

## CREATING AWARENESS ABOUT LGBTQIA THROUGH SEX EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS

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### **Abstract:**

We Indians have long history of Transgender. We have transgender in our society since Vedic Era. Now its 21<sup>st</sup> century and we are still unaware about transgender and LGBTQIA. Primarily the concept about transgender was very simple either the person will fall under two genders Male or female if none of those then he/she will be called Transgender. Now this third concept have widened, now they are not limited for transgender only, now they are divided in LGBTQIA. Many of us don't even know what all these terms stands for. These communities have received massive alienation from society. They have abused, threatened, bullied. After a long struggle now they have received their identity. Government of India have recently abolished article 377 which was against LGBTQIA community. Now being one of them is legal. Though Government of India has legalized their identity still we see lots of discrimination in society towards them. If we are willing to change this behavior, first we need to create social awareness about them. We should aware people that "This is not by choice but by nature" India ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> in populations, leads in rape cases still we don't have proper sex education system in schools to change the social perspective we should start giving sex education in school.

**Key Words:** LGBTQIA community, Transgender, Sexual Minorities, Sex Education

### **Introduction:**

Many of us call this Community as Transgender. In India they are mainly called as "Hijra" community. And also by other names like "Kinner", "Aravani" "Jogti" But now all this terms come under one. Let's see one by one,

### **What is LGBTQIA:**

L: - Lesbian. Lesbian is a homosexual woman. If One Woman is attracted towards other woman then she will be called Lesbian.

G: - Gay. Gay is a homosexual Man. If One Man is attracted towards other Man, then he will be called Gay.

**B:** - Bisexual. If one is Sexually attracted towards both men and women will be called Bisexual.

**T:** - Transgender. Whose Gender Identity is different from the gender they were thought to be at birth. Mainly they will start realizing this at their puberty stage.

**Q:** - Queer/Questioning: - Queer is the one who isn't clear about His/her Gender Identity.

**I:** - Intersex. The one where there is discrepancy between the external genitals and internal genitals.

**A:** - Asexual. One not having sexual Organs or not involving in sex can be called as Asexual.

### **LGBTQIA community in Ancient India:**

LGBTQIA is the one issue that is considered as Taboo in all religion in India. We Indians always keep Saying LGBTQIA Is Western terms. But that's not truth. We may not want to accept it now but ancient Indians were not exactly subtle about same-sex love being part of their culture. Temples that were constructed between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> century in South India often feature erotic images of men and women flashing each other. Temples are not only sign that ancient India was more woke than us, Gender fluidity was common theme that runs through a majority of our ancient texts. Men turned into women, women turned into men. The famous Scholar of Indian Mythology Devdatt Patnaik has written entire novel on the Queer themes in Mahabharat. Specifically, the story of Shikhandi who was born to Queen Drupda as woman and later has a sex change and fights during the Mahabharat as man. Then there is a story of Lord Shiva bumped into Lord Vishnu in the form of a really beautiful woman Mohini. We will find many of such example in Ancient India as well as in Mughal Empire. There are certain laws in Manusmriti for same sex lovers. On National Queer Conference (2013) [1] Gopi Shankar Madurai said, "Hindu society had a clear cut idea of all these people in the past. Now that we have put them under one label 'LGBT' there is lot more confusion and other identities have hidden" Apart from Male and Female there are twenty more types of Genders, such as trans woman, trans men, androgynous, pangender and trigender etc. transgender were accepted in ancient India and referred by the terms like "Tritiya Panthi", "Kliba" and "Napunsaka" "Jogti". All these examples indicate that ancient Indians were more liberal towards LGBTQIA community.

### **Article 377:**

We have seen Indians were more liberal towards Queer Community. But What suddenly happened and all this same sex affection started consider as taboo? Under the British Government in 1861 article 377 imposed which stated that Homosexuality is “Unconstitutional” “against order of nature” and will be considered as crime[2] Its been more than 150 years and we were still stuck with that law. In one hand our Constitution gives equal rights, Liberty to every citizens and in other hand it violets your basic rights of Identity. After a long Struggle, on 6<sup>th</sup> of September 2018 the Supreme Court of India has finally struck down a 19<sup>th</sup> century law criminalizing homosexuality in India. Social Status of LGBTQIA in Modern India is little bit better but still We have alienated them from our Society. We have kept them limited for Entertainment purpose or Sex workers. They have received huge discrimination from every institution whether it may home, Schools, Colleges, Work/Social Places

