



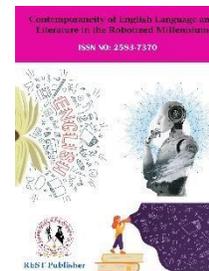
## Contemporaneity of English Language and Literature in the Robotized Millennium

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# Gender Discrimination on Eunuchs Fromajay K Pandey's “An Unexpected Gift”

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**Abstract.** Gender is cultured and rooted more by environment than birth. There are lots of problems faced by the Indian transgender Society. Transgender is a usual term to describe people whose gender identity or gender expression differs from that usually associated with their birth sex. Many transgender people live part or full time as members of the other Gender. In this modern transition society people treat them as an unwanted, but they were not the reason for their behaviours. Identity and rights are important for these kinds of people. They were ignored to do their work and employability, by their fatal wounds they changed their gender and dominated by our society, it turns them to survive with illegal business for their needs. When Society treats them in dignity they will survive as empowered population in the world. **Key Words.** Pathetic-transition society- identity- rights-ignored.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Ajay k Pandey exactly portrays in and around of the Eunuchs in this novel, Abhay is the protagonist of the play through him he introduced the transgender character Sheetal. Abhay has lost his wife in Brain Cancer while the infant is fifteen month, so he can't manage his work and family as well. Caring a baby is not an easy task. Every day he felt tired of working in home rather than office. He couldn't concentrate towards the work, his performance becomes worst. When Kannika his wife is there he is perfect at work and also he gives time for his interest among acting. He was suggested to appoint a care giver by his manager Mr. Rao. After discussing with the manager he accepts to appoint a woman as a care giver. After appointing he got suspect on her and she hesitates to submit her ID proof this makes his doubt stronger. He directly goes to her apartment and check the proof then he realised that he was a Eunuchs. He got anger and threw her out of the Job. Being a Eunuch no one will appoint her to work. After the moment he can't manage to peaceful from that day, Kannika's voice echoes in his ears "A true hero is one who smiles through silent pain and fights battles nobody knows about" He argues himself and went back to Sheetal's residing place and proves himself a real hero by appointing Sheetal as a care taker for his son Ayush. We may not be able to change views of the whole society overnight, but we can all make the choice to be good and fair when we are confronted with such scenario. If we can help someone, treat them with a bit of decency and respect, it may just make their lives. In this book, Sheetal is so filled with love for children and the deepest desire of her heart is to become a mother, although that might not be possible for her physically.

## 2. HISTORY OF ENUCHES

In India, there are social and cultural groups of transgenders including hijras, jogtas, jogappas, Sakhis and Aradhis. They are all face severe discrimination, sexual harassment in every part of this country on a daily basis. These communities are not come into existence in the recent centuries, if we look back in history, they have a record of almost 4000 years. Including mythological times, there is mention of napunsaka in our Vedic literature as well. Jain literature gives them a name of 'Psychological sex'. So how did this concept of inequality arise in our country? It was

under British rule that they passed an act called the ‘Criminals Tribes act’ in 1871 according to which they were treated as criminals and after which the whole situation in the nation changed. Even though the law was repealed in 1949 but the discrimination continued for the transgender communities.

### 3. REVIEW ON THE NOVEL

Abhay has been trying to emulate this when we meet him in the aftermath of his lovely wife Kanika’s death, as he tries to manage a job, a house and raising his infant son Ayush. He has learnt to answer all the “how are you” with “I am fine/well/good” and does his best for his son with the help of their long-term cook Mohan. But, his work is suffering and his boss Mr. Rao recommends a baby-sitter for Ayush – Sheetal. Abhay interviews Sheetal and although she is lovely, Abhay does find her enigmatic. Sheetal starts working in the evenings and soon Abhay’s life improves as he now has a good carer for his son. Until, he discovers that Sheetal has been hiding something from him.

