

AN ANALYTICAL STUDY OF THE CHALLENGES FACED BY THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY IN THE CONTEMPORARY INDIAN SOCIETY

Mr. Abhishek Sarta*; Dr. Sandeep Kaur**

*Research Scholar
Department of Public Administration
Panjab University, Chandigarh
Email id: sartaabhishek@gmail.com

*HOD
Department of Public Administration
SGGS College, Sector -26, Chandigarh
Email id: 21sandeepkaursindhu@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT

The talk about the Rights of LGBTQ community is relatively new to Indian Society. But the ignorance and discrimination they face in the society for their sexual preferences and body types is not new for them, they have been subjected to this kind of treatment in the society for quite some time now. Although in the year 2017, Supreme Court of India has decriminalized the homosexuality in India giving a loud and clear message that it is normal and a matter of choice. And no one should be looked down upon just because they do not confine to the binaries i.e. Male and Female. But, irrespective of all this, the behavioral change is still lacking in terms of showing acceptance and normalizing the concept of homosexuality in the society. The study looks into the problems that are being faced by people belonging to LGBTQ Community in India, the level of acceptance shown by people for their choices in contemporary Indian Society and the kind of impact it has on their psychological well-being.

KEYWORDS: *LGBTQ, Homosexuality, Sexual Preferences, Psychological Well-Being, Contemporary Society.*

INTRODUCTION

In the conventional world, the idea of human rights reposes on the medial thought that all humans were equal. It denoted that all human beings are to be treated equally and have to live with dignity despite their gender. But the rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/questioning (LGBTQ) did not had sharper focus around the world back then. The people belonging to this community could not brazenly come out and accept who they were because they had trepidation of getting disdained from society. What is LGBTQ? It is a broad, comprehensive and shortened form of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/questioning or LGBTQ is the one that includes all subsections of a very diverse community of all the people who are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and queer. This community was being stared at with total contempt and with disregard. But after the Stonewall riots of 1969, where gay men, Lesbians, Drag queens and transgender were raided by police officers at a bar in New York City,

the LGBT community started protesting for their rights and immediately after to which gay Liberation Front (GLF) and Gay Activists Alliance (GAA) were formed. Another incident happened in United States on June 12, 2016 where one of the muggers of Orlando attacked a popular gay club of that area and shot 50 people out of which 49 died and 1 was injured. It is considered one of the worst incidents of shooting at the masses in the United States. This was the time when the police officers, President, Mayors, Politicians and other higher authorities of that area came out in support for LGBT community and to express their concern towards them. This was a small step of LGBT community towards their success which still in the contemporary world, they have to brawl for.

Even in India, the situation was not dissimilar. Dating and making sexual activities between same sexes was considered something against nature and as a big offence in eyes of law. The LGBT citizens of India had to face social and legal discriminations in comparison to the non-LGBT people. Although the country revoked its colonial era laws which directly discriminated Homosexuals and Transgender. But this was not an adequate step to keep all the human being on equal platform in the eyes of law despite their gender identity and sexual orientation. For instance the Article 15, which stated that the country will not discriminate the citizens on the basis of their personal or gender identity and sexual preference. This Article also did not provide legal protections and the same sex marriages. So the race was not over here for the LGBTQ rights in India.

As India is a south Asian country where people from the entire world came here, stayed and ruled. The Britishers were the ones that stayed for longer duration of around 200 years and left in the year 1947 when India became an independent country. These were the ones who illegalized the homosexuality and termed it as something which is against the order of nature. After the British people left the India in 1977, 'The World of Homosexuals' was published by Shakuntala Devi who was a mathematician extraordinaire. It was recognized as the first study of homosexuals and homosexuality as a concept in India. However, at that time the book become unnoticed. After this, in 1981 the 'Hijra conference' was organized which was held in Agra and it was the first ever conference which was attended by 50,000 members of the community from the entire country. After their continuous efforts and demands for equality, they were legally granted the voting rights as a Third sex.

Then in 1994, the first petition was filed challenging section 377 of British penal code which criminalized all sexual acts 'against order of nature'. This challenge was filed by 'AIDS Bhedbhav Virodhi Andolan' which eventually was dismissed. In addition to this, in 1999 Kolkata hosted the Pride March which was the first ever happened in South Asia. This activity further stimulated the level of concern of commoners towards the LGBTQ community and the result of which was Naz foundation filed a Public interest litigation (PIL) to challenge again the section 377 in Delhi High Court in 2001. Later in 2009, the decision of Delhi High Court to this challenge was that Government found that section 377 and other legal restrictions against private, consensual, adult and non-commercial same sex conduct were to be considered as direct contravention of fundamental rights which are provided by Indian Constitution. Constructively the section 377 was decriminalized but was not legitimized. Then after the constant and uninterrupted efforts this topic was brought again in 2014 by the Indian Psychiatric society where they made a statement saying that Homosexuality is not a disease. Then again in April, 2014 the National Legal Services Authority v. Union of India, the Supreme Court of India

governed that the Transgender people must be treated as Third category of gender. After which in December 2015, a bill was introduced in the Parliament to decriminalize the section 377 which at last got rejected by maximum votes. At that juncture of time, the United Kingdom who initially gave India the section 377 had passed a legislation to allow same sex marriages. This was actually very peculiar. But, in February 2016, the Supreme Court decided to evaluate criminalization of Homosexual activity. Eventually on 24 August, 2017 India's Supreme Court gave the freedom to LGBT community to accept their individuality and to express their sexual orientation. This was all possible because of the continuous battles fought by the LGBT activists and the one's who has raised awareness and has opened doors for this community to:

- Accept their real self.
- Express their real self in front of society.
- Allow them live with dignity.
- Express their love more freely.

