



A Descriptive Study to Assess the Level of Attitude towards Lesbians, Gays, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/ Questioning (Lgbtq) Community among Undergraduate Students in Selected College of Amritsar, Punjab

Kawaljeet Kaur*

Khalsa College of Nursing, India

***Corresponding author:** Kawaljeet Kaur, Khalsa College of Nursing, India, Tel: 8054907514; Email: kawaldhillon756@gmail.com

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Abstract

The global population of individuals with gender diversity or LGBTQ people is on the rise. Nowadays, due to influence of mass media and social networking sites; many platforms are there which provide the knowledge to change the perspective of people regarding LGBTQ. However, still negative attitude towards LGBTQ individuals persist. These attitudes are influenced by cultural variations worldwide. There are many cultural norms, values and morals which are against the LGBTQ community. Also there is Stereotyping, gender discrimination and oppression towards LGBTQ community is still very prevalent in society. The aim of the study was to assess the level of attitude of undergraduate students regarding LGBTQ community. For which, 100 subjects taken from Law department of Khalsa college, Amritsar through purposive sampling technique. A likert scale was used to elicit the detailed information related to study objective. The major findings of the study shows that 93% of the students have good level of attitude towards LGBTQ community and 70% have bad level of attitude towards LGBTQ community whereas mean and standard deviation of the study findings were 18.91 ± 101.96 respectively. Hence, the attitude of the students is positive towards LGBTQ community.

Keywords: LGBTQ Community; Attitude; Undergraduate Students; Amritsar; Punjab

Introduction

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer community (LGBTQ community), in any country, region, city, or other locality, a group of persons who identify as lesbian, gay (in the narrow sense of being a male who is sexually or romantically attracted to other males), bisexual, transgender, or queer and who feel some degree of empathy and solidarity with each other based on their shared experience of prejudice, discrimination, and disrespect or their awareness of the

historical and contemporary oppression of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) persons. Prejudice and expecting stigmatizing behavior of outer people may increase LGBTQ individuals fear regarding discrimination lesbians, gay, bisexual and transgender adolescents are vulnerable to poor health and social outcomes because of organizations stigma and normative pressure against sexual and gender minorities they face personal and inter-phase personal challenges associated with coming out process, where by many milestones are experienced as difficult unlike

other minorities they cannot necessarily support from their parents or family and are therefore particularly vulnerable [1].

Society perceives the problem condition LGBTQ with various viewpoints, most assume that the deviation of sexual orientation is a violation of the norms that apply generally and others consider that this trend is a lifestyle so that the controversy still emerging regarding the ratification of same-sex marriage them. One of the LGBTQ realities that often arise in people's lives is the presence of a layer of a tranny. Trans can be defined as a term for a man who became a woman, both in behavior and appearance. In fact, the existence of tranny still raises various pros and cons in the community. In addition, a variety of reactions to the emergence of homosexuals is due to the social fabric of Indonesian society teach values hetero-normative which has the assumption that heterosexuality is the only norm that is considered normal and appropriate, so that a relationship/value sexuality is considered normal if complementary between men and women. So with the presence of several individuals who deviate from normal society will invite conflict, humiliation, stigma and prejudice both in the family and society. This of course will make the people closest to the individual in question will get away with way alienate or exclude the existence of the minority.

Review of Literature

A descriptive study was conducted in colleges of Amritsar, Punjab to assess the knowledge and attitude of students towards homosexuality. The study sample was 200 nursing students through convenient sampling technique. Knowledge questionnaire and attitude scale was used to measure the knowledge and attitude. The study results revealed that 86.5% students have average knowledge and only/merely 3.5% of students have poor knowledge. On the other hand, the majority of study subjects (65.5%) had a negative attitude and 34.5% had a positive attitude. Results was computed through ANOVA and Z test. The findings of correlation was ($r=+0.204$). A cross-sectional study was conducted to assess the attitudes of students towards (LGBT) at Mamata dental college, Khammam, India. Total no of students present during the survey conducted were 200 students which includes 124 females and 76 males of ages 21-25. A structure self-administered questionnaire was used for data collection. It was hypothesized that there will be negative reactions than positive attitudes. A result has shown that the majorities of respondents have accepted and support LGBT people. There were no significant differences. The findings from this study can be used to acquire knowledge to people about societal attitudes to decrease any oppression or gender discrimination [2,3].

An exploratory study was conducted in students to assess

awareness, attitudes and behavior in communication with Lgbtq community. The study was conducted on 500 students at 5 universities in Ho Chi Minh City. The number of students surveyed at each school is 100 including 50 males and 50 females. The sample was drawn by random sampling method. The questionnaires were designed and used to measure the awareness, attitude and behavior of students in communication with Lgbt community. A-3 level likert scale was used. The results showed that the majority of students have a positive attitude in contacting and communicating with Lgbt community. The result were computed through descriptive and inference statistics ($r=0.75$ to 0.88); ($p < 0.001$) [4-6].

