

Challenges of Transchildren due to Psychosexual Changes in *I am Jazz* by Jazz Jennings

Jona ^{1*}, Dr. M. John Suganya ²

² Department of English

^{1*,2} PSG College of Arts and Science, Coimbatore.

^{1*} jona.jojs45@gmail.com

² suganyajohn@gmail.com +91 9994924381

Abstract

Transgender come from all over the world, with diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds. They are subjected to several rejections and mockeries. This article investigates transgender's emotional transformations in the children's book *I Am Jazz* which is also a graphic book. Graphic books are narrative works in which the stories are told through art and graphics to the readers. Jazz Jennings is remarkable for being one of the earliest transgenders to be publicly reported. This book uses illustrations to help the audience understand a child's emotional fluctuations. For the past twenty years, transgender studies have thrived, but they have not been given equal privileges. Jazz, a fourteen year old kid, is the protagonist of this book, which also deals with the emotional concerns of transgender youth. The purpose of this article is to examine Jazz's psychosexual transformations and how she overcomes developmental issues.

Keywords: Transgender issues, Social trauma, Transgender studies, Gender dysphoria, psychosexual changes.

Introduction

Jazz Jennings is an American YouTube star, spokes model, TV personality, and LGBT rights activist. Jennings was born male and diagnosed with gender dysphoria at the age of five, making her one of the youngest transgender people ever publicly documented. As soon as she started to speak, Jennings made it quite clear that she was a girl and insisted on wearing feminine clothes, as her family had dressed her neutrally. Jennings advocates for the recognition of gender dysphoria with children and shares her experience in realizing that she has always been a young girl despite her family and educator's belief that she is a boy. Jazz clarifies everything that she jumps at the chance to do—dancing, swim with a mermaid tail, play soccer—and how a visit to a specialist assisted her parents with getting being transsexual. She

acknowledges the psychosexual changes in a perky tone without vacillating her view points. This zeal shows that the story is light on plot. However, it is additionally not weighty on the data end but gives a better meaning of trans character ("I have a girl brain but a boy body"), implying that the essential use will be curative instead of illustrative. Watercolor pictorializations have a retro authenticity that is delicate and congenial. This image book diary has a ton of chances to give a truly necessary outlet to kids with sex rebelliousness or Tran's characters, just as to assist different children with getting what might be going on in a portion of their companion's lives, making it a choice that numerous libraries will need to put on their racks. Gender identity and expression are crucial to how we perceive ourselves and interact with the world. This is true for Transchildren, who require consistent family support. Indeed, a rising number of sociological research demonstrates that gender-affirming behavior on the part of parents and other adults (teachers, grandparents, etc.) boosts mental health and well-being substantially. When their immediate caregivers are rejecting or unwelcoming, transgender children are more likely to develop anxiety, depression, and are at an increased risk of drug dependence and homelessness. Jazz suffers from the same problem. She was constantly rejected in her school and by her instructors for who she was. Some children bullied her regularly. But she was able to be who she was due to her parents' backing. Her teachers gradually began to know her and accepted her transition.

In other words, transgender youths require parental support that really can make a difference in their lives. When Jazz's parents supported her after knowing that she was a transgender, they said,

“We understand now. Be who you are. We love you no matter what” (Jennings).

Parents and caretakers can seek information, peer support, and professional assistance to help along the road, and to guarantee that their kid cannot just survive, but thrive.

Psycho-trauma of transgender children

Gender dysphoria is a general feeling of unease and unhappiness with one's biological sex, which might manifest as anxiety, sadness, or other symptoms. Dysphoria is frequently used as a catalyst for changing one's physique and gender expression to be more in line with one's perceived gender identity. Apart from the bodily dysphoria, the biggest issue in growing up with gender dysphoria is the social

situation. When a person feels inside that he or she wants to be a girl or guy, everyone expects them to play gender roles. In her family, Jazz was always seen as a male. She could, however, perceive her own feminine side.

“When I was very little and my mom would say, “You’re such a good boy,” I would say, “No Mama. Good GIRL!” At first my family was confused. They’d always thought of me as a boy” (Jennings). Early on, children pick up on cues from their parents about proper behavior and internalize them. MTF (male to female) transsexuals, for example, have reported receiving instructions from their parents that it was inappropriate for them to play dolls with their sisters or neighbors, and that they should instead engage in "boy" activities such as rough and tumble play. At this age, children end up believing that there is a part of them that must be kept under wraps.

As Jazz grew older, she began to play with "girly" things rather than toys intended for boys.

As I got a little older, I hardly ever played with trucks or tools or superheroes. Only princess and mermaid costumes ... My sister says I was always talking to her about my girl thoughts, and my girl dreams, and how one day I would be a beuuuutiful lady ... (Jennings).

Coming to terms with one's own gender identity and gender expression is difficult for most transgender individuals, particularly the young. They deal with a variety of challenges, including guilt, fear, disclosure, and coming out, as well as adjusting and adapting to society. “Being Jazz caused some other people to be confused too, like the teachers at school. At the beginning of the year they wanted me to use the boys’ bathroom but that didn’t ... feel normal to me at ALL” (Jennings).

Jazz, being a 14-year-old, has also dealt with similar challenges. Her mental pains have to be considered from the perspective of a child. Constant neglect and taunting by other children lead to anxiety. Children thrive when their families support them in dealing with societal pressure and bullying while also affirming their gender-expansive characteristics. This is the essence of "gender acceptance," as it is known. Working with a behavioral health professional can help parents and caretakers support their child's gender identification and learn to advocate for their children.

Conclusion

Even though transgenders are now welcomed for who they are, many others keep them alienated from society. When it comes to children, some parents are hesitant to acknowledge the change in their children and wish to hide it. Every Tran's child needs the constant support of their parents. Regardless of their gender identification, they should feel loved by their parents. Transchildren should receive counseling and correct direction, which will help them develop self-awareness, self-esteem, and an understanding of their place in the family and society. It will give them mental peace, allowing them to freely interact with the society.

References

Herthel, Jessica, and Jazz Jennings. *I Am Jazz*. Illustrated by Shelagh McNicholas, Dial Books, 2014.

Jayanthi. E. *Transgender Welfare and Society*. MJP Publishers, 2017.

“Jazz Jennings.” *Wikipedia*, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jazz_Jennings.

Murchison, Gabe. “Supporting and Caring for Transgender Children.” *Human Rights Campaign Foundation*, Sep. 2016, <https://www.chp.edu/-/media/chp/departments-and-services/adolescent-and-young-adult-medicine/documents/gender-and-sexual-development/support-and-care-for-transgender-children.pdf>.

Transgender Wellbeing: An Emerging Issue. Edited by C. Subramanian and M. Sugirtha, Serials Publications Pvt. Ltd., 2015.

“Transgender Children & Youth: Understanding the Basics.” *Human Rights Campaign Foundation*, <https://www.hrc.org/resources/transgender-children-and-youth-understanding-the-basics>.