

Public Image, Stigmatization, and Living Circumstances of LGBT Group

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ABSTRACT

LGBT group includes lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender groups. For some historical and cultural reasons, LGBT group usually faces some negative stereotypes and stigmatization which can be reflected in their public image. This paper uses literature review, focuses on how these prejudice influences gender minorities' self-identification and living circumstance, and draws a conclusion that the living circumstance of gender minorities is getting better because the public opinion environment is getting more liberal, but the internal difference among the LGBT group is still great. Transgenders are living a harder life than gays, lesbians, and bisexuals.

Keywords: LGBT Group, Public Image, Transgender Group, Stigmatization, Living Condition

1. INTRODUCTION

LGBT groups are facing stigma and are often scrutinized with curious eyes by the public. The theme of this research is the causes for the stigma of LGBT groups and the living conditions of LGBT groups, especially transgenders. The specific issues of the research include the male chauvinism culture's Influence, the living condition of the LGBT group, and the specificity of transgender in LGBT groups. The research method is a literature review. LGBT groups are often regarded as political leverage or objects of curiosity in today's public opinion environment, rather than minorities whose basic rights have been deprived of. Due to the influence of certain deep-rooted concepts, LGBT groups often face difficulties when they come out, and their overall psychological condition is worse than normal, the suicide rate also remains high. The significance of the research is to explore the deep-seated causes of the stigma of gender minorities, and call for the rights of gender minorities.

2. THE MALE CHAUVINISM CULTURE'S INFLUENCE

Most of the world's influential cultures are patriarchal, which regard masculinity as superior to femininity. In the gender dualism context, male chauvinism means the deprivation of women's discourse right; but objectively, the gender stereotype created by the patriarchal society could also hurt males, not only

females. Because of the strong bias against femininity, the homosexual tendency of men and female to male gender transition is always considered as an insult of masculinity. It is a remarkable fact that the strain of publicity which women with the opposite gender temperament face is much less than the men who have the same condition face.

When a religious society/traditional ritual society is faced with a phenomenon that exceeds the moral carrying capacity of the society, the following situations often occur: 1. Religious society (fundamentalism is even worse): declared as heresy, strictly prohibited and suppressed; 2. Traditional ritual society (Partial secularism): The situation is more complicated. Generally speaking, the phenomenon tends to be forced to be regulated within the moral framework generally recognized by the society. The more typical example is the "right discourse" of LGBT groups in the domestic moral context. Distortion of "disease discourse". According to research, global culture has shaped collective attitudes globally, but the impact here is found to be less in more religious societies.[1] Homosexuality and transgender behavior in some traditional religious countries are considered blasphemy and illegal. Thus, there is no doubt that under the strong suppression of the above two inherent concepts and the advantages of public opinion, moral stigma and social discrimination against similar phenomena are still rampant, and there is still a long way to go to improve this phenomenon.

Under the influence of the male-dominant culture, the public image of LGBT group is often manifested in dissimulation. For example, the society news which reports the stories of gender minorities usually tend to use some novelty-seeking titles to catch the readers' eyes, such as "The British Guy Dare Not to Admit His Dating, Just Because His Girlfriend isn't a Normal Girl", "The Nurse was Tagged Along by a Lesbian for Over Two Years", and so on. And there are even some dirty talks that are specifically used for insulting the gender minorities especially the man with the opposite gender temperament, this phenomenon occurs in many language systems. All these aspects formed the heterosexual hegemonism culture.

3. THE LIVING CONDITION OF THE LGBT GROUP

The living conditions of the LGBT group exist regional variations, and it usually has a positive correlation with the residents' literacy rate and the educational level of their parents. Among Chinese

college students, 16.5% (219/1 762) believed that they were sexually attractive to the same sex, 8.5% (154/1 762) had sexual contact with the same sex, 4.2% (74/1 762) inconsistent gender identity; in attitude , It is acceptable to have sex with the same sex accounted for 12.4% (218/1 762), acceptable to have a relationship with transgender people accounted for 12.6% (222/1 762), acceptable to transgender accounted for 16.8% (307/1 762) 19.1% (347/1 762) who can accept sexual impulses to the same sex account for 26.2% (461/1 762) who can accept homosexual marriage, and 28.9% (510/1 762) who believe that bisexuality conforms to social and secular norms , 35.1% (618/1 762) think that homosexuality conforms to social secular norms. Zhang Peichao, Chi Xinli, Wu Mingxia, Wang Shasha, Wang Jian. A cognitive survey of homosexual, bisexual and transgender people among college students[J].Chinese Public Health,2012,28(07):921-923. This shows that even in groups with relatively higher educational levels, the social acceptance of the LGBT group are still remains low.

