

The Attitudes of University Students Towards Homosexuality

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Abstract: Homosexuality, as a sexual orientation, encompasses individuals who experience love and sexual desire exclusively towards individuals of the same sex. Those who identify with this sexual orientation are referred to as homosexuals. Recognizing that various sexual orientations are equally valid, it is important to understand that homosexuality is a complex phenomenon. This paper aims to shed light on the current state of homosexuality in China. It holds universal significance not only for promoting cultural diversity, protecting human rights, strengthening the legal framework, and advancing society, but also for the well-being and livelihood of this vulnerable group.

Keywords: Homosexuality; Sexual Orientation; Cultural Diversity

1. Introduction

Homosexuality was considered a criminal offense in China, and it was only through reform and opening up that the situation began to improve. It was not until 2001 that the Chinese Psychologists Association officially removed homosexuality from the list of mental illnesses. Despite the government's growing tolerance towards homosexuality, discrimination against homosexuals persists. As a result, very few individuals feel comfortable openly acknowledging their homosexuality.

This paper aims to analyze the current state of homosexuality from the perspective of college students. Homosexuality exists as a subculture that can be distinguished from the mainstream culture. As people want to know about the younger generation's perception of this subculture, there is a growing concern regarding the attitudes of university students toward homosexuality. Additionally, this paper is to promote accurate concepts and values, with the hope that society as a whole will adopt a respectful and accepting attitude towards individuals who identify as homosexual, bisexual, or transgender. By doing so, these individuals can overcome feelings of inferiority or even despair, and gain greater legal protection and personal rights.

The paper includes six sections: first, there is an introduction to the entire paper, along with the aims and research content. Second, the research methods. The researcher focused on four main research objectives: examining the factors contributing to homosexuality, investigating the prevalence of homosexuality among university students, exploring the challenges faced by homosexuals, and analyzing the impact of heterosexual attitudes on homosexuals. The fourth and fifth sections summarize the findings and limitations of the paper. Finally, recommendations are based on the research outcomes.

2. Research Methods

The researcher utilized the questionnaire star platform to distribute electronic questionnaires and collected a total of 150 responses within a span of three days. The participants were students from various academic years enrolled in the School of International Education at Wuhan University of Technology. Among the respondents, 58.46% were female and 41.54% were male. The primary focus of the questionnaire was to assess the attitudes of university students towards homosexuality.

3. Findings and analysis

According to figure 1 of the survey results, when asked about their views on homosexuality, 60% of the students expressed support and a desire for the happiness of this group. Additionally, 15.38% stated that they find homosexuality acceptable, while another 15.38% held an indifferent attitude. Only 9.23% of the students indicated that they could not accept the existence of this group.

