

# The Concept of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) is seen from the Legal Norms of Indian Society

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Article	Abstract.
Keywords:	This research is to find out that most homosexuals (Lesbian, Gay and
Connection; Environment;	transgender) begin to realize that they have different tendencies at a
Homosexual; Teenager.	young age. Studies show that homosexual behavior and same-sex
	attraction are common from the age of 15, the prevalence is in men, in
Article History	America 20.8%, UK 16.3%, and America 18.5%. While in the women's
Received: 2023-05-21;	group respectively 17.8%, 18.6%, and 18.5%. This situation shows that
Reviewed: 2023-05-22;	the school age group is a vulnerable age to start engaging in same-sex
Accepted: 2023-05-23;	relationships. This study uses cross-sectional (cross-sectional) with a
Published:2023-05-23.	qualitative approach. Data was collected using in-depth interviews,
	focus group discussions and literature review. While the decision to
DOI:	become homosexual mostly occurs at the age of young adults or at the
10.30659/jdh.v6i1.31181	age when most of them are students. Becoming LGBT is not an easy
	endeavor and even afterwards it is not without problems, many
	problems and risks arise when young adolescents start to engage in
	same-sex relationships, for young men the lack of knowledge about the
	risks of sexual relations can cause them to be easily exposed to HIV and
	sexual harassment from those with more experience . Ignorance of
	their state of self can also lead to social turmoil and depression. For
	young men, the lack of knowledge about the risks of having sex can
	make them more susceptible to HIV exposure and sexual harassment
	from those with more experience. Ignorance of their state of self can
	also lead to social turmoil and depression. For young men, the lack of
	knowledge about the risks of having sex can make them more
	susceptible to HIV exposure and sexual harassment from those with
	more experience. Ignorance of their state of self can also lead to social
	turmoil and depression.

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#### **1.Introduction**

*Lesbian* is a female homosexual; women who experience romance or are sexually attracted to other women. The term lesbian is also used to express sexual



identity or sexual behavior related to sexual orientation<sup>1</sup>.

Gay according to the dictionary is a personwho are attracted to the same sex and those who are notattracted to the opposite sex. Gay is basically a term that refers to a (man) homosexual, that is, men who have sex with men of the same sex or men who have sex with men. [Douglas, 2013]

Bisexuality is romantic attraction, sexual behavior or sexual attraction to men and women. [APA, 2013; 2011; , GLAAD, 2011], other sources state it as romanticism or sexual attraction to all gendersor gender identity;[Alan (2006)., Beth A. (2007).Basically the term bisexuality is usually used to describe romantic attraction or sexual attraction in a human context to other people without distinguishing men or women<sup>2</sup>.

Transgender refers to a person's gender identity that is not related to the biological sex he was born with<sup>3</sup>. General public knowledge about LGBT is still very limited, especially regarding the causes of this difference in sexual orientation and sexual identity. Levelthis understanding greatly influences society's acceptance of LGBT people<sup>4</sup>.

#### 2. Research Methods

This studying cross-sectional (cross-sectional) with a qualitative approach. Data was collected using in-depth interviews, focus group discussions and literature review. The data collected is in the form of information, explanations, clarifications arguments put forward by selected informants and focus group discussion participants. Literature review is used to compare and reveal some of the findings of previous studies, which are closely related to this research<sup>5</sup>.

#### 3. Results and Discussion

## 3.1. Community Views Regarding LGBT

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>http://www.nap.edu/openbook.php?record\_id=6109&page=35

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> UNDP\_USAID National LGBT ReportIndia - Living As LGBT in Asia UNDP & USAID 2022

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Committee on Lesbian Health Research Priorities, Neuroscience and Behavioral Health Program, Health Sciences Policy Program, Health Sciences Section, Institute of Medicine (1999). Lesbian Health: Current Assessments and Directions for the Future. National Academies Press. p.s. 22.<u>http://www.nap.edu/openbook.php?record\_id=6109&page=35</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Dictionary, reference. Com & Firestein, Beth A. (2007). Becoming Visible: Counseling Bisexuals Across the Lifespan. ColumbiaUniversityPress. pp. 9–12.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Soble, Alan (2006). "Bisexuality". Sex fromPlato to Paglia: a philosophical encyclopedia 1. Greenwood Publishing Group. p.s. 115.