Some of the prominent activists from India are Anandgrover, MenakaGuruswamy, Laxmi Narayan Ttipathi, Anjali Gopalan, Gopi Shankar Madurai, Harish Iyer etc. This fight for equality would not have been possible without them. They are the ones who put it forward and bring it to the notice at National level. Laxmi Narayan Tripathi who is one of the chief activists of the nation founded ASTITVA which means 'existence'. The main aim of this foundation was to let the LGBTQ community avail the pragmatics of **Article 14** just like everyone else. She somehow managed to create consciousness among people and people started to take cognizance of their respect as well as their existence. In addition to that, she represented Asia Pacific in United Nations in 2008 and she was one of the first trans women to be there. She also wrote two books in which she brought up the discrimination she had faced since she was a kid. Her second book which was '**The Red Lipstick- The men in my life**' was criticized by people and was also being proscribed because there she broached the truths about the prejudice she and her community had to go through. Even until today she has been working for and on the rights of LBGTQ and has the desire to produce efficacious results to obtain their lost esteem.

Legal provisions and constitutional protection of LGBTQ community in India:

Right to Privacy under Article 21

With a judgment given by the Supreme Court of India in the year 2017 ,Right to privacy was declared as Fundamental right .It was held that it is an intrinsic part of Right to life and Personal Liberty .Thereby, this is equally applicable for the people belonging to LGBTQ Community they have a Right to Private life .

Article 14- Right to Equality

It highlights that the state shall not deny to any person equality before the law or equal protection within the territory of India.

Article 15 –Against Discrimination

Art 15 (1) and 20 says that the state shall not discriminate any citizen on the ground of any Religion, caste, race, sex, and place of birth or any of them.

Section 377 - Indian penal code (IPC)

Section 377 of IPC says it is an offence having a carnal intercourse “against the order of nature” with any man, lady or animal, punishable by up to 10 years imprisonment or a fine. It criminalizes adult same sex acts which are consensual. But, changes were made to this when the petition by Naz Foundation was put before the HC of Delhi. Naz foundation filed a Public interest litigation (PIL) to challenge the section 377 in Delhi High Court in 2001. Later in 2009, Delhi High court considered 377 as the direct contravention of fundamental rights which are provided by Indian Constitution. Constructively the section 377 was decriminalized but was not legitimized.

Definition of Terms:

Gender – It is a complex system which has to do with role, identity, performances, and many more and society has given a gendered meaning to all these. Usually people are assigned the gender or the gender related roles based on the sexual characteristics they pose at the time of birth. On Medical grounds people are categorized based upon hormones, genitalia and secondary sexual characteristics (breasts, body hair, etc.). Generally at the time of birth a baby is given identification as “male” or “female”. However, there are many other deviations beyond this socially-constructed system of binary (i.e. intersex-male and female).

Lesbian

It is a word which describes a woman who is attracted, emotionally or physically, to other women and not the opposite sex.

Gay

It represents a person/Man who is attracted, emotionally or physically, to a person who belongs to the same gender i.e. attracted to a man. However the term can be used by men, women or individuals who identify as non-binary. It can also be used for women as ‘gay women’.

Bisexual

It describes a person who is attracted towards both men and women. A Bisexual person can develop feelings for both the sexes simultaneously also.

Transgender

A person whose gender identity and/or gender expression do not match their assigned sex at birth. Transgender person can be a lesbian, gay, bisexual or queer. The word transgender is simply used to define the idea that this person does not confine to the sex given to him/her at the time of birth and relate himself/herself differently in terms of sexual identity and preferences what was assigned at the time of birth.

Transgender (or Trans) Man

It describes a person who was identified as a female at birth based upon sexual characteristics. But that person relates himself as male. With time such person might transform their bodies from a woman's body to that of a man's with medical interventions and help of a doctor.

Transgender (or Trans) woman

It denotes a person who was identified as a male sex at birth .But that person relates herself as a female .Such person in order to establish that identify might undergo medical procedure to change their body from a man to a women.

Questioning

It describes a person who is still discovering and exploring their sexual orientation, identity, gender preferences or some combination thereof. Using this term enables an individual to identify as part of the LGBTQ community while avoiding other labels and recognizing that their process of self-identification is still underway.

Queer

It is an umbrella term used to refer to the people who do not abide to norms related to heterosexuality and gender binaries i.e. male and female. This term is sometimes used as a sexual orientation label or gender identity label used to denote a non-heterosexual or cisgender identity without having to define specifics.

In addition to this, there are so many other **terms** which are used to define different sexes and sexual preferences .But here in this study we concerned with these many only .An understanding of these terms will help the reader in connecting the dots of the study and develop a perspective around the whole issue.

