Brianna Muleski

March 30, 2015

The Psychology of Human Sexuality

Chapter 9 Reflection Paper

LGBT people still face some obstacles and challenges in U.S. society, despite how progressive the nation has gotten as a whole. I believe one of the biggest challenges is homophobia. Although a lot of people in the U.S. have accepted that LGBT people are not wrong or defective, there are still people who do not think this way. This is more prevalent in smaller or rural areas. Personally, I never faced severe homophobia in my hometown. I came out as a lesbian my senior year in high school. There were people that thought my “lifestyle” was wrong, but for the most part I didn’t have many people say demeaning things to me. Other LGBT people are not as lucky as I was. When homophobia gets out of hand, it can turn into a hate crime or be so overwhelming for the person that they commit suicide. Another challenge is discrimination. The fact that some sates still don’t have marriage equality discriminates against LGBT people who would like to marry. Discrimination can also occur in some establishments, including restaurants and shops. Though it is less likely, some establishments still deny service strictly based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

Other “out-groups” face similar obstacles, although I believe that it is more severe for those groups. Because of how progressive the U.S. has gotten and because of how the thoughts of LGBT people have changed, the obstacles of LGBT people have gotten better.

I think that bisexuality is a legitimate orientation. People who identify as bisexual might be attracted to a personality type more than the physical characteristics of a person. So the gender of the person would not be as important. Also, a person might be attracted to one gender physically more than the other gender, but feel more emotionally attracted to the second gender more than the first gender. Most importantly, a person can identify however they feel that reflects who they are, and no one should try to criticize how they identify or determine if it is illegitimate.

I think that asexuality is a legitimate orientation. People who identify as asexual might not feel any sort of attraction to a person, regardless of gender. They might feel more complete with intimate friendships rather than romantic relationships. Most importantly, a person can identify however they feel that reflects who they are, and no one should try to say it is illegitimate or criticize how they identify or determine if it is illegitimate.

I believe that there should be marriage equality. I don’t think that gender or orientation has anything to do with loving one another and sharing the rest of their lives together. There is a PSA video that shows this called “Love Has No Labels”. It had different groups of people of different backgrounds, orientations, abilities, and races kissing and dancing behind a large x-ray screen. When they are behind the x-ray, there is no way to tell who the people are, just that they clearly love each other. They then walk out from behind the screen and it is revealed that they are from many different backgrounds.

I think the increased visibility of gay, lesbian, and bisexual people in the media and public life has greatly influenced our society’s attitudes towards sexual orientation. From my experience, a lot of the people that I meet that have not meet or known a gay person (or at least an out gay person) had a certain perception of them in their heads, which was usually wrong. After the person gets to know me, they usually realize that LGBT people are the same as everyone else, and my orientation does not change the person that I am. They then learn to open their minds to different types of people. I think most people are like this, and having more LGBT people in the media is showing that they aren’t so different from hetero people.

One issue that children with homosexual parents face as opposed to those with heterosexual parents is the bullying that can occur at school. Other children might make fun of a child because that child’s family is different than theirs. In some cases, the parents of other children might pull their child out of the school or have them switched to a different classroom because they don’t agree with the homosexual lifestyle and think that a child from that type of family would be a negative influence on their child.

I believe that same-sex couples should be allowed to adopt children. Refusing to let certain couples adopt based solely on their sexual orientation only hurts the children that are hoping to be adopted. Allowing same-sex couples to adopt means that there are more potential, loving families that they can be a part of, and therefore less orphans in the world. Even though there are issues for the children that are raised by same-sex couples, there are also benefits. One benefit is that the child will not feel scared to express their gender identity or sexual orientation because the parents will be more open-minded. A recent study found that children from same-sex parents are more healthy and happier than their peers from heterosexual parents. The Huffington Post article stated that the study conducted by University of Melbourne found that “On average, children raised by same-sex couples scored six percent higher than the general population when it came to general health and family cohesion”.

**Works Cited**

“Love Has No Labels” video. http://www.slate.com/blogs/outward/2015/03/04/watch\_this\_brilliant\_ad\_council\_x\_ray\_skeleton\_video\_about\_love\_video.html

Wong, Curtis M. “Children Of Gay Parents Are Happier And Healthier Than Their Peers, New Study Finds”. The Huffington Post. July 7 2014. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/07/07/children-of-gay-parents-study-\_n\_5563547.html