Information obtained from the Ministry of Health as a whole there is a significant increase in the number of Waria between 2002 and 2022, but there is no significant increase from 2020 and 2022. The population is not certain but refers to the datathe population vulnerable to being affected by HIV, the number of waria is estimated at 597 thousand people, while men who have sex with men, including bisexuals, reach more than 1 million people. Another source said that using the prevalence of the population it could reach 3 million. While the lesbian population is not widely known.

Community viewregarding LGBT issues still vary depending on cultural background, religion, social groups, media, family, peer relations, gender and interactions withLGBT individuals [Lehman & Thornwel]. The level of rejection and acceptance of LGBT very much depends on the factors above.

There are also some people who are neutral, accept the situation of LGBT but don'tsupport LGBT activities openly. This group believes that all people have the same right to live, fulfill human rights but still consider the local context. Meanwhile, the supporting groups are LGBT groups, activists and activists for equality who want LGBT people to have the same rights without restrictions in any context, including in same-sex marriages.

In general, open LGBT people in India still experience a lot of violence and discrimination in employment and housing opportunities, education, health and welfare [UNDP, 2014]. It is difficult for LGBT people to access jobs, especially jobs in the formal sector, because many employers are homophobic and because the environment (in general) is not welcoming to LGBT people. Meanwhile, those who manage to get a job also often experience discriminatory treatment such as being insulted, shunned, threatened, and even physically abused (ILO, 2014).

In the world of work, LGBT groups who are still closed, in certain situations can still enter the world of work without significant discrimination, the opposite happens to groups who are open. Therefore, open-minded LGBT people develop themselves more in work situations that are less bound by norms, such as becoming independent entrepreneurs. Meanwhile, the transgender group (waria) is the group that receives the most discrimination because of their different appearance. This group developed a lot in the informal sectors such as salons, creative industries, entertainment and some of them entered the world of prostitution.

The LGBT group generally expects more balanced and fair treatment from the Government, they want sexual orientation and sexual behavior not to



become an obstacle for them in society, work, achieve and contribute to development. Society itself still has a stigma associated with LGBT, especially due to excessive media exposure and the actions of LGBT itself which cause concern, such as cases of HIV AIDS, and cases of sexual crimes against children, plus contrary to thoughts based on religion.

## 3.2. Knowledge of Indian society about LGBT

The community has an initial impression of LGBT as something that is contagious, or a contagious disease, some other informants see LGBT as deviant. It is considered scary because it is related to deviant sexual relations and the disease it causes (HIV). Other parts of society see LGBT associal disease because it contradicts or violates the religious norms and values that are adhered to by the majority of people in India<sup>6</sup>.

"According to my knowledge yes it is like a contagious disease" (En, 50 years, Society).

"It's scary to see, because deviation ... it's something scary. What's more, it's not related to illness or anything like that. It's more about sexual relations, right? Think about it like that, you know, towards sexuality it's always like a deviation*that's sexual. So we think it's a bit scary like that." (D, 51 years, Society).* 

"Social illness, violating religious norms and values" (Ek, 37 years old, Society).

Even so, there were also informants who saw LGBT as a group of people who were different from people in general in society. However, they cannot express it because they are limited by environmental rules that limit them. "They are people who want to be free but are constrained by the environment." (I, 22 years old, Society).

In general, all informants can easily recognize the characteristics of LGBT, especially gays.Usually, gays can be seen from their feminine or feminine behavior and their slender speech. Gay also has a way of walking that looks like a woman<sup>7</sup>.

"That gay..., from the way he walks you can see there are girls like that..."(En, 50 years, Society).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> "GLAAD Media ReferenceGuide". GLAAD. January 2011.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> "Sexual Orientation". American Psychiatric Association.July 26, 2011. See "Sexual orientation, homosexuality and bisexuality". American Psychological Association. August 8, 2013.



"... for the gestures for the feminine style of speech, if Javanese people or sometimes outspoken feminine also exist, but from people I know are feminine." (U, 31 years old, Society).

Even so, not always men who are feminine are gay, it could be the other way around because there are gays who are very macho like men in general. In addition, they can also be identified when alone with other men. In general, gays can be identified when they are with their partners or interacting with other men. For example holding hands or when they are approaching the other man.

"... Likes to code with fellow men, likes to poke or ask for a walk." (Ek, 51 years old, Society).

