodology: Study Design and Implementation for Novice Researchers. McMaster University, West Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, 18.

Bonner, D., & Luscombe, C. (2008). The Seeds of Exclusion. London: The Salvation Army.

Caudle, S. L. (2004). Qualitative data analysis. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.

Corbin, J., & Strauss, A. (2008). Basics of Qualitative Research (3rd ed.): Techniques and Procedures for Developing Grounded Theory. USA: SAGE Research Methods.

Creswell, J. W. (2014). Research Design. Qualitataive, Quantiative and Mixed Methods Approaches. Fourth ed. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications.

Dey. (2003). Qualitative data analysis. London: Sage Publications.

Dey, I. (2003). Qualitative Data Analysis. London: Sage Publication.

Fassinger, R. (2007). Sexual orientation and gender identity. American Psychological Association, 34.

Galletta, A. (2013). Mastering the Semi-Structured Interview and Beyond: From Research Design to Analysis and Publication. New York; London: New York University Press.

Gibbs, G. R. (2002). Qualitative data analysis: Explorations with NVivo. . Milton Keynes: Open University .

Kirsch, M. (2006). Inclusion and Exclusion in the Global Arena. New York: ROUTLEDGE, Taylor & Francis group.

Merriam, S. B. (2002). Qualitative Research in Practice: Examples for Discussion and Analysis. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.

Remenyi, D. (2012). Case Study Research. Academic Publishing International, 153.

Robson, C. (2002). By Colin Robson - Real World Research: A Resource for Social Scientists and Practitioner-researchers 2nd edition. Hoboken, New Jersey: John Wiley & Sons.

Ryan, G., & Nyamongo, N. (2001). Field Research into Social Issues: Methodological Guidelines. Washington, DC: UNESCO.

Saunders, M., Lewis, P., & Thornhill, A. (2009). Research Methods for Business Students. Edinburgh Gate, Harlow, England: Pearson Education Limited.

Tashakkori, A., & Teddlie, C. (2010). Mixed Methods in Social & Behavioral Research. USA: SAGE.

Yin, R. K. (2003). Case Study Research: Design and methods (3rd ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Yin, R. K. (2003). Case Study Research: Design and methods (3rd ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Yin, R. K. (2009). Case Study Research: Design and Methods 4th ed. Thousand Oaks, Calif: Sage Publications.

Yin, R. K. (2011). Qualitative research from start to finish. New York: American Psychological Association .

of social status and broadly social class (Badgett, Ramos, & Sea, 2008).