

A Study on Perception and Attitudes towards LGBT among the College Students With Reference To Tirunelveli District

¹S. Ponni and ²J. Joyce Emilda

¹Guest Lecturer, Department of Social Work, Rani Anna Government College for Women, Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu, India.

Corresponding Author E-mail id: ponni.msw@gmail.com

²Department of Social Work, Rani Anna Government College for Women, Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu, India.

Author Mail Id : emildajoyce@gmail.com

Abstract

Homosexuality is a universal phenomenon and is believed to have existed in many countries for centuries. In the past, LGBT already existed, but people were very strict to LGBT. We live in a world where heterosexuality is a preferred leading sexual orientation, while homosexuality is classified as a deviation from societal norms and beliefs.

Objectives: *A study on perception and attitudes towards LGBT among the college students with reference to Tirunelveli District. The study focused on acceptance of LGBT community and opinions about their issues and rights among college students.* **Methods:** *The study has been conducted using descriptive research design. Data was collected from a sample of 60 college students at Tirunelveli District using structured questionnaires. The sample was selected by convenient sampling technique which is a type of non-probability sampling approach.* **Findings:** *There have been many issues about the acceptance of LGBT issues in society such as hate speech, discrimination, and negative attitudes towards LGBT individuals. The negative treatment makes the minor individuals hard to express themselves in society and causes them to experience mental health problems and difficulties in accepting themselves as they are.*

Keywords: *homosexuality, sexual orientation, gender identity and issues of LGBT*

Introduction

LGBT in any country, region, city, or other locality, a group of persons who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender who feel some degree of empathy and solidarity with each other based on their shared experience of prejudice, discrimination and disrespect or their awareness of the historical and contemporary oppression of lesbian, gay, bisexual and

transgender persons. The term *LGBT community* is also commonly used to refer to groups of LGBT persons who support or participate in LGBT activism or to all LGBT persons, no matter their particular gender identity, culture, or geographic location. Homosexuality legalization is the first step from India towards acceptance, yet the country still has a long way to go before it reaches an actual and genuine acceptance of the LGBT community.

TABLE 1

Sexual Awareness among respondents						
Statements	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total (%)
Received Sex Education in teenage	18%	40%	21%	15%	5%	100
Aware of the various risks of teenage pregnancy	41%	36%	13%	8%	2%	100
Teenage pregnancy results from a lack of sex education	38%	46%	5%	8%	3%	100
Communication with partner can improve sexual relationship	20%	55%	15%	8%	2%	100
Sex is a basic human physical need	21%	45%	21%	9%	4%	100
Talking about sex openly should be normalized	31%	45%	16%	4%	4%	100
Sex education preventing sexually transmitted diseases	45%	38%	13%	4%	0%	100
Knowledge about different types of STD	20%	43%	16%	13%	8%	100
Comfortable with the sex assigned at birth	30%	40%	20%	10%	0%	100
Difference between sex and gender knowledge	40%	38%	15%	7%	0%	100
Parents and Teachers are responsible for teaching sex education for kids	46%	35%	12%	3%	3%	100
Awareness of LGBT community	36%	43%	10%	9%	2%	100

Objectives

- To study the Socio demographic details of the respondents.

- To analyze the Sexual Awareness among the respondents.
- To assess the Knowledge and Perception towards LGBT among the respondents.
- To analyze the Acceptance and Attitudes towards LGBT.
- To identify opinions about LGBT Issues and Rights among the respondents.

Methodology

The researcher took data was collected from two colleges in Tirunelveli. The primary data was collected directly from the 60 college students by convenient sampling technique which is a type

Personal Profile of the Respondents						Total (%)
Age	17-19	20-22	23-25			
	22%	62%	16%			100
Gender	Male	Female				
	17%	83%				100
Sexual Orientation	Heterosexual	Homosexual	Bisexual	Asexual	Prefer not to say	
	28%	7%	16%	2%	47%	100
Religion	Hindu	Christian	Muslim	Others		
	75%	21%	2%	2%		100
Marital status	Married	Unmarried				
	5%	95%				100
Family Members	3-Jan	6-Apr	9-Jul			
	8%	84%	8%			100
Type of Family	Nuclear	Joint				
	88%	12%				100
Area of Living	Rural	Urban				
	63%	37%				100

