

Queer Expressions

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Abstract

The Purpose of this article is to analyze transgender-specific expressions and identify these knowledge gaps. The Methods used is by surveying a few available articles and interviewing the subject, especially the inmates of Sahayathrika, rehabilitation center of the queer community. It is concluded that there is significant knowledge gaps in understanding the queer vocabulary and expressions, which if rectified will change the perspective of how the society look upon them, and also will help to remove the social stigma.

Keywords: Queer, LGBTIQ, Sexual orientation, Homosexuality

Introduction

Sexual minorities have been showing the world a different way of life. A new history has been created, and they are struggling with the existing social system. But how many of Indian languages in India have appropriate regional terms related to the queer vocabulary is worth thinking about. As per the recent news, there are new words in Tamil for sexual minorities. Until recently, the term homosexuality was related with abnormality, psychological maladjustment, and criminal conduct. These pessimistic generalizations are found to bring about a prejudiced language. Issues happen in dialect concerning lesbians, gay men, bi-sexual, Trans and queer people when the dialect is markedly ambiguous and the ideas are vainly characterized. The noteworthy issue is one of assignment, where dialect might be vague in reference, so the reader is dubious about its significance or its consideration and prohibition criteria. The aversion towards the term “homosexuality” could also be another reason.

Discussion

From the time immemorial an individual is assigned sex based on their physical anatomy at the time of birth. But it is high time that one realize that gender identity and sexual orientation are not the same. Sexual orientation is an individual's physical and emotional attachment to another person. Whereas gender identity refers to one's sense of gender held within. Thus the term transgender was coined to address those people whose gender identity differs from the sex assigned to them at the time of birth. Society is prejudiced towards the expressions of humans such as individual names, attire, hair style, voice, mannerisms, behaviour or body language, as the thought orientation is only towards either male or female. But its found that what is considered as masculine and feminine could change over time.

Psychological writing prefers the term sexual orientation to *sexual preference* and refers to sexual and love relationships of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and heterosexual people. This is because the word *preference* suggests an amount of purposeful choice that is not necessarily reported by lesbians and gay men. This has not been confirmed in psychological research too. The word gay has a few issues of title. To start with, it might sustain negative generalizations in light of its past alliance with pathology and criminal conduct. The term is also indistinct in reference since it is frequently accepted to allude solely to men and in this way leave lesbians barely discernible. It's seen that the terms gay and gay people are used to refer to both men and women. But the general public has heard the term associated with male and so it is possible that they consider only homosexual men when somebody refer to gay. Therefore, it is desirable to refer earlier and indicate the sexual orientation structure of this term.

Sometimes, the term 'gay' is used as an adjective, and 'gay persons' as noun, to refer to both the male and female. This is a bit confusing as common people understand the term as that associated with men only. For example, it is desirable to use gay male over homosexuality or male homosexuality, as linguistic reproductions (e.g., "his parents came to know that he was gay." as opposed to "his parents came to know about his homosexuality"). The same is valid for the word lesbian used to address female gay, female homosexuality, or lesbianism. However it is better to use the term *lesbians*, *gay men*, and *bisexual women or men* when referring inclusively to members of these groups.

The term *Heterosexual* is an adjective used to refer to those who show male-female affection and sexual relationships and who do not engage in sexual relationships with people of the same gender. The terms *sex* and *gender* are often used interchangeably. Nevertheless, the term *sex* is often confused with sexual behavior, and this is particularly troublesome when differentiating between sexual orientation and gender. *Sex* may be misinterpreted as referring to sexual activity. So it is generally more precise to use the term *gender*. But it is evident that Lesbians, gay men, and bisexual men and women often ignored by the general media due to the heterosexual bias in the language used. Using examples of LGBTIQ persons, when referring to activities that are associated only with heterosexual people, could bring out changes in the attitude of the society and help in accepting these people. The LGBTIQ people should be related in a general way of living other than relating them solely with sexual activities. Sometimes it's seen using the word "cisgender" to refer to those who are not transgender. But there are also people who are not conventional males or females. They are usually termed as gender non-confirming people. It should be noted that gender non- confirming doesn't mean that it make them transgender. All those people whose identity fall outside the categories of man and women, or are somewhere between a man and a woman, are thus identified as gender queer. Whatever terms one use, it should be understood that the LGBTIQ community faces lot difficulties like any other marginalized community. They are victims of invisibility, and to make them visible it is necessary that the general public understand the terms related to their identity. This will surely help to understand them and their feel properly, so that, they could be supportive and address the problems they face in the daily life like that of harassment, violence and sexual assault in public spaces.

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