

Alternative Sexuality: A step to reality of Universal Brotherhood

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Abstract: A common misconception about the idea of alternative sexuality among people is due to their inability to comprehensively understand it. Society has seen drastic change in the past century but our minds have failed to cope to this rapid accelerated change. This has led to major psychological and social downfall. This paper sheds a deep insightful and perspective view of various behavioural changes about alternative sexuality that can make the idea of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' a reality. It also addresses the steps that can be implemented within ourselves to become the change that we want to see in the society and about the importance of understanding, emphasizing, supporting and broadening our understanding of alternative sexuality. It further emphasizes the interest of youth in bringing this change, how we are close to reality and on the true intellects who have chiselled the modern society and etched a better understanding of alternative sexuality.

Keywords: behaviour, brotherhood, LGBTQ, social stigma

INTRODUCTION

Humans have travelled through the centuries, making monumental discoveries and mind-boggling inventions. But still our hunger for more is never satiated. More knowledge, more comfort and more freedom. Our brains have evolved from the crudest form to being the most complex functional unit that has ever existed and still we are just looking at the tip of the iceberg. Theories and researches have shown the evolution of man to be a spectacle beyond imagination. Darwin's theory of Survival of the fittest speaks volumes of our imperial dominance over other species in the conquest of the entire planet earth (Murphy 1999). The development of technology and its influence on our lives have shaped us into what we are today. Although the extensive use of technology is a debatable entity, what we have lacked throughout our path is the social progress to match our technological advancement. We have remained 'the early man', or might have even travelled back beyond that point in accepting the reality of existence of social and biological miracles amongst us. One such miracle is Alternative Sexuality.

Alternative Sexuality has been a topic of immense discussion from the past couple of decades. The term has had more 'alternate' meanings than what it actually means. With heterosexuals considered as the major sexual orientation, alternative sexuality includes homosexuals, bisexuals and asexual ("Answers to Your Questions for a Better Understanding of Sexual Orientation and Homosexuality" 2022). One of the major issues amongst us is the incapability and insensitiveness towards understanding the concept of alternate sexuality. Although there have been greater efforts being put to understand the concept of alternate sexuality, the direction of our endeavour has not been accurate. The most monumental flaw, the social stigma associated with it. People have managed to adulterate the concept of humanity when it comes to alternate sexuality, which certainly does not define man 'kind'. Our principles of existence have always been with the notion of universal brotherhood, but this attitude of rejection has been a big hurdle in achieving our dream.

HISTORY

Although records of Mesolithic rock art depicting phallic male figures in pairs, i.e., male intercourse, are in hand, we consider that the real challenge of social existence of alternate sexuality came into being not until the last two centuries. In the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century, we see the emergence of public recognition of alternate sexuality ("History of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Social Movements", 2022). Play writers like William Shakespeare used cross dressing in his plays at a time when homosexuality was considered a serious crime under sodomy and sumptuary laws (Cressy 1996). The social reformer Jeremy Bentham was the first to openly suggest reforms in homosexual laws in 1785. He argued that 'homosexuality was a victimless crime' and therefore did not deserve social approbation or criminal charges. He did this at a time when legal penalty for buggery was death by hanging (Bentham and Crompton 2008). But not until 1987, did we see a collaborative movement of LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender) community. The celebrated rainbow flag marked the spirit of dignity and equal rights to all the people of the LGBT community. The most renowned step towards legalisation of same sex marriage was passed in the US under the Presidential term of Barack Obama. This had huge impact on the world, taking Alternate sexuality to a totally new front. We have now witnessed celebrities openly acknowledging their sexual orientation. Countries like Finland are legalising same sex marriage in their country.

