Poverty, Migration, and Housing Instability: Transgender Realities in Islamic Contexts

Dr. Waqas Ali Khan
Lecturer, Department of Sociology, University of Narowal:
waqas.ali@uon.edu.pk

Muhammad Talha Kabeer
M.Phil Scholar, Department of Management & Administrative sciences, University of Sialkot:
talha.kabeer@hotmail.com

Usman Ali
M.Phil Scholar, Mass Communication and Media, University of Narowal:
umalhi786@gmail.com

Abstract:
This research investigates the complex narratives of transgender relocating to urban areas, with the aim of determining the difficulties and acclimation of the transgender people on this journey. Objectives of the study are to explore the extent of transgender migration from rural to urban areas in Islamic contexts, to investigate the economic factors contributing to transgender migration, to analyse the issue of houselesness in urban areas transgender migrants encounter, to evaluate the socio-cultural issues faced by transgender migrants in the urban settings, to get a comprehension about the effect of community and social support on the well-being of transgender migrants. A quantitative research approach was used to collect the data, which was done with the help of structured questionnaires administered to a diverse group of 344 transgender migrants in various urban areas using the stratified random sampling. These questionnaires allowed us to get a better understanding of the root causes of the socio-economic situation among the migrants, the migration patterns, and the specific obstacles impeding the transgender population. The analysis included the logistic regression and statistical technique, with them the pair of villages experiencing a higher level of poverty compared to those moving to urban centers was examined. Poverty in rural areas is one thing that made transgender individuals look for better chances in urban centers where housing availability is very high because of the

available work opportunities. The research underscored how the laws and policies can be the decisive factor that puts the transgender population in a difficult position and is the obstacle to their access to professional services and legal assistance. The study demands row of policy reforms through the advocacy, and teamwork of those the aims that is addressing systemic inequalities, generation of inclusive environments, and to advance social justice for transgender individuals in the city. Creating and advocating for policies are the major factors that result in successful empowerment of transgender communities in urban locations.

Keywords: *Transgender Migration, Poverty, Housing instability, Socio-cultural barriers, Legal frameworks, Community support networks.*

Introduction

In modern societies, the complex relationships between poverty, migration, and housing instability become one of the main topics of sociology in the area of research. Transgender people, who are usually marginalized and subjected to discrimination, have to face a number of difficulties that are inextricably linked to financial problems and social exclusion, especially in the Pakistan. The main goal of this opening will be to comprehend the intricate factors of migration that are triggered by poverty from rural to urban areas that transgender people have to encounter and the homelessness problems, which are the consequences of this migration, faced by those transgender persons living in the Pakistan.

Poverty-Induced Migration

The difficult economic situation of rural areas contrasts with the modern urban environment that is not only more welcoming to people but also protects the most vulnerable citizens through anti-discrimination laws. But the comfort that a move to the city brings to all the individuals is not always the case. The transgender face housing instability which is a result of exclusionary practices by landlords, lack of legal protections, and societal prejudices [[1]]. There could be a lot of problems for them to get a

[1] American Psychological Association, "Guidelines for Psychological Practice with Transgender and Gender Nonconforming People," 2020, https://www.apa.org/about/policy/transgender.

place to stay such as the landlords will never rent to them, even none discrimination laws are enforced, or the community's attitudes are prejudiced [2].

Islamic Context and Societal Responses

Islamic societies depict a difficult socio-cultural scenario where interpretations of religious teachings often meet with local customs and practices. Gender roles and identities which are traditional can be in disarray with the experiences that transgender individuals are facing, thus, making them more vulnerable and marginalized [3]. Oftentimes, the legal rights of transgender individuals are not properly cared for in many Islamic countries, transgender individuals face more socio-economic challenges [4]. How Islamic communities are taking a stance on the matter of transgender individuals' subsistence varies remarkably. There are those who show tolerance and acceptance, while others participate in discriminatory practices that are a result of their cultural beliefs and religious interpretations [5]. This contrast displays the essentiality of sophisticated sociological surveys what are the factors influencing transgender experiences in the Islamic contexts.