### 4. FESTIVAL FOR TRANSGENDERS

Koovagam is a village in the Ulundurpettai taluk in Kallakurichi district, Tamil Nadu. It is famous for its annual festival of transgender and transvestite individuals, which takes fifteen days in the Tamil month of Chitrai . The festival takes place at the Koothandavar Temple dedicated to Iravan. The participants marry the Lord Koothandavar, thus reenacting an ancient history of Lord Vishnu/Krishna who married him after taking a form of a woman called Mohini. The next day, they mourn the god Koothandavar's death through traditional dances and by breaking their bangles. An annual beauty pageant and several other competitions like singing contests are held. Basic rights of transgender and transvestite individuals and health care are discussed in seminars too. People from different places attend this festival.

### 5. SOME ACTS FOR TRANSGENDER

**RECOGNITION OF IDENTITY OF TRANSGENDER PERSONS:** The 2019 Act allows the transgender person to be recognised as such and allows having a self-perceived gender identity. The provisions also look into the issuance of a certificate of identity and issue a certificate stating the change in gender. A transgender person may make an application to the District Magistrate for a certificate of identity, indicating the gender as ‘transgender’. A revised certificate may be obtained only if the individual undergoes surgery to change their gender either as a male or a female. People are protected against harassment or discrimination in the workplace because of their gender reassignment under the Equality Act 2010 and the Sex Discrimination (Northern Ireland) Order 1976, amended by the Gender Reassignment (Northern Ireland) Regulations 1999.

### 6. RIGHTS AND ENTITLEMENTS

Under this Act, the Central Government is directed to provide the following rights to the transgender community.

**Prohibition against Discrimination:** This Act prohibits the discrimination against a transgender person, including denial of service or unfair treatment in relation to (i) education; (ii) employment; (iii) healthcare; (iv) access to, or enjoyment of goods, facilities, opportunities available to the public; (v) right to movement; (vi) right to reside, rent, or otherwise occupy the property; (vii) opportunity to hold public or private office; and (viii) access to a government or private establishment in whose care or custody a transgender person

**Right of residence:** Every transgender person shall have a right to reside and be included in his household. If the immediate family is unable to care for the transgender person, the person may be placed in a rehabilitation centre, on the orders of a competent court.

**Employment:** No government or private entity can discriminate against a transgender person in employment matters, including recruitment, and promotion. Every establishment is required to designate a person to be a complaint officer to deal with complaints in relation to the Act.

**Education:** Educational institutions funded or recognised by the relevant government shall provide inclusive education, sports and recreational facilities for transgender persons, without discrimination.

**Health care:** The government must take steps to provide health facilities to transgender persons including separate HIV surveillance centres, and sex reassignment surgeries. The government shall review the medical curriculum to address health issues of transgender persons and provide comprehensive medical insurance schemes for them.

## 7. DISCUSSION

All social animals have rights to live on this Earth. Every creature has its own rights to live their life, why can't we accept for the Transgender. It is a biological change in their organs and emotions as people we are not supposed to ridicule their appearance and style. Society won't allow them to lead a perfect life they were oppressed by the other gender they won't be recognised till now. This means people like Sheetal face a lot of challenges, bullying and unfair treatment. They should never accept the taunts that the world throws at you. Every woman is a daughter, friend, sister, wife or mother to someone, and they are no less than anyone. People should change their perspective on them, if they give opportunity to educate and work the society will bloom in future. In this case Sheetal can't be a mother of her own Child even though she gives her unconditional love towards Ayush. People could avoid her from the society but for Ayush she is the only caring soul. If people give opportunity for them they could reveal their best to society. Do transgender women have to accept the fate of dancing on streets, or can they choose to become educated and look for a job like any other member of the society might do? There is a lot of stigma and traditional expectations attached to people who identify as third gender and the societal norms do not change overnight. The change won't be happening rapidly, if a single soul changes over the stigma it will spread among the society surely in a day.

## 8. SUMMARY

Abhay supports Sheetal in spite of Mohan's rivalry and jealousy. As time passes Sheetal proves to be a source of motherly love and little Ayush is blooming. The established notions of the society, however, are not in favour of a young, transgender woman trying to work in the house of a young widower. When Abhay finds out that Sheetal is a transgender woman, he sacks her. He feels that his trust was betrayed. But, once he is over the hurt, he realises that she was making a good impact in Ayush's life and hires her back.

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