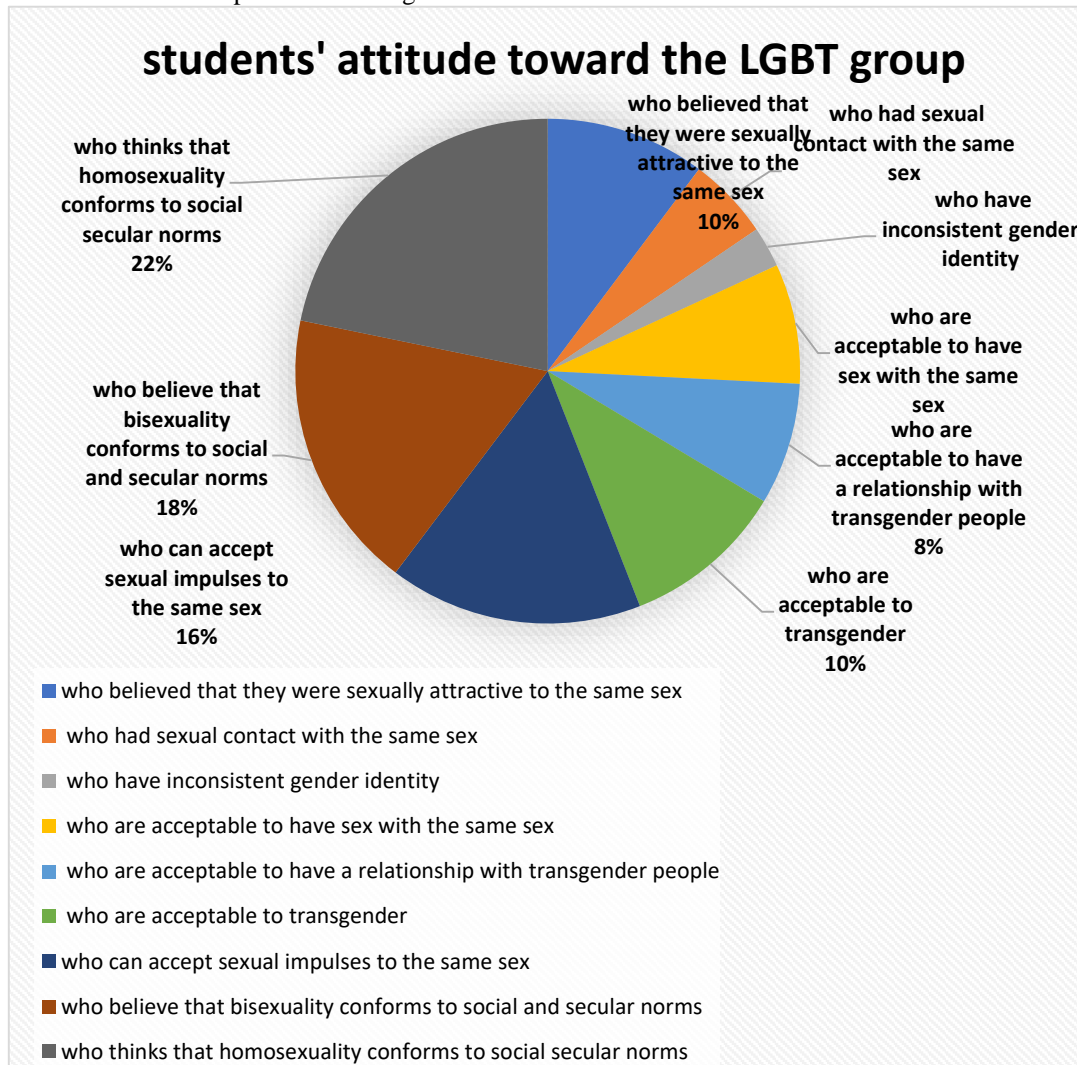


Figure 1. Students' attitude toward the LGBT group

The LGBT groups themselves psychological status also remains a very low rate. According to research, 306 people (40.7%) were called unpleasant nicknames at school because of their sexual orientation and gender identity, 261 people (34.8%) suffered verbal harm, 168 people (22.4%) were isolated by their peers, and 45 people (6.0%) suffered the threat of bodily harm. Wei

Zhongzheng, Liu Wenli. Study on the relationship between the mental health of sexual minority students and their exposure to campus bullying[J]. Chinese Journal of Clinical Psychology,2015,23(04):701-705. Gender minorities are also have a high incidence of depression, bipolar disorder, and other psychological disorders.