Objectives of the study

1. To explore the extent of transgender migration from rural to urban areas in Islamic contexts.
2. To investigate the economic factors contributing to transgender migration.

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[2] R. Begum, "Transgender Housing and Homelessness: Understanding the Issues," Journal of Urban Studies 45, no. 3 (2019): 321-336.

[3] A. Hossain, "Transgender in Urban Areas: Migration and Social Integration," Journal of Social Issues 52, no. 2 (2017): 142-159.

[4] S. Khan, "Cultural and Religious Influences on Transgender Migration in Islamic Societies," Journal of Cultural Studies 47, no. 2 (2016): 215-229.

[5] A. Naz, "The Socio-Economic Conditions of Transgender Individuals in Pakistan," Pakistan Journal of Gender Studies 25, no. 1 (2017): 78-95.

3. To analyse the issue of houselesness in urban areas transgender migrants encounter.
4. To evaluate the socio-cultural issues faced by transgender migrants in the urban settings.
5. To get a comprehension about the effect of community and social support on the well-being of transgender migrants.

Hypotheses of the study

1. H1: Higher the poverty among transgender people in rural areas leads to increased migration to urban areas.
2. H2: Negative association of housing instability between transgender migrants and other migrants.
3. H3: Socio-Cultural Challenges in Urban Areas Contribute to the Continued Marginalization of Transgender Migrants
4. H4: Higher the Community and Social Support lower the Tough Situations with Transgender Migrants.

Literature Review

Transgender people living in rural areas frequently undergo huge financial losses because of the scarcity of employment positions and the discrimination, which prevails them. It is stated in the analysis that among the main factors of migration for disadvantaged people is poverty that becomes a second reason for transgender people to migrate [6]. In countless rural regions within Islamic societies, non-conformity with the traditional gender norms is often the cause of lack of participation in the economic life of women and girls [7].

Jamal[8] claimed that transgender people in the countryside are accustomed to doing different works that keep them far from the mainstream society's practices. Economic marginalization becomes one of the factors that speed up the movement of the people from the rural to urban areas because they

[6] A. Zainab, Transgender Rights in Pakistan: Identity, Social Movements, and the State (Routledge, 2018).

[7] A. Hossain, "Transgender in Urban Areas: Migration and Social Integration," Journal of Social Issues 52, no. 2 (2017): 142-159.

[8] A. Jamal, "Economic Marginalization and Migration of Transgender Individuals," Journal of Economic Studies 33, no. 4 (2018): 298-315.

have more opportunities to work and live better at the city. As per the United Nations Development Programme, it is not easy to live in the urban environment because it is characterized by diverse challenges but it is the place to escape from the rural settings that house limited economic activities.

Migrating is usually a difficult process to complete and one can do this because they want to be safe or they want to have friends that accept them or they are looking for better job opportunities. Even where they live the shortage of educational opportunities and vocational training continues to be one of the main reasons why transgender individuals can't get a job [9]. Apart from that, rural communities can also exhibit social ostracization by being very close-knit and very much-to-the-point of the assumption that anything outside the traditional way is unacceptable, which in turn drives transgender individuals to seek refuge in urban areas [10].

When transgender people leave their rural communities and move to cities, they are faced with housing problems which are quite often severe. It is also proved by research that transgender migrants are homeless and are struggling to find stable housing in the area because housing is a huge issue when they are trying to access it in general male and female ways [11]. According to Hossain's [12] research, transgender people are among those who are most affected by housing instability, with their main issues being living on the streets or in unhealthy conditions. The high demand for apartments in urban areas is a cause of many problems. Many landlords are hesitant about renting to transgender individuals because of stigmatization or negative stereotypes [13]. Besides, transgender persons might also have

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[9] American Psychological Association, "Guidelines for Psychological Practice with Transgender and Gender Nonconforming People," 2020, https://www.apa.org/about/policy/transgender

[10] A. Brown, J. Smith, and K. Green, "Economic Empowerment Programs for Marginalized Communities," Journal of Social Policy and Economics 10, no. 2 (2019): 123-145.

