

## SEXUAL ISSUES IN SHEMALES AND THEIR SOLUTION IN THE LIGHT OF ISLAM

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### Abstract

*This comprehensive study meticulously examines the intricate sexual, psychological and societal challenges faced by shemales -- a term historically encompassing transgender and intersex individuals whose biological and gender identities deviate from conventional binary classifications -- through the multifaceted prism of Islamic theology, jurisprudence and ethics or It undertakes a critical discourse analysis of the ontological and epistemological constructs surrounding their existence, referencing Quranic injunctions and Prophetic traditions to highlight Islam's profound commitment to universal justice, intrinsic human dignity and equitable societal integration or By delving into the complexities of Islamic legal hermeneutics (fiqh), the article elucidates the adjudication of gender ambiguity in light of dominant physical and psychological traits, aiming to reconcile traditional Shariah frameworks with contemporary medical and social paradigms or Moreover, it proposes a synthesis of ethical and practical solutions, emphasizing the imperative for compassion, awareness and institutional reform to address systemic marginalization or Through rigorous engagement with primary Islamic texts and authoritative commentaries, this work aspires to present a nuanced perspective that aligns doctrinal authenticity with evolving societal realities, advocating for the harmonious coexistence and empowerment of such individuals within the broader tapestry of the Muslim ummah.*

### Keywords:

Islamic theology, Gender Identity, Sexual Dysfunction, Stigmatization, Emotional Strain, **Research related to Academic Areas:** Gender Studies in Islam.

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### Ethical Consideration:

This study has no aim to hurt any ideological or social segment but is purely based on academic purposes

### Introduction

Shemales, a term broadly encompassing transgender and intersex individuals, represent a distinct demographic whose gender identity, expression, or physiological attributes diverge significantly from the established societal conventions associated with their biologically assigned sex at birth. Within the socio-cultural fabric of Islamic societies, these individuals frequently encounter systemic marginalization, societal ostracization and profound impediments in securing their fundamental human rights -- such as the sanctity of marriage, equitable access to employment and social integration.

Islam, as a holistic and divinely ordained system of life, addresses these intricacies with unparalleled depth, offering a doctrinal framework rooted in justice (adl), compassion (rahmah) and inclusivity (ihsan). By transcending the rigidities of societal norms, Islam provides a nuanced

approach to recognizing and safeguarding the dignity and well-being of all individuals, irrespective of their unique gender identities or existential realities.

### **Sexual Issues Faced by Shemales**

Shemales, often referred to as transgender or intersex individuals, face a unique set of sexual and psychological challenges that arise due to their gender identity not aligning with the societal expectations of their biological sex. These issues, which span physical, emotional and social dimensions, often manifest in ways that are deeply intertwined with personal identity, societal acceptance and legal recognition.

#### **1. Ambiguity in Gender Identity and Expression**

One of the most profound challenges faced by shemales is the ambiguity in their gender identity and expression. This internal conflict arises when their physical characteristics, such as genitalia, secondary sexual characteristics, or chromosomal makeup, do not conform to conventional male or female categories. The dissonance between their biological traits and gender identity often leads to confusion, frustration and a lack of self-acceptance. Many experience a profound sense of isolation, struggling with the inability to find an identity that is fully accepted by society or even themselves.

#### **2. Sexual Dysfunction and Health Issues**

Many shemales face sexual dysfunction, which can stem from both physical and psychological causes. Physical complications such as erectile dysfunction, lack of libido, or difficulty in achieving sexual satisfaction can result from hormonal imbalances or gender confirmation surgeries. Psychological challenges, including feelings of inadequacy, rejection, or unresolved trauma, can exacerbate these issues, leading to a diminished sense of sexual well-being and intimacy.

#### **3. Marriage and Reproductive Rights**

In many Islamic societies, marriage is viewed as a sacred institution and procreation is often considered a vital part of this bond. For shemales, the inability to engage in conventional marriage or to produce biological offspring due to their gender identity can present significant barriers. This often leads to feelings of social exclusion, with many facing rejection from families or spouses who may struggle to understand or accept their non-conformity to traditional gender roles.

