



Jus Corpus Law Journal

Open Access Law Journal – Copyright © 2021 – ISSN 2582-7820
Editor-in-Chief – Prof. (Dr.) Rhishikesh Dave; Publisher – Ayush Pandey

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Book Review: Walking the life of transgender in Salil Desai's novel – 'Three and a Half Murders'

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Received 28 June 2021; Accepted 17 July 2021; Published 21 July 2021

INTRODUCTION: ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Salil Desai is a columnist, filmmaker, and also author by profession. He lives in Pune with his wife and two sons. The book named, 'Three and a Half Murders' is the third written book in Inspector Saralkar Series and has a position of the fifth written book in his career. Other books written by him are namely, 'Murder on a Side Street' (2011), 'Killing Ashish Karve' (2014), and 'The Murder of Sonia Raikkonen' (2015). Apart from these, the creation of short stories named, 'Lost Libido' and Other Gulp Fiction (2012) is written by him. Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) has him as an alumnus and portrays all his videos. The videos include dramatized training of the management and are recognized in corporate centers. In June 2016, he has also been one of the other authors to get selected for the HALD International Writers' Residency, laid by the Danish Centre for Writers and Translators held in Denmark. Being a columnist, he has put down over 500 articles, features, op-ed pieces, and travelogues too. They once were featured in The Tribune, Indian Express, Reader's Digest, The Hindu, The Times of India, DNA, etc. Overall, he has excelled in his interests and is a successful person.

ABOUT THE NOVEL¹

"A couple, Anushka Doshi and her husband Sanjay Doshi are found dead in their apartment. Police additionally found a suicide note wherever Sanjay claimed that he has killed his partner as he found her cheating on him along with her lover Shaunak Sodhi. And he's on the brink of the kill." Whereas the suicide note itself is capable to elucidate the complete incident, there is one thing Saralkar found nonreciprocal and feels the necessity to explore everything. Senior Inspector Saralkar could be a direct officer. He's a form of compulsive one that cares less regarding everything else, as well as his health. Saralkar is recently diagnosed with high blood pressure and he has to be compelled to endure some additional tests and wish to require excellent care of his health. But, then a couple's suicide in their flat that appears like a killing caught him. Currently, he has to solve the puzzle. PSI Motkar is an aide to Sr. Inspector Saralkar whereas Motkar might not be as intelligent as his boss, he's an honest and industrious cop. Despite his limitations, he's one of all the sort officers, anyone desires him to own in his/her team. The case got puzzling as it had been associated with the past. Cops inquired into the past and met several suspects. Made a case development through the clues gained by hard work. Later managed to achieve to the crook and stop the fourth murder.

THE LEGAL ASPECT IN THE NOVEL

Each person is it of the LGBT community, has the right to be recognized as a person in front of the law. The rights are assured in various treaties as international human rights conventions, also including the primary right of an individual to live with dignity. Lawful gender identification is also a significant constituent of primary rights including other rights such as the right to freedom of speech and expression, right to privacy, access to justice, rights related to health, education, security, and employment. The murderer was transgender as faced issues like unacceptance, criticism from society. To take revenge on the people, he started killing people. Being transgender, it was an advantage for him to hide his identity, but in the end, was caught by the cops.

¹ Salil Desai, *3 and a Half Murders: An Inspector Saralkar Mystery* (Fingerprint! Publishing 2017)

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

For conducting the research work there are mainly two methods: Doctrinal method and Non-doctrinal method. This paper includes the doctrinal method which mainly emphasizes research by analysing the facts and information available while the non-doctrinal requires the analyst to undergo fieldwork to do the research work and gain information. The data is collected from the primary and immediate source, original research, data sets, and survey data as well. Referring and dissecting the current information. The analyst accepts that the current exploration is significantly subject to existing laws and how they affect one another. To perform a successful examination on such a subject, it is best recommended to lean toward doctrinal research and dissect different significant laws set up.

LITERATURE REVIEW

1. Hiestand and Levitt Case

“Hiestand and Levitt independently created a 6-stage model of the creation of butch gender identity in 2005, which shared many aspects with the transsexual model Devor (2004).”² Their first phase focused on gender conflict, alienation, and confusion associated with the perception that the person was unlike others of the same sex. Move three involved a time where women were looking for lesbians and their sexual orientation became more and more secure, though their gender differences remained undisclosed. They touched a phase where their sexual familiarization as well as gender identity were mixed and also with different identities i.e., race, and gender.

2. The John Demjanjuk Case

“In the Nazis on the run, the story is all the more disturbing if one believes that the criminals who fled Europe "escaped justice," because even if the CIC, the Italian police, the Catholic Church, and the Red Cross were more vigilant, justice might well have gone un-served: in Germany, France, other regions where thousands of killers escaped prison or execution.”