"... Usually when the two men sit together holding hands or holding parts of their opponent's body it is suspected that they are gay. Usually one kemayu dresses tighter than the other guys and the other one is macho." (T, 51 years, Community).

Lesbians can also be recognized but not as easily as gays. Some of them look like men with male characteristics and attributes. For example, short hair or crew cut, how to talk, macho, and wearing a shirt or wearing clothes like a man. In addition, there are also those who look like women in general. They, like gays, also have masculine and feminine roles.

"Oh, it's more difficult for lesbians, maybe fifty-fifty. There are those who dress like men with short hair wearing shirts, but there are also those who dress in dresses, who turn out to be lesbians... It's not as easy to spot gay people."(U, 31 years).

"The way to dress a woman is really but if you play a man it's really macho..."(En, 51 years old, Society).

For bisexuals, they are completely invisible when they are in the midst of society. Bisexuals can be recognized when they open themselves. "Bisex If they tell the story, they will be found out. This bisex is not visible at all." (T, 31 years, Community).

Waria is different from other LGB, because he is not homosexual. They are recognized for having an appearance that differs from their original gender as if the gender had beenchanged. Their behavior is also in contrast to their gender, such as men who become women or vice versa.



"Meanwhile, waria cannot be said to be the same as homosexual. The difference lies in his appearance which has completely changed gender." (V, 30 years old, Society).

"Transgender's voice is a boy but his hairstyle is a woman's and his behavior tooWoman. they are more feminine than girls actually are. Appearances such as clothes, hairstyle, make-up, and the way they sit are more girlish than real girls, even if they talk about bass, but make it smaller."(T, 31 years, Community).

#### 3.3. Gender, Identity and Sexual Orientation

Most people can recognize the differences and similarities between LGBT. Generally, people know that lesbian, gay, and bisexual are sexual orientations, namely those who prefer the same sex in sexual intercourse. Whereastransgender are people with a gender identity that is different from their gender. Those who are transgender want to be or act like the opposite sex.

"Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender, namely people with sexual preferences who are not hetero. Transgender is clear. Lesbians are same-sex enthusiasts but women, gays are attracted to the opposite sex or the same sex. Transgender people who themselves are not in accordance with their biological sex"(U, 31 years old, Society).

"Understanding of each LGBT. Lesbians are women who are sexually oriented towards women too. Gays are the opposite of male lesbians whose sexual orientation is towards men. Bisex can be for men and women. Transgender people who change body parts to become the opposite sex. Like a woman becomes a man and vice versa. Gender identity is an identity for him to play himself as a girl or a boy. Sexual orientation is the desire for a girl or a boy to be a partner and there is emotion in it."(T, 22 years old, Society).

#### a. LGBT causes

Society sees that LGBT is caused mainly by biological or genetic and social factors (environmental influences). According to society, biological factors have a role in shaping someone to become LGBT. A person can become LGBT because of heredity or because of a genetic disorder he was born with. Unlike the case with social factors, society assumes that someone who is in an LGBT (social or work) environment will eventually follow the lifestyle and over time can be infected with being LGBT.



"If it seems like the cause is heredity, there used to be offspring with muzzles, I heard that we are friends with muzzles, in the end we are infected with his lifestyle, with his preferences with his way of life, for example if a man works in a hairdressing salon, he gets carried away with it in the long run." (En, 50 years, Society).

"I see it more towards genetics. Genetic disorders, chromosomal abnormalities. So, when he was little, he was born more to girls, before he was a boy, right... That's right. Or a girl like a boy. I think there can be two types of transgender... I think it can be male to female, female to male. But it's just like that"(D, 51 years, Society).

Society also sees that a person can become LGBT as a result of trauma or heartache.Trauma in the sense of having experienced violence (both physical and sexual) in his childhood or being hurt by the opposite sex with whom he has had contact. Besides that, there are people who think that they become LGBT because of their family upbringing. Specifically for transgender people, several informants saw that economic factors were also the underlying cause for them becoming waria.

"It's just that here I also see that it's innate, right?environmental influences, or indeed he experienced sexual violence as a child." (F, 58 years old, Society).

"For lesbians, the cause is because they are small workersharsh treatment of their parentsalso hard on himself especially his father. She has been used to doing men's jobs since she was little."(S, 22 years old, Society).

