

An Explorative Study of Attitude of College Going Students Towards Gay and Lesbians

*Shubhangi Shree

M. A. (Psychology) , Magadh Mahila College, Patna University, Patna, Bihar.

**Dr. Uday Shankar

Assistant Professor, (Part Time), Department of Psychology, Patna University, Patna

ABSTRACT

Homosexuality is romantic and/or sexual attraction to a member of the same sex. Also known as being "gay" or "lesbian.". For many Indians the idea of Homosexuality, is still a difficult subject. ? To explore the attitude of students towards lesbian. ? To explore the attitude of students towards gay. In order to know the recent views or perspective of people towards Gay and Lesbians a study was conducted. The study investigated attitudes toward Gay and Lesbians by surveying 200 students from Magadh Mahila College, Buddha Dental college, Vanijya College and K.K. University, Patna, Bihar. Sample was selected on the basis of purposive sampling technique. RESULT- The result obtained shows that 64% male and 57% female were having negative attitude towards gay and lesbians. And male participants were having more negative attitude towards Lesbians in comparison to gay. Thus it can be concluded that still majority of people do not accept the homosexuality. The finding from this study can be used to acquire knowledge about societal attitude towards homosexuality, awareness, sensitization and decreasing discrimination on the basis of homosexuality. All human beings have their own choices to live their life the way they want. Now Supreme Court has also decriminalized homosexuality. We should be open and have accepting attitudes towards homosexuality.

Keywords: Homosexuality, Gay, Lesbians, Attitude.

Introduction:

Gender identity is a person's sense of identification with either the male or female sex, as manifested in appearance, behavior and other aspects of a person's life. The term "homosexual," coined in 1869 by the Hungarian doctor Karoly Maria Benkert, who wrote under the pseudonym K.M. Kertbeny, was not in popular usage till the early twentieth century. Mid-twentieth-century homosexual activists preferred the term "homophile" over homosexual, seeing it as a more neutral and acceptable option because it removed the word "sexual" while positively affirming same-gender attraction. The acronym LGBTQI has been in use since 1990's and stands for: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Intersexual. Lots of people fancy people of the same sex is common, normal and makes you who you are. Some may be sure about how they feel, and others may take more time to be sure of their sexual orientation. Everyone is

different and there is no need to be fixed forever – for some people it will be, and for other it will be fluid and it might change overtime. Sexual orientation is an enduring pattern of romantic or sexual attraction (or a combination of these) to persons of the opposite sex or gender, the same sex or gender, the same sex or gender, or to both sexes or more than one gender. These attractions are generally subsumed under heterosexuality, homosexuality, and bisexuality, while asexuality (the lack of sexual attraction to others) is sometimes identified as the fourth category.

Janice A. Sabin , Rachel G. Riskind, Brian A. Nosek (2015) : Health care providers' implicit and explicit attitudes toward lesbian women and gay men. Result shows that among heterosexual providers implicit preference always favoured heterosexual people over lesbian and gay man.

Their explicit preference were weaker than

implicit preference. The study of Roper.E.A, and Halloran. E. (2007) shows that male student athletes were significantly more negative in their attitudes toward gay men and lesbians than females while students who were having contact with gay men or lesbians had significantly more positive attitudes towards gay men and lesbians. The result of efforts by the Naz Foundation in 2001, the Delhi High Court passes a landmark judgement on July 2, 2010, by reading down Section 377 of the IPC. In effect, it granted equal rights to those seen as 'sexual minorities', and was one of the most affirming moments for LGBTQ Indians.

Research Methodology:

On the basis of review of literature research methodology has been formed.

Aim of the study :

The aim of the present study was to explore the attitude of college going students towards gay and lesbians.

Objectives of the study :

- To explore the attitude of college going male student towards lesbian.
- To explore the attitude of college going male students towards gay.
- To explore the attitude of college going female students towards lesbian.
- To explore the attitude of college going female students towards gay.

Research Questions:

Research questions are as follows:

- What will be the attitude of male teachers towards Gay?
- What will be the attitude of male teachers towards Lesbian?
- What will be the attitude of female teachers towards Gay?
- What will be the attitude of female teachers towards Lesbian?

Sample :

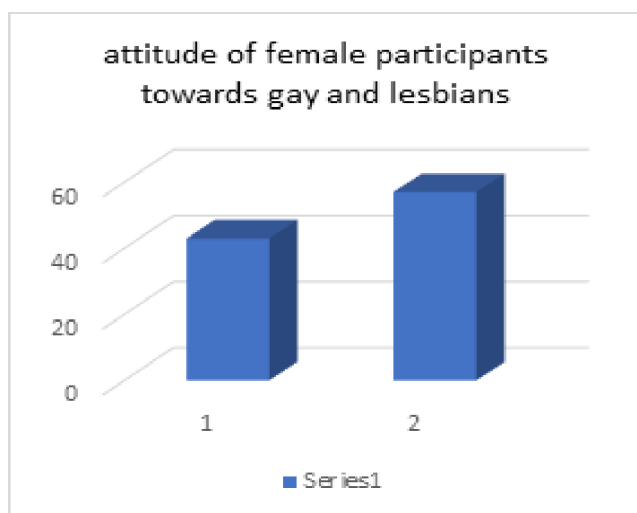
The sample was comprised of 200 college students in which 100 were male students and 100 were female students. They were from Patna University, Bihar. Sample was selected on the basis of purposive sampling technique.

