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## **A Study of Demographics and LGBT Attitude**

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### **ABSTRACT**

In order to deeply understand the relationship between demographics and attitude toward the LGBTs, the study developed an instrument to investigate the respondents' attitude about the LGBTs. The demographics cover gender, age, position and instructional area, religion, and whether they had known the LGBTs. The results presented that the participants all positively commented the items, which reflected that the scale is worthy to go further to explore the valuable issue.

Key Words: Demographics, LGBTs, scale

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### **1.Introduction**

In order to deeply understand the relationship between demographics and the attitude toward the LGBTs (Lesbian; Gay; Bisexual; Transgender ; LGBT), the study developed an instrument to investigate the respondents' attitude about the LGBTs. The objective of the study is therefore to describe the demographics of the participants. The researchers invited several interviewers to work in pairs to send out questionnaires for collecting the data. The interviewees were current elementary school teachers who worked in the southern part of Taiwan. It is because elementary school teachers play the role of influencing one's opinion on the beginning stage of life, and the LGBTs have become the race to be concerned by the society, the researchers therefore view the issue is worthy to be explored.

#### **2.1 Demographics of the participants**

A total of 600 copies of questionnaire were send out to the participants, 585 were collected, after eliminated the invalid copies, there were 585 valid copies and made the effective rate of return to be 98.3%. The demographic item explored in the questionnaire including gender, age, position and instructional area, religion, and whether they had known the LGBTs. The results of the investigation are described as Table 1.

##### **2.1.1 Gender**

In terms of gender distribution, there are 412 female participants, which accounted for 71.7% of the total; 163 male participants, which explained 28.3% of the total. The participants are mainly covered by females, which exactly described the phenomenon that female amount is greater than male in present elementary schools.

##### **2.1.2 Age**

In the perspective of age, the group of 41-50 is the biggest, a total of 232 participants, which accounted for 40.4% of the total. The 31-40 group ranked the second, 202 participants, and reported 35.1% of the total. The under-30 group ranked the third, a total of 75 participants, which stated 13% of the whole. The le

ast one is the above-51 group, 66 participants, and explained 11.5% of the total. Accordingly, the age of the participants mainly centered at the group of 30-50, which matches the phenomenon of the present teacher age distribution.

##### **2.1.3 Position and instructional area**

In the position and instructional area, the group of homeroom teachers (not administrative) ranked the first, a total of 256, which reported 44.5% of the total. The group of subjective teacher (not counseling) ranked the second, totally 231, which explained 40.2% of the whole. And this is followed by the group of homeroom teacher (counseling), totally 57, which described 9.9% of the total. The last group is the subjective teacher group (counseling), totally 31, which accounted for 5.4% of the total. Therefore, the participants of the study are mostly covered by homeroom teachers who are not counseling and subjective teachers, which explained for 80% of the total.

##### **2.1.4 Religion**

As to the participants' religion, the group that ranked the first is "Buddhism/Taoism/Yi Kuan Tao", a total of 327, which explained 56.9% of the whole. This is followed by the group with "None" religion, a total of 200 participants and accounted for 34.8% of the whole. The ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> is the

“Catholicism/Christianity/ Islam” group, a total of 38 participants and described 6.6% of the whole. The group ranked the last is the “others” group, a total of 10 participants and explained 1.7% of the whole. Accordingly, more than a half of the participants’ belief is Buddhism/Taoism/Yi Kuan Tao.

#### 2.1.5 Whether they had known the LGBTs

In terms of whether the participants had known the LGBTs, there were 322 participants answered “Yes” which accounted for 56%; while 253 participants replied “No”, which explained 253 of the whole. Based on the above results, there are more than 50% of the participants had known the LGBTs.

Please refer to Table 1 for the participants’ demographics.