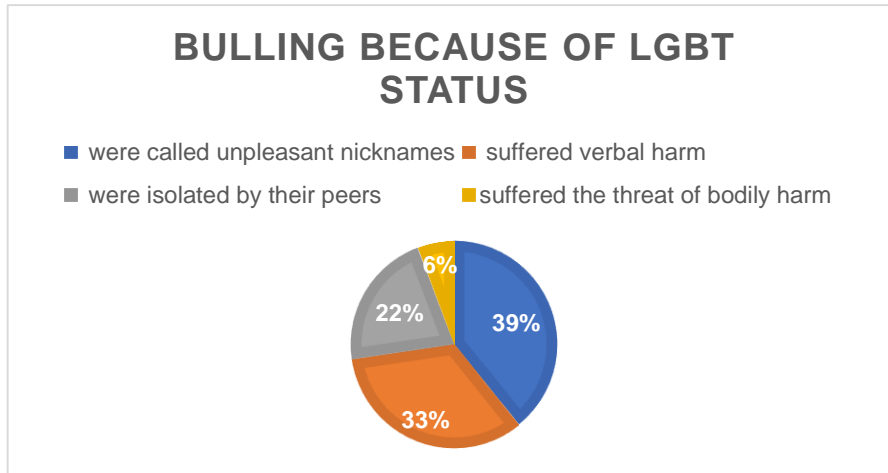


Figure 2. Bullying status due to LGBT status

4. TRANSGENDERS

The situation of transgender people is slightly different from that of other gender minorities. Except for a few queer genders, most transgender people do not identify with their biological sex. In most cases, transgender phenomena and homosexuality and bisexuality can exist at the same time. What defines transgender people is not their sexual preference, but their gender identity. Therefore, transgender people have their particularities among gender minorities. Most transgenders experience severe gender dysphoria during adolescence, and some of them are in a demand for sex reassignment surgery, which makes them have some essential physical changes. Most of the countries don't have a medical insurance system that is especially for hormonotherapy and sex reassignment surgery, and there are a large number of transgenders who die from self-cutting the reproductive organs. Transgender girl Zhu Yi started to suffer from depression in the second year of junior high, and then her condition worsened. She often shed tears until late at night, repeatedly struggling "If I was born as a girl, how good would it be". She went for psychological counseling many times, but the counselor did not realize that it was gender dysphoria. Later, she started to self-harm and even tried to commit suicide by taking medicine. At that time, her father had passed away, and her family cared about her physical condition, but did not go into the cause of her self-harm. They thought it was just the anxiety and depression of adolescence and it would be fine afterwards[2]. Public often confuses transgenders with gays, but in fact, gender identity is independent from sexual orientation. Not only the public

have a deep misunderstanding of transgenders, there is also a disdain chain within the LGBT Group,[3] and the transgenders are usually at the bottom of the chain. The specific performance of this phenomenon is gays discriminate against the male to female transgenders, lesbians discriminate against the female to male transgenders. Because for homosexuals, binary gender temperament is always counted as an important part of sexual attraction. Under this circumstance, transgenders' cross-gender behavior is usually regarded as a not-cherish action towards their formal gender temperament. Transgender people also easier to suffer school violence during their adolescence because of showing undisguised gender expressions that are opposite to their biological sex[4].

Have difficulty in using bathroom is another serious problem that transgender face. According to the survey results, most transgenders feel unsafe when using a public lavatory[5]. And the transgender rights legislation is still facing resistance due to the conflict of interest between cisgenders and transgenders.[6]In summary, transgenders' living circumstance relatively lower than other gender minorities.

5. CONCLUSION

The misunderstanding and malice of the public towards gender minorities are still deep, and the public resources that gender minorities can enjoy are also relatively small. Most gender minorities face psychological problems to a greater or lesser degree, and transgender people, as a minority in the minority, live in a particularly difficult situation, and even their basic right

to toilet are deprived. Although in recent years the degree of social tolerance in the world has increased, due to certain cultural and historical reasons, the living conditions of gender minorities in different regions are still quite different. The public image of sexual minorities is still being scrutinized from a curious perspective. There is still a long way to go to protect the basic rights of gender minorities.

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