

Article

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Journal of Development Economics and Management Research Studies (JDMS), A Peer Reviewed Open Access International Journal
ISSN: 2582 5119 (Online)



Crossref Prefix No: 10.53422
08(09), 68-73, July-September, 2021
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Estrangement of the Intersex Community Leading to Disorientation of Identity as Portrayed in the novel *Middlesex*

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ABSTRACT

Social outlooks on intersex individuals and the binary genders have been quite dynamic and evolving down the ages. Subsequently, the people of the hermaphrodite clan experience trails and dares associated with discerned, unconstructive and pessimistic opinions of the populace. The intent of this article is to examine and initiate existential gratification in order to eliminate loneliness of intersex individuals with reference to the explication of Jeffrey Eugenides' novel Middlesex. The characters beyond the binary society and the individuals who do not conform to the cisgender community which mainly comprises of the masculine and feminine gender experience and suffer severe psychological trauma and are often prey to the aversion of the society as such. The pathetic plight of the unisexual individuals is that they are often alienated from their family and their cherished circle because of their biological inconsistency and therefore are victimised in the general community owing to the intolerance of the society and its hesitancy to accept the intersexual community. These people are socially excluded and are many a time considered insane. This article is an exploration on the various aspects and ideologies that could upgrade and enhance the physical, sociological and the psychological distress that hermaphrodites suffer and construct a society which is a better place for them to establish their identity unequivocally and enjoy equality and dignity.

KEYWORDS: intersex, alienation, identity crisis, cisgender, physical trauma, psychological encouragement, non-acceptance.

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INTRODUCTION

There are several conservative notions and superstitious beliefs about the intersex community not only in India but also around the world. In spite of the various conventional notions about the community, it continues to proliferate against all odds tackling extreme disparity, shame, and discrimination. A few of the distinctive hurdles experienced by the unisex group include the absence of authorised security, insufficiency of capital, aggravation, embarrassment, hostility against the hermaphrodite society, obstacles on the physical condition and even disruption on the individuality of the intersex society. As a result, this clan stands completely stigmatized, stranded, and being alienated from the rest of the populace suffering throughout their lives. Living with a sense of exploitation and loneliness, these people experience a high sense of identity crisis. The article explores, with reference to Jeffrey Eugenides' novel *Middlesex*, the various factors that lead to the alienation of the intersex that result in an identity crisis of the hermaphrodite community.

Intersex is a backing term that indicates interchange between sexual categories. Hermaphrodite persons are people who recognize a sexual role supplementary to the one they were delegated by birth through their gender structures. A number of individuals of the unisex clan encounter extreme fret and agony, that their sexual orientation and their personal sense of being male, female, or non-binary is not reflected by the way they interpret their body or the way others interpret their body.

Jeffrey Eugenides' *Middlesex* primarily relies on queer conjecture, and emphasizes on the character Callie or Cal and flouts the dualistic concords of both sexuality and gender. It also explores how the protagonist disregards the binary society, by altering from a teenage girl to an adolescent guy, and also through having a body frame which would not be featured into the contradictory gulf of sexualities of males and females. Moreover, by means of the switch of Callie or Cal, as the protagonist, Cal defies the dualistic class of homophiles and heterophiles. The diagramming of the way in which the sexual individuality of Callie or Cal is depicted and interpreted in Eugenides' novel, *Middlesex*, concentrates on the manner gender is ethnically and customarily fabricated and is discursive to a scrutiny of the prescriptive vehemence wielded on the hermaphrodite community by the binary society.

Certain intersex people discover substantial psychological, sensational, and corporeal liberation while they are instigated using an appellation that would more likely support their sexual orientation, instead of with their consigned gender. The individuals of such a hermaphrodite community would also prefer to engage in hormonal therapy or remedy that would beget the physique of the unisex persons further into a configuration with the sexual expectancy associated with their particular intersex. The figure of the intersex individuals can be especially atypical than the regular probability. The novel *Middlesex* of Jeffrey Eugenides typically renders intersexism, and throws light on the means the central character Callie or Cal narrates the story of his sexual transition and gender distinctiveness with hindsight. The reflective rationale in this specific unfolding of Callie or Cal is deceptive and manoeuvring in a hetero-prescriptive transience that bolsters the contributory rapport between gender and sexual identity. Cal struggles between his yearning to be "natural" and his unisex physique, which the world regards to be anomalous.

