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The Social Problems Of Kinner In Vidarbha (Maharashtra)

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Abstract:

In Indian culture kinner played an important role. But as the days passed the society began to look down upon them. The people began to hail them with different mean adjectives such as "Six Number" or "Tisra" (Third) and no more respect was given to them.

INTRODUCTION :

While living in the society we see different sort of problems such as poverty, unemployment, child-labour etc. But more than this gay have many problems. In Hindi they are called "Hijda" but it is "Hindi" some people call them "Kinner" and some Trutiyanthi. In olden days they would work at king's court. Their duty would be to beautify the queen. After marriage when king would have to keep sexual relation with queen these kinner would give the king the training of sex. When there was no electricity in olden days the kinner would fan the kings with hand fan. They would also provide medicine to raise sexual potential and thus would live the life of honour at the king's court.

So they earn their livelihood by dancing and begging alms. When we peep in their world we come to know the harsh reality of their world. When a kinner enters in a group of the master of kinner he can no more live the life of an ordinary man. A kinner becomes a puppet in the hands of his master. As in college we have senior and junior students there are also senior and junior kinner (gay). As the junior obey the senior so junior kinner have to perform duties like washing pots, cooking, massaging the seniors etc. After this morning routine they go out for earning.

Generally kinner live at the outside of the city or near railway station or bus stand. The head of the group has all the rights and their rules are very stern. The head of the group exploits the members mentally, economically as well as physically. Each kinner is distributed a separate locality for begging by the head. If any kinner enters other's area for begging he is beaten and expelled from that area.

Every kinner treats his head as their husband. When a new kinner enters the group, he is brought to the head's house and his penis is cut gradually with the thread used to fly the kites. The blood that comes out of the wound is spread all over the body of the new kinner. It is believed that spreading of blood on the kinner's body keeps their youth last long. Some rite is also performed at such moments. To heal the wound some herb is applied to the wound. Sometimes this ceremony of cutting the penis by thread proves fatal and many kinner have to lose their life.

Every year there is a big get-together of these kinner in big cities and the kinner come from every

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nook and corner of the nation. This gathering lasts near about one month and the atmosphere is the mixture of happy and sad moments. In this gathering the kinner are divided into two groups. One is called as 'Mayaka group' (Mother side group) and other 'Sasur group' (in-law group). The post of the head depends on the kind of family of kinner (The Raja Gond family and nabab family). Raja Gond family is superior than nabab family. Members of maher group feed milk on breast from under lap of saree. (As they all are male it is obvious that milk would not come and of their breast the fact is that milk is spread on their breast and it is imagined that it comes out of their breast). This ceremony is called as "Dudh ka Anchal (the lap of milk)". The purpose behind this ceremony is to have intimate relation (in Marathi called - Dudhachi Nati) with some of the members of so that rites after a kinner's death should be properly done. These relations that made are intimate sister, intimate uncle, intimate father and intimate son. Such relations are accepted after due ceremony.

As for as their earning is concerned some kinner earn more than necessary but some less than necessary. Some kinner earn more than necessary but some less than necessary some kinner even don't get sufficient cloth to cover their body. Those who earn good can be seen wearing rich saree, costly jewellery, bungalow bike, mobile etc. Still there are some people in our society who treat these kinner with respect, but they are very few. These kinner give blessings to those who give them money in alms but if they are not given they abuse that man or do some vulgar gestures. On particular moments such as if a baby is born to a rich couple these kinner go to them, beat drums, dance and ask them for money and the happy couple give them sufficient sum. If a person is recovered after a long illness alms is given to them in the form of grain. But such occasions are rare.

There are some eccentric people in the society who keep sexual relation with kinner some rich people give them saree, blouse, money, grain or some gold etc. some money lenders also use these kinner for the recovery of their pending bills.

OBJECTIVES :

- 1) To study the economical and social status of the group of kinner taken for study
- 2) To check their awareness about health
- 3) To study their habits
- 4) To study their opinion about society.

CONCLUSION :

- 1) 97.5 % of Kinner opined that they are also human beings. So they should also have a place of honour.
- 2) 95.5% kinner have low social status.
- 3) 70% of kinner have poor financial status. They get little financial help from the society.
- 4) When enquired about health 60.66 % kinner don't do physical check-up
- 5) 99% kinner under study possess knowledge about AIDS but they are not serious about it.
- 6) 90.5% Kinner are addicted to tobacco, cigarette and 70.5% kinner are addicted to alcohol.
- 7) Most of the Kinner turned kinner due to the change caused in their body or their own accord.
- 8) All the kinner under study believe in the next birth and they firmly expressed the wish not to have the birth as a gay or kinner.

SUGGESTIONS :

- 1) A 'Kinner' is basically a human being, so people in society should treat them with respect.
- 2) Government should give them facilities such as pension so that they can take advantage of it in old age
- 3) Government should start a free insurance scheme and other schemes related to their health.

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