



HIJRA

TG

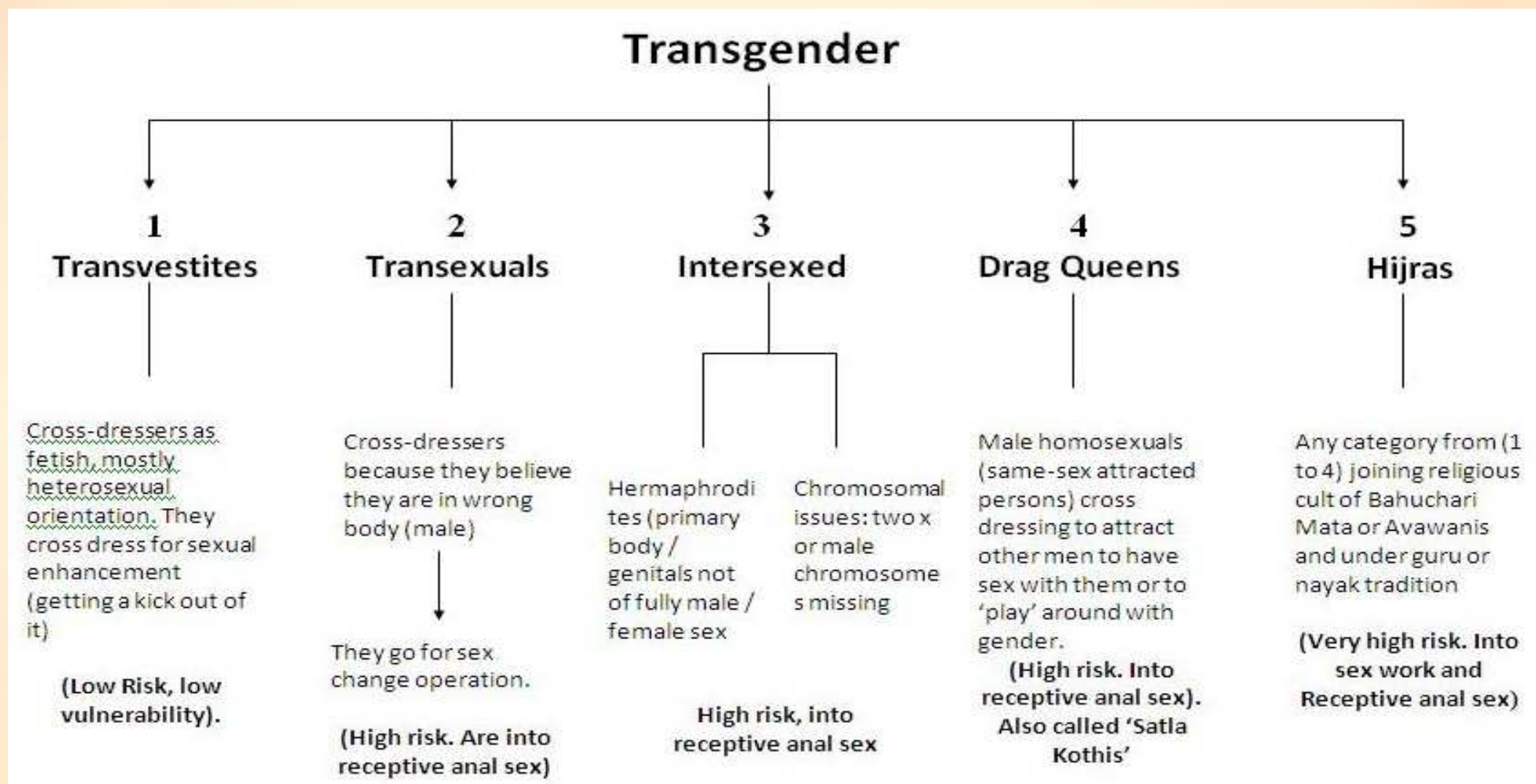
**Issues, Needs
and Concerns
Understanding
of the
Transgender
Population**

**Shale Ahmed, Executive Director
Bandhu Social Welfare Society,
Bangladesh**

Content

- 1. Naming and Framework!**
- 2. Common issues around Asia and Bangladesh**
- 3. Police and violence**
- 4. Stigma and discrimination as a part of life**
- 5. Lack of Information on Hijra!**
- 6. Issues for Hijra/TG health care, HIV+ SWs**
- 7. Strategies**
- 8. APCOM and APTN**

Naming and Framework!





Not all Hijra are SWs, but wide ranging discrimination includes workplace discrimination—it is hard to get and keep other work.

This means that Hijra and TG are economically marginalized and so many have no option but SW to survive.