"The cause of someone being lesbian and homosexual is a biological factor and heartache. In the case of waria, it is influenced by heartache and related environmentwith the economy. That is, when a person decides to work in a certain profession, say a prostitute, and changes his appearance then he will depend economically on that activity and continue to become a waria." (V, 30 years old, Society).

# b. Recovery

Some people think that LGBT is a disease that must be cured or restored. Society sees that LGBT are people who must be treated andneed help According to the informant, they need to be rehabilitated to get recovery<sup>8</sup> so that they become

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Sell RL, Wells JA, Wypij D, .The prevalence of homosexualitybehavior and attraction in the United States, the United Kingdom and France: results of national population-based samples. Arch Sex



normal (heterosexual) again and their numbers do not increase.

"Yes, there is medical science, or therapy, or whatever it is, psychiatry or whatever it is, that's what needs to be done. If we see abroad, they like to share sitting together, that's actually one way of healing, I'm more concerned that they are sick and need recovery, that's all." (F, 58 years old, Society).

"Recovery is necessary, there must be a place for health for his guidance, ifcan be restored so it doesn't get more mountainous for rich people like that..."(En, 50 years, Society).

Some people suggested that an agency or organization be created for LGBT. The agency or organization should preferably be in a high school or college. The agency is engaged in counseling under the guidance of psychologists or psychiatrists who serve those (LGBT) with problems.

"It's like there is a body like that, an organization or a concert or something like that on campus or high school that thoroughly handles it. That's it... Yes.. maybe he, for example, comes from a broken family where parents don't pay enough attention. Well, he must be under the guidance of a psychologist so he can return to normal. So that richaffected, we don't just let it go, so the name of the agency accommodates both those with genetic disorders or social problems."(D, 51 years, Society).

There are also people who see that LGBT does not have to be restored because it is a conditionnatural. According to the informant, if there are LGBT people who want to be cured, it means they are not LGBT people, but people who only follow the LGBT lifestyle. Such people are unfit to ask for recognition or demand acceptance from society.

"... Because I believe they are indeed born likeThat. If you say that you vote, it means that you just live a culture, which means it's different from the LGBT people that you've been talking about earlier. If he feels he can heal or wants to heal, it means he's not LGBT, he's just a personwho follow the lifestyle. It's ridiculous if you ask to be recognized, you are different from the real LGBT so if you don't like recovery, what are you going to do to go to a rehab...?" (U, 31 years old, Society).

Furthermore, informants also believed that LGBT is not a disease so that the general public needs to be given understanding, knowledge and

Behavior. 1995 Jun;24(3):235-48.



understanding about LGBT so they can accept them as they are. On the other hand, LGBT people should also be given an understanding that they need to follow the norms that exist in society. In addition, rather than recovery it would be better if there was a complaint center forLGBT are discriminated against and law enforcement is clear when they get violence.

"Maybe it's not recovery, it's more acceptance in society, but in my mindset, LGBT is not a disease, acceptance can be two-way, either people who accept their culture or those who follow the norms in society, sohow to accept those who are fair but how to accept them who are fair has been summarized at the complaint post if there is discrimination and there is clear law enforcement if there is violence etc. but if there is no remedy."(U, 31 years old, Society).

## 3.4. Attitudes of Indian society in general towards LGBT

Most people reject the existence of LGBT, especially those around their homes. Society generally sees the existence of LGBT as something negative, abnormal, and a mistake. These rejections and views are based on the religious teachings that are adhered to by the majority of the people in India and also because there is a strong assumption that India is a Hindu religious country and there are also Christians and Muslims. Apart from that, the lack of interaction or information about LGBT also reinforces this view. So far, the information received is that LGBT people are only related to sinful acts.

"People with Sundanese backgrounds and their Islamic religion do not agree with the existence of LGBT."(T, 22 years old, Society).

"Still haven't accepted the majority, yes, still consider it a mistakesomething that is abnormal and unnatural and contrary to religious values, because the majority of us claim to be religious."(U, 31 years old, Society).

The background knowledge above largely determines people's attitudes towards LGBT in Indonesiatheir living environment. Communities generally criticize and stay away from all social activities (isolation). Most of them consider LGBT as a disease that must be eliminated and it is also scary for people because it can be contagious. This opinion is based on religious teachings where God destroys LGBT people (the story of the prophet Lut). Therefore, people are afraid that they will be hit by a disaster due to their presence.