A cross sectional study was conducted in Midwestern Wisconsin University to assess college students' Attitude towards Lgbt individuals. The study sample was 50 university students drawn through non-random probability sampling technique. Close-ended questionnaire and likert scale was used to measure the attitude. The study results revealed that cross-tabulation analysis were used to compare results between the specific major (Major = HDFS, Applied science, Art, Engineering technology, Hospitality and tourism) Hence the result did support the hypothesis that majors with more males than females would have a more heterosexist attitude towards Lgbt individuals, Cronbach's alpha is a measure of reliability. In this analysis, the reliability statistic was 0.830 out of possible 1.0.

A cross sectional study was conducted in an Indian medical college to assess the knowledge and attitude of medical students and interns towards homosexuality, a total of 399 medical students and interns drawn through convenience sampling. Out of which 273 (80.5%) consented to participate and returned the filled questionnaires. Only completely and validity filled responses ($N=244$) were analysed. The participants filled the sex education and knowledge about homosexuality questionnaire and the attitude towards homosexual questionnaire, medical students and interns has inadequate knowledge about homosexuality. A qualitative study of tobacco interventions for LGBTQ+youth and undergraduate students overarching themes and key learnings. The study sample was 24 focus groups drawn through purposive and snowball sampling technique. The result present that 84% of individuals were daily or occasional smoker. About one third of participants had completed high school 38% and 50% have their own homes. Results were computed through framework analysis technique [7].

Methodology

Socio Demographic data includes the personal information of undergraduate students that is Age, Gender, Education, Place of living, have you ever been friends with lgbtq, can you

identify lgbtq. Attitude scale was used to measure the attitude of undergraduate students towards LGBTQ Community. Data collection was done from Khalsa College, Department of Law, Amritsar, Punjab. Prior to data collection investigators had given self-introduction to the Undergraduate students and also explained the purpose of gathering information. A good rapport was established with subjects. The population of the Law Department in Khalsa College consists of 800 students from which researcher had taken 100 students through purposive sampling. They were assured that their responses will be kept confidential and the information will be used only for research purposes. Written consent was taken from Undergraduate students of Khalsa College, Amritsar. The time was given to each respondent for filling the tool. At the end, Queries of the subjects were clarified [8,9].

Results

Sample Characteristics

Variables	N	%
Age		
18-20	85	85%
21-23	9	9%
24-26	6	6%
Gender		
Male	26	26%
Female	72	72%
Other	2	2%
Education		
Ist Year	30	30%
2nd Year	23	23%
3rd Year	24	24%
4th Year	23	23%
Place of Living		
Urban	40	40%
Rural	60	60%
Have you ever been friends with lesbian or Gay		
Yes	20	20%
No	80	80%
Can you identify the LGBT community/person		
Yes	54	54%
No	27	27%
Maybe	19	19%

Table 1: Frequency and percentage distributions of sample characteristics.

N=100

Table 1 and Figure 1 reveal the frequency and distribution of sample characteristics of undergraduate students from selected colleges of Amritsar, Punjab. Findings shows that according to age, maximum 1/3rd of the total population (85%) were in the age group of 18-20 followed by (9.0%) were in the age group 21-23 years and only (6%) were in the age group of 24-26 years. As per the gender of undergraduate students, a maximum (72%) were females, (26%) were males. According to education (30%) were belong to first year followed by (24%) in third year and second year and fourth year were with same percentage (23%). According to place of living, maximum (60%) of study sample were residing in rural area whereas, (40%) were from urban area. As per variable, highest member (80%) of subjects were never been friends with LGBTQ + community. On the other hand, only few (20%) have been friends with LGBTQ+.As per identification (54%) claimed that they can identify LGBTQ+ and (27%) were declined to identify them.