Review of Literature:

Mansi Dagrass (2021) in her study discussed that how the People belonging to LGBTQ community has to face the discrimination in the society on different grounds .The attitude of the society towards these people are full of disrespect and ignorance. She has also identified the problem being faced by them in the society and the reasons for these problems.¹

Chatterjee Subhrajit (2014) highlighted the issue of marginalization and social exclusion of LGBTQ people in the society .He also talked about the impact of this inclusion on the lives of people belonging to these communities .His study also finds the mention of psychological effect of this treatment and how it puts these people under great stress and isolation.²

T. S. Sathyanarayana Rao, K. S. Jacob (2012) presents a case for Homosexuals in India .They have stressed upon the fact that people needs to be treated the same irrespective of their sexual preference. Also they have pointed out that there is need to do a research in what problems are being faced by these people .The study also finds a mention of the role of the psychiatrist and the mental health experts, how they can contribute in solving the issue of isolation among the people belonging to the third gender and at the same time improve their psychological wellbeing.³

Sumit Saurabh Srivastava (2014) discusses about sexuality and its different forms practiced in India .He also talks about the section 377 of the IPC and its implication on the sexual preferences and choices and role of social activism for the rights of people belonging to LGBTQ community.⁴

The Indian LGBT Workplace Climate Survey (2016) reveals the issues faced by LGBTQ community in the workplace. The study assess the Workplace environment of the Corporates in India and the pattern of inclusion for LGBTQ community at the workplace .It also mentions

about the efforts being made post changes in Section 377 of Indian Penal Code to improve the work environment for LGBTQ people by the corporates, initiative taken to improve inclusion and how the overall scenario can be improved at the workplace.⁵

Amber Tanweer (2018) highlights the history of LGBTQ community in India and the evolution of these. He has also raised the issues of LGBTQ minority in India. In addition to these, also pointed out the legal provision available with them for their protection and welfare.⁶

Report of the Expert Committee on the Issues relating to Transgender Persons (2013) the ministry of Social justice and empowerment in its report which came up as result of deliberations and discussions from people with different background. This report was framed after the meeting which was attended by representatives from Ministries of Law & Justice, External Affairs, Department of Aids Control, people from different State Governments, University Professors, NGO and Transgender community. All these people representing different organizations has highlighted the issues being faced by the transgender in India and suggested suitable measures that can be taken up by the Government to ameliorate their problems. People from different government departments were also asked to come with the suggestion which were later included in this report.

Objectives of the Study:

- a) To know the current status of the acceptance for people belonging to LGBTQ i.e. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/ questioning in the country.
- b) To know the problems (if any) faced by them in the Contemporary Indian Society.
- c) To know if they get discriminated in Educational institutions, workplace, public places for their sexual preferences.
- d) To know if the Lack of acceptance by the society and the families of these people has a negative impact on their psychological well-being.
- e) To know about the adequacies of laws and legal intervention for their protection and welfare and to know whether they are satisfied with these or not.
- f) To suggests the measures which can improve the condition of the people belonging to these communities in the society.

Methodology:

The nature of this study is exploratory and descriptive because both primary and secondary data have been used. The Primary Data has been collected from 50 respondents from Chandigarh and the adjoining areas. It was ensured that responses are from each sub category of the LGBTQ community; simple random sampling method has been used. The inferences are tabulated systematically for, in order to do analysis by simple percentage analysis. Secondary data is collected from journals, books, newspapers, published and unpublished work and different websites.

Limitation of the Study:

People from whom the responses are recorded, majority of them possess good educational qualifications, belong to urban areas and are aware of their rights. But rural issues might be

somewhat different because of the rural setup and education, Awareness pattern and few other considerations. A mix of both i.e. responses from both the setups would have been a true representation of the issues and problem areas .But it was not possible because of the COVID-19 scenario and for people with low educational levels there is need to fill schedules and conduct direct interviews which requires physical interactions with the respondents which is not a very ideal situation as of now.

Research Hypothesis:

H1: LGBTQ community has low acceptance in the society for their sexual preferences.

H2: LGBTQ community does not get equal opportunities in comparison to non- LGBTQ people.

H3: The repudiated behavior of societies and their families has a negative impact on their Psychological Well- being.

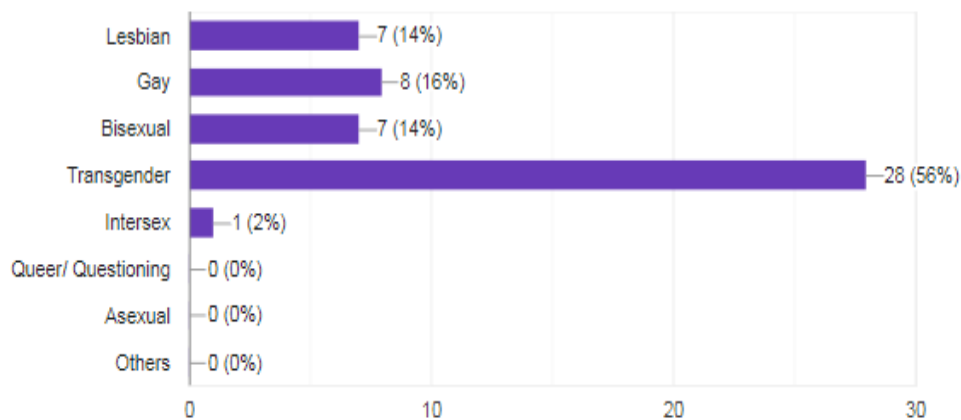
Frequency Tables

TABLE 1: DISTRIBUTION OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION OF THE RESPONDENT

	Frequency	Percent
Lesbian	7	14
Gay	8	16
Bisexual	7	14
Transgender	28	56
Intersex	1	2
Queer/ Questioning	0	0
A sexual	0	0
Others	0	0
Total	51	100.0

