



HOMOSEXUAL ORIENTATION AMONG MEN: A STUDY ON GUWAHATI CITY IN ASSAM

DR. SUPARNA DHAR ¹

¹ ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MEGHALAYA.

ABSTRACT:

Sexual orientation is a natural part of who we are as humans. The determinants of sexual orientation are understood to be a mix of biological and environmental impacts that influence sexual orientation. The study endeavours to throw light on the orientation of the homosexual men, how they discovered their sexual orientation and how they are dealing with it. The study is mainly based on primary data and case study method was used for the study. Snowball sampling method was used for identifying the respondents.

KEYWORDS:

SEXUAL ORIENTATION, HOMOSEXUALITY, HOMOSEXUAL MAN, SEX.

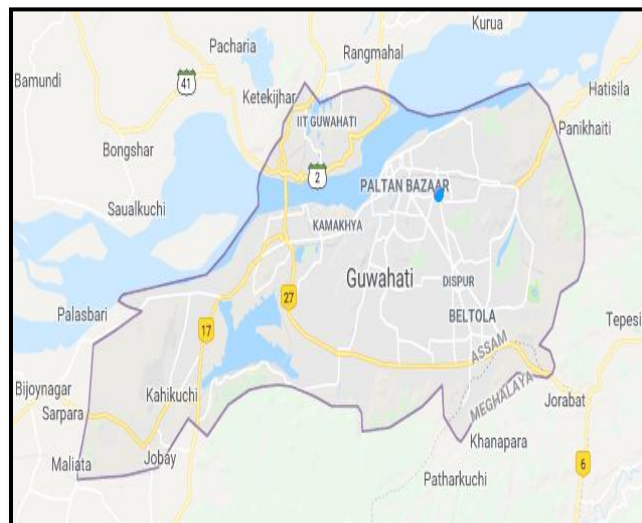
Introduction

Sexual orientation is a natural part of who we are as humans and it is not a choice. Beyond the ability to reproduce, sexuality also defines how we see ourselves and how we physically relate ourselves to others. Sexual orientation is the term use to refer to a pattern of emotional, romantic, and sexual attraction—and one's sense of personal and social identity based on those attractions. Heterosexuality (attraction to members of the opposite sex), homosexuality (attraction to members of the same sex), and bisexuality (attraction to members of either sex) are the three most commonly discussed categories of sexual orientation. The determinants of sexual orientation are understood to be a mix of biological and environmental impacts that influence sexual orientation. Although sexual orientation is usually set early in life, it isn't at all uncommon for the desires and attractions to shift throughout the life. The American Psychological Association states that "sexual orientation is not a choice that can be changed at will, and that sexual orientation is most likely the result of a complex interaction of environmental, cognitive and biological factors.

India has a long tradition of tolerance for all kinds of beliefs, faiths, philosophies, orientations and ways of living. In ancient India there was a place for all kinds of diverse cultures, arts and literatures; the society was very assimilative. At one place India have purely and strictly religious painting and sculptors like at Konark or at JagganathPuri temples and at another place India have monuments like Khajuraho which is famous all over the world for its erotic arts and sculptors; this also includes sculptors with homosexual activities. This shows that not all types of sexual orientations were there in ancient past but people were so tolerant and broad minded that paintings and sculptors depicting the same sex love-

making were being freely created and displayed. So, the study attempts to look briefly into the **sexual orientation of homosexual men through specific case studies** and to investigate this Guwahati city of Assam (India) was chosen.

MATERIALS AND METHODS



The study is mainly based on primary data however some secondary data were also consulted. Secondary data were gathered from books, journals, articles, magazines, internet, and the like. While, primary data was collected by taking the interview of the homosexual male respondents. Case Study Method was used for the study. 4 Case studies were considered for the study. The respondents were identified by using the snowball sampling method.

CASE STUDIES:

The specific case studies are presented below:
The name of all the respondents were changed

CASE STUDY 1: AKASH (29 YEARS)

First case study is about a 29 years old boy Akash who is working in an NGO (non-governmental organization), besides he also works as a makeup artist as a part of his part time job. He has studied upto class 10 and he belongs to the Assamese community. He is Hindu by religion. He discovered his sexual orientation that he was a homosexual when he was in 7th standard. He promptly referred to a happenstance he had with his male tuition teacher. Akash recalled that he had to go for tuition classes and there he had his first carnal experience. With the onset of adolescence, he fully entered into homosexuality. He feels boys to be attractive and appealing. Akash further added that since that happenstance, his inclination towards boys or men has grown up and he's more comfortable hanging out with boys rather than girls. He lives alone in the Guwahati city. Though his physical appearance is masculine he asserted that he plays a bottom role during coitus. He is not at all prepared to disclose his sexual orientation to his parents and have no plans of letting them know about his sexuality in the near future because he is afraid that his parents might not accept him the way he is.

