



A Study on LGBTQ Their Issues! & Inclusion and Suggestive Measure of Social Acceptance as one of the Form of Disability

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ABSTRACT:

LGBTQ a form of disability, widely unaccepted though we have started by default accepting them, with no choice, our so called Global society, community as a whole irrespective of us saying we are now having z generation youth with us. Simple to say if asked to general public, if you are to share a paying guest room with LGBTQ how many of us will readily raise our hands and show readiness to it? Society norms, restrictions put, how one gender needs to be, the behavior pattern, the morphological appearance, all have forced restrictions, which are against the so called HUMAN RIGHTS of LGBTQ?. Even we have created so called 'Society Gates' for every individual against their every action, expression, thought, behavior, form of dressing etc. A small open ended question was given to check B Ed student's attitude towards issues faced by them. Researcher has marked the most prevalent and common issues highlighted by the students faced by LGBTQ. Researcher / Author have even supported with statistical data to supplement the thoughts expressed through this paper.

Key Words: LGBTQ, Disability, Acceptance, Society Gates, Social Acceptance

Introduction:

LGBTQ should be included under the form of disability. As we certify a disabled person with number of testing, screening tools, techniques to label a person as disabled, same to be done even while officially labelling and including them under disability is what the author feels. Disability is a form of absence of ability within a person, same can be applied when we are talking about LGBTQ. Then why not we think or develop a benchmark to identify an individual by his or her own will. Again it doesn't mean for all LGBTQ we should categorize under disability as it is a choice or at it is sexual orientation but there are some of the forms of this LGBTQ which is very much transparent and want to stay with own identity and particular designated label, who has 90-100% characteristics to label them as LGBTQ and if in case they want to live in the society with freedom this is the need of the hour.

Very common issues like providing a room for a couple who are of same gender, how many of us will be willing to allow them to stay, or give them for rent. How many of the society will accept a same sex married couple to stay in their building. How many will allow a cross dresser to stay in their building or allow them to stay on rent. Very difficult to accept, allow though now all will be in agreement. Disability of LGBTQ with more than 80%, if we certify them with a condition of if misused the certificate, facilities given or if the person reverts back to normal gender again than the individual has to surrender the certificate of LGBTQ with 80% back to the issuing organization. If something planned in this manner and if these included under disability, different benefits, schemes, reservations they can avail. This will give them prestige, position, help in their upliftment, there will be social acceptance. These who are hidden will open up and live a happy and fruitful life.

If we to define disability, disability is one of a condition where we say that there is impairment in the body or in the mind, it makes things more difficult or impossible, to do certain activity or dealing functioning of daily living. There are various disabilities which we see across in the person right from disability, with regard to vision, thinking capacity, learning, communicating, hearing, mental health or maintaining social relationships. One question often arises in my mind Why Not LGBTQ also be considered under disability?

Religious affiliation also plays a key role in views towards acceptance of homosexuality. Though the opinions of religiously unaffiliated people can [vary widely](#). One example of this pattern can be found in South Korea. Koreans who are religiously unaffiliated are about twice as likely to say that homosexuality should be accepted by society (60%) as those who are Christian (24%) or Buddhist (31%). Similarly, in Hungary, 62% of "nones" say society should accept homosexuality, compared with only 48% of Catholics.

Similarly one more study so called GLAAD's Accelerating Acceptance study finds that while acceptance for LGBTQ people and youth have reached record highs, the research also reveals a significant lack of understanding and familiarity for non-binary and transgender people. Some of the findings of GLAAD were universally, non-LGBTQ Americans overwhelmingly agree that LGBTQ people should be free to live their lives and not be discriminated against. Yet, GLAAD knows that a majority of LGBTQ people are experiencing discrimination. There is also universal agreement that schools should be safe and accepting places for all youth, and children should be taught to appreciate and accept people as they are: A 96% supermajority of non-LGBTQ

Americans agree that schools should be a safe and accepting place for all youth. A 91% supermajority of non-LGBTQ Americans agree that LGBTQ people should have the freedom to live their life and not be discriminated against. An 84% supermajority of non-LGBTQ Americans support equal rights for the LGBTQ community

We talk lot about disability. There is a benchmark for disability identification, labelling and certification. A person with not less than 40% of a specified disability will be certified that he has a particular disability i.e. disability above 40% , then so why not , measure LGBTQ with developed scale , tests , medical examinations and many more such things and conclude specific LGBTQ level and certify this LGBTQ like disability is certified. This will help LGBTQ to seek, take opportunity of their rights, benefit, boosting their confidence, improving self-esteem, self-efficacy, self-respect, and self-worth. RPWD act of 2016 had identified and marked 21 disabilities, can high evidence LGBTQ (say 80%) be labelled and LGBTQ marked, graded one form of disability.

Author is of view as 21 disabilities need rehabilitation, help for survival. They need schemes, reservations, support, in similar way LGBTQ community too needs this for survival in the society. Many a times they too face with lot of psychological issues, medical issues etc. Their rehabilitation is also equality important like done for PWD's. We talk about rehabilitation of the disabled and if we rehabilitate them we try including them in the disability sector will provide them with lot of schemes, facilities, equal opportunities thus helping in their promotion, progression, upliftment and empowerment.