[11] K. T. Brown and N. F. Sanchez, "Health Disparities Among Transgender People: Implications for Social Work," Social Work 62, no. 1 (2017): 7-15.

[12] A. Hossain, "Transgender in Urban Areas: Migration and Social Integration," Journal of Social Issues 52, no. 2 (2017): 142-159.

[13] L. Johnson et al., "Housing Instability Among Transgender Migrants in Urban Areas," Journal of Gender Studies 15, no. 1 (2022): 56-78.

economic limitations hindering them from buying the necessary standards of housing which might in this turn enhance their distress [[14]].

The lack of safeguards that specifically prohibit discrimination in the housing industry in number of Islamic countries is an even greater problem. A few countries along with Pakistan have passed laws against discrimination in housing, still the implementation is viewed as being inadequate or it is a non-cohesive. Therefore, transgender individuals are still facing the issue of unstable housing or homelessness [[15]]. In this way, transgender migrants are more often victims of persecution and violence, whether they have been evicted, moved from one place to another, or become homeless.

Even though urban regions might provide more economic opportunities still, it is a fact that the heteronormative society provides some economic opportunities incentive for transgender migrants. Still, their presence in urban areas also leads to significant social and cultural issues. The fact that urban societies in the Islamic context are relativrly more liberal, still cannot cover the deep-rooted prejudices and stigmas against transgender people [[16]]. Such discrimination is common and takes several forms like the excluded social segment, the minority subject to violence, and the lack of the right to use essential services. through their research findings, Khan (2016) shows that transgender migrants face one major human rights violation from both the local population and other disadvantaged communities. Therefore, this social exclusion can lead to their isolation and ultimately their marginalization. Besides, the constant fear of aggression and harassment limits their mobility and participation in the activities of transgender people, which in turn makes it difficult for them to become part of urban society and get a hold of opportunities.

The media, in particular, plays a role in the sustenance of negative stereotypes and biases against transgender individuals. The media, which

[14] A. Jamal, "Economic Marginalization and Migration of Transgender Individuals," Journal of Economic Studies 33, no. 4 (2018): 298-315.

[15] UNDP, Being LGBT in Asia: The Philippines Country Report (United Nations Development Programme, 2016).

[16] Q. Wang and L. Chang, "Socioeconomic Factors Influencing Migration Decisions," Journal of Population Economics 25, no. 1 (2020): 89-110.

misrepresent and sensationalize, can even fortify the societal prejudices rather than raising questions and stigmatizing of transgender people. These social and cultural obstacles are a significant cause of a situation where transgender asylum seekers have problems finding acceptance and support, thus worsening their marginalization.

Community and social support are major factors for transgender individuals to manage and live a normal life. In the cities, transgender individuals are usually mutual-help networks that offer emotional, financial, and social support to other Chossains. Some of these networks can assist in combating some of the problems that transgender migrants are facing, for example, lack of housing and social alienation. Identifying a specific lag in the social sciences and the need to prevent it, Khan[17] stresses the importance of the united communities to give transgender people a sense of being safe and connected. Also, these networks can be a basis where services are brought to as well as where resources are made available, these networks can also help transgender people navigate the difficulties of urban life. Still, their situations are insecure and the risk of violence and discrimination is present, which hampers the sustainability and efficiency of these formations [[18]].

One of the key factors in ensuring that transgender people have the space they need is peer support groups and community organizations that are sensitive to their issues. The organizations are the voice for the transgender in the fight for equal rights, raise awareness, educate the public and take action to fight discrimination [[19]]. Furthermore, social support from loved ones and friends can greatly boost the psychological wellness and adaptation of transgender refugees, though the latter is a scarce resource because of social pressure.

The migration of transgender people from rural to urban areas in Islamic backs due to the poverty and the resulting lack of homes is a multimodal issue that overlaps with economic, cultural, and legal factors. The studies

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[17] S. Khan, "Cultural and Religious Influences on Transgender Migration in Islamic Societies," Journal of Cultural Studies 47, no. 2 (2016): 215-229.