*"It seems like criticizing... Yes, I don't accept it, it's like that, it's considered non-religious. But in general, people are isolating, aren't they? A bit scared... Hmm...* 



I don't know. In that religion, there is also a city that has been destroyed because there are people who like the same sex. I don't know if it was destroyed or what, according to religion, it's because the contents are like that. So it's like a sin like that..."(D, 51 years, Society).

"Staying away, like I'm afraid I'll like him like that, then yeah, that's horrifying."(I, 22 years old, Society).

Although there are those who reject the existence of LGBT, some people can understand and accept the existence of LGBT. The view of some people towards LGBT at this time is much better when compared to before. According to the informant, the community has better education and knowledge about LGBT. Therefore, society sees LGBT as different people who have their own world so society does not discriminate against or support them, especially in Mumbai.

"For the agesI don't think an LGBT person is set aside, maybe nowadaysthere is already a lot of knowledge and education, so it's okay, just enjoy it."(En, 50 years, Society).

In everyday life, some people also do not reject LGBT peoplelive in their neighborhood or don't mind their neighbors. According to the informant, this is because the community may have interacted with these LGBT people for a long time. In addition, society has never (or will not) discriminate against (or expel) neighboring LGBT people if they are known and have good relations with the people around them.

"It seems like it's normal here, when it used to look like it was possible, it became a conversation, making acts became talk everywhere for Mumbai, it's already modern"(En, 50 years old, Mumbai).

"... well, there are transgender people in our environment, but we have never kicked them out, never gossiped about them, just made fun of them, neverthere is real action to make him uncomfortable, he just relaxes him, in the afternoon he goes for a walk when he goes to work it's also normal to never be disturbed by children even though it's in a community where the religion is quite strong, but because in my opinion it's because he's lived there for a long time, the people there already know, like I said before, if you already know it, it's not a problem,"(U, 31 years old, Mumbai).

There are also informants who see that rural communities are more able to accept LGBT people than those in cities. According to him, rural communities have



known LGBT people since they were small compared to people in urban areas who may never know LGBT people in their daily lives. Informants also believed that village people were more accepting because LGBT existed in wayang stories and this was not something new<sup>9</sup>.

"... Alreadythere are LGBT people in the villages, then in general what I meet in the community is normal, so maybe because they have known each other since childhood they have been neighbors so the discrimination isn't that bad, this has been around for a long time even in wayang stories there is a wandu so nothing new. Now, in rural areas, there are actually no problems. What's problematic is in urban areas where people don't know LGBT, they refuse, you could say because in urban areas there are lots of peoplepeople who have never met LGBT with LGBT people in their life, so when they see them they are abnormal or not normal, but right in the rural environment that I met, I didn't really reject them, maybe because the LGBT in the village weren't very expressive, and they tended to be closed off, for example, I've never heard that there are LGBT people being tortured or expelled..."(U, 31 years old, Mumbai).

a. Acceptance in the Work Environment

In the field of work, there are people who reject the existence of LGBT in work or working with them. According to the informant, some groups in the community even expressed this rejection through actions and parades. Even so, informants believed that people who interacted directly with LGBT in work, such as the middle/working class does not deny their existence. Even if they don't accept LGBT people in the work environment, society tends to be less expressive in rejecting them.

"Worker huh?...Scared too huh... I don't think I'll be accepted if that's the case. Of course, if for example it's modern, there's a container, but if it's generally like that, you can just take it out. It's still not acceptable..."(D, 51 years, Mumbai).

"It's okay, like I said earlier, in cities there are a lot of rejections, there are organizationsorganizations that are active in making parades and demonstrations for FPI, FBR, Forkabi are those who refuse but the middle class and the working class are not expressive in rejecting LGBT" (U, 31 years old, Mumbai).

b. Acceptance in the School Environment

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup>Braun, L. (2006)."Sexual identity development among lesbian, gay, and bisexual youths: Consistency and change over time". Journal of Sex Research 43 (1): 46–58.



In education, some people completely reject the existence of LGBT and do not want their children to associate with them. On the other hand, there are also people who do not reject LGBT people at school as long as they don't disturb and do not violate the rules at school. Informants see that LGBT also need education because it is their right as human beings and citizens.

