Intimacy Building in LGBTQ Community Through social media.

Mohd Adeel

Research Scholar, Department of English and Modern European Languages, University of Lucknow, Lucknow, U.P. India.

Abstract: A homosexual person would have endured a life of secret, loneliness, and maybe self-harm almost a decade ago. Today, the individual does not have to feel so alone since the internet allows them to interact with other LGBTQ individuals all over the globe. For the gay community, visibility has always been a double-edged sword, particularly in India. In a discriminating society, the formation and development of community among them has always been vital as a method of support, protection, and affirmation. With the introduction of modern technologies, particularly the internet and cellphones, it is now possible to establish and organize communities without having to meet in person. In the article, I attempted to investigate the growth of the LGBT community and identity via the internet. How the internet has allowed them to come out of the closet and be more active in contacting one another as friends, lovers, and sexual partners. I investigate contemporary technology use in the LGBTQ+ community, focusing on communities who face more social stigma owing to identity, culture, or location. The paper's objective is to explore how the internet has become a platform for advocacy and community development for the LGBTQ+ community. How the internet has influenced both LGBTQ perception and performance. The precarity created "on-ground" has an influence on queer people's usage of social media. When addressing freedom, one must consider the freedom to look, or the right to observe without fear or harm. The goal of this research is to assess the impact of social LGBT network applications on the digital age and society. Thematic inquiry was applied in this research, where people are storytellers based on emotions and aesthetic values. Narrative has the ability to ignite creativity, transmit identity, provide fresh energy and passion, and guide them to a better future. Focus group discussion was utilized to obtain data from LGBT coming out participants who used the dating apps in India like Scruff and Grindr apps. The tales of the participants were then included into the study results. The findings revealed that homosexuals use these two programs for a variety of reasons, ranging from pure friendship, business partners, lovers, to sexual partners.

Keywords: Dating apps, LGBTQ+, youth, sexuality, gender, digital culture.

Introduction: There are several ways to be gay. Apart from the fact that queerness comprises a broad range of sexual expression, it also has varied degrees of integration into people's identities. It may be at the forefront of a person's life at times, and it can also play a little (but important) part at other times. This range of expression and experience complicates the task of forming a gay community. We frequently take it for granted that building community is a luxury that does not happen on its own - repressive systems thrive on separating vulnerable people. Queer community creation in India is difficult due to the continual fear of legal, physical, and personal damage. Nonetheless, clear attempts are being done throughout the nation to raise the voices of LGBTQ Indians. Pride events may be regarded a vital aspect of LGBT community development since they provide a venue for gay individuals to come together and actively declare their queerness: connecting people electronically, locally, and worldwide. But queer person doesn't fearlessly be part of it and is left out in the process of community building. "I think that the queer community, like any community, has its louder voices and voices that are lost in the bargain," says Koninika Roy, Advocacy Manager at The Humsafar Trust, a Mumbai-based LGBTQ charity. It is frequently difficult to find a cohesive voice due to the overwhelming variety of class, caste, gender, gender expression, religion, political leanings, and so on. It has always been and continues to be challenging for the queer community to traverse queer places and be heard. Through social media like Facebook, Instagram and various dating apps in country, now queer community gradually coming together to be called as a community. In this paper I would like to talk about this process through Scruff and Grindr one of the few most frequented chat applications used in India. Users may see homosexual profiles by installing and registering using the play store application, beginning with those who live within a radius of less than a kilometer. The researchers concentrated their investigation on social media. Scruff is a social networking app designed exclusively for gays that can be downloaded on phones. Grindr and Scruff are popular communication apps among Indian gays. Previous study on the Grindr app was conducted by [2], who looked at geolocation-based phone dating apps that enable homosexual men to interact with others within a specific radius. Existing cultural practices of self-presentation in a digitally created world have been reinforced by modern technologies, particularly in personal contacts with other homosexuals. Meanwhile, other study indicates that the incentive for homosexuals to use Scruff stems from a sense of uneasiness and difficulty when seeing gays in public places, which may escalate to homophobic violence. Thematic inquiry with narrative inquiry was applied in this research, where people are storytellers based on emotions and aesthetic values. Narrative is coherent when all aspects of the tale are full, hence this study may be compared to storytelling, which is a kind of communication that emphasizes the story. Stories, in general, describe how and why life changes [4]. A tale is a substantive development based in a situation that has the potential to bind the audience [5]. Referring to the statement [6] that storytelling may inspire creativity, transmit identity, get admiration, and provide fresh energy and passion, as well as bring people to a better future. By connecting tales with audiences, storytelling can also be employed as branding. Focus group discussion was utilized to obtain
data from LGBT coming out participants who used the Grindr and Scruff apps. The tales of the participants were then included into the study results.