India has always had its own history with LGBT community. The world knows our land to be rich in culture, heritage values and divinity. It has always been a misbelief that our ideas of socially forward entities like the alternative sexuality has always been primitive. But the reality is totally different. The Hindu and Vedic scriptures depict saints, demigods and even Supreme Lord himself transcending gender norms and manifesting as multiple combinations of sex and gender. Even Kamasutra, the ancient Indian treatise on love, talks about feelings for same sexes. There are also many depictions of same-sex sexual acts in temples such as Khajuraho (Pipariya 2018). Several Mughal emperors also are known to have homosexual inclinations.

Art and Alternate Sexuality

Art has always played a pivotal role in recognising alternate sexuality. Movies like Philadelphia have portrayed the struggle of how a gay man faces humiliation just because of his sexual orientation. It depicts his struggle to even earn a normal life amongst us. Books like *The Miseducation of Cameron Post* by Emily M Danforth pictures her lifelong journey of being a lesbian. It focuses on the silence and pain, living in denial and fear. Throughout history we have seen people of alternate sexuality shaping a better world through their art, administration and intelligence. The Pride Flag and the Pink Triangle are examples of artistically projecting the freedom of rights to the LGBT community.

The perspective of the whole concept of Alternate Sexuality changed when celebrities like Ellen DeGeneres and Neil Patrick Harris disclosed their sexual orientation. It marked a significant step and a historical standpoint which prompted governments to consider legalising same sex marriages.

Alternate Sexuality and Psychology

The new world transition in legally recognising alternate sexuality as a reality is appreciable. But the real setback has been the lack of social acceptance of the same. LGBT community have been socially handicapped on different levels and have faced humiliation mentally, physically and emotionally. Discrimination is evident, and it has severe mental and psychological consequences. Rejection starts at home. As many as 50% of LGBT teens experience a negative reaction from their parents when they come out; 30% experience physical abuse, and 26% are kicked out of their homes. In fact, LGBT children comprise 40% of all homeless youth, and family rejection is the primary cause (“The Psychological Impact of LGBT Discrimination | Psychology Today” 2022). Bullying of LGBT children is common in schools, nearly 85% are verbally bullied during the course of a school year (Espelage et al. 2018). This harassment often turns violent, 40% report physical bullying and 19% report being physically assaulted at school because of sexual orientation. The bullying can be so intense that 30% of LGBT children miss school because they feel unsafe. Further, bullying because of sexual orientation results in increased depression and an almost six-fold increased risk for suicide attempts (Blosnich et al. 2016).

In the Indian context, the situation is worse compared to the Western countries. For the Indian LGBT community, a truly inclusive society is a distant dream. Although the urban communities, to an extent, have created awareness of LGBT rights, the situation is upsettingly grave for gay, lesbians and transgender. Most people of the alternate sexuality would not accept the fact of having a different sexual orientation for the fear of rejection with family and the society. Many marriages in India go through a rough patch for the same reason. Even though there are many organisations such as the ‘Humsafar Trust’ and the ‘Naz Foundation’ working for the LGBT rights in India, the social and emotional stigma attached to it in reality is highly uncertain.

Youth and Alternate Sexuality

Youth have had a major impact in the present scenario on sexual orientation. Studies have shown that perceived discrimination have accounted for increased depressive symptomatology among LGBT males and females, and accounted for an elevated risk of self-harm and suicidal ideation among LGBT males (Almeida et al. 2009). Perceived discrimination may also be a contributor to emotional distress among LGBT youth. It is also found that discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation may more strongly account for increased depressive symptoms reported by LGBT boys compared to that by LGBT girls (Z score 4.6, p value<0.001) (Almeida et al. 2009). The stratified analysis for suicidal ideation shows that LGBT boys and girls had significant increase in risk of suicidal ideation as compared heterosexual, non-transgender counterparts.

As the youth are getting demoralised by the ever-growing number of discriminations against them, the LGBT community face a serious threat of moral devitalisation. The youth of LGBT community needs the support of the society to come out and disclose their sexual orientation. Although the modern statistics suggest that we have modernised our thinking from before, the rate needs to improve. With social media acting as a pilot of almost all our activity, perception and perspective play an important role in the youth getting the right message intended for the complete comprehensive development of our society.