**Table 1 Demographics of the participants**

Demographics	Group	Number	Percentage(%)
Gender	Male	163	28.3
	Female	412	71.7
	Total	575	100.0
Age	Under 30	75	13.0
	31~40	202	35.1
	41~50	232	40.4
	Above 51	66	11.5
	Total	575	100.0
Position and instructional area	Mentor(part-time teacher)	counseling 57	9.9
	Mentor(not part-time teacher)	counseling 256	44.5
	Subject teacher (part-time counseling teacher)	31	5.4
	Subject teacher(not part-time counseling teacher)	231	40.2
	Total	575	100.0
Religion	None	200	34.8
	Buddhism/Taoism/Yi Kuan Tao	327	56.9
	Catholicism/Christianity/ Islam	38	6.6
	Others	10	1.7
	Total	575	100.0
Whether they had known the LGBTs	Yes	322	56.0
	No	253	44.0
	Total	575	100.0

## 2.2 The attitude of the elementary school teachers’ opinion toward the LGBTs

The instrument of the study was developed by the researchers, which including three constructs: Affection, Behavior, and Cognition. There are a total of 21 items. In addition, the study also adopted Likert-type five-point scale to be the measuring scale, the higher the score, the more positive the participants’ attitude toward the item. There are totally 575 participants in the study. In terms of the mean, the affection construct presented the lowest (3.59); which is followed by the behavior construct (3.75); the cognition construct received the highest score (3.87), which reflected that the results are in consistent with the prior related research ( Hsu, 2006; Lin, 2011; Kuo, 2014; Chen, 2016; Lin & Kuo, 2017; Lin, 2019). On standard deviation, affection construct obtained 0.87; behavior construct received 0.80, and cognition construct explained 0.81. This indicated that the data dispersion degree is low.

**Table 2 Descriptive statistics of the item**

	20.I can accept to be good friends with LGBT.	4.01	0.91	
	21.I can accept that the ones with same gender to express appreciation to me.	3.49	1.14	
	22.I don't mind people realize that I have LGBT friends.	3.94	0.98	
	23. I can accept that my family is LGBE.	3.42	1.13	
Affection	24.I won't mind if people think I am LGBT.	3.11	1.17	3.59 (0.87)
	25. I will be pleased to agree if my LGBT friends ask me to go shopping.	3.76	1.06	
	26. It is acceptable for me to see the closed action between the LGBTs.	3.19	1.17	
	27. If I found my students are LGBT-oriented, I will face the fact positively.	3.88	0.90	
	28. If I found my kids are LGBT-oriented, I will face the fact positively.	3.48	1.04	
	29. I am willing to conduct the LGBT-related instructional activities.	3.58	1.03	
	30. I support the LGBTs to conduct parade activity to go for their rights.	3.67	1.00	
	31. I am willing to understand more related things about the LGBTs.	3.71	0.92	3.75 (0.80)
Behavior	32. If the LGBTs confront difficulties, I am willing to give them a hand.	4.01	0.81	
	33. I am willing to take part in the LGBT-related workshops.	3.62	0.99	
	34. If the LGBTs are sneezed, I am willing to speak words for them.	3.93	0.83	
	35. I think the LGBTs are the same as the heterosexuality, have the rights to select their love.	4.10	0.90	
	36. I think the normal same-married family has the right to adopt children.	3.62	1.15	
	37. I think the LGBTs are appropriate to be teachers.	3.78	1.05	3.87 (0.81)
Cognition	38. I think students should be taught to respect the LGBTs' rights.	4.08	0.90	
	39. I think the contents of the present courses are fair to gender diversity.	3.54	0.97	
	40. I think it is very important to educate teachers to be respectful to the LGBTs.	4.08	0.87	

Based on the above results, one can analogize that the participants generally hold positive attitude about the items, of which, the affection construct reflected the lowest score, which is in light with the former research. In the meantime, the rest constructs presented higher score. The researchers explain that it is because the participants' opinion toward the LGBTs had been improved gradually so that they could have better understanding and respect about the LGBTs-related issues.

### 3. Conclusion

Based on the results stated above, the study concludes that all of the participants presented very positive attitude toward the LGBTs phenomenon, which implies that the society is advanced enough and the LGBTs group could receive their deserved respect. The researchers hereby claimed that the LGBTs issue is worthy to be further explored so that each group or race in the society could be paid more attention to.

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