

Department of Development Studies

Policy Brief No. 13

June 2017

**Pakistan Institute of Development
Economics**

Thematic Focus: Culture and Society

Concept of Time and its Allocation to Socio-cultural and Economic Activities among Hijra Community: A Case Study of Islamabad- Safdar Ali (2014-2016)

This qualitative research explains the importance of time in the lives of Hijras. Based on qualitative data elicitation tools of interviews and observational technique, this research touches upon the broader themes of performative acts in Hijra community, positioning of time and acts to the lives of Hijras, and the relationship between temporal activities and societal attitude towards Hijras.

Key Findings

1. In *Hijra* community religious activities, vacations, celebration seasons, and a few week days are used as reference points. They allocate time by following these reference points. Celebration seasons including marriage ceremonies are referential points which have futuristic connotations as *Hijras* identify their future activities with the help of these reference points.
2. *Hijras* arrange their activities according to time and also perform those activities on specific allocated time.
3. *Hijras* arrange their activities according to the availability of their fellows, availability of money by following religious and economic values and through following the instructions of their respective *Gurus*.
4. Earning is critical to the lives of *Hijras* because they are not hired for jobs and also have no access to other resources through which they can earn. They, hence, are more inclined towards income generating activities which yield high economic rewards to them in less time.

Policy Recommendations

1. This research emphasizes on the provision of opportunities for the *Hijra* community to show their abilities. They can take part in socio-economic and political development of the society if provided with opportunities.
2. Governmental responsibilities to take active steps for the provision of opportunities are also necessary.
3. Societal attitude towards *Hijras* need to be changed. This change can play an instrumental role in establishing societal trust towards the community. In this way they can allocate their time on skill-based jobs than beggary, dance functions and prostitution.