#### **4. Discrimination and Stigmatization**

Discrimination based on gender identity is a pervasive issue faced by shemales, particularly in conservative Muslim communities. This stigmatization often manifests in physical, emotional and sexual abuse, further isolating them from mainstream social structures. As a result, they may encounter harassment in workplaces, educational institutions and even within their own families, leading to adverse mental health outcomes such as depression, anxiety and a diminished sense of self-worth.

#### **5. Challenges in Intimate Relationships**

Shemales may face difficulties in forming intimate, fulfilling relationships. Their gender identity often becomes a barrier, as potential partners may be unwilling to accept or understand their unique situation. The complexities of physical intimacy and the potential need for gender affirmation procedures also complicate the ability to form and maintain healthy sexual relationships. The fear of rejection or judgment may also hinder them from expressing their true desires and needs in relationships.

## 6. Psychological and Emotional Strain

The sexual issues faced by shemales are not just limited to the physical realm; they also manifest emotionally and psychologically. The societal rejection, internalized shame and inability to reconcile one's identity can cause long-term emotional trauma. The constant battle between societal expectations and personal identity can lead to depression, anxiety and suicidal ideation. In many cases, these individuals may struggle with finding acceptance and peace with their sexual and gender identity.

### Solutions to the Social Issues Faced by Shemales in the Light of Islam

Islam provides a comprehensive framework for addressing societal challenges, emphasizing justice, mercy and dignity for all individuals, including those who do not conform to conventional gender norms. The solutions to the social issues faced by shemales (transgender or intersex individuals) lie in recognizing their humanity and inherent worth and fostering an inclusive, compassionate society. The following solutions are drawn from Islamic principles, ensuring that shemales can live with dignity, respect and equality within the Muslim community:

#### 1. Recognition of Human Dignity and Equality

Islam unequivocally acknowledges the inherent dignity and equality of all human beings, regardless of their gender or physical characteristics. The Quran states:

“And We have certainly honored the children of Adam..”.

(Surah Al-Isra, 17:70)

This recognition of human dignity mandates that shemales, like all individuals, should be treated with respect and compassion. Their differences should not lead to discrimination or exclusion. Islamic teachings urge Muslims to honor all people, recognizing their intrinsic worth and ensuring that they are not subjected to injustice or dehumanization.

#### 2. Comprehensive Understanding of Gender Diversity

Islam does not deny the existence of gender diversity. The Quran itself acknowledges the creation of individuals with varying characteristics:

“And to Allah belongs the dominion of the heavens and the earth; He creates what He wills. He gives to whom He wills female [children] and He gives to whom He wills males. Or He makes them [both] males and females and He renders whom He wills barren”.

(Surah Ash-Shura, 42:49-50)

This verse reflects the divine wisdom in the creation of diverse human beings, including those whose gender identity does not fit the conventional categories of male or female. Islam encourages an understanding of gender diversity as part of Allah's greater plan, fostering an inclusive environment where people of all gender identities are respected and integrated into society.

#### 3. Facilitation of Marriage and Social Integration

Islam places great importance on the institution of marriage but also recognizes that it should be based on mutual respect, consent and compatibility. While shemales may face challenges in traditional marriage due to societal norms, Islamic law allows for flexibility in addressing their situation.

**Marriage Contracts and Flexibility:** In Islamic jurisprudence, marriage contracts can be adapted to reflect the needs and circumstances of both parties. In the case of shemales, these contracts can accommodate their unique gender identity, ensuring that both individuals have their rights and dignity upheld within the marital framework.

**Inclusive Community Practices:** It is essential for Muslim communities to adopt more inclusive practices that do not marginalize shemales. Encouraging open discussions, fostering

understanding and promoting social integration will help ensure that shemales can contribute meaningfully to society without fear of rejection or discrimination.

#### **4. Encouraging Access to Employment and Education**

In order to overcome the socio-economic challenges faced by shemales, Islamic teachings on justice and equity must be applied. The Quran emphasizes the right of every individual to work and earn a livelihood:

“And for men is a share of what the parents and close relatives leave and for women is a share of what the parents and close relatives leave..”.

(Surah An-Nisa, 4:7)

This establishes the principle of equal access to economic opportunities for all, irrespective of gender. Shemales, like all other members of society, should be provided with equal opportunities for employment, education and financial independence. Islamic principles advocate for fair treatment in the workplace and the elimination of discrimination based on gender identity.