CASE STUDY 2: DEEPAK (34 YEARS)

Deepak is 34 years old man with a plumpy body structure, he is working in an NGO. He only studied up to class 8. Deepak is from Assamese community and is Hindu by religion. He added that during his childhood days he was neglected by his friends because of his sexual preference. His friends make fun of him because he was a homosexual. All these incidences depressed Deepak and he moved to different parts of Assam. He is currently staying in Guwahati. He further said that, in his life all he wants is sex, party, food and a place to live. "*Sex sab ko chahiyae*" (Everyone needs sex) –Deepak. He has high sexual desires and he stated that one can never be satisfied with one partner in terms of sexual intercourse. He was rejected by his parents when they came to know about his sexual orientation, but slowly and steadily after getting financial support from him, his parents accepted the way he is and never questioned him for his preference. Although he is homosexual he has a plan of getting married to a woman in the near future because he mentioned that being homosexual, sometimes makes him lonely as relationship with man can never last long. When asked about his sexual experience, Deepak uttered that, he have lascivious activities only with those homosexual men who have undergone proper HIV test. He had physical relation with around 150-200 homosexual partners approximately. "I'm proud of being who I am and will always be happy with what I am" – Deepak.

CASE STUDY 3: DION DOLEY (34 YEARS)

The third case study is about a man name Dion Doley who is 34 years old. He hails from Dibrugarh and is a graduate, presently he is residing in Guwahati. As per his opinion he feels that gay and bisexual men do face difficulties in sharing their sexual preferences because society doesn't

consider it normal. He became aware of his sexual orientation at the age of 19 when he made out with a guy for the first time. His parents are unaware about his sexual orientation. When he is in public place he behaves like a straight man. He doesn't feel cursed being homosexual. He is happy about his sexual preference but sometimes he is pissed towards the society because society doesn't look the homosexual man as normal. He is aware of the fact that anal sex is more vulnerable for spreading of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs). He is aware of both Post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) and Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP). He have used PEP but never PrEP due to its unavailability in Guwahati. He said that the main obstacle faced by him is hiding his own true sexuality, feelings, behaviour etc. While having any sexual activity he is a versatile.

CASE STUDY 4: RISHAB (25 YEARS)

The fourth case study is about a professional makeup artist name, Rishab. He is originally from Shibsagar and is a postgraduate residing in Guwahati. According to Rishab, his parents were expecting a daughter but at that point of time he was born, so in order to fulfil their unfilled desires, his parents dressed him like a girl like putting frock, ghaghra, lipstick and many other feminine stuffs. According to him he is homosexual as he has never been attracted towards women. He gets satisfaction by touching a male body. He developed his interest towards men when he first got to touch the body parts of his male tuition teacher, who was happened to be a bisexual. Rishab recalled how eagerly he awaits his tuition teacher, thinking when he'll come so that he could touch him, that is how his interest towards the same sex fledged. He shares a very friendly relationship with his mother. Rishab always deny the fact of marrying a girl and humorously tells his parents to find him a boy to marry. He is in relationship with his partners for 7 years. His partner gets angry when Rishab's get calls and messages from other man. He has also face difficulty in expressing his sexuality with others. People have also gossip against him. He further added that, for him body pleasure is very important during coitus. He has no plans for the future and believes in living in the present.

CONCLUSION

Thus the above case studies confirms the presence of homosexual orientation as a type of sexual orientation. The homosexual respondents are not very open about their sexual orientation because of the fear of being rejected. With the onset of adolescence one can discover their sexual orientation. Like heterosexual relationships even in homosexual relationships also there are exemplification of true love among the partners as case study 4 of Rishab divulge that because they have been in a relationship from past 7 years. Homosexuality can also occur at the tender age due to the unconsciousness of the child or victim, for example, A small child enters into the world of homosexuality often unknowingly, when a man of matured age allows them to touch the private parts of their body for their bodily pleasure to which the child enjoys because the

child feels quite privileged as he is being allowed to touch the part of the body which is always being covered, this is how unknowingly things happen. Case study 4 of Rishab happened like that. The study has brought to light the fact that money is a sole determinant even in determining the relationship with the parents. Case study 2 is an example of such happening. Thus the study is a brief attempt to show the orientation of homosexual men.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Government should introduce welfare policies for the LGBTQ community.
- Gender based lesson should also introduce in the school to understand about gender equality.

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