Alternate Sexuality: The Dark side

As everything in this world, the movements and LGBT community itself has its darker side. It is impossible to create a pure organisation as we find impurity even in the finest gold. Statistics suggest that gay sex is often tied to substance abuse, promiscuity and unsafe sex practices (Bruce, Ramirez-Valles, and Campbell 2008; “Why Reveal The Dark Side Of The Gay Movement? — Joseph Nicolosi - Reparative Therapy®” 2022). A significant minority of gay men also participate in sadomasochism, public sex in bathrooms and public places. The dark side of gay movement is not for the purpose of demoralizing or LGBT bashing. The primary concern is to understand the psychological pattern. Main stream psychologists are often too conflicted to identify and understand to acknowledge any pattern or assign any significance to sexual radicalism. Homosexuality is characterized by sexual addictions and fixations which keep stubbornly emerging in spite of public-relation trying hard to submerge it.

The biggest blunder committed by some well-known medical practitioners in India was calling homosexuality a mental disorder. Although the baseless argument was opposed immediately, the idea of such degree put a seed of uncertainty among people. LGBT community as such is a budding organisation keeping the interest and hopes of people of alternative sexuality alive. Such arguments

laid stone for nation-wide debate on the ethical interest of medical practitioners. The stint of 'curing' homosexuality by Yoga took centre stage and created havoc. It is statements such as these which have made the life of LGBT community miserable. Governments must critically observe such remarks and act accordingly so that baseless arguments are given the 'rewards' they deserve.

Alternate Sexuality: A step closer to Universal Brotherhood

The primary aim of the entire paper was to focus our attention on how Alternate Sexuality is the way to Universal brotherhood. The establishment of truth, tolerance and peace in every path of religion, philosophy and culture is the referral meaning of universal brotherhood. It is one of the major goals of mankind to achieve in the coming years. The obstacles to it are plenty, one of the major ones being, the social stigma in the society about various aspects, reality and miracles around us. It is very important to work in broadening, understanding, acting and evaluating our acts and steps in global social change that we intend to undertake.

The statistics, medical aspects and even the organisations may tread ways for the LGBT community to achieve their absolute rights of freedom. But the real change in eradicating social stigma is possible when we change our mind-set and stance on alternate sexuality. Unless our viewpoint about this quintessence, change into a constructive and developmental bearing, the change that we aspire to see would not happen. As youth of mankind, we need to observe things in the freshest sense possible. It is important for us to give the right opportunity every person in this world deserves. It is saddening to see the institutes and the system not giving the right amount of support to them. The real minorities in this world in every aspect of living are the LGBT community.

The fact that a seminar, conference and symposium is held to discuss the basic rights of existence of these people, is itself a major sign of our vulnerability. When the world is looking at the pivotal game changing aspects of our continual existence such as Global warming, it is also important to look at the humans as a single driving force that can change the complexion of the future. And alternate sexuality is one key to that aspect.

CONCLUSION

As humans, we are talking big about scientific breakthroughs about our beginnings, about time travel, peeping into different dimensions of time, broadening our way of social co-existence and digging deep into spiritual insights, but somewhere we lack the ability to see at the surface. The best decisions are not the intellectual sparks that revolutionised the world but are the ones that gave the basic breeding and living space for those revolutions to take place. It is high time we look back to our past to take a few pages from our forefathers in shaping our future better. Keeping the spirit of individualism alive, our theory of perspective about social norms is in dire need of our special attention. The basic building block of the human race started with the conviction of oneness, the Universal Brotherhood. To achieve the goal of lifetime, it is essential for us to take progressive steps towards it. As we have talked immensely about greater things in life, let us give our substantial amount of time, effort, resources and soul, to shaping a better future for our brothers and sisters around the world. Let us for once, redefine the oath, culture Alternate Sexuality and take a step closer to Universal Brotherhood!

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