Tools :

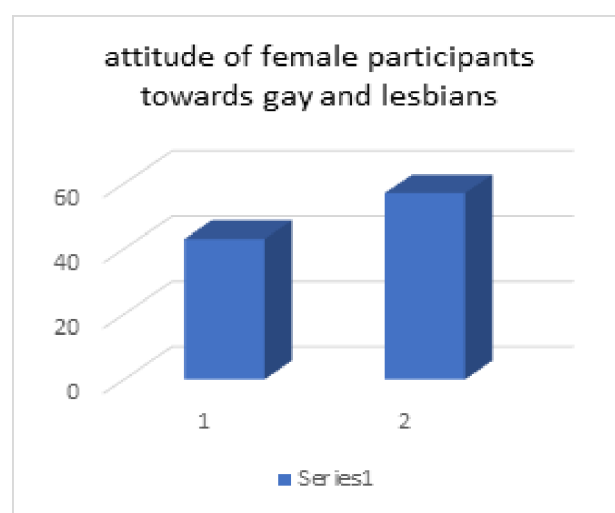
- Personal data sheet : It was used to collect relevant information about the participants relatively to the name, age, sex, education, etc.
- Attitude towards Lesbians and Gay men scale : To study the attitude of college students towards lesbians and gay men the "Attitude Towards Lesbians and Gay Men" (ATLG) scale was used. This scale was developed by G. M. Herek. It consists of 20 items, 10 about lesbians and 10 about gay men. The reliability of the scale with most college student sample was .80 .

Result And Discussion:

Score was analysed and on the basis of that result was drawn which was shown in the bar