Sexual Orientation

50 responses



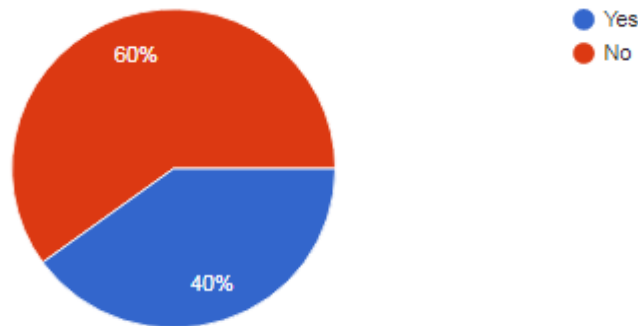
Explanation: The Responses are from each sub-category of LGBTQ people were collected about their sexual orientation. But the majority of the respondents 56% were Transgender. And there is no one who is unsure about the sexual preference or still finding answers to it i.e. NO one under Questioning category.

TABLE 2: LIVING WITH THEIR FAMILIES

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	30	60%
No	20	40%
Total	50	100.0

Do you live with your families?

50 responses



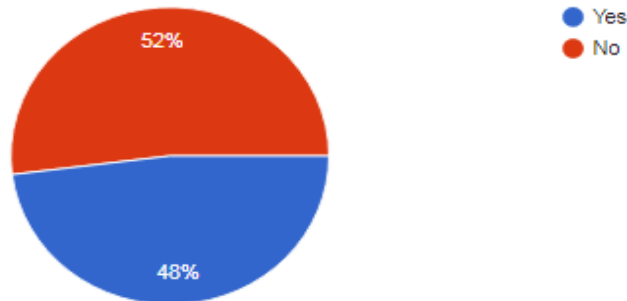
Explanation: The above table shows that there is a mixed pattern of living in LGBTQ as 60% live with their families and 40% do not live with their families. It somehow poses a question about acceptance by their family which finds a mention in the subsequent table.

TABLE 3: ACCEPTANCE FOR SEXUALITY BY THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	24	48
No	26	52
Total	50	100.0

Do you feel there is acceptance for your sexuality in your family members?

50 responses



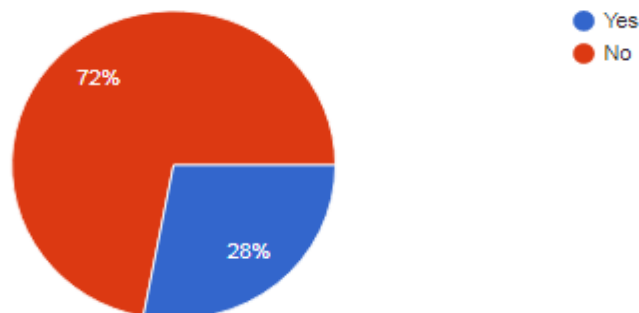
Explanation: The above table shows that there is mixed reactions from the family when it comes to the acceptance to their sexuality and sexual preferences. As 52% of the respondents says their families are against it and 48% of families somehow accepts it.

TABLE 4: ACCEPTANCE OF SEXUALITY BY SOCIETIES THEY LIVE IN

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	14	28
No	36	72
Total	50	100.0

Do you feel accepted by the society you live in?

50 responses



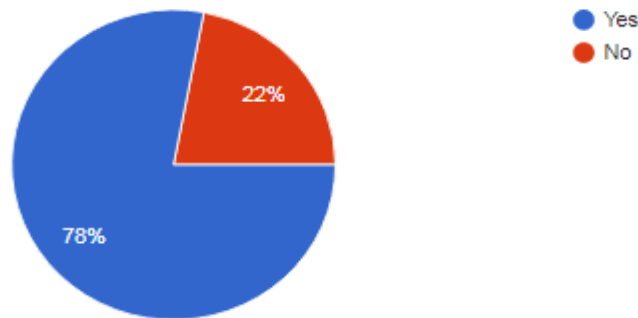
Explanation: The above table shows that the level of acceptance by the society towards the LGBTQ community is relatively low .72 % respondents expressed that they do not find society very welcoming towards them. This simply means that the people in the society do not support the idea of having a third gender.

TABLE 5: FEELING MOCKED FOR THEIR SEXUAL PREFERENCE

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	11	22
No	39	78
Total	50	100.0

Do you feel mocked for your sexual preference?

50 responses



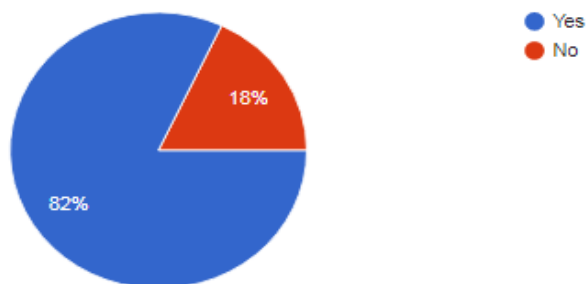
Explanation: This shows that the people belonging to LGBTQ community are bullied for their sexual preferences. 78% of the respondents feel that they are mocked in the society for their choice and made fun of. The responses from the society are not very encouraging and they are being looked down upon.

TABLE 6: UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR OF SOCIETIES AND FAMILIES AFFECTING MENTAL HEALTH

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	41	82
No	9	18
Total	50	100.0

Do the unacceptable behavior of societies and your families affect your mental health?