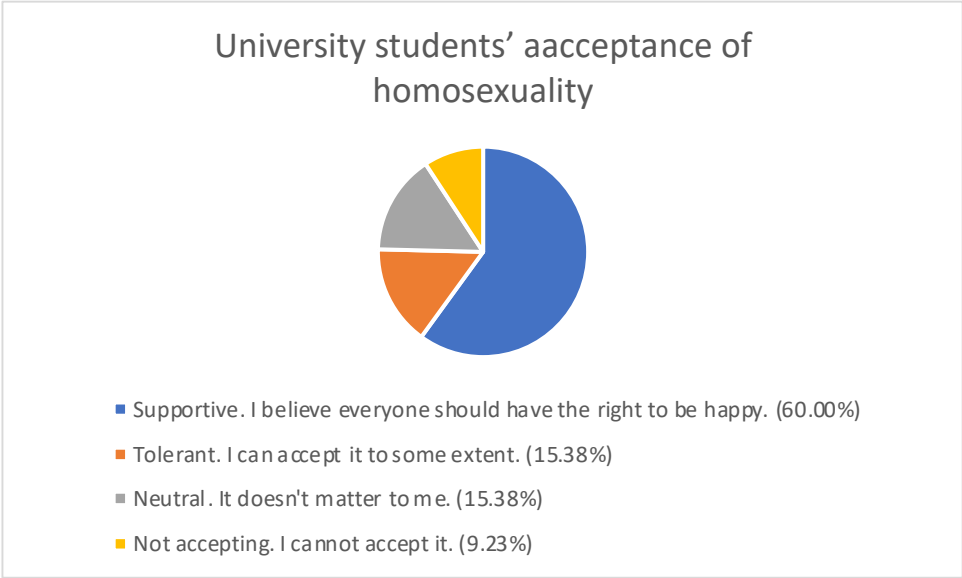


Figure 1 University students' acceptance of homosexuality

These findings suggest that the majority of students hold a positive view of homosexuality, but it is evident that some discrimination still persists. Most students expressed acceptance, which could be attributed to positive portrayals of homosexuality in certain media and online platforms, as well as the recognition of the significant presence of this group within society. The reluctance of some students to accept this group may stem from long-standing societal prejudices.

In response to the question of how society should treat homosexuality, 84.62% of students expressed the opinion that they should be reasonably protected. Additionally, 3.08% believed that special attention should be given, while 4.62% stated that there should be no interference or monitoring. On the other hand, 6.15% of students suggested that control should be strengthened, and only 1.54% believed that homosexuality should be cracked down upon.

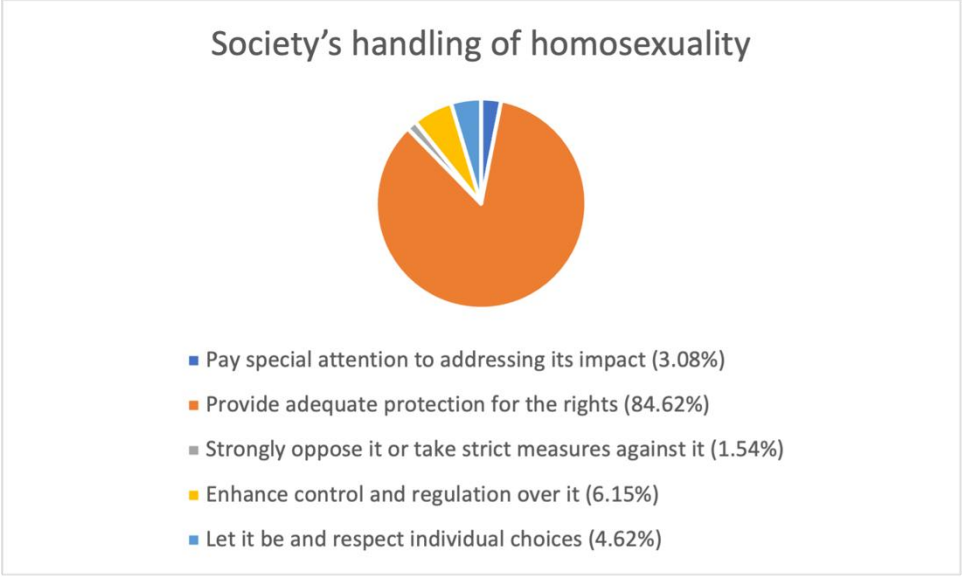


Figure 2 Society's handling of homosexuality

These findings indicate that society holds an inclusive attitude toward homosexuality. It recognizes the importance of providing reasonable protection and support for individuals who identify as homosexual. It is noteworthy that the majority of students reject the notion of intrusive treatment or crackdowns on homosexuality.

The reason behind this phenomenon may be attributed to the discussions surrounding the causes of homosexuality. In ancient China, the prevalent theories were the "innate theory" and the "nurture theory." Similar to heterosexual individuals, some people are born with a homosexual orientation, and there is no inherent difference between the two. In other countries, the main theories include the "physical factors determining theory" and the "psychosocial factors determining theory." These theories suggest that the causes of homosexuality are related to external factors rather than being inherent to homosexual individuals themselves. In essence, homosexuality is not a flaw or abnormality.

