



Psycho-Social Profile of Homosexuals

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ABSTRACT

Sexuality is a form and part of the life of all individuals. Today we could hear often / read about the Men Having Sex with Men seeking for their rights, freedom of life of their own, they were called as Homo sexual. The homosexuals are in smaller portion in all the parts of this world. But they were suffering from social and psychological problems. So an attempt is made by the researchers to understand their profile, physical, social and psychological problems of homosexuals and their level of awareness on the issues related to homosexuals. It has been found that Majority of the respondents were in the adulthood period, 72 per cent were having the feeling of isolated, 73 per cent were having stress, 45.45 per cent had faced avoidance. The respondents were aware of the services available and the agencies working for them.

KEYWORDS: Homosexual, Social, Psychological, Stress, Avoidance.

Introduction

Human sexuality is a divine gift, forming part of the complex union of body, mind and spirit which is our humanity. The sexual expression of a loving relationship can bring delight, joy and fulfillment. In the moral climate, a sexual relationship is never purely a private matter without consequence for wider human relationship. In the journey through life, as we grow and mature, live singly or in a relationship with others our sexuality will grow, develop, and change. Our sexual needs, drives and fantasies will be different at different stages in our lives – as a teenager, a partner, a parent and an older person. Our sexuality is, throughout, an expression of ourselves.

According to Oxford dictionary of psychology by Andrew.M.Colman, "homosexuality is an attraction to or sexual activity with members of ones own sex".Homosexuality means a state of affairs, the state of loving one's own, not the opposite sex; it is a state of affairs in nature. The term homosexuality is derived from the Greek word 'homo' means 'same', thus connoting sexual acts and affections between members of the same sex. Homosexuality has been a feature of human culture since earliest history., However, from late antiquity until modern times in western society, such behaviours were generally seen, at least in the eyes of the low and the religion as a perversion of sexual behaviour, a 'crime against nature' practiced by choice, and subject to severe penalties, including capital punishment. However the last two decades of the nineteenth century, a new view began to emerge in medical and psychiatric circles, judging such behaviour as indicative of a type of person with a defined and relatively stable sexual orientation.

The homosexual youth bear an increased risk of suicide, substance abuse, school problems, and isolation because of a hostile and condemning environment, verbal and physical abuse, rejection and isolation from family and peers. Thus homosexuality becomes a hot subject in the world. In this study, researcher made an attempt to explain the psychological and social problems affected homosexuals.

Statement of the Problem

Though there are many studies conducted on health, psychological and social problems of men having sex with men, there are only limited studies conducted in India. So an attempt is made by the researcher to find out the health, psychological and social problems of men having sex with men.

Objectives of the study

- To study the profile of homosexuals.
- To study the physical, social and psychological problems of homosexuals.
- To study their level of awareness on the issues related to homosexuals.

Research Design

- The researcher had adopted descriptive research design.

Tools of data collection

Interview schedule were used for data collection. The consists of questions related to personal data, social problem faced, psychological problems and questions on general aspects. The universe of the study was men having sex with men belonging to Palakkad town, Kerala. Snow ball sampling technique was adopted to collect the data. Initially few respondents were identified, through them others were identified and data was collected from 60 respondents

Findings

Personal Profile:

More than half of the respondents were in the adulthood period i.e. 63.33 per cent is between the age of 20 and 30 years, 38.33 per cent of the respondents had studied up to SSLC and 28.34 per cent of the respondents were graduates. With regard to their employment, 38.33 per cent were self employed and 31.67 per cent were working in private firm. More than half i.e. 53.33 per cent of the respondents were unmarried. 21.67 per cent used panmasala, cigarette and alcohol or drugs and the same percentage of the respondents were not using any substances.

Most of the respondents i.e. 91.67 per cent of them had their first homosexual experience at the age group between 10-20 years. Nearly half of the respondents i.e. 45 per cent had first homosexual experience with their friends 38.33% had first experience with neighbours. Majority of the respondents i.e. 60 per cent identified that they have homosexual interest at the age between 15 to 20 years and 33.33 per cent of the respondents had identified at the age below 15 years. Pleasure had motivated 83.33 per cent of the respondents to have homosexual 13.34 per cent were motivated by both money and pleasure.

Psychological problems

The analysis of the psychological aspects shows that 72 per cent of the respondents were having the feeling of isolated, 58.33 per cent of the respondents were having inferiority complex, 67 per cent were having the guilty feeling and 73 per cent were experiencing stress. 73.33 per cent were not having suicidal tendency.

Social problems

The analysis of the social aspects shows that 82 per cent of the respondents' family members were not aware that the respondents were involved in homosex. 45.45 per cent faced avoidance and 36.37 per cent had felt sympathy from their family members when they came to know about respondent's homosexual behavior. Majority of the respondents i.e. 70% did not keep away from the functions at their own and their relative's homes. More than half i.e. 58.33% of respondents had sexual relationship with their relatives. 76.67 per cent of the respondents had never faced any type of discrimination from their parents. Majority of the respondents i.e. 83.33 per cent faced purposeful avoidance and hatred by the society and 16.67% felt sympathy when they were identified as homosexuals.

Association of Personal variables and key variables of the Psycho social problems:

The analysis of the personal and key variables of psycho social problems shows that there is an association between age and awareness about the physical problems of homosexuals, knowledge about the resources available to help the homosexuals and there is an association between area of living and feeling of loneliness.

There is no association between the variables such as age, education, type of family, area of living and practice of safe sex, people affected with STD, suicidal tendency and mental stress.

General aspects

It has been found that 77 per cent accept a female partner to sex, 70 per cent were not interested to have sex with a particular person alone. More than half i.e. 55 per cent of the respondents liked dominant person for sex. Majority of the respondents i.e. 70 per cent were aware about the available resources to help them. Majority of the respondents i.e. 66.67% were aware about the govt. policies which can help them

Discussion:

The analysis of the findings reveals that the respondents were in the adulthood period and their first homosexual activity is at the age of 15 years. So they were initially motivated by curiosity, later it was continued due to pleasure and some were involved to get money. Though the respondents were in the adulthood period they were employed . the

respondents were psychologically affected by feeling of isolated and loneliness. It is because they understood that their behavior is not accepted by the society and its against their tradition and culture. The family members were not aware of the respondents homosexual behavior. Only few of the respondents' friends were aware about them. So they were not having much social problems.

Suggestions:

- Adolescents should be given awareness on sexuality and sexual orientation
- More number of sex clinics to be started to cater to these population
- Awareness should be created among homosexuals to approach sex clinics, doctors and counselors
- Premarital counseling to be given in schools and colleges.
- Distressed homosexual people should be identified for counseling and treatment
- Special counseling centres should be annexed to the existing counseling centers for HIV/ AIDS and STD clinics.
- Government hospitals to have special counseling cell to cater to homosexuals.

Conclusion:

From this study, it is found that homosexuals's are suffering with psychological, social and physical problems. As most of the respondents involved in homosexuality for pleasure sake, efforts can be taken for providing awareness programmes on practicing safe sex.

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