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Full Length Research Paper

Attitude of the Province Of Manitoba Residents towards Bisexualism and Homosexuality, Perception of University Of Manitoba Undergraduates

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Abstract

This study is concerned with exploring the view of University of Manitoba undergraduates towards the relationship between people with Non Straight Sex Orientation (particularly the Bisexual and the Homosexual Individuals) and the residents of the province of Manitoba in general, 160 undergraduates were selected as the sample size for this study using Simple Random Sampling Technique. A self designed instrument titled 'Non Straight Sex and Manitobans (NSSM)' was used in gathering data for the study. The face and content validities of the instrument were ascertained by giving it to a test expert for re visiting in York University, Toronto. Few of the items were reconstructed. The Reliability of the instrument was ensured at $r = 0.92$ using Cronbach's Alpha Formula. Two research questions were raised and answered in the study. The two hypotheses stated and tested in the study were accepted in their null form. Descriptive and inferential statistics were adopted in analyzing the data collected. Findings from the study revealed that the undergraduates had a negative perception towards how individuals with non straight sex orientation are being treated in Manitoba. It was also revealed that the Bisexual and Homosexuals are being stigmatized in most of the communities in Manitoba. The test of Hypotheses revealed that demographic factors like gender and level of study did not have any significant influence on the perception of the respondents towards the relationship between people with Non Straight Sex Orientation and the Manitoba residents. Recommendations were made accordingly.

Keywords: Non Straight Sex, Homosexuality, Bisexualism, Residents.

INTRODUCTION

Researches unanimously revealed that individual across the world lives with one sexual orientation or the other. It is this orientation that forms the basis upon which an individual is attracted to a sexual partner. It also goes a long way in determining the physical and physiological reactions of such individual whenever there is a sexual feeling. The major basic categories of sex orientations are two viz; Straight Sex and Non Straight Sex Orientations. The Individuals living with the later orientation type are further subdivided to some other classes, depending on where their sexual interests mostly lie. A male living with a non straight sex orientation would

either have a sexual desire for an individual of the same sex or a certain level of sexual desire for both male and female. This is the major case of homosexuality/Gay and Bisexualism respectively. In this type of sex orientation, a sexual attraction to either of the sexes seems to be relatively but unnoticeably higher. In another way round, a female could be sexually attracted to a person of the same sex with her or both, the case of homosexuality/Lesbianism and Bisexualism. All these and others fall under the broad category of Non Straight Sexual Orientation. The individuals with Non Straight Sex orientation are generally put together under the same family

family referred to as LGBTQ meaning the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer. Emil Kraepelin (1883) described every individual that had anything different from straight sex orientation or heterosexuality as an abnormal individual. This assertion went a long way in influencing the first Diagnostic Statistical Manual of Mental Disorder that was published in 1952. It was reported that any sexual orientation that falls short of the sexual relationship of two adults of different sexes for the purpose of reproduction and recreation was nothing but irrational. Just like Pedophilia, homosexuality and bisexuality were highly frowned upon. Terrible as it was, people living with a non straight sexual orientation could not make it known to others for the fear of being banished from the community or even being killed in most cases. With time, one after the other, the few individuals in this group started to identify with one another. They started holding secret meetings and from there the LGBT Community was formed. They eventually rose up to fight for their right for recognition. Up till this present time, only very little had been achieved across the universe by the LGBT community when it comes to the freedom of operation and identification as it is granted unto the heterosexual family. In spite of the fact that empirical researches agreed that most of the non straight sex orientations have no negative biological, physiological or psychological implications, many people in Western Society, particularly in Africa continue to hold anti non straight sex attitudes as well as spread terrible myths about lifestyles of people with this orientation (Dingle 2009). Some learned and highly educated individuals are still in the habit of publicly condemning, prosecuting, persecuting, downgrading, disgracing and castigating any individual that is identified with any act related to bisexuality and homosexuality. Upon the terrible experiences of the Bisexual and homosexual communities, the gay and the Lesbians in the first World consistently make it known unto the general population of individuals with so called 'straight sexual orientation', the heterosexuals that the variations in sex orientations should not be held as a strong factor against them. The minority group went ahead to agitate for the need for gay and Lesbian couples to have the same rights as heterosexual ones.