Grindr and Scruff were chosen as geo-social applications in this research from among 12 gay-only apps accessible because their features are more comprehensive than other dating apps. A malfunction of the term dating leads to apps to meet sexual companions, or merely casual pals, or solely utilized for enjoyment when the user is bored. This becomes highly intriguing and humorous since the user's success rate for dating other users is lower than the user's success rate for having sex with other users. Even dating apps are being used to facilitate internet prostitution. With the applications Grindr and Scruff homosexuals and gay organizations are becoming more open in expressing their sexual orientation. This app is a gathering place for those who have the same sexual orientation, sometimes known as same-sex enthusiasts. In this scenario, the media serves as a conduit for LGBT groups to participate in the ordinary communication process. Because the interactions they have are unique and deemed uncommon in society.

According to the findings of this study, a profile photo is the essence of a dating application in the Scruff application, a profile photo raises assumptions from other users including its relation to sexual roles, dating applications are used for online prostitution, and a shift in the meaning of dating applications is not fully functional for looking for a date. Profile images are used by users in dating apps to represent themselves, making profile photos the core of a dating app. Profile photos are also used to represent themselves, which has a different effect than each other individual who uses a dating application, where other users will give different reactions (responses) based on motives, roles, cultures, fields of reference, and frames of reference. A person's profile picture on the dating app Scruff may pique the curiosity of other users, define the next attitude, and pick other people who seem appealing from their profile images based on the criteria and backgrounds of each user. Meanwhile, profile photographs in dating apps may help users define themselves based on their positions, histories, views, and reasons for using the dating app. Other users need Profile Photos that reflect their users in order to undertake the duties of other users. This is critical for the success of future communication. With the LGBT community's recognized sexual roles.

According to the study results, each homosexual uses the Grindr programme for a different reason, such as seeking for friends, business partners, joining (partners) in sexual connections, or commercial partnerships for material reasons. There are several barriers to utilizing the Grindr programme. For example, if the informant already has a partner, his goal in using Grindr may merely be to make acquaintances, rather than to explore for other alternatives. One of the difficulties is that it will only restrict talks with individuals who have objectives or are searching for friendships. Another barrier was discovered when participants were encouraged to have sex and declined, resulting in one side not feeling comfortable with the sort of discourse and not continuing the topic. Another communication hurdle in developing homosexual personal connections is when one or both parties do not enjoy particular forms of dialogue or discourse. Another barrier occurs when the informant's opponent interacts with an unpleasant body odor, causing the participants to opt not to continue the dialogue directly with the other person. Another barrier is homosexual voters who only want to be friends with gay smarts, so limiting the ability for other individuals who do not meet their criterion to communicate and form stronger ties. Personal relationships cannot be formed just by communicating via the application; they must be realized through encounters. This encounter will lead to new partnerships, ranging from friendships to more personal ones. Interactions conducted via the media or in face-to-face encounters, of course, have their own barriers. Each LGBT expects varied sexual activities; some anticipate merely talk, embracing, kissing, gentle caressing, and strong petting, while others desire intercourse.

Various barriers were discovered in the development of homosexual partnerships using gay apps in this research. Gays have made progress in expressing their identity despite constraints in Indian culture that strongly prohibit deviant behavior and attitudes such as this. However, they demonstrate their existence and continue to engage with other homosexuals via their social networking application. The programme is utilized as a tool to allow LGBT organizations or persons with same-sex sexual orientation to continue interacting with gay people without needing to meet in person. The meeting may then take place based on the outcomes of the chat between each side through the application. Furthermore, there are some social media traits that really characterize the presence of the Grindr and Scruff programmes, notably engagement, openness, dialogue, community, and connectivity. Altman and Taylor define homosexual intimacy as "interactions in establishing personal relationships through the Grindr and scruff applications," where intimacy entails more than just physical proximity but also intellectual and emotional closeness [8]. That is, verbal behavior (the use of words) and nonverbal behavior. (In the form of posture)

Conclusion: Grindr, a one-of-a-kind gay application, and Scruff, the most popular of the other homosexual applications, have made it easier for gay people to socialize with one another without having to meet face to face, which is difficult or impossible at this time due to the spread of the hepatitis C virus (HCV) pandemic. Both software are new sorts of communication in which users may not only exchange photos but also transfer photos to one another. These two programmes are used by gay people for a wide range of objectives, ranging from simple platonic companionship to sexual and commercial motives with an emphasis on the economy.

References