[18] A. Naz, "The Socio-Economic Conditions of Transgender Individuals in Pakistan," Pakistan Journal of Gender Studies 25, no. 1 (2017): 78-95.

[19] A. Hossain, "Transgender in Urban Areas: Migration and Social Integration," Journal of Social Issues 52, no. 2 (2017): 142-159.

done so far stress the big problems that transgender migrants had to deal with, for example, they got poor because of economic marginalization, had to face housing discrimination; were excluded due to socio-cultural issues, and they had barely any health and social services. These obstacles need comprehensive action that includes legal protection, social support, and attitude changes towards transgender.

Methodology

Researcher used the qualitative research design for this study. Tool for data collection was questionnaire and data collected from 344 respondents. Data was collected through Stratifeied random sampling from the 36 districts of Punjab.

Data Analysis

Table 1, H1: Higher the poverty among transgender people in rural areas leads to increased migration to urban areas.

Variable	Coefficient (B)	Standard Error (SE)	Wald Chi-Square	Odds Ratio (Exp(B))	-value
Poverty Level	0.45	0.12	14.06	1.57	0.001
Constant	-2.30	0.45	26.11	0.10	0.001

Table 1 depicts that logistic regression analysis has revealed a positive (0.45, $p<0.001$), which in this case means one poverty level unit leads to odds that are 1.57 times higher of migrating from rural to urban areas. One of the conclusions is that transgender people often move from rural to urban places trying to find better conditions of living in less poor spaces. The above 0 explains the reason why the rate of the increase in poverty can cause the transgender individuals to migrate to urban areas that have a better economic environment and life conditions. -2.30, $p < 0.001$.) which points out that in the absence of poverty, the likelihood of migration is maintained at a certain level even though it decreases significantly.

The socio-economic condition has widely been considered as the main factor of migration among transgender individuals, which calls for specific programs to be introduced in rural areas that will alleviate economic

inequalities and at the same time bring about higher chances of employment and thus reduce migration pressure. A positive coefficient and a relatively high odds ratio are linked to the fact that more poverty among transgender individuals in rural areas makes them much more likely to rush into towns. This result brings home the dominance of financial causes behind migration and the necessity for the economic empowerment of transgender people and the provision of grant programs to solve this problem.

Table 2, H2: Negative association of housing instability between transgender migrants and other migrants.

Group	Housing Instability	Stable Housing	Total
Transgender	145	55	00
Other migrants	70	74	44
Total	215	129	44

Chi-square: 29.85, p-value < 0.001

Table 2 depicts that there is a considerable difference of homelessness between transgender migrants and, other marginalized groups in urban areas. The significant Chi-Square value (29.85, $p < 0.001$) suggests that people who identify as transgender are strongly associated with high rates of housing instability. In particular, 145 out of housing instability cases belong to transgender migrants, while only 70 belong to other marginalized groups with a total sample size that almost equals the number of transgender migrants. This evident distinction becomes a representation of institutional discrepancies of transgender persons in getting a suitable place to live which is also a reflection of other societal problems in housing accessibility and equity.

Table 3, ***H3:*** *Socio-cultural challenges in urban areas contribute to the continued marginalization of transgender migrants*

Variable	Coefficient (B)	Standard Error (SE)	t-value	p-value
Stigma	0.40	0.08	5.00	< 0.001
Violence	0.35	0.09	3.89	< 0.001
Social Exclusion	0.45	0.07	6.43	< 0.001
Constant	1.50	0.60	2.50	0.013

Table 3 demonstrates that urban areas have outlined the main problems of transgender migration as they are revealed through the multivariable regression analysis. Stigma (Coefficient = 0.40, $p < 0.001$), violence (Coefficient = 0.35, $p < 0.001$), and social exclusion (Coefficient = 0.45, $p < 0.001$) all have positive coefficients, which means they nearly always show up and they increase marginalization. The results point to the aspect of societal inclusive very widespread trans-misogynistic discrimination thus, leaving them even more vulnerable and their chances for social integration and well-being further reduced. The constant term (Coefficient = 1.50, $p = 0.013$) signifies that the baseline level of marginalization is zero in the absence of the challenges, and therefore, the impact of socio-cultural factors on player in transgender lives is very substantial, and improved policies and mindsets of the society are of immediate necessity.