Common issues around Asia

Violence

Police brutality- sex workers of all genders around the world cite the state as the foremost violator of their rights.

Stigma and discrimination

Lack of information about transgender communities





Police and violence

- Sex workers of all genders around the world cite the state as the foremost violator of their rights.
- Hijra/Transgenders suffers more violence because of the double stigma of being both Hijra and sex work

Stigma and discrimination is a part of life for Hijra/Transgender

- From Family, Society;
- At school;
- In the workplace;
- From the government;
- From health programs and hospitals;
- Difficulty and danger of coming out at HIV+ or a SW; and
- Lack of information about Hijra may contribute to this



Lack of Information

The literature from Asia indicates the highest proportion of Hijra/transgenders in the world. For us to have good numbers and know more about them, research must be undertaken intelligently

-



Lack of Information on Hijra/TG!

Intelligent research and ethnography on transgender communities requires the participation of Hijra/Transgenders at every step – from inception and design to implementation and analysis.

Issues for TG health care, HIV



- Access to general health care
- Access to HIV specific care
- Reluctance in the medical profession to treat positive transgender
- Double stigma – SW and HIV positive
- Difficulty and danger of coming out and SW and HIV+
- Mental Health Issues i.e. depression, self-harm and suicide
- Issues around Hormone therapy and its affects



Strategies

- Creating Hijra/TG specific programs;
- Being free to join either or both SW projects for women and MSM programs;
- Advocacy - addressing legal and rights issues affecting Hijra SWs;
- Organizing

What has program done so far? What strategies have been used?

- DMSC organizing - against police violence
- International advocacy – APCOM and APNSW
- Legal advocacy- India, Nepal, Pakistan and Bangladesh (to some extent)
- Working closely with national programs

Recommendations

Proper Research on different part of sexual health

- Hormone Use on Hijra community
- Mental health problem in Hijra Community
- Human Rights violation, sexual abuse , Stigma and discrimination against Hijra community and it impact on sexual health

Recommendations

- Service Access for Hijra/Transgender people
- Hijra specific health service, Proper information on HIV/STI and Safer sex practices, hormone.
- Appropriate Condom and lubricant
- Medical officers should be trained and sensitized on Hijra issues, anal and oral STI
- Proper counselling for those who are suffering from mental depression.
- Information on gender affirming process

Recommendations

- Media campaign for flowing information regarding sexual health related with Hijra community.
- School and Collage level curriculum on sexual health topic should include Hijra related sexual health issues.
- Awareness on gender identity to society should be increased so that Hijra can live healthy life



HIJRA PRIDE-2014 BANGLADESH

Banldhu Social Welfare Society (BSWS), the pioneer organization to work for the Sexual and Reproductive Rights (SRHR) and HIV/AIDS of Sexual Minority Population in Bangladesh since 1996. As a part of the organizational commitment it feels much obliged to work on uplifting socio-economic status of hijra and Transgender population and their human rights.

To commemorate the remarkable and commendable recognition of gender and identity of the hijra (transgender) population by the government of Bangladesh on 10 November 2013, BSWS is organizing "Hijra Pride 2014" first of its kind in the country at central and Divisional level.

The Ministry of Social Welfare, Government of Bangladesh has expressed the solidarity with the initiative.



Key objectives

- To appreciate and acknowledge the decision of the government of Bangladesh on recognizing hijra as third gender
- To create social awareness on the respect of gender diversity
- To sensitize policy makers on the need for social justice and dignity of hijra community for a better future



With opportunities, hijra community can add value to the society and its growth with dignity and honor

Events:

Central Level (Dhaka):

Workshop event i.e. press conference of the award and introduce the award in the name of late Dr. Carol Jenkins

Date: 24 October 2014

Venue: Dhaka Reporters Unity

Hena festival at five key points by the hijra community

Date: 08-14 November 2014

Venue: TSC, Rabindra Sarobar, Shundhora City Shopping Mall, National Parliament Building, Jamuna Future Park

Colourful Rally in coordination with ministry social welfare to the mark the day.

Date: 10 November 2014

Venue: Press Club to National Museum

Talent Hunt from hijra community and Grand finale

Date: 10 November 2014

Venue: National Museum Auditorium

Round table discussion based on human rights and policy

Date: 10 November 2014

Venue: BIAM Auditorium

Divisional Levels:

- Consultation meeting to analyze further implication of cabinet decision with involving Local Government Institutions.
- Hena festival at five key points at divisional cities by the hijra community
- Distribution of different materials to create public awareness.
- Talent Hunt from hijra community (in the cultural domain)
- Colourful Rally with hijra community in collaboration with local administration, organizations and individuals



THANK YOU! 😊