50 responses



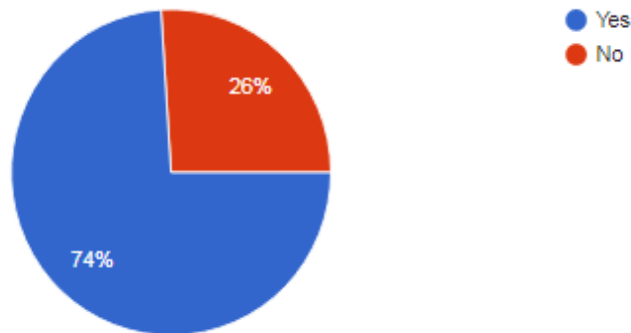
Explanation: The table gives a clear cut message that the non-welcoming nature of their families and the society affects the mental well-being of these people .82% of the people feels that their mental health gets disturbed because of all this ignorance.

TABLE 7: FEELING OF DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF SEXUAL PREFERENCE

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	37	74
No	13	26
Total	50	100.0

Do you feel discriminated on the basis of your sexual preference?

50 responses



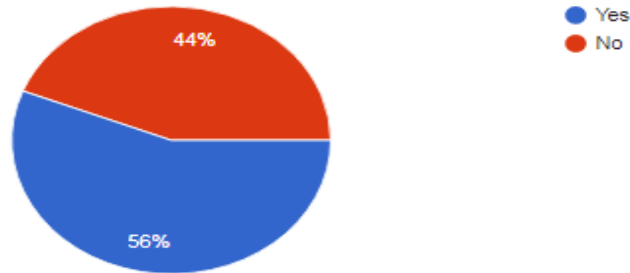
Explanation: .Out of 100% of the people 74% feels that they are discriminated in the society just because of their sexual preferences .they are treated differently just because they do not confine to the gender binaries and their choices and lifestyle is different

TABLE 8: DISCRIMINATION IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	28	56
No	22	44
Total	50	100.0

Do you face discrimination in educational institutions?

50 responses



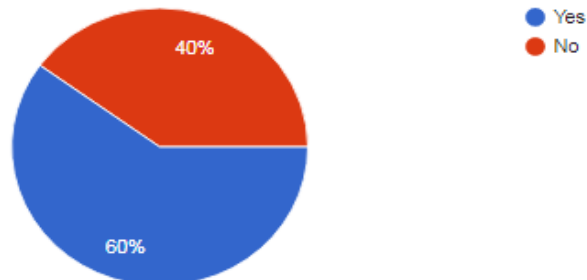
Explanation: Out of 100% of the people 56 % feels that they are discriminated in the educational Institutions. This is worrying picture because in educational institutions we have people who are aware of things and have a perspective about all these things. Still this kind of behavior towards others is not on expected lines.

TABLE 9: EDUCATION GETTING COMPROMISE BECAUSE OF THE UNDESIRABLE ATTITUDE OF CO- STUDENTS

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	30	60
No	20	40
Total	50	100.0

Do you think somewhere your education gets compromise because of the undesirable attitude of the co- students?

50 responses



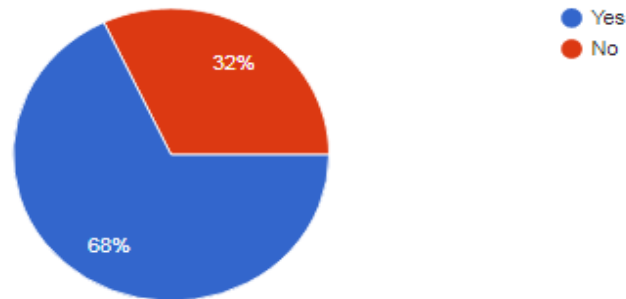
Explanation: The table shows that the 60% of the respondents feels that their education gets hampered because of the undesirable attitude of the co-students. It simply means that their motivation levels to pursue their education somehow get compromised because of this behavior of co-students. They do not feel very confident going to the educational institutions.

TABLE 10: DIFFICULTY IN GETTING CORPORATE SECTOR JOBS

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	34	68
No	16	32
Total	50	100.0

Do you feel difficulty in getting Corporate sector jobs?

50 responses



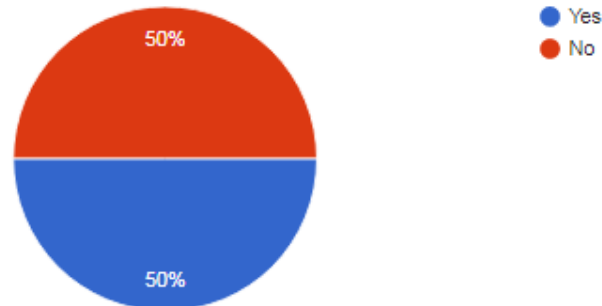
Explanation: 68% of the respondents have experienced that the corporate sector is not very much willing in employing people belonging to LGBTQ however 32% people feels the other way around .It simply portrays a picture highlighting the issues of non-acceptance towards these people at the workplace.

TABLE 11: PEOPLE CAUSE VERBAL HARASSMENT EVEN AFTER IMPLEMENTATION OF LGBTQ LAWS.

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	25	50
No	25	50
Total	50	100.0

Do people cause you verbal harassment even after the implementation of LGBTQ laws?

