

## **Kanjar image as entertainers in a prostitution area, Panjab, PAKISTAN**

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This presentation puts forward information about the Kanjars, who are hereditarily prostitutes as well as singing and dancing entertainers. It also outlines their relation with Mirasi, who are masters and teachers of Indian classical music to Kanjars, and Kalawant, who are recognized as elite male classical musicians. Subsequently, some Kanjar-related scenes are shown from a Pakistani Urdu film “BOL (Speak Out)” directed by Shoaib Mansoor (2011).

“Panjab Seikatsu Bunkashi,” a translation into Japanese from the Urdu book “Yadgari-Chishti” written by Nur Ahmad Chishti in 1859 originally, includes a description of Kanjar as the name of Kanchan. “The Kanchan” called Kanjar in Panjabi language are a qoum ‘caste’, members of which have prostitution as their occupation. They have a category called Nauchi, who are bought and brought up in the caste. Female Kanjar, called Kanchani, are keen on dressing themselves up constantly. They would not be so happy to give birth to a boy in their home, but would welcome the birth of a girl because they would then be able to let their daughter engage in prostitution as well. They strictly avoid letting the wife of a son, Bahu, practice prostitution. If their own daughter gives birth to a boy, the boy would be called Kanjar. However, when their Nauchi gives birth to a boy, he would be called Ghar Janm: home born. Kanjar spend large amounts of money on weddings.