From the above table shows that majority of the respondents (62%) are in the age group of 20 to 22 years. Majority of the respondents are (83%) female. Majority of the respondents (47%) are not willing to say their sexual orientation. Majority of the respondents (75%) are Hindu religion. Majority of the respondents (95%) are belong to unmarried. Majority of the respondents (84%) are having 4 to 6 family members. Majority of the

respondents (88%) are belong to nuclear family. Majority of the respondents (63%) are belong to rural area.

From the above table shows that majority of the respondents (40%) are agree that received sex education in teenage. Majority of the respondents (41%) are strongly agree that aware of the various risks of teenage pregnancy. Majority of the respondents (46%) are agree that teenage pregnancy results from a lack of sex education. Majority of the respondents (55%) are agree that communication with partner can improve sexual relationship. Majority of the respondents (45%) are agree sex is a basic human physical need. Majority of the respondents (45%) are agree talking about sex openly should be normalized. Majority of the respondents (45%) are strongly agree to sex education preventing sexually transmitted diseases. Majority of the respondents (43%) are agree having knowledge about sexually transmitted diseases. Majority of the respondents (40%) are agree to comfortable with the sex assigned at birth. Majority of the respondents (40%) are strongly agree to having knowledge between sex and gender. Majority of the respondents (46%) are strongly agree to parents and teachers are responsible for teaching sex education for kids. Majority of the respondents (43%) are agree to aware of LGBT community.

TABLE 3

Knowledge and Perception towards LGBT among the respondents						Total (%)
Knowledge about LGBT	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual	Others			100
	80%	15%	5%			
Knowledge about Lesbian	Women and women attraction	Men and men attraction	Both men and women attraction	Gender identity not match with sex		100
	80%	5%	8%	7%		
Knowledge about Gay	8%	78%	9%	5%		100
Knowledge about Bisexual	5%	7%	71%	17%		100
Knowledge about Transgender	3%	7%	15%	75%		100

Knowledge and Perception towards LGBT among the respondents						Total (%)
Knowledge about sexual orientation	Yes	No				
	80%	20%				100
Sexual Orientation	Heterosexual	Homosexual	Asexual	Bisexual		
	50%	5%	20%	25%		100
Indian religious books contained homosexual	Yes	No				
	30%	70%				100
Difference between sexual orientation and gender identity	Yes	No				
	80%	20%				100
LGBT people face discrimination	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	
	23%	52%	18%	5%	2%	100
LGBT against God	37%	27%	17%	13%	6%	100
LGBT is a choice	15%	38%	20%	17%	10%	100

From the above table shows that majority of the respondents (80%) are have the knowledge of LGBT. Majority of the respondents (80%) are have the knowledge about Lesbian. Majority of the respondents (78%) are have the knowledge about Gay. Majority of the respondents (71%) are have the knowledge about Bisexual. Majority of the respondents (75%) are have the knowledge about Transgender. Majority of the respondents (80%) are have the knowledge about sexual orientation. Majority of the respondents (50%) are straight or heterosexual. Majority of the respondents (70%) are not have the knowledge about Indian Religious books contained homosexual characters and themes. Majority of the respondents (80%) are have the knowledge about difference between Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity. Majority of the respondents (52%) are agree that LGBT people face discrimination in their daily lives. Majority of the respondents (37%) are strongly agree that LGBT people's gender expressions are against what the creator or God intended. Majority of the respondents (38%) are agree that LGBT is a choice.