² K Hiestand & H Levitt, ‘Butch identity development: The formation of an authentic gender’ (2004) 15(1) *Feminism & Psychology* 61-85

Without ever having to conceal their names in the middle of the night, endure baptism, or risk the Brenner Pass. They were never charged at all or benefited from violent trans-Atlantic lobbying that permitted them to secure an acquittal, obtain light sentences or enjoy the early release.

3. The Devor Case

"In this article, Initial stages of anxiety, uncertainty, and incremental identity testing were shared by Devor models before the labels and gender enactments that were better suited were identified." Such procedures were highly individualized, and the ways participants agreed to mark and enforce their identification were widely understood concerning the sense of legitimacy of the participants, i.e., their sense of correspondence with their attitudes and gender expressions between their inner sense of their gender, and the meanings of these identities within their social contexts.

4. The Macgillivray and Jennings Case

"A study by Macgillivray and Jennings (2008) found that textbooks used in the training of teachers rarely described transgender or discussed transgender experiences."³ Other researchers found that transgender people and online newsgroups or journals have been credited by transgender participants as constructive educational tools. Nearly one-third of the participants, however, stressed the inhibitory effect on their coming-out processes that negative portrayals in the media had. These studies show that the lack of transgender representation is not just a matter of quantity, but also consistency.

5. The Cole and Denny Case

To address the relationship between gender, sex, and sexual orientation, which are commonly jumbled in public speech or wrongly thought to decide each other, one must first distinguish these words. Although it is impossible to discuss these words in depth in this article because the terminology themselves are under dispute. Working short explanations might be

³ T Jennings & I Macgillivray, 'A content analysis of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender topics in multicultural education textbooks' (2011) 22(1) Teaching Education 14

beneficial. The biological characteristics of a female are referred to as sex. “People are categorised as male or female at birth in most societies today as categorization generally based on the genitalia they possess in West & Fenstermaker, 1995.”

ANALYSIS

When one is not happy with the gender, he/ she has the willingness to change the gender to live peacefully in their life without any regrets. That’s what Fernandis did, he got treated by the doctor so that he could transform his identity from male to female. He didn’t want to spend his life as a male rather wanted to live as a female. A two-step procedure is defined by India's new law. First, it requires a person to apply to the District Magistrate where they live for a "transgender certificate." This second phase requires the person to provide the district magistrate with proof of surgery, provided by a hospital official, for a second examination, and the official must be satisfied with the correctness of such a certificate.

“Survey research has shown that transgender people have assertive feelings about their transgender personality and declaring a transgender identity provides various ways to understand their experiences and conceptualize them.” Respondents indicated that transgender identities made it possible for them to have an enhanced sense of self-congruence, personal development, and strengthened individual relations.

India is seeing an abrupt ascent in the occurrences of disdain violations in contemporary occasions. Episodes under this, by and large, include brutality against an individual or a gathering, of a specific social gathering, by crowds, predominantly on strict issues, which make strife in the general social structure. Hate crimes arise towards criminal acts that take place due to inclination against an individual or social gathering on account of personal or social grudges, mostly about their customs and practices which are carried among their community. It could be portrayed as an assault on an individual's privileges depended on him in this way influencing him as well as the social structure all in all which from various perspectives makes it more shocking than numerous other Criminal Offenses.

CONCLUSION

A bill to safeguard transgender rights was passed by India's parliament, but the new legislation is insufficient on many fronts. Since the first one was passed in 2016, transgender promoters and associated human rights organizations have criticized different transgender rights bills. Ultimately, policymakers refused to consider the issues posed by the activists. Instead of honoring and uplifting long-persecuted groups, our country's new legislation will also contravene the rights of the transgender community.

Recent high-profile exonerations such as Anthony Graves⁴ and Donte Drumm have highlighted the systematic failures and the various analytic biases that can be stabilized via a framework of a comprehensive approach to studying from these past unjustified apprehensions. It is suggested that the police must be well aware of the situations and be alert in the investigation. A single reckless act of the cops may leave the victim in severe condition as well as justice denied. In the case of Anushka Doshi, the police officer was involved with the culprit to hide his identity as transgender. The suggestions call for the police department to implement honesty and moral work in their duty. An internal investigation must be held if some cop is suspect of bribery or immoral work. And beyond interrogation, the officers involved must be fair in the investigation and shouldn't involve in unsavory activities.

⁴ Maurice Possley, 'Anthony Graves' (*The National Registry of Exoneration*, 2012)

<<https://www.law.umich.edu/special/exoneration/Pages/casedetail.aspx?caseid=3253>> accessed 25 June 2021