50 responses



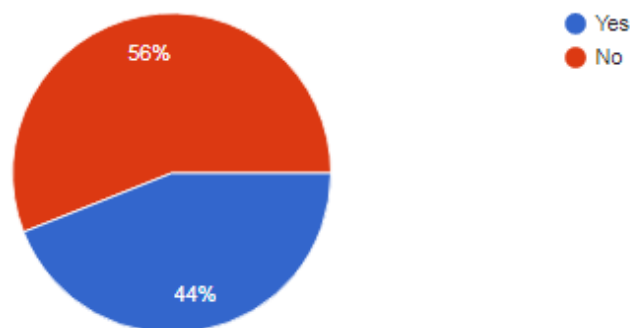
Explanation: 50-50 for yes and no can be interpreted in a way that a part of society who is aware of things with good education, Awareness of things have started accepting these people and on the other side it could solely because of the stern laws and punishments but the change is gradually coming and is visual.

TABLE 12: PEOPLE CAUSING PHYSICAL HARASSMENT

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	22	44
No	28	56
Total	50	100.0

Do people cause you physical harassment ?

50 responses



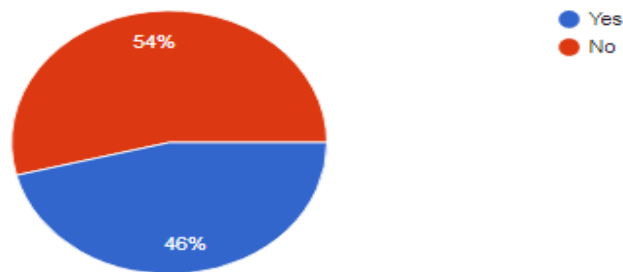
Explanation: 56% of the respondents have experienced some kind of physical harassment in their life it could be making bad comments about their body, inappropriately touching them, laughing off their body types and features.

TABLE 13: IF THEY FACE SEXUAL ABUSE

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	27	54
No	23	46
Total	50	100.0

Do you face sexual abuse in your lives ?

50 responses



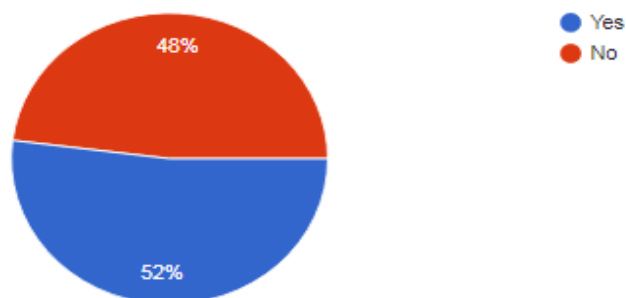
Explanation: Out of 100% of the respondents 54% have been subjected to sexual abuses of any sort in their lives. And 46% have never been subjected to any such sexual abuses and harassment.

TABLE 14: FEELING SAFE LIVING IN REGULAR SOCIETIES

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	26	52
No	24	48
Total	50	100.0

Do you feel safe living in regular societies?

50 responses



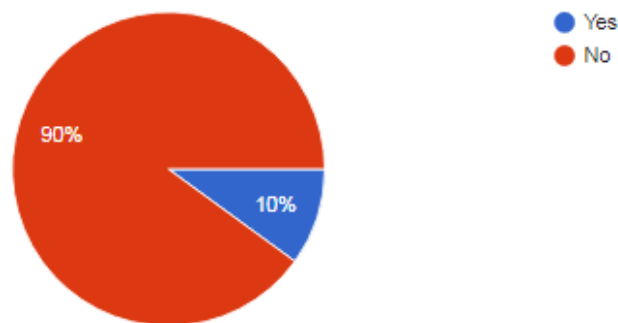
Explanation: Out of 100% of the respondents 52% feels that they feel safe livings in the society .They are not worried about their safety. And 48% of people have safety issues living in the society, they feel it's not safe for them to live in the society and they have security concerns.

TABLE 15: IF THEY GET SPECIAL QUOTA IN GOVERNMENT JOBS.

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	5	10
No	45	90
Total	50	100.0

Do you get special quota in government jobs?

50 responses



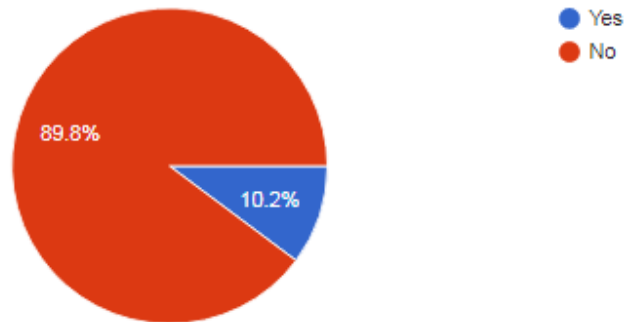
Explanation: Out of 100% of the respondents 90% says they do not get any quota in government jobs. Hoping, with this positive discrimination or the affirmative action they feel it will help them to be part of the mainstream and help normalizing behavior towards LGBTQ.

TABLE 16: IF THEY GET QUOTA FOR GETTING ADMISSIONS IN GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	45	90
No	5	10
Total	50	100.0

Do you get special quota for getting admissions in government institutions?