TABLE 4: Acceptance and Attitude towards LGBT among respondents

Statements	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total (%)
Not having a homosexual friend	32%	38%	15%	13%	2%	100
Homosexuality is a mental illness	10%	37%	31%	17%	5%	100
Gays dislike the opposite sex	8%	38%	30%	17%	7%	100
Not thought of homosexual acts disgusting	10%	35%	35%	12%	8%	100
Homosexuals should be kept separate	7%	27%	32%	28%	6%	100
Same sex displaying affection in public is revolting	8%	33%	33%	17%	9%	100
Homosexuals love is quite different from heterosexuals love	17%	43%	23%	15%	2%	100
Gay movement as a positive thing	7%	27%	23%	33%	10%	100
Homosexuality is not sinful	5%	18%	40%	20%	17%	100
Acceptance of homosexuality is aiding in the decline of morals	15%	32%	40%	8%	5%	100
Form a friendship with homosexual	5%	27%	20%	36%	12%	100
If I were a parent, I could accept my child being homosexual	5%	22%	13%	25%	35%	100

From the above table shows that majority of the respondents (38%) are agree to not having a homosexual friend. Majority of the respondents (37%) are agree to homosexuality is a mental illness. Majority of the respondents (38%) are agree to gays are dislike the opposite sex. Majority of the respondents (35%) are both agree and neutral to having the thought of homosexual acts never disgusting. Majority of the respondents (32%) are neutral to homosexuals should be kept separate. Majority of the respondents (33%) are both agree and neutral to same sex displaying affection in public is revolting. Majority of the respondents (43%) are agree to homosexuals love is quite different from heterosexuals love. Majority of the respondents (33%) are disagree to gay movement as a positive thing. Majority of the respondents (40%) are neutral to homosexuality is not sinful. Majority of the respondents (40%) are neutral to acceptance of homosexuality is aiding in the decline of morals. Majority of the respondents (36%) are disagree to they form a friendship with homosexuals. Majority of the respondents (35%) are strongly disagree that willing to accept their children being homosexual.

TABLE 5: Acceptance of Affection in public place

Statements	Between a man and a women	Between a women and a women	Between a man and a man	Total (%)
Holding Hands	59%	33%	8%	100
Hugging	87%	10%	3%	100
Friendly Kiss (e.g., Kissing on the cheek)	65%	27%	8%	100
Romantic Kiss	50%	37%	13%	100

From the above table shows that majority of the respondents (59%) are accept the affection of holding hands between a man and a woman. Majority of the respondents (87%) are accept the affection of hugging between a man and a woman. Majority of the respondents (65%) are accept the affection of friendly kiss between a man and a woman. Majority of the respondents (50%) are accept the affection of romantic kiss between a man and a woman.

TABLE 6

Opinions about LGBT Issues and Rights among respondents						Total (%)
LGBT have same rights as Non-LGBT	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	
	17%	33%	28%	17%	5%	100
Right to get married	8%	27%	25%	30%	10%	100
Right to adopt children	12%	32%	25%	21%	10%	100
Harassment in the work place	23%	38%	20%	14%	5%	100
Experienced discrimination against an LGBT	Yes	No				100
	42%	58%				
Reservations enhance the life of LGBT	40%	60%				100
LGBT people face discrimination	68%	32%				100
Committed suicide after bullying	67%	33%				100

From the above table shows that majority of the respondents (33%) are agree that LGBT should have the same rights as non-LGBT. Majority of the respondents (30%) are disagree that LGBT should have the right to get married. Majority of the respondents (32%) are agree that LGBT should have the right to adopt children. Majority of the respondents (38%) are agree that LGBT people may experience harassment in the work place. Majority of the respondents (58%) are not witnessed or experienced discrimination against an LGBT individuals. Majority of the respondents (60%) are belief not India's quota policy enhance the life of LGBT. Majority of the respondents (68%) are belief LGBT people face discrimination in many aspects of their lives. Majority of the respondents (67%) are belief LGBT people committed suicide after experiencing bullying.

Conclusion

Although there are various studies that studies about the issues LGBT people face in the society. This study aims to find the perception and acceptance towards LGBT and it also aims to find the opinions of LGBT rights and issues. Adaptability, adjustability and sustainability of LGBT individuals has its own set of issues in the Indian Society. Creating a LGBT friendly environment is a complicated process. Testing for the existence of insignificant level of acceptance and attitude towards LGBT individuals. The study further reveals that have well-designed LGBT policies and they follow a concrete set of strategies for effective implementation of LGBT benefit policies. It further concludes that the ability to analyze and find the difference between sexual orientation and gender identity.

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