

## **At that time I don't know what happened to me....**

I am Soumya. Basically, I am from Bangalore. I was a born male. Now, I am 27 years old. When I was a born male, at that time, I was being discriminated.

I had too many problems. I was born male, but my behavior was like feminine behavior and feminine character because I was doing home work inside my house like cooking.

I was dressing like a female, I was putting bangles, and putting earrings.

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My mummy is a housewife. My father was doing some business in real estate agency. I have one elder sister, an elder brother, and a small sister. Four children are there.

When I discovered that to be a man was not my way, I was studying in fourth or fifth standard, I had confusion.

I was born as a male, but my feelings, my behavior were of feminine behaviour and feminine character because I was talking more with girls and was playing a female role. I was playing and choosing the games that girls were playing, like badminton, throw ball, kho-kho.

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My feelings are clearly female, what females are thinking, what females are expressing.

Females are sexually attracted to opposite sex. Females are wearing sarees, chudidhar, bangles, ear rings, and like that, that kind of behaviour. Sexual attraction is for opposite sex.

I was a born male and after I became a female, I was feeling I wanted to convert into a female role.

It occurs when I was studying fifth or sixth, at that time, I was behaving only like a woman, like walking style, speaking style.

When I was singing in the classroom competitions and all, I used to sing like females because I did not know why I was singing.

So, at that time, my behaviour was like feminine behaviour, but after that, when I was studying in seventh, eighth, and ninth standard, I was getting totally confused because at that time I was getting sexual attraction.

At that time, I was attracted to only men, not women. At that time, I was very confused. My body is man, but my sexual attraction is men. How is that right? I was totally confused.

What is this? Why I am like this? - these were the confusions.

In the school , they were teasing always “You are a sanga, yu are ChakkaYou are Ombotthu, you are a khoja, you are not mingling with us, means men.

So, boyfriends, you are not mingling with boyfriends, you are always going to girls. You are always playing like a girl.

Your walking style is like a girl. You are speaking in girl’s style.” Like that, my friends also always were harassing me.

My father and brother, they were beating. They were teasing. They do not give the food sometimes.

At home, my father said always, “Don’t do like a female role, female game, like, your walking style is like a female, you are speaking like a female, so don’t walk like that, don’t speak like that. Like my father is always beating, harassing me. So, my brother was also saying that “Don’t do like that. Don’t do like this.”

One day, that Saturday, half day school. I completed my class and I came back home. So that time, my daddy coming early to the home. So, that time, my friends are telling my daddy, “Your son is doing a work and playing role is female role. In the classroom, in the singing time, he is singing like female. His walking style is female walking. He is always mingling with girls. He does not mingle with boys.” Like that, my friends were saying to my daddy. When my daddy came early, he said “Why you are doing like this? Why your walking style like this? Why you are speaking like this? You change your walking style. You change your speaking style. Don’t mingle with the girl. Mingle only with boys.” Like that, my daddy said. I said “No. I don’t like boys. I am very upset.” My daddy was beating at that time. My daddy said “Don’t stay here. Leave the home and go outside.” But that time, I do not have that much capacity and that much of knowledge. Where I should go? Where I should stay?

That time, I am crying, and I said “OK daddy, sorry, sorry. Again, I am not doing like that” I was saying like that.

After that, I am getting very confused. Why is it happening like this?

That time, I was thinking what can I do now, what can I do now. Always, I was thinking, I did not sleep at nighttime.

I was thinking what can I do, what can I do because my body is like this, but my feelings, my behavior is like this, what can I do, what can I do.

And at that time, I got some friends , I was studying SSLC, I was like 15, 16 years .

So, that time, I got new friends, like feminine character, like that friends I introduced. . Then, I directly went to those people and talked to them.

So, they said, like what you are like, we are also same like that. So, that time, I discussed what we will do. So, my feeling is like this, my character is like this, then my behavior is like this.

They said “Ok. No problem, because we are also same, so that is why, in Bangalore outside, Hijda community is there, so many people are there. So, they are going for castration. They are improving their breasts. They are growing their hair.

So that time, I was thinking what can I do, what can I do. So that time, I decided. So, I am going outside and I want to become a female, like that I decided.

At that time, I decided I want to become a female

So, my friends are introducing some Hijdas. So, they said in Bangalore, so many hamams are there. Hamam means like a brothel. You don't know. Some hijdas are staying there and they are doing their sex work.

Then, I am leaving home. Then, I joined hijda community. .

So, they said, in Bangalore, Hijda community is going for castration. We are taking some tablets, hormone injection. After improving the breasts, then you completely become a female.

They said in Bangalore, so many hamams are there. We call it Brothel. So, you go and stay there. You do sex work and you go for begging. Collect your money and then you go for castration, they said. Because my thinking is only I becoming female. So, that is why, I go to join that hijdas. Then I am doing sex work.

It has been very disturbing for me to go out from my parent's house and go to sex work

I had to be very strong in my mind to do this.

I did it because my thinking is I becoming female, only my thinking.

But It is not because I am becoming female that I must do sex work.

First time, I did it.

Then, I went to stay in hamam. So that time, one client came.

My friends said, “She is new to our community. So, if you want to do sex, you can go and do the sex.”

So he said, "OK. I will give 200 rupees." But my friends said, "She is very new.

So, that is why, you give more money, 500 rupees."