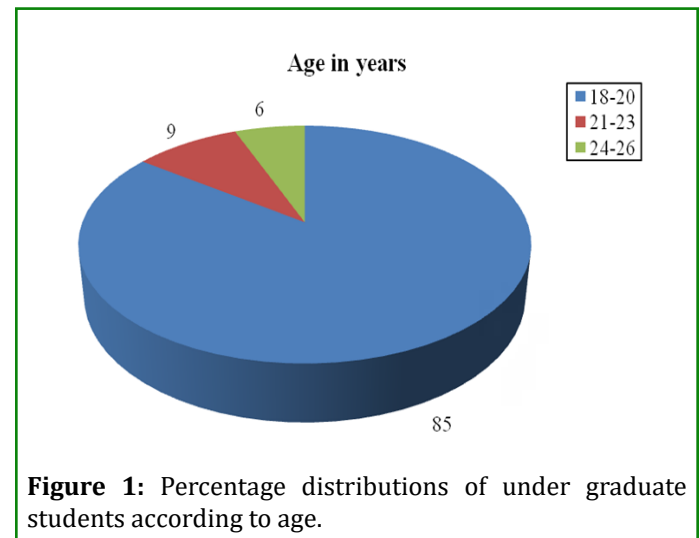


Figure 1: Percentage distributions of under graduate students according to age.

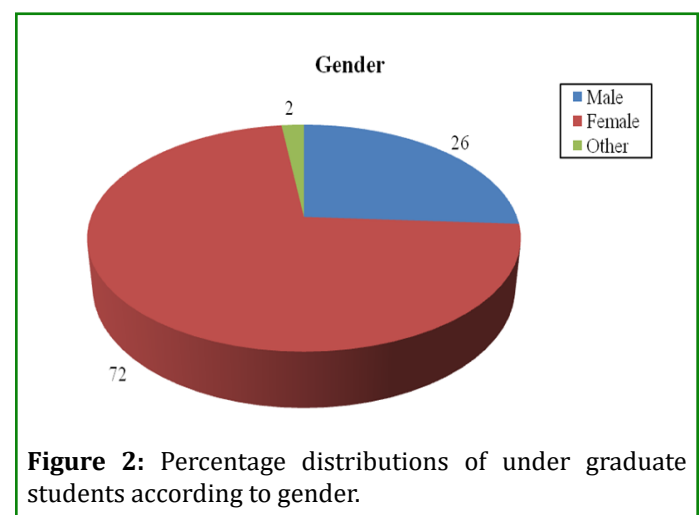
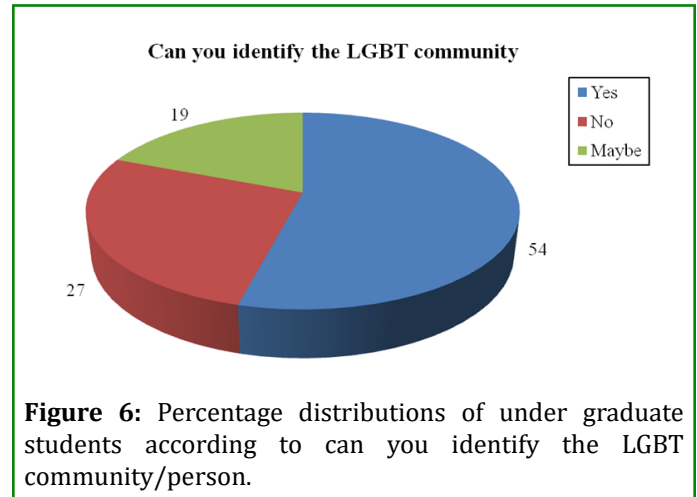
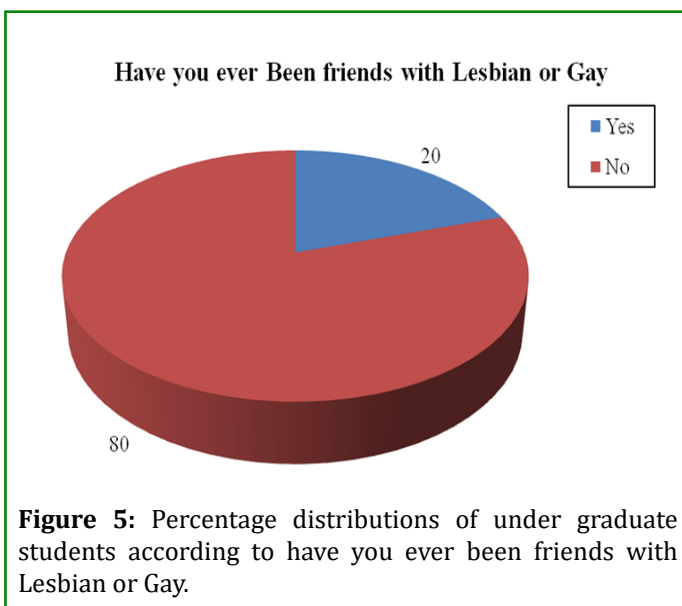
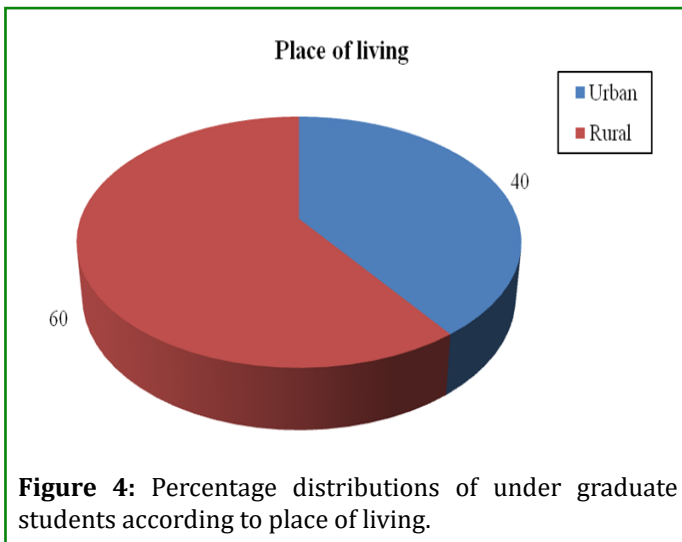
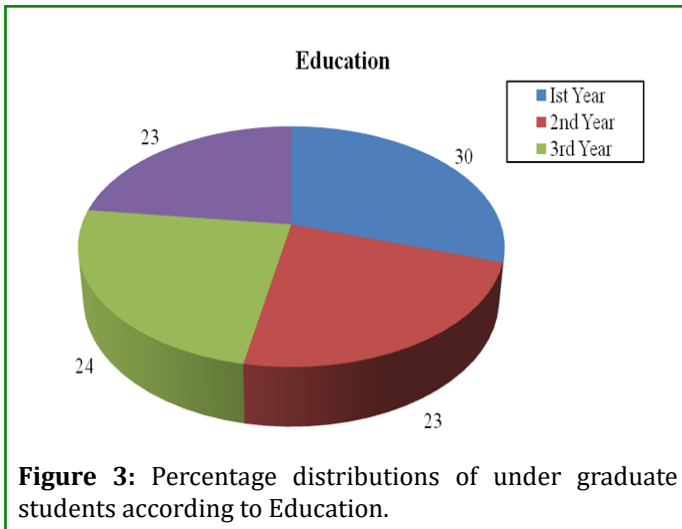