"For the acceptance of LGBT in the campus or school environment, convey to DIKNAS not to accept students or students who are LGBT."(Ek, 37 years old, Mumbai).

"If they go to school, they have the right to get an education, as long as they comply with the rules of the school, that's okay. They also have a future. If their education is limited, then who will support themselves? That's a form of independence. If someone is ostracized, it will violate other people's lives. I don't want to live like that either."(En, 50 years Mumbai).

In the school environment, LGBT students generally do not open themselves up to othershis friends. According to the informant, in the past there were not too many issues regarding LGBT and there were still many students who did not understand LGBT. The informant said that if any of his friends looked like LGBT, he would be ridiculed or bullied by his friends<sup>10</sup>.

"School, isn't it when I was at school, 1999-2002, there wasn't too much exposure to LGBT, so if someone had a bit of a sissy style, they were bullied like crazy, lesbians never confessed, gay people, moreover, the consequences were even more dire, but after graduation they were more open, after graduation there was a girl friend of mine dating a girl, but you never saw it at school, during school there were guys whose style was like a muzzle being bullied and teased every day." (U, 31 years old, Mumbai).

It's different from the campus or university environment, usually not on campusproblem with LGBT. Religious groups or organizations on campus also usually do not reject or even make statements that they reject the existence of LGBT on campus. According to informants, the campus world usually does not really care about each other or maybe it is freer than at school.

"The campus environment, because I was studying at UI, was not really a problem, even the existence of religious circles did not refuse to make statements or do anything, when I was in college there were transgender people,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Harper, Douglas (2001–2013). "Gays". Online Etymology dictionary.<u>http://www.etymonline.com</u> ILO, Gender Identity and sexual orientation in Thailand,PRIDE PROJECT, 2014



there were lesbians but no one discriminated against them. In FISIP, you don't know about other faculties."(U, 31 years old, Mumbai).

"Well, in the world of lectures, the era is really stupid, not like a school's excitement, which is a little quirky, it must be talked about or if college is already free. Yes, that is, yes, let me do whatever you want, but yes, there are still some, my gay friend, some people are afraid to play with him because they are afraid of being liked, some are now aware too." (I, 22 years old, Mumbai).

#### c. individual attitude

In general, people feel uncomfortable with the presence of LGBT people in their environment. They may not get good treatment and will even appear sarcastic andhostility from society. Personally, the informant felt uncomfortable with the presence of LGBT. But according to him, because it is someone else's right, he will act normally as long as their presence can make him comfortable. He considered this view to be different from the general view because it could be regarded/scorned as someone who has no religion<sup>11</sup>.

"In his personal environment he will accept if there are neighbors who are LGBT. Meanwhile, according to the general public, they will feel uncomfortable. They could get a reprimand." (V, 30 years old, Mumbai).

"So, most of my friends saw me playing with gay friends I'm like that, yes they always ask "why are you friends with people like that, you just make the end of the world even closer" yes that's true. It just means they have their own lives, they have their own ways of living, so let's just let it be like just taking care of it." (1, 22 years old, Mumbai).

Meanwhile, there are some people who simply cannot live side by sidewith LGBT. According to the informant, he did not feel comfortable at all and preferred to move where he lived rather than have neighbors with LGBT people because he was afraid of contracting it. In contrast to one informant who would expel the LGBT person if it was deemed disturbing the peace around him.

"Seeing transgender is amused, scared, uncomfortable and disgusted... It's better to move than live in an environment where there are transgender people... Don't accept it because no one wants to be close to LGBT people for fear of a virus."(S, 22 years old, Mumbai).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Meghan Lehman & Megan Thornwall, College Students' Attitudes towards Homosexuality, Journal of Student Research 118,



"If there are people who are LGBT in my neighborhood, I will report it to the RT, if they don't take action, they will be expelled... First, they are reported to the RT, then they are advised, then if the warning is not heeded, then they are expelled."(Ek, 37 years old, Mumbai).

Some informants try to appreciate existenceLGBT. In general, the informant did not mind as long as the LGBT did not disturb the informant's family or household. According to him, because after all, LGBT is around us and is part of society, so it must be accepted.

*"LGBT is weird but it's appreciated. as long as you don't disturb other people's RTs."*(T, 22 years old, Mumbai).

