

## Hijras Statistics in India

How common is intersex? In her 1993 essay, biologist Anne Fausto-Sterling acknowledged that "it is extremely difficult to estimate the frequency of intersexuality" (Fausto-Sterling, 1993, p. 21). In this paper we will focus on establishing how often intersexual conditions occur and what conditions should be considered intersexual

Fausto-Sterling's argument that human sexuality is a continuum, not a dichotomy, rests in large measure on her claim that intersex births are a fairly common phenomenon. Specifically, Fausto-Sterling computes the incidence of intersexual births to be 1.7 per 100 live births or 1.7%. To arrive at that figure, she defines as intersex any "individual who deviates from the Platonic ideal of physical dimorphism at the chromosomal, genital, gonadal or hormonal levels" (Blackless et al., 2000, p. 161).

According to rough estimates the number of eunuchs in India is somewhere between 5 lacs to 12 lacs.