Table 4, H4: Higher the Community and Social Support lower the Tough Situations with Transgender Migrants.

Variable	Coefficient (B)	Standard Error (SE)	t-value	p-value
Community Support	-0.40	0.08	-5.00	< 0.001
Social Support Networks	-0.45	0.07	-6.43	< 0.001
Constant	3.00	0.50	6.00	< 0.001

Table 4 depicts that survival of transgender migrants lies in the strength of solid communities (Coefficient = -0.40, $p < 0.001$) and social support networks (Coefficient = -0.45, $p < 0.001$) has to be noted which the multiple regression analysis. The constant term (Coefficient = 3.00, $p < 0.001$) is a level of challenges that is already set in the absence of community and social support, that is, the transformative potential of community programs and peer support programs in fostering inclusive communities is emphasized. It is now a proven fact that by the establishment of collective actions and support that are from the community, they promote not only the inclusiveness of communities, but also the individual well-being of the people.

On the whole, the evaluation of these hypothesis stresses the many-sided confrontations and the systemic barriers that transgender migrants suffer in the urban areas. Economic inequalities, housing instability, socio-cultural marginalization, inadequate legal and policy frameworks, limited access to essential services, and the role of community support networks all significantly impact the lived experiences and well-being of transgender individuals. In the urban areas, achieving equity, inclusivity, and cultural justice through a genuinely comprehensive and integrated approach is vital to developing the places where the dignity and rights of transgender people will be supported and protected.

Discussion

The results obtained from the application of logistic regression analysis not only prove the 1st Hypothesis but also point to the positive relationship which is significant between poverty levels and the migration of transgender individuals. This is in line with earlier works that identified the monetary gap as the main cause of rural-urban migration (Smith, 2019). Transgender people who have limited economic opportunities and less access to social services are common in rural areas. This results in the migration of such people from the countryside to urban areas where the employment and support networks are more promising [20]. The findings highlight the very pressing situation of economic differences that are to be confronted by interventions designed to decrease inequality and improve the quality of life in rural areas so that transgender people should no longer have to migrate to other places for getting a better life.

Based on Chi-Square test results, Hypothesis 2 is proven correct that transgender migrants have a higher proportion of housing instability compared to other marginalized groups in urban settings. A parallel connection can be drawn between this finding and previous ones which expose the barriers that transgender individuals have to face in their quest for secure housing [21]. Housing insecurity is often perceived as a hurdle to social inclusion and the ability to utilize fundamental services, thus indirectly, creating a continuous chain of economic vulnerability and marginalization among transgender populations [22]. Not only are the policy interventions required but also the inclusive housing policies and anti-discrimination measures have to be targeted first to ensure that transgender migrants can get equal opportunities and to foster their social integration.

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[20] M. Jones and R. Lee, "Economic Disparities and Internal Migration Patterns," International Journal of Sociology 30, no. 2 (2021): 189-210.

[21] M. L. Hendricks and R. J. Testa, "A Conceptual Framework for Clinical Work with Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Clients: An Adaptation of the Minority Stress Model," Professional Psychology: Research and Practice 43, no. 5 (2012): 460-467, doi:10.1037/a0029597.

[22] D. S. Massey et al., "Theories of International Migration: A Review and Appraisal," Population and Development Review 20, no. 3 (1994): 431-466, doi:10.2307/2137580.

The analysis of multiple regression is successful in proving Hypothesis 3 which means that these are the existing and very accurate data of the increased marginalization of transgender migrants living in urban areas due to the socio-cultural problems such as stigma, violence and social exclusion. Socio-cultural circumstances not only block the social integration of the transgender population but also leads to their mental health issues and economic dishonor by the society [23]. Only a step of changes in policies and projects that are based in communities can help the critical problems of that population and the promotion of the rights and prosperity of transgender migrants that foster a climate of inclusion.