"He's world is her world, our world is our world as long as the environment doesn't throw tantrums, doesn't make noise why not" "The important thing is that people are good, right, can work, canto support himself, not many violations, no violations, in my opinion." (En, 50 years old, Mumbai).

"I do thoughhow come whoever they are is part of our society, actually it's just that we just have to see what it looks like... I think it's normal-It's normal, because if we ostracize them even more, I don't think that's fair enough

... Because yes, they are part of our society, we have to accept that."(F, 58 years, Mumbai).

# 3.5. Recognition of LGBT

Society in general can accept or acknowledge LGBT if the individual is indeed born as LGBT. Informants feel that a person becomes LGBT because of biological factors that cannot be rejected and must be accepted. On the other hand, if someone becomes LGBT because of environmental influences, society does not accept it and that person cannot ask for their rights to be recognized or to be equated with LGBT because of biological factors. According to informants, LGBT individuals because they are influenced by the environment are actually sick and should be cured.

"For me, unless it's congenital, yes, from birth, the hormones are more female, it can't show anything. But if it's because of all kinds of links, I think this person is actually sick, not a strange person, that's my opinion. "(F, 58 years, Mumbai).



"For example, the child insists that gay people are seen one by one from their childhooda lot of female hormones if forced he also can't be a guy. So, if that's the case, then we can be accepted. If you protest, yes, if for example the campus is exposed like that, right... No, you can't. Unless it's case by case, the group of children must know what their background is. If, for example, being healthy is influenced by the environment, then you can't do that. For example, suddenly legally he asks to be admitted, so we have to examine him. Yes, that's the individual treatment. For example there are 10, we have to know the reasons one by one. You have to know in detail about the health of the chromosomes, mostly boys or girls. So it was not his will, but the will of fate that caused him to become rich like that. So it's case by case, if the case is because of a friend, just fix it if you can."(D, 51 years, Mumbai).

Not all informants had experience interacting with LGBT, especially working in the same field or company/office or using other people's services the LGBT in everyday life. The experiences of people who have interacted with or even worked with LGBT people are not always bad. In fact, in certain fields, some informants preferred or preferred to work or use LGBT services because they were seen as more skilled or better at working together.

"My experience was positive because the person (sissy) was open, fair and solid because he wanted to help. During high school, I also had a lesbian friend who had a tomboyish style and acted like a boy. It's been the talk of the townfriends but it doesn't matter because we often joke about this and my friend who is a lesbian is also not a problem. He is also active in school organizations." (V, 30 years old, Mumbai).

"For LGBT performance... there is a salon near my house, right?sissy is more detailed and tidier at work than salon ladies, right, so I prefer sissy when I'm at the salon."(T, 22 years old, Mumbai).

Several informants had bad experiences with LGBT, namely transgender people who peddled themselves on the streets close to downtown Mumbai. These transgender people take advantage of the condition when they bargain – between transgender people selling sex and their service users – as an opportunity to rob or similar criminal acts, as is often the case around the home environment of one of the informants.

"The petty crime class is like extortion, snatching, so the story is that they target boys and when they are held at gunpoint with a knife, all the money is taken because physically they are big. So it was a criminal night, the barn was looking for victims... many of the guests came home only in their pants because all their



belongings had been robbed."(U, 31 years old, Mumbai).

"Once upon a time, afraid. In the past, if you took a car through Lawang Park, it used to be there, right? Then we tease him, he's angry, he just drives fast. So don't make him angry, he could get punched.. Yes, first. If you come home later, you want to know. Yes, I'm afraid.. Yes. Waria are sadists. What can handle a guy this time? like the police are chasing him. If it's a girl, she's angry. What's more, I found out that there was a girl in the car, I was angry. He likes boys, what if a girl likes him."(D, 51 years, Mumbai).

One of the informants shared his experience of frequently interacting with LGBT people. According to him, they actually respect the preferences of people in general who are heterogeneous. Informants saw that their LGBT friends never forced them to, for example, listen to their sometimes vulgar stories or even invite them to play with their LGBT groups.

"It's good that until now they also respect our preferences, if we don't want to hear their stories they don't force them, they also won't force them to play with their group."(U, 31 years old, Mumbai).

In addition, some people have had unpleasant experiences when they have casually interacted with LGBT people in public places. One of the informants had experience of how he was fooled by the appearance of someone he thought was a woman when interacting. According to him, the person is completely invisiblesuch as transgender or even men who are coquettish. The informant was almost deceived if his friend did not inform him who already knew the transgender. There were also informants who had been approached by friends in their neighborhood who were LGBT while on public transportation. The informant felt uncomfortable with the behavior of his friend who tried to approach him.

