**Response For # 8**

**“Sexuality”**

Homosexuality is discouraged in the schools. Despite the claims of recognizing and protecting the rights of homosexuals, the education system and curriculum pathologize and stigmatize LGBTQ people. Such sexuality education policies and educational curricula help the state to maintain and promote the norm of heterosexuality. LGBTQ youth faces bullying, and verbal harassment in schools due to their sexual orientation. They are explicitly and deliberately told that their sexual desires are unhealthy, immortal, and unacceptable in society. Topics on such kind of policies and curricula, homophobic bullying, and lack of safety of the LGBTQ students are rarely central to the public debates. Students, studying in schools with ‘abstinence-only sexuality education’ system, report harassment more as compared to the others. More students feel safe in schools with “inclusive curriculum” as compared to that of other schools. On the other hand, it is a general concept in the society that ‘queers’ (homosexuals) live more luxurious life, and have better economic statuses as compared to the ‘straights’. However, it is not true as poverty is also equally prevalent among the gay and lesbian community, or even more. The myth has become so strong that the poor homosexuals hide their poverty. They consider it as much shameful as they deem their sexual orientation is. Poverty is intensified by the queerness, and makes the dealing with social services system difficult. A large proportion of homeless people belong to homosexuals. Society’s culture punishes queerness while it only values the image of wealth in queer life.

**Question No. 1**

Which better educational policies and curricula can prevent the stigmatism of homosexuality in schools?

**Question No. 2**

Why the myth is still prevalent despite a large proportion of homosexuals is poor and homeless?