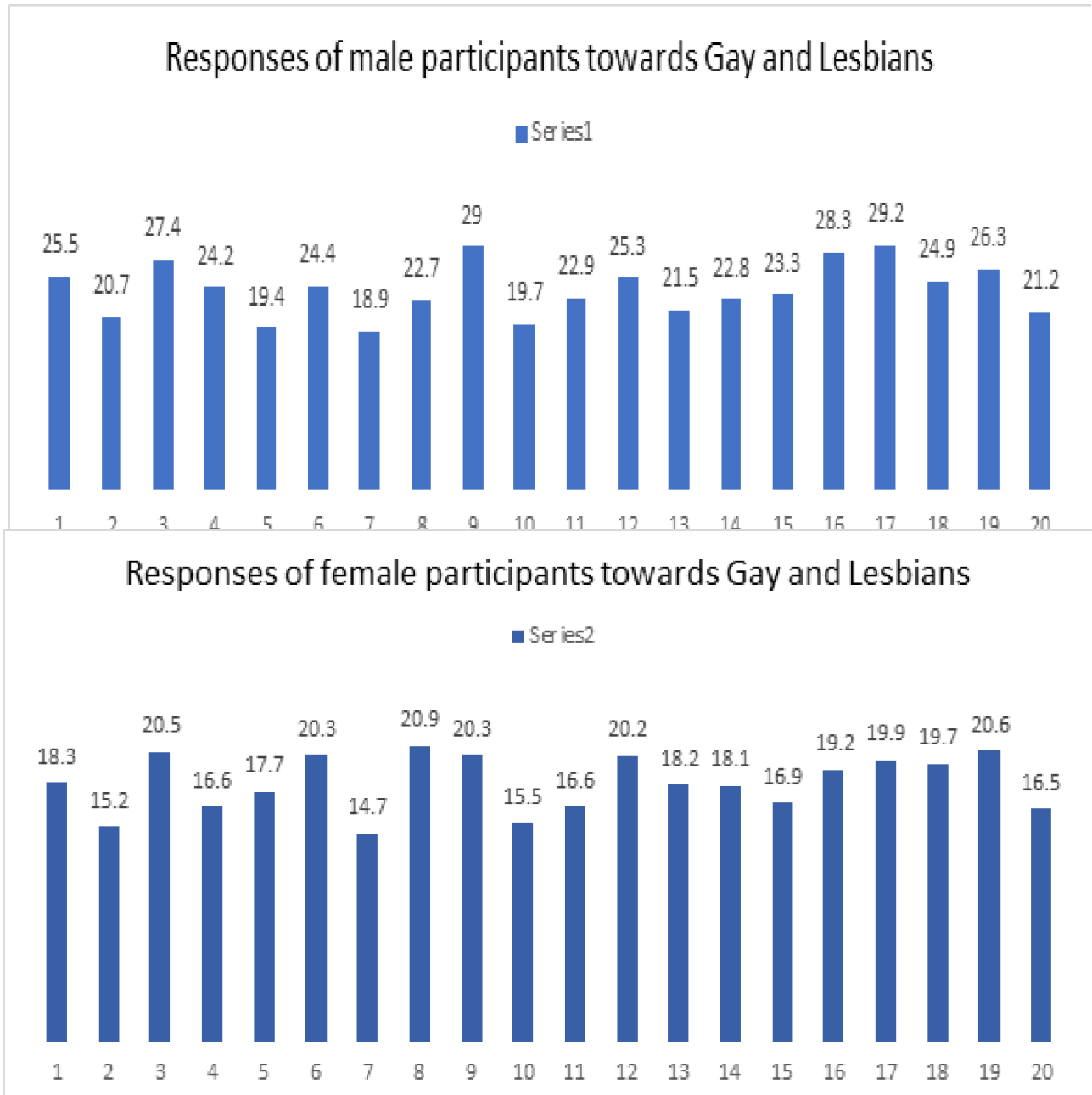
Graph-1



Graph-II

In graph 1 and 2 , 1 indicates positive attitude of participants and 2 indicates negative attitude of participants. From the above graph it was clear that majority of participants i.e; 64% male and 57% female have negative attitude towards Gay and lesbians. It also makes clear that male participants were having more

negative attitude in comparison to female participants. It was also proved in the review of Emily A Roper, Erin Halloran (2007). Attitude of male and female participants could be shown by their responses given on each item of the subscale, which was displayed on the bar graph given below



Graph IV

Graph 3 and 4 shows that how the responses of male and female participants differ from each other .This graph also shows that female participants were having more positive attitude towards gay and Lesbians in comparison to male participants.

Attitude of male participants towards gay and lesbian could be shown in graph 5 and 6 below

Attitude of male participants towards lesbians



Graph - 5

Attitude of male participants towards lesbians

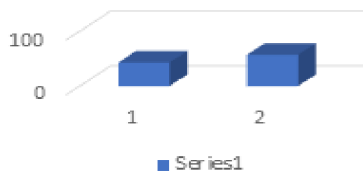


Graph - 6

In graph 5 and 6, 1 indicates positive attitude of male participants and 2 indicates negative attitude of male participants. From the above graph it was clear that male participants have more negative attitude towards lesbians in comparison to gay.

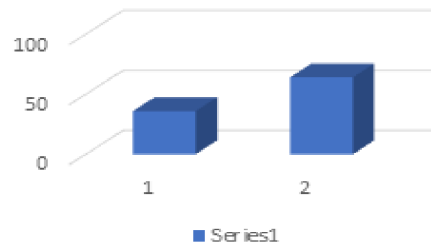
Attitude of female participants towards gay and lesbian could be shown in graph 7 and 8 below

Attitude of female participants towards lesbians



Graph - 7.

Attitude of female participants towards gay



Graph -8

In graph 7 and 8, 1 indicates positive attitude of female participants and 2 indicates negative attitude of female participants. From the above graph it was clear that female have more negative attitude towards gay in comparison to lesbians.

Conclusion:

At the end, conclusion has been made that the change seen in the Indian mentality about LGBTQI people is hard to notice and even harder to catalyse, because it's happening behind closed doors within families and small communities. While a portion of India is still apposed to homosexuality are in favour of it's criminalisation, there are progressive pockets that fight to allow members of the LGBTQI community to be accepted and respected members of society.

References:

1. Herek, G. M. (1987). Attitudes towards lesbians and gay men. Revised long version (ATLG-R)

2. Iovannone, J.(2018). A brief history of the LGBTQ initialism. [https:// medium.com/ queer history for the- people/a brief- history of the LGBTQ- initialism. e89db1cf06e3](https://medium.com/queer-history-for-the-people/a-brief-history-of-the-LGBTQ-initialism-e89db1cf06e3).

3. Kilgore, H. , Sideman ,L. , Amin, K. , Bacha, L. ,Bohanske, BOB(2005). Psychologist's attitude and therapeutic approaches towards gay, lesbians and bisexual issues continue to improve: An update. *Psychotherapy: Theory, Research, Practice, Training* 42(3),395.

4. Roper, E. A. ,Halloran, E. (2007). Attitudes toward gay men and Lesbians among heterosexual male and female student - athletes. *Sex roles* 57 (11-12), 919-928

5. Sabin,J. A. , Ruskind, R. G , Model, B. A. (2015). Health care providers' implicit and explicit attitudes toward lesbian women and gay men. *American Journal of Public Health* 105 (9), 1831 - 1841.