The Problem

Up till this recent time, research reports seem to be very inconsistent on the position of the first world countries about bisexuality and homosexuality. The recent approval of gay marriage in the United States of America had laid a landmark on why an individual with a different sex orientation or Non straight sex orientation as the case may be should not be discriminated against in any part of the world with no exception to Africa. Unfortunately, investigations revealed that many hundreds of people still look down on people with different sex orientation and treat them with all manners of disrespect varying from

threats on the job, at school and withdrawal of rights and privileges directly or indirectly. Opinions sampled so far from the people living with Non straight sexual orientation syndrome seem not to be palatable. Nothing seems to favour them from the general public and those in the position of authority treat them with discriminations. They are treated as second class citizen or in most cases as no citizen at all. They are disregarded and condemned for no just cause and their emotions are unnecessarily toyed against without any important reason other than the fact that they live with a different sex orientation. They complain of serious injustice, favoritism and Nepotism which in most cases are indirectly meted on their personality by either not being given a chance to make their request at all or total blockage of opportunities to public opinions and fear hearing in the public places or court of Law. The researcher, considering how far the trend towards equality in sexual orientations had gone and how far the agitation had lasted begins to wonder if these threats really worth it. Up till now, Bisexuality and Homosexuality are yet to be included in the Legalized World Sexual Orientation Classification. The demographic factor upon which sexual activities were focused in the time past was more of Culture provisions than factualism and hence brought about the parochial and barbaric ideas in the submissions of the earlier researchers. It appeared that the researchers were too religiously biased and conspicuously primitive to arrive at any uniform logical reasoning about homosexuality and bisexuality. It is indeed very disappointing some stakeholders in the position of authority notably the great scholars in the field of Law and Humanities are not even exempted from this parochial and primitive attitude. They are conspicuously confused of their stands whenever the issues about homosexuality and bisexuality are raised in spite of their level of academic attainment. It seems the constitutional provision of the principle of Fundamental Human Rights is always denied of the minorities that are caught in non straight sex orientation. This seems to be a slap on the face of Fundamental Human Right Principles. To arrive at a convincing conclusion about whether these experiences therefore worth it or not, the researcher considered it appropriate to investigate the attitude of the Province of Manitoba residents towards bisexuality and homosexuality as perceived by the undergraduates of university of Manitoba.

Research Question

A: What is the general experience of individuals with non straight sexual orientation in Manitoba?

B: Are people with non straight sex orientation treated the same way like their heterosexual counterparts in Manitoba?

The null hypotheses tested at 0.05 level of significance in this study are:

Ho1: Gender will not significantly influence the perception

of the undergraduates about the attitude of the province of Manitoba residents towards bisexuality and homosexuality.

Ho2: Level of study will not significantly influence the perception of the undergraduates about the attitude of the province of Manitoba residents towards bisexuality and homosexuality.

METHODOLOGY

This study is a survey research design. 160 respondents were selected as the sample for the study using simple random sampling technique. The population of the study consisted of the entire undergraduates of the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, Manitoba province in Canada. The instrument used for this study was a self designed questionnaires titled '*Non Straight Sex and Manitobans (NSSM)*'. The instrument was validated making use of an appropriate technique. The reliability was ascertained using Cronbach's Alpha formula with $r = 0.92$ which was considered high enough. The self designed questionnaire contained 20 items that explored the perception of the undergraduates towards how the bisexual and homosexual individuals are being treated. The data collected with this instrument were analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistical tools. Any mean score of 1.45 and above was considered as a positive perception while otherwise indicated negative perception. Frequency count and percentages were used to answer the research questions while mean was used in testing the two hypotheses.

RESULTS

Research Questions

RQ 1: What is the general experience of individuals with non straight sexual orientation in Manitoba?

The table 1 above revealed that the individuals with bisexual and homosexual sexual orientation in some communities in the province of Manitoba experience devastating and unpalatable situation. Situation 88% of the respondents agreed to this against the 12% of the respondents that declined.

RQ 2: Are people with non straight sex orientation treated the same way like their heterosexual counterparts in Manitoba?

The table 2 above revealed that 86% of the respondents shared the same opinion that people without a non straight sex orientation are discriminated against in some communities in the Province of Manitoba.

Test of Hypotheses

The null hypotheses tested at 0.05 level of significance in

this study are:

H01: Gender will not significantly influence the perception of the undergraduates about the attitude of the province of Manitoba residents towards Bisexuality and Homosexuality.

From table 3 above, it is observed that both male and female respondents have a direct positive reaction towards the items number 1 to 5. This is a clear indication that the respondents are not biased in their submissions in spite of their gender difference.

H02: Level of study will not significantly influence the perception of the undergraduates about the attitude of the province of Manitoba residents towards bisexuality and homosexuality.

From table 4 above, it is revealed that all the respondents had almost the same responses to items 6 to 10. The perception of the undergraduates tends towards the fact that people identified with Bisexuality and Homosexuality more often than not face serious challenges in Manitoba Province of Canada.

DISCUSSION

From the data analyzed above, it was found that the perception of the undergraduates about the attitude of the province of Manitoba residents towards bisexuality and homosexuality is Negative. This sharply contradicted the researcher's opinion that homosexuality is also a single unambiguous sex orientation like its heterosexual counterpart and hence does not deserve the inestimable discrimination that is attached to it. The undergraduates' negative concept could be due to the fact that most of them had the opportunity to interact with the less privileged individuals with non straight sex orientation at one point in time or the other and discovered that the community had been unfair to them in their endeavor. The Negative assertion towards Homosexual and Bisexual Community is a threat to Physiological/Psychological Processes as well as a sharp contradiction to the Constitutional Provisions on Fundamental Human Rights as it applies to all citizenries of the universe.