#### **5. Psychological Support and Healing**

Given the emotional and psychological challenges faced by shemales due to societal rejection and internalized stigma, Islam emphasizes the importance of empathy, mental well-being and social support.

Seeking Support through Compassion: The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) emphasized the importance of being compassionate towards others, especially those facing hardships. He said:

“The merciful will be shown mercy by the Merciful. Be merciful on earth and you will be shown mercy from above”.

(Sunan al-Tirmidhi, 1924)

Psychological Counseling and Healing: Islam encourages individuals to seek help when they face psychological distress. Counseling and therapeutic services, grounded in Islamic ethics, should be provided to support shemales in navigating their identity, emotional challenges and the societal pressures they face. This holistic approach to well-being is crucial in enabling shemales to find peace and acceptance.

#### **6. Shariah Compliance in Gender-affirming Procedures**

Islam recognizes that the human body is a trust from Allah and any modifications to it should be made with caution, following ethical guidelines. For shemales who seek gender affirmation through medical procedures, Islam allows for gender-affirming surgeries under specific conditions. These procedures must be done with the intention of alleviating psychological distress and ensuring the individual's well-being.

Conditions for Gender-affirming Procedures: According to Islamic scholars, gender reassignment surgeries can be considered permissible if they are deemed necessary by medical professionals to improve the individual's mental health and if the surgery does not violate any Islamic prohibitions. The key principle here is that the procedure must not harm the individual or contradict the broader goals of Islam, which aim to protect life and dignity.

#### **7. Social and Legal Protection from Discrimination**

Islam strongly condemns any form of oppression, discrimination, or injustice. The Quran commands believers to treat all individuals justly:

“Indeed, Allah commands you to act with justice, the doing of good and liberality to kith and kin”.

(Surah An-Nahl, 16:90)

Muslim communities must advocate for the legal rights of shemales, ensuring that they are protected from discrimination in all spheres of life—be it employment, education, or healthcare.

The implementation of laws and policies that safeguard the rights of transgender and intersex individuals is in line with the core principles of Islam.

### **Additional Quranic References**

#### **1. Equality of Creation**

“O mankind, indeed We have created you from male and female and made you peoples and tribes that you may know one another. Indeed, the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you”.

(Surah Al-Hujurat, 49:13)

This verse emphasizes equality and dignity for all human beings, regardless of gender or societal categorization.

#### **2. Diversity in Creation**

“And of His signs is the creation of the heavens and the earth and the diversity of your languages and your colors. Indeed, in that are signs for those of knowledge”.

(Surah Ar-Rum, 30:22)

Diversity, including physical and biological differences, is recognized as part of Allah’s creation.

#### **3. Allah’s Sovereignty in Creation**

“To Allah belongs the dominion of the heavens and the earth; He creates what He wills. He gives to whom He wills female [children] and He gives to whom He wills males. Or He makes them [both] males and females and He renders whom He wills barren. Indeed, He is Knowing and Competent”.

(Surah Ash-Shura, 42:49-50)

This verse acknowledges Allah’s wisdom in creating individuals with varying biological and reproductive traits.

#### **4. Prohibition of Oppression**

“Do not let hatred of a people prevent you from being just. Be just; that is nearer to righteousness”.

(Surah Al-Ma’idah, 5:8)

Justice must be upheld for all, including marginalized groups like transgender individuals.

#### **5. Compassion and Kindness**

“And We have certainly honored the children of Adam and carried them on the land and sea and provided for them of the good things and preferred them over much of what We have created, with [definite] preference”.

(Surah Al-Isra, 17:70)

This verse highlights the inherent honor and dignity bestowed upon every human being.

#### **6. Prohibition of Mockery and Insults**

“O you who have believed, let not a people ridicule [another] people; perhaps they may be better than them. Nor let women ridicule [other] women; perhaps they may be better than them. And do not insult one another and do not call each other by offensive nicknames”.

(Surah Al-Hujurat, 49:11)

This verse prohibits mocking or degrading anyone, encouraging respect and kindness towards all individuals.

These Quranic references provide a comprehensive foundation for addressing the issues faced by shemales and guiding their inclusion into society with compassion and fairness.



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