#### **Awareness about Sexual Minorities through Sex Education in School:**

It may look funny but India Ranks second in population among world but we still don't have proper sex education system in school. Indian families find it forbidden to talk on sex Education. Teachers feels uncomfortable to teach such lessons. Many State Government started teaching sex education in schools but after a refusal of teachers and Indian families they have limited the syllabus for gender, Sex Organs only. The result we can see that we have failed in controlling population, rape cases, marriage age, family Planning, divorce, discrimination towards Queer community, suicide, dieses like STD and AIDS. If we could have proper sex education, then We might have succeeded in controlling many of these things. If we connect Social Status of LGBTQIA Community to Sex Education in India. We will find our Education system have totally failed to create an Awareness about them. In 2018 Government of India have Legalized their Identity and stated being LGBTQIA is not Unconstitutional, its Natural. Though they have constitutional Identity our society still alienate them from main stream. Their approach towards them is like they are diseased. They will not come to main stream Until and unless society accepts them and this is possible through sex education and creating awareness through school syllabus. Homosexuality is a normal occurrence. It occurs less often than heterosexuality but it is still normal and naturally occurring. There are still a lot of kids who have a difficult time accepting their homosexuality and therefore struggle to come out as Queer. By not covering homosexuality when teaching sex education, you are trying to deny that it even exists. For a kid who is trying to understand why he/she is different, this lack of acknowledgment just further isolates

them. All kids have questions and concerns about sex, we teach kids to respect their bodies, and their partners, we teach them about reproduction and contraception but always from straight perspective. The thought that only way you can have sex is if one is boy and other is girl. By not talking about it we keep those struggling LGBTQIA community confused, Who are they supposed to ask? who are they suppose to go to?When adults are afraid to even acknowledge that being one of LGBTQIA is ok, that Homosexuality exist. How can they come out and be true to themselves when too often we make it known that it is ok to be different? We need to let them know that its not wrong to be one of LGBTQIA, and make all kids aware that some of them are homosexual and that is nothing to ashamed of.

Study have shown that Homosexual people are at higher risk of getting Infected by STD (Sexually Transmitted Disease) like HIV, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, Chlamydia, gonorrhea, Oral cancer, Cancer to intimate parts. And by not acknowledging homosexual or bisexual students about all this health issues We are risking their health. [3] Another study has shown that the Suicidal rate among LGBT+ youth is higher than other youth. They also suffer from high level of depression. According to study the depression comes at the age of 10 and it gets increases till age of 21[4/5].The feeling of outsider, Different from others, not having proper knowledge, the confusion whom to talk, how to talk, the anxiety of getting rejected makes them feel depressed. And our school inadvertently making problem worse by making “sexually minority” students feel isolated by focusing too much on straight relationship. This treatment from society tend them to suicide. According to NATIONAL SURVEY ON DRUG USE AND HEALTH (NSDUH), suggest that substance use patterns reported by sexual minorities (LGBT) adults are higher than heterosexuals [6]. Data on public opinion from 2006 shows that 41 percent of Indians would not want a homosexual neighbor, and 64 percent believed homosexuality is never justified. We can see the discrimination and exclusion towards them at work places.

As mentioned above all study shows us that sexual minority which is LGBT is alienated and discriminated. The only solution for all this issue is to change social perspective. And it can be done through educating or guiding students. At least next generation of youth should not suffer anymore. Below some suggestions have mentioned through which awareness among students can be increased.

**Conclusions:** Indians had clear cut idea about all these sexual minorities and had accept them. But after British rule it started consider as against order of nature. After struck down of

article 377 though sexual minorities have received legal status in India still they have not received social status. We have seen according to study sexual minorities have highest threat to get diseased, have high level of depression, Suicide rate, Addiction. The reason behind all this is exclusion from society and not having proper knowledge. To finish this stigma Indian schools should start teaching proper sex education and should also include proper information about sexual minorities.

**Suggestions:**

- To create an awareness among students as well as in society government should start include syllabus on LGBT+
- Arrange seminars, Invite Local activists to speak with students, Few informative short films or movies can be shown.
- Poster presentation, quiz, ask your question privately kind of programs can be arranging
- One should be punished for bullying LGBT+

We can motivate students for Research regarding this subject

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[The Sage Encyclopedia of LGBTQ studies](#)