This finding agrees with Britany (2009) in his work titled "Superficial Acceptance of LGBTQ" where the researcher claimed that the acceptance of people with non straight sex orientation is a camouflage in some communities in the Western World. Osegie (2004) critically lamented the crucifixion of fundamental human rights over the preference for heterosexuality in the beautiful African countries. The result of this finding is against Sugar (2008) in his submission that the homosexual individuals should not be persecuted in the society over what the researcher described as 'mere simple orientation preference with a minor hormonal difference'.

The report on the test of the null hypothesis that says

Table 1: Showing the frequency and percentage of the experiences of individuals with non straight sexual orientation in Manitoba

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
PLEASANT/POSITIVE	20	12
UNPLEASANT/NEGATIVE	140	88
TOTAL	160	100

Table 2: Showing the frequency and percentage of the respondents on whether or not people with non straight sex orientation are treated like their heterosexual counterparts in Manitoba?

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
NOT AT ALL	137	86
YES	23	14
TOTAL	160	100

Table 3: Mean Distribution of Respondents view Based on Gender

		MALE		FEMALE	
ITEMS		REMARK	MEAN	REMARK	
1. People with a non straight sex orientation are not free to mention it in some communities in Manitoba.	1.62	positive	1.86	Positive	
2. People with Homosexuality and Bisexualism sex orientation are denied of their rights in most of the communities in the Province of Manitoba.	1.77	positive	1.99	Positive	
3. Homosexual and Bisexual individuals experience physical and psychological threats from Stakeholders in some communities of Manitoba.	1.58	positive	1.59	Positive	
4. Homosexuality or being Bisexual is not considered to be healthy in Manitoba.	2.01	positive	1.49	Positive	
5. Homosexual individuals lose their jobs more easily than people with a straight sex orientation in some communities in Manitoba.	2.01	negative	1.90	Negative	

Gender will not significantly influence the perception of the undergraduates about the attitude of the province of Manitoba residents towards bisexualism and homosexuality is Positive. Whether the respondents were male or female makes no significant difference in their perception about the attitude of the province of Manitoba residents towards bisexual and homosexual individuals. is Positive. This disagrees with Dingle (2009) in the submission that females are too myopic to be factual in activities involving sexual dealings. Also the Positive

response hypothesis two (**H02**) that says Level of study will not significantly influence the perception of the undergraduates about the attitude of the province of Manitoba residents towards bisexualism and homosexuality presented the undergraduates as holding the same opinion that the non straight sex community members are being negatively treated in most communities in Manitoba. This finding is in line with the researcher's view that homosexuality and bisexualism are sexual lifestyles that are rooted on two basic factors

Table 4: Mean Distribution of respondents Based on Levels of Study

		ABOVE 200 LEVELS		BELOW 200 LEVELS	
	ITEMS	MEAN	REMARK	MEAN	REMARK
6	Homosexuality is a normal sexual orientation in every community in Manitoba	1.11	NEGATIVE	1.09	NEGATIVE
7	Homosexual community is a free community everywhere in Manitoba.	1.29	NEGATIVE	1.14	NEGATIVE
8	Bisexualism is respected like heterosexuality in Manitoba.	1.24	NEGATIVE	1.09	NEGATIVE
9	Homosexuality is a pure sexual orientation like Heterosexuality.	1.06	NEGATIVE	1.19	NEGATIVE
10	Homosexuality is in line with the moral standard of most communities in Manitoba.	1.05	NEGATIVE	1.22	NEGATIVE

called genetics and environmental factors. For heredity to survive after pre-natal, the environment must have to be sanitized.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

One of the basic findings of this research is that individuals with non straight sex orientation, particularly the homosexual and the bisexual suffer a great deal of discriminations in some communities of the Province of Manitoba. One begins to wonder why such an inhuman dealing between man and his neighbor over a common difference in sexual orientation. The researcher is of the opinion that the discrimination is uncalled for as long as homosexuality and bisexualism, like heterosexuality meet up with the clinical and physiological qualities that are required of it to be accepted as a sexual orientation. It implies therefore that if heterosexuality is given a full acceptance in all the communities across the first world countries, on no condition should homosexual and bisexual individuals be treated with disrespect otherwise an Injustice.

The fact that the undergraduate respondents were not significantly influenced by some demographic variables like age and levels of study is a clear indication that the homosexual and bisexual individuals are being unnecessarily castigated and condemned for no just reason. The researcher is of the feelings that the humble smaller community with non straight sex orientation does not deserve these inhuman treatments that are meted out on them in most of the communities across the universe.

Based on the research findings therefore, it was recommended that the Manitoban stakeholders and other decision taking authorities as well as the Law Enforcement Agencies should be involved in LGBTQ Workshops, Seminars, symposium and conferences that would cut across the whole of Communities and villages in Manitoba.

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