Although both homosexuals and individuals who switch genders have same-sex partners, homosexuals do not experience gender identity barriers and do not require transgender experiences (McCann and Sharek, 2014). Additionally, there is a phenomenon of heterosexual dressing among homosexuals, which serves the purpose of attracting individuals of the same sex or expressing personal beauty, rather than seeking sexual pleasure. This distinguishes it from cross-dressing in opposite-sex contexts. Based on the above discussions, this article posits that homosexuality is the result of a combination of physical, psychological, and social factors.

Furthermore, when asked about their stance on the legalization of homosexuality, 66.15% of the students expressed complete agreement, believing that homosexuals should be protected by the law. On the other hand, 10.77% of the students strongly disagreed, citing ethical concerns.

The data indicates that the majority of respondents support the legalization of same-sex marriage, while a portion does not. Those in favor of legalization may argue that it respects the rights of citizens, helps mitigate social issues, represents a free choice that does not harm others, and is protected under marriage laws as personal rights.

Those who oppose legalization may hold the belief that the fundamental purpose of marriage is procreation, viewing same-sex marriage as contrary to human nature. Some individuals may argue that same-sex relationships can be tacitly accepted without the need for legal recognition.

Proponents of same-sex marriage argue that it expands the definition of marriage by removing the requirement of one man and one woman, thereby allowing for same-sex couples to marry (Young and Boyd, 2006). They view this expansion as a positive step that challenges traditional concepts and aligns with the moral principle of respecting individual rights. However, many societies around the world still adhere to the belief that marriage is founded upon the union of one man and one woman. Advocates for this traditional definition argue that deviating from this foundation undermines the fundamental concept of marriage. They perceive the acceptance of same-sex marriage as a distortion of the institution of marriage.

It is important to note that these viewpoints reflect differing perspectives and societal norms regarding the definition and purpose of marriage. The debate surrounding same-sex marriage remains complex and multifaceted.

4. Limitations

The survey was conducted within a short time frame and under limited conditions, resulting in a sample size of only 150 valid questionnaires. The survey population may not be representative enough, and certain data may lack precision.

In future research, the researcher can address these limitations by increasing the number of questionnaires distributed. Additionally, the researcher can collect information on the attitudes of foreign college students towards homosexuality to facilitate comparisons and enhance the depth of the research.

5. Conclusion

Based on the survey and data analysis, the research has provided a summary of the current cognition and attitudes of university students towards homosexuality, as well as their perceptions of self-identity within the homosexual community. This exploration aims to shed light on the real-life experiences of homosexual individuals in today's society.

The key findings from the survey are as follows: Firstly, the majority of college students possess a basic understanding of homosexuality and some knowledge related to the topic. However, there are still individuals who lack any knowledge about homosexuality. Secondly, most respondents believe that society should adopt a reasonable attitude of protection toward homosexuality. They express the view that homosexuality does not warrant excessive attention or control. Finally, in terms of the law, the majority of participants believe that homosexuality should be afforded appropriate legal protection and even support its legalization by the state. However, a minority of participants expressed disagreement with this viewpoint.

6. Recommendations

To effectively guide the attitudes of college students towards homosexuality, it is imperative for governments to enhance the online environment by eliminating explicit pornography and violence. This will ensure that young people have access to accurate information to understand and approach homosexuality in a respectful manner. Furthermore, universities can play a significant role by offering relevant courses or inviting expert lecturers to provide students with accurate perspectives and insights. Additionally, it is crucial for universities to prioritize mental health education among college students, equipping them with analytical skills and promoting a comprehensive understanding of various societal issues, including homosexuality.

To address the ongoing public debate surrounding the legalization of homosexuality, governments should aim for transparency and provide appropriate information on the nature and experiences of homosexuality. Striking the right balance in disclosure is important. Moreover, governments should expedite the improvement of relevant legal frameworks and treaties pertaining to homosexuality.

References

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