

2019

Pakistan's Sheedi community: striving for equality

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Master of Science in Journalism

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Shahzad, I. (2019). *Pakistan's Sheedi community: striving for equality* (Unpublished graduate research project). Institute of Business Administration, Pakistan. Retrieved from <https://ir.iba.edu.pk/research-projects-msj/35>

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PAKISTAN'S SHEEDI COMMUNITY STRIVING FOR EQUALITY

This Survey report is submitted to the Faculty of Business Administration as partial fulfillment for Master of Science in Journalism degree.

by

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Institute of Business Administration (IBA), Karachi

Fall Semester 2020

Institute of Business Administration (IBA), Karachi, Pakistan

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Dedication

Dedicated to my loving father Mr. Nizar Ali Khan and mother Ms. Nowrooz Bibi who have supported me every time with their unconditional love and sincere guidance. Moreover, it is dedicated to the black lives who are facing discrimination from any part of the world.

Acknowledgement

I want to thank my supervisor Mr. Qaseem Saeed for helping me at each and every step in this thesis, specially helping me meeting the deadlines during the Covid pandemic.

I am grateful to my family members Sana Ullah Wasi, Tamkeen Ali Hussaini, Rahila Hassana and Rehmat Wali Khan for always showing love and support and helping in the toughest times of pandemic. Without their sincere support completion of this research project was not possible.

I am thankful to my amazing friends Mr. Pyar Ali Amir Ali, Mr. Zeeshan Khan, Mr. Danish Ali Umrani and Ms Rabia Bugti for easing up my time during this and helping me out in any way possible for them.

I extend my sincere gratitude to the leaders of Sheedi community, specially sir Yaqoob Sheedi for sharing his knowledge and making arrangements meeting relevant Sheedi activists.

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Abstract

Sheedi or the (Afro-Pakistani) community lives in most of the southern parts of Sindh province of Pakistan. As per an estimate given by Sheedi Youth Welfare Organization, the population of the community is about one million. Like many other countries, the black lives in Pakistan face numerous issues too. Sheedi community in Pakistan is striving for human rights and equality. The community faces color based discrimination, racism, un equality etc. About 85 % of Sheedi youths are unemployed or labors. Most of them earn less than 100 USD a month. Sheedi women face multiple issues like early marriage, laboring, color based discrimination etc. Sheedi's history in Pakistani curriculum is manipulated. They are considered as slaves that were brought to Pakistan and still living here. Alarmingly, even now they are being treated as slaves in Pakistan. Sheedi community leaders in their new findings declare that Sheedi's are living in this region for 5000 years. They believe that this hypothesis is not factual that they were slaves. They urge the Pakistani government to correct their history in academics and to treat them as equal citizens of Pakistan.

The above written findings have raised serious questions on Pakistan's status as a welfare state. When will the government be able to find solution for Sheedis? When will they be treated as equal citizens of Pakistan? the future will witness.

Synopsis

Following the "Black Lives Matter" movement, I wanted to find out that how happy the Sheedi community in Pakistan is or what are their core issues. This documentary is about the Afro-Pakistani ethnic group that is called Sheedi community. Sheedis are multi talented, skilled people with a long tradition of hospitality and unique culture. The one million in number community is not happy with the behavior of the societies they face in Pakistan. This documentary highlights their issues, like color based discriminations, unemployment, women issues, youth issues, facts about their history and role of Pakistani government in finding solutions for their problems.