49 responses



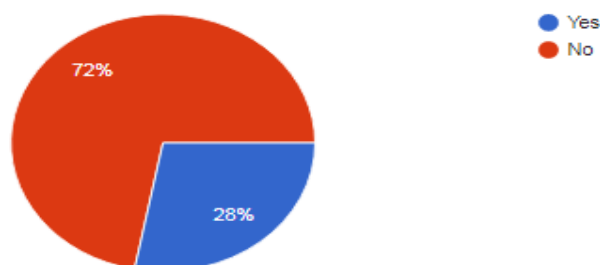
Explanation: Out of 100% of the respondents almost 90% says they do not get any quota in for admissions in government run educational institutions. 10% says few institutions offers them seats in admission intake quota.

TABLE 17: IF THEY ARE SATISFIED WITH THE LAWS MADE FOR LGBTQ COMMUNITY BY THE GOVERNMENT.

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	14	28
No	36	72
Total	50	100.0

Are you satisfied with the laws made for LGBTQ community by the government?

50 responses



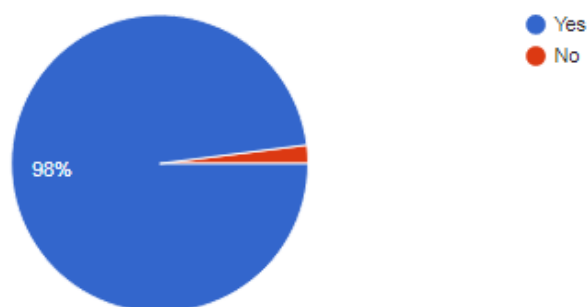
Explanation: Out of 100% of the respondents 72% says they want the government and the related agencies to come up with more stringent laws and they are not satisfied with the current standing of legal interventions. 28% feels government has done fairly well and they are satisfied.

TABLE 18: IF THEY WANT GOVERNMENT TO INTRODUCE MORE LAWS FOR THE PROTECTION AND WELFARE OF LBGTO COMMUNITY.

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	49	98
No	1	2
Total	50	100.0

Do you want government to introduce more laws for the protection and welfare of LBGTO community?

50 responses



Explanation: Out of 100% of the respondents 98% says there is a need for more legal protection for them in the forms of legislations .They feels more stringent laws will change their fate in the society and will ensure their welfare.

Suggestions those came in as responses:

There were two question which were left open ended in order to get the feedback and suggestion from the respondents about what should be the future course of action in we want to build a society where no one will face discrimination just because of their sexual preferences .Some of the problems and the suggestion that came from the respondents are explained below:

Questions:

B) What are the difficulties you are facing in your day to day lives other than the one's mentioned above? Write your suggestions

Bullying-There are people in the society who will call them names like chakka ,hijda, will make fun of them ,their bodies and the way they talk .The people make weird faces looking at them .All these things leaves really bad impression on the people belonging to LBGTO and it dents their self confidence in a big way.

Hatred from family and society-There is a sentiment of hatred from the society towards the LBGTO people. The people in the society feels that these people are not the larger fabric of the society and they are not normal humans similarly family takes it matter of shame if someone from the family talks openly about his/her sexuality or the sexual orientation.

Sexual harassment-The respondents are quoted saying that few people misbehaves with them, touch them inappropriately and pull down their pants and other clothing items ,they make them feel they are not humans and as if they have done some crime by accepting their true self.

Lack of equal opportunities-The LGBTQ people feels that they are denied from the jobs and education opportunities in a big way .They are not being provided with equal opportunities related to the admissions in the educational institutions and the jobs in the government and privately owned organizations. This could be because of the general perception that others will not be comfortable around them.

Lack of Medical care-The people belonging to LGBTQ community feels that the medical care provide to them is not adequate .The medical professionals are not very much keen about looking into their matters of health .And there is not much of research done in this by the scientists and the medical experts.

Advice by parents to change sexual preferences or not open about it – Many a times there is pressure from the parents and the parents or the family that either do not open up about your sexuality or just change your preferences and stick to the binaries which are acceptable un the society .This sometime leads to the friction in the family and many a times the person living their own homes

Discrimination at workplaces-Discrimination of LGBT persons at workplace is one of the major factors in creating a significant differences in socioeconomic status for LGBT persons in comparison to a non LGBTQ.As the discrimination at the workplace directly affects their job stability and it forces them to continuously change jobs and sometimes and it result in unemployment and poverty.

Suicidal Tendency and Drugs –The ignorance and ill-treatment of the people from the society has a bad impact on the mental well-being of the people belonging to LGBTQ community .It gives them an impression that the society will never be welcoming towards them and it forces them into the use of drugs and even put them under suicidal thought at times.

a) What are the laws (if any) you would like government of India to introduce for LGBTQ community?

Focus on education-There should be laws related to the education of people belonging to the LGBTQ community .The positive discrimination in the form of reservation, quota should have been there for these communities .it will help them in getting the access to the education and seeks employment later.

Serious punishment to the people causing physical and sexual harm to the LGBT-There should be strict punishments for the people making fun of LGBTQ people .Detailed legislations should be there for any kind of harassment caused to these people by other in the society

Laws for Same sex marriage –The LGBTQ community people calls for same sex marriages they believe that like some of the other countries who have legalized the same sex marriages, India should do the same .It is the need of the hour that government and judiciary should realize that it is within the fundamental right of the people to choose their partner.

More Awareness campaigns –There should be more awareness campaigns from the government's side to sensitize people about the LGBTQ community .The government should

normalize the LGBTQ behavior by making detailed legislation about the same with wider publicity. The government should also encourage their representatives to undertake such awareness programmes.

