

شاکھ

SHANAKHT

**The True
Colours Of
Identity**

**Word Search
at the end!!!**

The price of being

different?

Judged!

Oppressed!

Ignored!

Isolated!



EDITOR'S NOTE

Why should anyone face discrimination because of the way they were born? No one gets a chance to choose their gender before coming into this world. This magazine sheds light over the most ignored community of the society, their struggles, breaking myths and exploring the root cause of Transphobia.

Long ago in the subcontinent this was one of the most powerful communities, however, today's society treats them as if they are not even humans. With the help of real life stories and thought provoking discussions, I aim to provide empathy and acceptance to the transgender community.

As the younger generation, for me, it is our responsibility to talk about the overlooked issues of the society that caters to discrimination and depressed individuals. It's time to unlearn society's prejudice and create a more inclusive future. With this magazine, I hope to achieve just that and make sure every individual is recognised for who they truly are.

Discrimination is taught. It's time to educate ourselves to learn, accept, and respect everyone.

Let's start being humans, by treating humans like humans.

Adeen Sajjad





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Spotlight

Ray of hope

Khawaja Sira Society

The idea was to have community lead initiatives for the community, not only for transgenders but every marginalised community.

KSS provides HIV prevention and treatment programs for the transgender community in Punjab, consisting of in house clinic and outreach medical services as well as linkage to ART centres, all of this is free of cost.

Plus, right now they have a batch of 10 to 15 trans children who are learning entrepreneurship and freelancing, so they can live a respectful life. Many other initiatives have been taken by KSS to make people's lives better.

People can help this organisation by supporting them financially or by collaborating with them to help them gain recognition and to promote their initiative.

They want to hold all the influential people accountable for their bad behaviour towards the trans community that caters to discrimination.

KSS tries to make sure all the laws in favour of marginalized communities are implemented, if there are transgenders at all levels like provincial and federal they can make sure the laws are implemented correctly for their community.

Another amazing thing is that KSS is providing employment opportunities for trans people and 70% of their staff consist of transgenders.



KSS Communications Team

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Portrait

The untold life stories



Nomi Jan (38 Years Old, Outreach Officer)

Childhood of every trans person is almost the same, dramatic and filled with confusion. In my time, we were not allowed to attend school or even enter a mosque. Straight to our face people, and even family members would tell us to get lost. Wandering aimlessly I found my community, still, finding a place to live or to travel, everything was almost impossible. I have not seen any change in the society itself towards trans people. Although in today's world parents have become somewhat supportive, the life of a trans person is still surrounded by discrimination and hatred. Plus the media's portrayal of our community is absolutely ridiculous, they show us as if we are only for entertainment and not a living human with a life, this is what they are teaching the youth. I'm grateful to organisations like KSS for giving us purpose and respect in the society. I hope the youth will not follow society's prejudice

Aira Bhatti (19 Years old, Advocacy Officer & Makeup Artist)

I left my house so my sisters could get married, as no one would marry them if they knew I was their sibling. My family was extremely supportive and protective about me but my friends bullied me because I was different. I decided to get in touch with my community and follow my passion. After leaving my home for good, finding an apartment was very tough. The neighbours would call the landlord to escort me out because I am a transgender. Uber drivers would cancel the ride when he saw me, in hospitals and in washroom lines men would push me out and women would not accept standing with me. Random people would form a group to discuss my appearance and laugh. I did my diploma but was unable to find a job then I found KSS. They supported me and I gained confidence. I want the youth to be aware about this issue and respect transgender, as we are also human, nothing less.



Dr. Sadiya Salar (27 Years Old, Advocacy & Partnership Manager, KSS)



No parent wants to give their children to a complete stranger, but when that child grows up to be different from the other siblings, even their family intentionally or unintentionally bullies them at times. People believe we choose our own fate and treat us worse than animals. My trans friend was raped every day by their manager till she chose to quit one day; is this the fate we deserve because of being different. When a trans person stops providing for their family, all of a sudden they become a burden. If there will be no community support, every trans person will eventually have to shift to undignified means of income. I am a doctor but still I had difficulty finding a house to live in. We are not here to serve anyone, we are humans as well. I hope the new generation of parents will teach their children to behave better.



The Price of Being *Different*

Get Judged, Oppressed, Ignored
and Isolated

Transgenders, the most overlooked community of all. These people are different from others and they are not categorized as men or women. The world does not accept them for who they are, even though they have no control to choose the way they were born. They face discrimination because of being different. People call them names and think of them as characters for entertainment, ignoring the fact that they are humans. Transgenders are mostly associated with the profession of begging, dancing and sex work. This is the reason they get judged and people don't like to have them as a part of their social groups.



But Why?