More often the individuals of the intersex community lament over their respective physiques being puzzled by the physical frames they hold and the societal definition of the bodies they have, still every hermaphrodite individual is a human being. Due to the estrangement of the unisex individuals, they prefer to alter their body types with the intention that they could connect with the binary society. The therapeutic and psychological attributes of the issues of the intersex individuals and the manner in which these individuals of the intersex community had actually aroused curiosity in the earlier epoch. In the earlier era, an individual of this clan was usually termed as a person who repels and transverses the stipulated margin of the allocated sexual identity. Whereas, the various members of the transgender society prefer to avail medicinal involvement so as to transmute themselves to the stereotypical expectations of the society at large. However, the novel *Middlesex* portrays Cal as pleased, gratified person and at the same time unswervingly asserts the disquiet and embarrassment with the hermaphroditism in its metaphors of allegorical creatures. Unlike, the existing pathetic plight of transgenders, the mature Cal in Jeffrey Eugenides' *Middlesex* vindicates the refutation of his hermaphroditic individuality and continues to exist as a guy, shielding himself and at the same time opposing the various insinuation of abstruseness with tremendous descriptors of maleness, which he considers to be over reactive.

Individuals who identify themselves as hermaphrodites or intersexual persons are typically those who are instinctive with standard masculine and feminine structures and compositions. For instance, an individual who is categorised as a unisexual person might have a usual feminine framework but feels similar to a man and therefore hunts to become a man by means of hormone manipulations or even choosing to have operations for sexual organ removals. In Jeffrey Eugenides' *Middlesex* the prime protagonist, Callie or Cal, an intersex person who was born as a beautiful female later during the adolescent period experiences a renovation and desires to become a 'man' and also becomes one.

Persons who are inflicted with the perpetual intersex conditions have compositions which are not regarded as characteristically masculine or feminine. A majority of the folks, with neither fully male nor fully female looks, approach to remedial methods as even their parents discern a touch of infrequency in the biological framework of the individuals of hermaphroditic condition. On the contrary, the bunch of people who are intersexed experience a traumatic, harrowing, core and internal suffering of sexual individuality and identity which is altered and unlike from the regular and systematic binary of man and woman. The people of this community with their respective body conditions generally desire to indicate the sexual orientation of their own appeal. Therefore, the aggregate of intersex people tends to spiral at times to alter the sexual anatomy of themselves at some point of their life.

Eugenides' Callie or Cal's so-called meaningless life signifies the transformation from Callie to Cal and the capability to accede Cal and Callie, not as adversary to each other, but as fragments of the aggregates of Cal or Callie, the accomplishment and unification of Cal's or Callie's individuality. The protagonist of *Middlesex*, Cal does not intend or regard Callie to disappear permanently. Cal exhibits that he is capable of being concurrently both manly and womanly. In accordance with the novel *Middlesex*, the character of Cal or Callie depicts the veracity and actuality of distinctiveness is what is outlined by modification and inarticulation which is typically conventional and what one is able to get accustomed to.

The hermaphrodite individuals distinguish themselves as a man or a woman rather than categorising themselves as a member of the 'intersex' branch. It is primarily because they crave

to be inclusive with the societal framework and escape the clutches of gender-based discrimination and alienation. Being a character beyond the so-called 'binary' of the society indicates unfairness, bigotry and extreme prejudices. Therefore, in order to merit equality just like the entities of the male and female clusters, these folks attempt to attach themselves to the conventional society. Intersex is a broad phase sourced for a varied strain of speculations in which an individual is born with a sexual frame that does not ideally appropriate the archetypal characterisation of a man and a woman. In the notable novel of Jeffrey Eugenides, "Middlesex", Cal, the protagonist who is innate as a female externally, however, holds a greater percentage of a predictable masculine composition internally. Taking the problem of an intersexed person, the condition of being a hermaphrodite does not necessarily for all time disclose when a person is born. Like Callie or Cal, in *Middlesex*, the classic novel of Jeffrey Eugenides, in which it is unearthed that Callie or Cal is marked to have an effect of hermaphroditic disorder only at the age of puberty. The condition of being an intersexual is not an unnoticeable or inherent classification. The protagonist Callie or Cal being an intersex individual encounters a fretful, distressed and irritable experience on his recognition of being a hermaphrodite. Though Cal experiences sexual dysphoria in much elusive and delicate conduct, the intersexual individuals in the general stereotypical community suffer harsh and unsympathetic demotion, utter disregard and banishment which question the identity and recognition of intersex society.