Figure 2: Percentage distributions of under graduate students according to gender.



Objective

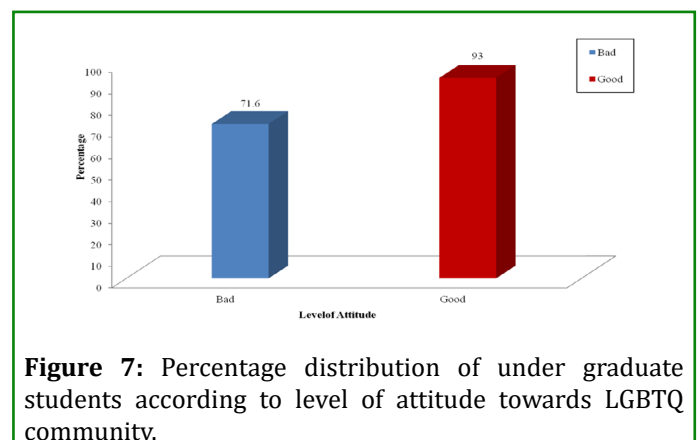
To assess the level of attitude towards LGBTQ community among undergraduate students in selected college of Amritsar, Punjab

Level of Attitude	n	%	Mean	SD
Bad	7	71.6	101.96	18.191
Good	93	93		

Table 2: Frequency and percentage distribution of undergraduate students according to the level of attitude towards LGBTQ.

N=100

Table 2 and Figure 7 depicts that frequency and percentage distribution of undergraduate students according to the level of attitude towards LGBTQ+ Findings shows that 93(93%) of subjects had good level of attitude towards LGBTQ+ community whereas, only few 7 (71.6%) had bad level of attitude. The mean score and standard deviation of attitude of undergraduate students was (18.191+101.96) respectively. Hence, findings concluded that majority of undergraduate students had good attitude towards LGBTQ community.



Conclusion

Although progress in terms of LGBTQ rights has been made and attitude towards LGBTQ+ people have changed in the past few decades the implications of anti-LGBTQ prejudice and discrimination remain serious. It is critical that efforts to change this attitude continues and that LGBTQ affirmative social scientists, education and practitioners continue to develop a robust knowledge base to guide these efforts. Overall, the result from this study should be used for enhancing attitude of students and society in an effort to neutralize any discrimination based on sexual orientation. Hence the results of the present study revealed that undergraduate students have positive attitude towards LGBTQ community.

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