Just to give a brief idea, researcher has shared some data of LGBTQ in the globe based on the evidence of the studies done across the globe. This will highlight about social acceptance and touch up on rates of disability in LGBTQ. The survey of publics in 39 countries shows that there is broad acceptance of homosexuality in places of the globe - North America, the European Union, and much of Latin America, but equally widespread rejection in predominantly Muslim nations and in Africa, as well as in parts of Asia and in Russia. More ever to talk about the division of the responses it can be said that the opinion about the acceptability of homosexuality is divided in Israel, Poland and Bolivia. Attitudes about homosexuality have been fairly stable in recent years, except in South Korea, the United States and Canada, where the percentage saying homosexuality should be accepted by society has grown by at least ten percentage points since 2007. These are among the key findings of a new survey by the Pew Research Centre conducted in 39 countries among 37,653 respondents from March 2 to May 1, 2013. About 8 per cent of India's population - 104 million individuals belong to the LGBT community in India.

HRC Foundation analysed the disability core questions in the 2020 Behavioural Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), a nationally representative survey of adults across the United States, and found that LGBTQ+ adults, and transgender adults in particular, were significantly more likely than non-LGBTQ+ adults to self-report having at least one disability. Overall, one in three (36%) LGBTQ+ adults self-reported having a disability, compared with one in four (24%) non-LGBTQ+ (cisgender and heterosexual) adults. In addition, more than a third (35%) of cisgender LGBQ+ adults, and more than half (52%) of transgender adults (including both LGBQ+ and straight transgender adults), self-reported a disability

To study the issues faced by LGBTQ, to test whether common public are aware about the same, Researcher has given undergraduate students an open questionnaire and asked for the inputs on the same. Based on the replies obtained from the respondents, author/ researcher has concluded the issues faced.

Following are the Issues faced by LGBTQ

- Society unable to break stereotype
- Discrimination in availability of jobs
- Discrimination in Job selection process
- Challenges to survive hostile school environment
- Obstacle in access to education
- Harassment of LGBTQ learners in institution
- Employability Discrimination/Denied access to employment
- More susceptible to HIV, other STDs
- Non Acceptance of LGBTQ teachers
- Subject to violence
- Subject to discrimination
- Subject to bullying for not confirming gender norms
- Rejection by families
- Peer's Non-acceptability
- Transphobic bullying
- Binary Curriculum difficult for non-binary to relate or come out

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- Gender Segregated
 - Social Exclusion/Social Stigma
 - Lack of understanding of gender fluidity
 - Weak Understanding of gender identity concept
 - Unsafe in school
 - Result in early school dropout
 - Frequent Absenteeism
 - Poor Academic Performance
 - Sexual Harassment- Physical / Verbal
 - Forced pressure of binary Gendered dress code/school uniform
 - Binary seating arrangement in schools
 - Binary play areas
 - Feel Caged
 - No freedom to self-expression
 - Misfit for binary model
 - Sense of exclusion from Mainstream
 - Denial of life of dignity
 - Treated as outcastes
 - Rigid binary model of sex and gender
 - Binary restrooms/Lack of gender neutral washrooms
 - No access to designated changing room/lockers
 - Rigid Binary pronouns to address them
 - Lack of gender neutral hostels for accommodation
 - Figure of sympathy
 - Non Hiring in Job , Firing from Job – very common
 - Lack of representation at various places
 - Media represents LGBTQ for fun, doesn't portray them seriously
 - Always in fear of being ostracized by community
 - Experience mockery
 - Feel unsafe
 - Weak access to medical health
 - Lack of public amenities
 - Identity Crises
 - Spiral of exclusion and marginalization
 - Sexual Assault
 - Homelessness
 - Sexual Assaulted become disability victims
 - Denial by Most
 - Mental Health issues

- Population stigma and discomfort
- Experience with Weak Self Adjustment, Self-Efficacy, Self-Worth

Following are the solutions for the Issues faced by LGBTQ

- Setting up of Anti-harassment cell.
- Setting up of Anti-discrimination cell.
- Mental Health Access.
- Designing of Designated rooms
- Rethinking of removing Anti-Stereotypical Uniforms
- Gender Identity Awareness – Mass Media, Street plays, NGOs
- Adapted curriculum
- Support Group for Victims of discrimination/harassment.
- LGBTQ Anti-bullying strict rules.
- Gender Inclusivity.
- Representation on Television in form of cartoon, media.
- Teaching about gender inclusive pronouns.
- More representation of LGBTQ at Local, State national Level.
- Designing of Training manuals
- Life Skill Education
- Building Support groups and encouraging their participation in it.
- Provision of counselling services to LGBTQ students, parents.
- Spreading awareness of challenges and problems.
- Incorporation of gender studies in school curriculum.

Many already existing, highlighting a few, but more awareness needed of the following:

- Identity certificate.
- Reservation
- National Portal
- Transgender Rights-Rule and protection of Right Act 2019

Conclusion:

At the End, Researcher/Author would just like to sensitize people, the rehabilitation team to think, rethink about LGBTQ. Will or Are Highly Symptomatic LGBTQ worth of including under disability. Is it really help? Will it give them justice as per our preamble? Will thus help LGBTQ inclusion. They are often excluded and marginalized. Hopefully thought of researcher with small level research and data just making all to initiate processing of thoughts over the thought of INCLUDING Highly Symptomatic LGBTQ as a form of Disability.

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