So, he agreed.

It was a man. And it was the first time I had sex.

I get very upset because I want to become female because I am going for castration. I need more money.

So, what can I do?

So, that is why I am doing sex work.

That time, I was getting very harassment in the outside, society, in the community. When I am going to do sex work, that time, boys are harassing, rowdies are harassing, public people are also very harassing me.

Sometimes, police and goondas were sexually harassing me. Like the kind of problems always, I was facing at that time.

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I want to live in society. Because, now, males and females are living.

Like that, I am also thinking. I should also live in society. Because they do not give the opportunity, because they are not accepting.

Because I am like this, they are not accepting, they are not giving respect.

In the government also, they are not giving the rights like ration card, voter ID, bank account, passport. So, they are not giving opportunity.

We are obliged to make sex work to live

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Before already I said, I was born as male. But after the 4th standard and 5th standard, when I was studying, I was getting like female behavior characters, female role. After that, when I was studying in 8th, 9th, 10th standard, I was getting sexual attraction to opposite sex.

What happens to me? I don't know. When I was studying in fifth standard, at that time, I do not know what happened to me at that time because it happened when I was a very small child, that time.

At that time I always prefer to live.

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Life, I have not decided my life is like this way, this way. I have not decided because I do not know because we are not getting any rights in the society and in the government, that is why we have not decided.

Only, we are also human beings. We want to live. Men and females are living know, like that we also need a society, I am thinking like that.

Then I had an operation.

Before I was thinking when I was born a male, that time also I was thinking, I become a female, I become a female. So, now, when I finished my castration, after that, I have taken some tablets and hormone injection, then I have improved my breast also. Now, I am completely woman. Like that, I am really very happy now.

Before, I was getting very confusion because my body is male body, but my feelings are like female feelings. Sexually, I like only male.

I want to built a family and adopt a child

Now, my family is accepting now. When I was getting castration 8 years back, just recently, they are accepting me. I am going to my home. My daddy is not there. My daddy has expired. My mummy is there. Brother is there, elder sister is there, and small sister is there. They are speaking very closely. They are accepting me, just recently 1 year. Seven years, they did not agree. They said "Don't come to us with sarees and all."

Now when I am going to my family, they are celebrating some festival, some party functions, so we are all mingled up, family. My relatives are coming. My friends are coming at that time. So, that time, that moment, I am really very happy.

1 year back. My brother was getting married. At that time, they called, we are in the marriage of your brother. "So, you want to come?" they requested.

At that time, I asked, because I am wearing saree, I have become a female now, so how can I come, I want to come pant and shirt or sarees. They said "Don't come with pant and shirt. Come with saree. No problem." So, they said, that time, I was really very happy.

Two years back, I was doing sex work. So, that time, I got some money, so I could manage my life. But now, I left the sex work 2 years back. Now, I am working in community organization. So, I am getting salary. So, I can manage my life.

My family is accepting completely now. So, they are calling my name, but my name is now Soumya. They were calling old name, they are not calling now. They are calling only Soumya. So, they are giving respect. They are giving equality. Totally, they are accepting. But in the society,

they are not accepting. When I am going in the road, BTS bus, auto, theatre, temple, at that time, they are calling "See, See, he is a male but wearing a saree. He is a male. They are very teasing. So, that time, I am getting very upset. But now, I completely change my body. But, the society, they do not know. They do not know that these people have completely changed their sex or not, they do not know, they do not know much about the hijda society.

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We are fighting opposing society. We are fighting with government because we want our rights. We want our fundamental rights. We want our citizen rights, like that. We want house. We want ration card. We want voter ID. We want bank account. So, we will fight with government and we will fight with the society "Don't harass, don't discriminate. We are also human beings." Like that, we are fighting with the society. We want to change the society.

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5-6 years back, our community people are facing lots of problems in the society, in the family, in the community. What kind of problem means, like they are not going in BTS bus, they are not going in auto, then they are not going in temple, park, theatre. Because there, they are getting very discriminations.

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I want to live like Indian women staying respectfully and good family. I want to live like that family.

In the family, females, they are also facing always problems in the society because they are not walking after 8 o'clock or 9 o'clock. In the society, male domination is there definitely. Not only our community is facing discrimination, sexual harassment, like that, females are also facing like that problem, but I like that only I am staying in the society freely. I am thinking, somebody is not teasing, they are not doing discrimination, like that I am thinking.

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They are not fighting because they are staying with the family. Some kind of supports they have, family support, society support, some kind of support they have, but our community does not have one person's support.

Actually I love some body , I have a loving life but I don't want to speak about that

Future, I want to live freely; because now I am working. So, I am getting salary. So, I am managing myself.

After that, what can I do? Because anywhere, I am not getting job because society has not changed much now.

The society is not accepting.

So, they do not give the job and government also does not give the job.

So, that time, what can I do?

So that, I am thinking, future. In future, what can I do. In future, what can I do, but I do not know what can I do. I have capacity. I have skills. I want to do a job, but nobody can give the job. So, that is why I am not clear what is my future. So, my future is in confusion. Future means confusion.

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When I will be old, I do not know who are taking care of me. When I will be old, who are thinking of me, myself, who will be managing for me, I do not know at 80 because in the society, female and men, they marry. So, that time, they have got their children. So, children are caring their parents. But in our community, I do not know who cares for me.

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