Anti-discrimination and harassment bill should be passed-The respondents suggested that there should be an Anti-discrimination bills to protect them from any sort of harassment in the society. A step like this will help them gain some self-esteem and they will live with more freedom and without any kind of fear in the society.

Some other Suggestions:

The non-acceptance for LGBTQ and inhumane treatment towards them is a serious problem and it requires a change in the attitude of the people in the society then only these people will live with dignity and respect. Some of the suggestive measures that can be taken up to improve the situation are as follows :

- More community and health centers like National Resource Centre (NRC) should be introduced which focuses to foster the mental health of LGBTQ older adults.
- To help minimize the feelings of isolation and loneliness, local outreach programs has to be introduced to help build a social network for LGBTQ people.
- Fair housing Act (FHA) should be implemented in India to protect the LGBTQ from being denied housing, public or private as every individual has a right to have safe, secure and affordable housing regardless sexual preference.
- National Institute of health (NIH) must execute a research agenda to push in knowledge and to better apprehend LGBT community's health.
- The government has to introduce stern laws against the people causing physical, verbal and sexual violence towards LGBT community.
- There must be acceptance for foundation of marriage between individuals belonging to the same gender.
- The protection of rights Act, 2019 for the transgender persons must offer reservations in public employment and in educational sector.
- There must be more platforms like Gaysi and Gaylaxy and publishers like Queer ink who have helped LGBT people to carve out themselves and to interact, share and collaborate.
- There must be more activists to create the awareness and to raise the demands of LGBTQ like Laxmi Narayan Tripathi, Anand Grover, Anjali Gopalan, Dhananjay Chauhan etc.
- The families of LGBTQ community should have acceptance towards their sexual orientation because this can prevent them from suicides and rescue them from passing in the stages of depression.
- Media can play a responsible role by reporting the LGBTQ issues and make people understand the perspective of LGBTQ community by inviting them as guest in the panel for the debates and discussion.

- Training programmes should be conducted for the health professionals to enhance their understanding about LGBTQ community and identify the potential risk factor for self-harm, suicidal behavior and depression. They should be trained in dealing with these people.
- National as well as state government shall make provisions to involve more people from the LGBTQ community in the Workplace and should create an environment in the workplace where these people are not looked down upon by the others.
- To check the violence in the public and the homes against the LGBTQ people, the Domestic violence Act has to be expanded in terms of its fold by including non-spousal and parental violence as well.
- Police force at different levels of operation needs to be sensitized on LGBT issues, they can help to spread the awareness among the masses and can also guide people who are involved in any kind of discrimination and harassment towards people belonging to LGBTQ Community
- Family Acceptance is must there is famous saying that if you want to change something start from yourself, family .The families of these people shall accept them the way they are .These people should be treated with love and compassion. This is the way societal acceptance will increase if it will start from the family itself.
- The sex Education should be made part of the school Curriculum so that from the very start of an individual's life it will give people a clarity about sexes and sexual preferences .It will help in improving the way people perceives LGBTQ people.

Hypothesis Testing:

H1: LGBTQ community has low acceptance in the society for their sexual preferences.

The hypothesis is accepted as most of the respondents feels that the acceptance for their sexuality and sexual preference is less in the society. The Society has a preconceived notion about this that it is bad and not acceptable.

H2: LGBTQ community does not get equal opportunities in comparison to non- LGBTQ people.

The second hypothesis also gets accepted because the study concluded that the LGBTQ people are getting less opportunities in the society in comparison to Non-LGBTQ people when it comes their inclusion in Corporate Jobs, Educational Institutions and Public offices.

H3: The repudiated behavior of societies and their families has a negative impact on their Psychological Well- being.

The third Hypothesis also stand true as respondents feels that the non –acceptance shown by the families and the society does have a negative impact on their mental well-being and they feel isolated and ignored in the society.

CONCLUSION

This study gives us an insight into the problems that are being faced by the people belonging to the LGBTQ community .It brings us a perspective of the things what these people have to go

through in their lives just because of their sexual consideration, body types, appearances, expression etc. All these consideration should not even be the matter of discussion for a society which is progressing with time .But this is not true, still the society in India is not accepting the fact that someone's sexuality and their sexual preference should not be the basis for deciding how someone should be treated in the society .All humans are equals and they deserves to be treated that way only in the society .This is a very basic principle of human existence that makes us different from animals and other creatures .There is a stigma prevailing in the society that sexes can only be binary i.e. . male or female but this is not true people other than the binaries should not be made to feel the isolation and exclusion by the people .It leads to social stress, peer victimization, and family rejection and many other serious concerns in the minds of the people belonging to LGBTQ community .Young generation still have better acceptance and understand the feelings of LGBTQ people but for old generation people it is not acceptable and against the nature of human existence. Many a time's homosexuals and their behavior are termed as deviation from the normal behavior. Just because homosexuality is not widely practiced in India does not mean it is not normal. The absence of commonality about a thing is no justification for its condemnation. India has almost 10% of population which falls under this category and its high time that we Indians should ensure there is acceptance for these people and we should understand that it is normal to be a gay or a lesbian or any third gender .Adequate awareness should be created related to this via mediums like newspapers ,TV ,magazines .Even school curriculum should have this in the syllabus The government should take the lead in this by regard by making sure that it is taking all the necessary actions required to give this third gender a better place to live in and in a more dignified way. And most importantly it is the people who can change the fate of these belonging to the third gender by providing them a society with a belief system which will help in looking beyond the gender perception and gender binaries.

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