Back in the time, when Mughals ruled the subcontinent, this community was very important to them because of their physical strength and immaculate loyalty. They were employed to protect the royal women and teach them royal etiquette. The Khazanchis, meaning the treasurers, were mostly trans people because they were highly intelligent and loyal. Unfortunately, when the British invaded the subcontinent, this community was affected the most. They wandered aimlessly and eventually their situation forced them to start begging or entertain people for money. They found no support and to this day, the majority of transgenders are forced to live like this.

The Root Cause of Discrimination and Transphobia

Even today this community is suffering to get education but the educated men and women behave like retarded individuals while treating transgenders, that shows how they were raised. Children are taught to stay away from trans people and when a child questions that people create fake stories telling them they will kidnap them or that this community is cursed by God.

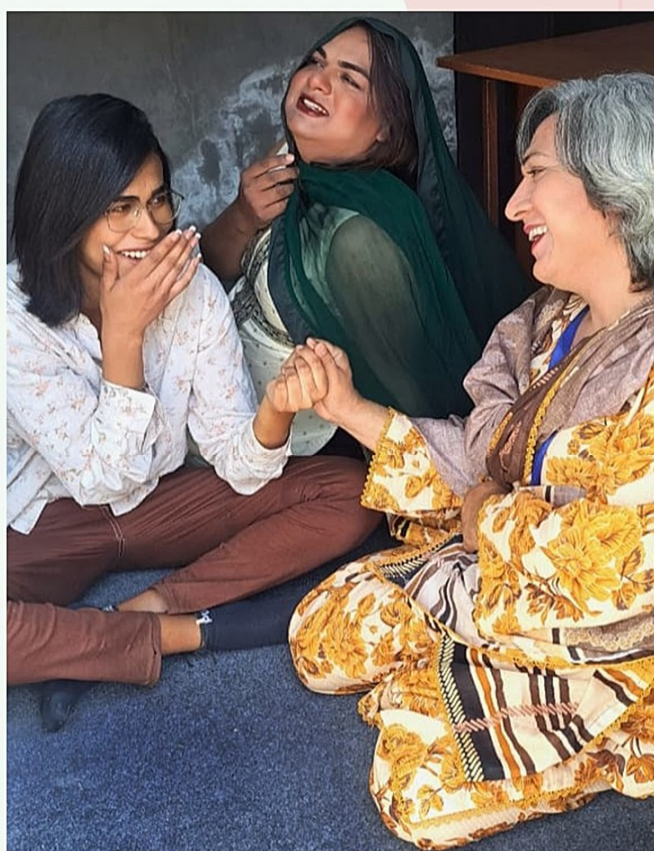
Eventually when the child grows up, he feels scared of such people and treats them rudely. This also caters to myths and fake assumptions about the transgender community.



What is Their Fault?

The price of being different is that they get judged, ignored and isolated by the world and for a reason which they have no control over. Even the most educated trans person with a noble job faces discrimination, they are denied access to public transport or washrooms.

Plus deny them services and call them names, this will make any individual depressed and when even after getting education, they won't get the respect they deserve this will lead them to start doing things that will harm the whole community. Whatever happened to them in the past should not have such an impact on their present, as, again they have no control over it.



The youth should understand this issue and start treating transgenders with the respect they deserve.

For an inclusive future, parents need to teach their children to respect every individual regardless of their identity.

No one deserves to face discrimination because they are different.

Dialogue

From misconceptions to acceptance



Culinary and Hotel Institution of Pakistan, works with the government and privately as well to help the needy children who can not continue their education. They provide skills based education for them, so they can start their own business or find a job easily, either in Pakistan or out of the country. CHIP is the first to provide free culinary education to the transgender community.



'A transgender from birth, to the time to get placed in their graves, they don't receive any respect anywhere, whether it be their home, a hospital or an office. I used to entertain people at functions but after turning 40 years old, I realised I cannot do that anymore.'



'It was tough to convince and change the mindset of trans individuals and to make them realise that they cannot make a good living out of begging, rather they should start their own business and live respectfully. As we all know they face discrimination and cannot find jobs easily, so this way they can start their own catering business or a food stall to earn money. This will provide a lot of opportunities for them and we want to make their lives better by giving them a chance to live independently. We will motivate them and target more transgenders to join our course, so at least they get a chance to make their lives better, because they deserve that. We know they are fully capable of handling and running a successful business with passion so why not do that and change the world's perspective towards them.'

So now, I want to learn this skill to open my own restaurant and employ other transgenders, so they don't have to do what I did and if the youth appreciates us, we will be able to live with dignity. If the government, now, is taking such initiatives we have hope that now the society will also accept us.'

Word Search

Find all 10!!!

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| H | A | A | Y | E | R | A | B | B | B | C | T | O | P | Q | R | S | Y |
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- 1) Diversity
- 2) Identity
- 3) Empowerment
- 4) Rights
- 5) Respect
- 6) Equality
- 7) Hope
- 8) Visibility
- 9) Acceptance
- 10) Inclusivity



**“Humans need to start being humans,
by treating humans like humans.”**