"For the most clubbing experience, I was disappointed because I came from a different group, I thought it was a real girl, I kept watching and finally my friend told me that he was transgender, so reallyreally changed from the one on campus, what about clubbing to a girl right, on campus you can already see it, but the clothes are still unisex, most of the shoes are flat shoes, but once outside, they really dress like women and have wigs because I was tricked, I had time to dance together too hahaaha . It's dark so it looks beautiful but it's damn pretty."(U, 31 years old, Mumbai).

"Yes, I have, actually since middle school, I have a neighbor who is a really tomboyish girl, and I know she likes having girlfriends, actually I don't have a



problem, as long as she doesn't disturb our lives. And one day I was taking public transportation and I was sure that he was a girl and a girl who were dating and he was teasing me like that, and okay, since then I have become a bit rich..."(I, 22 years old, Mumbai).

Informants see LGBT as something that deviates because it is againstreligious teachings and infectious diseases associated with risky sexual relations. Apart from that, there are also those who see them as different people who cannot be free because they are constrained by a society that still holds strong religious values.

Most of the informants consider LGBT as a disease that must be cured or restored so that they can return to normal like society in general. There are also informants who think that LGBT does not have to be cured because it is not a disease and it is a natural condition that arises due to biological or congenital factors. Instead, it is society that must be given understanding and understanding in order to be more accepting of LGBT.

Some informants saw that LGBT could not be accepted in society and some others accepted the existence of LGBT. Informants who rejected the existence of LGBT argued that they were against religious values. People who reject LGBT tend to criticize or isolate the existence of LGBT. On the other hand, informants who accept the existence of LGBT are of the opinion that currently, people already have sufficient knowledge and understanding about LGBT so that society does not discriminate against them.

The majority of informants, even though they are not comfortable with the existence of LGBT, are not like thatproblem as long as they can maintain a good attitude and behavior in society.

People who interact directly with LGBT people at work, or have worked with or used LGBT services, do not reject their presence in certain fields of work. According to the informant, LGBT people have the right and can work anywhere according to their expertise.

Within the school environment, informants saw that it would be difficult for LGBT people to get good treatment from teachers and from their peers if they were identified. LGBT will get better treatment when they enter higher education level. Even so the majoritythe informant has no objection to LGBT going to school and having a higher education level because that is their right.



According to most informants, there needs to be education or socialization in schools regarding LGBT, so students and teachers will be able to have a better attitude towards LGBT in schools.

The majority of informants did not mind LGBT who would or wanted to run for officeas a political leader. Even so, some informants were not sure that they would be chosen by the community.

For religious leaders, the majority of informants disagreed if there were LGBT people who wanted or became religious leaders because they themselves were a form of opposition to religious teachings. However, most of the informants did not mind having to worship together with LGBT or not rejecting LGBT who wish to participate in religious activities together with the community.

All informants thought that LGBT people need to get health services like other people. Some informants even thought that LGBTshould get more priority because they are at risk of communicable diseases such as HIV.

Most of the informants disagreed with same-sex marriage because it was against religion and the informants were confused about how their family would be. There are also informants who support same-sex marriage to be legalized by the state alone or maybe it's customary because actually from the beginning, LGBT has existed and been recognized.

## 4. Conclusion

Around the last decade or so, the issue of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender, or known as LGBT, has surfaced in the world. This is none other than the increasing visibility of various social problems, including health, among LGBT people. Lesbian, gay and bisexual are issues of sexual identities, while transgender is a matter of gender identity (www.decipher,uk.net). Health problems experienced by LGBT include diseases related to sexual behavior, smoking and drug use, as well as psychological problems such as depression or suicide. The social problems that are often experienced by LGBT people are stigma and discrimination, including access to health services. The 2006 UN Declaration of Human Rights stated that the issue of LGBT was responded by fighting for the inclusion of the results of the agreements of UN sessions on gender equality, population and human rights. In India the movement for recognition of rights is also fought for by LGBT people, among others, through their various organizations. One study conducted in 2013 supported by USAID and UNDP revealed how LGBT subjects live in India with various social limitations.



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