During the course of the era, the decree of the sexual identity of every individual has always remained an unexplained and mystifying interrogation. Contemplation on the hypothesis of mankind still today eliminates the intersex community as a rule afar the parameters of the imaginable. And it is this exploit that has significantly ruptured the identification and apperception of the hermaphroditic society as a part and fragment of the humanoid unit. In spite of the all-inclusive swing concerning larger recognition and approval of modern and progressive sexual positions, people take in to have dissenting and peculiar sexual representation, persist to be maltreated, oppressed and lay open to bias and discernment. The uncharacteristic sexual roles, or the out of the ordinary bearing of maleness or femaleness owing to a person's looks, comportment, and performance in an obnoxious manner with which system the community has allocated to an individual's genetic gender, has been allied to a multitude of deleterious upshots, embracing bodily oppression and unfair treatment through words, refutation of parentages, denunciation of associates and harrying during upbringing and exploitation due to affluence. Despite the verified vigorous emanation connected with the objective ill-treatment, no reconnaissance scheme subsists to methodically examine the relation between sexual roles, and the strength and vigour.

The idea of how an individual's distinctiveness is professed or societally dispensed by another person is a bizarre question of great magnitude. The consequences of oppression, abuse, and persecution on the roots of societally consigned sexual eccentricity could be austere, unsympathetic and perennial. Similar to the binary group of the community, the hermaphroditic section of the clan is also eligible for an impartial courtesy to the distinct requirement of them and be untroubled in the social order. The individuals of the intersex section should be favoured in their gender individuality and never made mandatory to imitate the sexual casts so as to be accepted and acknowledged. The glitches related to sexual roles differ when correlated to gender-based inclination.

Callie or Cal in the initial part of the novel *Middlesex*, tries to disappear hiding his identity as an intersex as a form of escapism because of the estrangement from Callie or Cal's

cherished circle. Callie or Cal believes that there appears to be nil liberation, and no means to foster estimation of his identity as an intersexual and the way in which Cal could be in this society. In a ruthless and vicious sexual assault of Cal, Cal is mugged and throbbed so badly. Cal is originally raided as a young lad, and the burglars shortly unearth from the school pass that Cal is a lass and then they strip her to sexually assault her. What Cal undergoes resonances those of unisexual people around the world and through the times past. In the beginning, Cal is dehumanized and desensitized as the wrath of the muggers reverberates the fundamental reflex and outlandish prerogative to bodily impair a person who is beyond the binary of man and woman. This vulnerability is seriously true and a major proportion of the populace of the so-called uncategorised gender.

A huge part of the public was unmindful and ignorant and they also snubbed the suffering and tribulations of the bisexual tribe due to the aversion of them towards unisexual beings. It is only by means of knowledge and discernment that could bring up a conclusion to these mentalities owing to which most of them undergo discernment, intolerance, and bigotry. Concurrently, the public as such could aid one another and construct an unbiased and impartial community wherein every category of the human being is handled equivalently, be it a man or a woman or the third gender. When a majority of the community rejoiced a time of self-worth and parity, the hermaphrodites in the society are marginalised and are pushed to the brims of the public. Since they are rather more observable than the individuals of the lesbian, gay or the bisexual category, the transgendered folks are frequently victimised, abused, beleaguered, and also oppressed as a consequence of strongly embedded male-controlled attitudes that manipulated the sexual individuality and standards. Every individual interrogative of these customs is so frequently derided. The various movies in India also rather than disseminating wakefulness and vigilance of the exertions of the hermaphrodite group, frequently depicted them as mere cartoons of an exaggeration, therefore, multiplying the societal humiliation and prejudices encircling the intersex society. It is therefore highly essential that we encourage and advocate the intersex Indians in their strife for acceptance, personality, likeness, respectability, egalitarianism, and self-esteem. One of the prominent aspects to fulfil is by diffusion of knowledge about the epicene troupe and the hurdles they experience.

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