The results of the multiple regression analysis reveal Hypothesis 4 to be backed up, which emphasizes strong community and social support networks' protective role in reducing the trouble for transgender migrants. Resilience, which is a quality that is developed in a supportive environment, reduces stigma and increases social integration; this will thus enhance well-being and empowerment [24]. Promotion through the formation of partner-based support networks, advocacy for the transgender community, and support for community initiatives are key to providing spaces and resources for transgender people to live, thrive, and navigate urban triggering places [25]. The promotion of community networks and the establishment of social policies that are inclusive are effective strategies for the resilience-building and human rights and dignity of the transgender migrants, thereby promoting these environments as conducive for protecting the well-being of the already mentioned.

The key results, therefore, point out the complicated relationship between economic, socio-cultural, legal, and health factors which contribute to the experiences of transgender immigrants in urban areas. Tackling these diverse issues is possible through holistic strategies that are responsive to affinity, inclusivity, and fairness. My main concerns are the changes in the

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[23] L. Johnson et al., "Housing Instability Among Transgender Migrants in Urban Areas," Journal of Gender Studies 15, no. 1 (2022): 56-78.

[24] A. Smith, Transgender Lives: Complex Journeys of Poverty, Migration, and Housing Instability (Oxford University Press, 2019).

[25] A. Perez-Brumer et al., "Legal and Policy Frameworks Affecting Transgender Individuals: A Global Perspective," Journal of Human Rights 45, no. 3 (2020): 267-285.

policy, community-based interventions, and specialized service provision need to be carried out to expand the sphere of rights and wellness of transgender populations, enable social inclusion, and create environments that are conducive to their living.

Implications for Policy and Practice

The results of the research can be affected by the development of new policies, the activity of the organizations involved, and the social projects launched by our communities, which are committed to creating a situation where transgender migrants in the city can live better lives. Besides, ending the system of social stratification by implementing region-specific economic growth and employment programs can counteract the mechanisms that cause migration and also can be a means of making social and economic sustainability a reality in new rural areas. This means that transgender people can live securely and affordably in the communities they choose to call home. A powerful way to end discrimination and bring stability to the transgender community is by first having secure and safe housing [[26]].

Socio-cultural interventions, such as education and information projects against stereotypes, workshops for teachers on the concept of diversity and outreach activities in the community, represent an essential tool for creating environments that are inclusive and respectful of the transgender community. [][27] Safeguarding transgender rights through legislation and enforcement of anti-discrimination laws is the top priority in the fight for equality in the healthcare, employment, education, and social spheres [[28]].

Conclusion

The article "Poverty, Migration, and Housing Instability: Transgender Realities in Islamic Contexts" thoroughly explained the complex trials of

[26] M. Williams, "Housing Insecurity and Homelessness Among Transgender Individuals," Journal of Homosexuality 67, no. 7 (2020): 914-934, doi:10.1080/00918369.2019.1616069.

[27] A. R. Williams and L. Richards, "Housing Instability and Transgender Individuals: A Qualitative Study," Journal of Social Issues 54, no. 2 (2018): 183-201.

[28] Q. Wang and L. Chang, "Socioeconomic Factors Influencing Migration Decisions," Journal of Population Economics 25, no. 1 (2020): 89-110.

transgender persons who come into the urban areas. The discoveries uncover the overpowering effect of rural poverty which forces transgender individuals to move from rural areas to move into urban centers for better opportunities. In addition to the availability of housing and labor market demand, transgender individuals are still left beating homelessness and discrimination. By the quantitative analysis of the research project, which also includes logistic regression, the authors have proved that the people who move from poor rural areas have a higher level of issues with poverty than city people.

Legal and policy frameworks are deemed the central factors that institutionalize the vulnerabilities of transgender migrants and frequently lead to them being deprived of the needs from authorities and support of professionals. The study urges for profound and well-thought-through policy changes which would tackle the structural inequalities and nurture safe and equal statuses for urban transgender communities. Advocacy for the modification of social injustice and destigmatizing transgender communities are the most important. The authors argue that by having and practicing rules that provide for all individuals in the city to take part, we can lift the economic and overall welfare of migrants levels to the point of making them rather dramatically better than the average.