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Seeking Justice for the Extreme Marginalised Social Class: A study of Hijra in India

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Over the years, the Hijra community has occupied an extremely marginalised position in Indian society. By and large their presence has evoked a mixed feeling of awe, fear and contempt from the general public. Here, I am concerned with only natural eunuchs or hijras i.e. born that way those who are different from the other two categories namely forced eunuchs and voluntary eunuchs.

Hijras in India have practically no respectable public identity. They have no acceptance and no protection from prejudice and abuse. The discrimination against them is often translated into violence. The factor behind such kind of violence and exclusion is that they do not fit into any of the two sexual categories namely male and female which have secured society's approval. Such individuals have to bear social ostracism, isolation and contempt. Politically, legally and socially the community of hijras is marginalised and victimised. Most hijras live with frustration and incidents of abuse and humiliations throughout their life. Ironically death also cannot either guarantee a space, nor can it terminate the endless disgrace. With death pain of a life of a hijra ends but it initiates another critical chapter of abuse and dishonour. According to many hijra, the dead body of a hijras cannot be