

Homosexuality is the eccentricity sociology essay

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In today's time and age, various controversial topics have come under the investigation of socio biologists, attempting to determine their foundation and causation. According to Johnson (2003), one of such topic is homosexuality. Society has two perspectives on homosexuality, for this study they are:

The Conservative view

Homosexuality is an eccentricity, the orientation is a mental disorder and the attitude is pathological.

The Progressive view

Homosexuality is a normal development in the human health and homosexual comportment is natural. The progressive theorists have succeeded in achieving acceptance for their belief. The aim of this study is not to justify whether or not homosexual behavior is right or wrong but instead to create a profound understanding of the social and biological theories enclosing homosexuality. In arguing sexual orientation, a lot of things are unfamiliar, according to Charles Darwin, '... we hardly know the exact causation of sexuality. The whole topic is hidden in darkness. Conservative theorists debate that a person's upbringing can directly influence his/ her sexual orientation. Besides, the morality of homosexuality is attached with many of these arguments. A comprehensive body of social science facts is now accessible to answer conservative view and to remove falsehood from data concerning sexual orientation. One must bear in mind that sexual orientation is experienced in different and complex ways, which are undeniably affected by both biological and societal factors. By looking for

a specific basis of such attitude in genetics, we risk to oversimplify our view of behaviors, and eventually, of the world.

2. 1 Social Theories

The debate for homosexuality exists from the early time.

2. 1. 1 Ancient Theory

Aristophanes (1988) in his Speech ' Plato Symposium' explores homosexuality as a desire by individuals to share a long-term satisfaction of the soul. He affirmed that two souls are craving to be together. The sexual desire itself is not that strong to create homosexuality, instead the cultural surrounding which allows or forbids the relationships to take place (Thorp, 2003). In Greece, familiar that many individuals engaged in same-sex relationships, but there were individuals to teenager going through a turn to adulthood. Two circumstances where the culture is a supplementary factor of homosexual arguments are in New Guinea and Crete. For instance, in New Guinea, young boys are inseminated everyday by the young male soldiers in the tribe. While in Crete, each youngster undertook a homosexual relationship as a custom of passage into manhood (Thorp, 2003). In these two countries, homosexuality is accepted.

2. 2 Psychoanalytic Theories

Psychoanalytic theory is a common term for concepts to psychoanalysis which aims to develop a theoretical framework more-or-less independent of clinical utilization instead of basing on empirical study of clinical facts.

Sigmund Freud, Melanie Klein, and Jacques Lacan are considered as recognized thinkers within psychoanalytic theory, even though there are a

lot of objections to their authority, especially from feminism. Freud's psychoanalytic theory provided completely a new approach to the study and treatment of 'abnormal' adult behavior. Previous views seemed to ignore behavior and search for a psychological explanation of 'abnormality'. Freud's approach was distinguishing that neurotic attitude is not meaningless but goal-directed. Hence, by considering for the purpose behind so-called 'abnormality' behavioral patterns, the writer was accorded a method for interpreting behavior as meaningful and significant, without avoiding its psychological aspects. Some of the issues commonly raised in accordance to Freudian theory are: Freud's beliefs are not at all confirmable and falsifiable. It is not certain what would be considered as evidence sufficient to approve or refute theoretical claims. 2. The theory is set on an inadequate approach of the involvement of women. 3. The theory overestimates the presence of sexuality in human psychological improvement and involvement.

2. 2. 1 Sigmund Freud's Statement on Homosexuality

In 1935, Freud wrote down: 'Homosexuality is undoubtedly not beneficial, however there is no ground to be ashamed of, no indecency, no humiliation; it cannot be considered as an illness, we classify it to be a causation of the sexual function caused by certain arrest of sexual development. A lot of highly respectable human beings of ancient and modern times have been gays and lesbians, some of the greatest men among them (Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Plato etc.). According to Freud (1905), it is a great injustice to address homosexuality as a misconduct and inhumanity too. Many neoanalytic theories stretch the presence of parental and family

dynamics, not to the society at large. Behaviorists affirm that certain sexual and gender identification and differences arise from roles provoked by family and colleagues upon children, like the masculine and feminine stereotypes. Further, with reinforcement of gender identification principles, one would be compelled to reasonably conclude that all of the stereotype reinforcement would assure a heterosexual outcome (Pillard, 2003). In this the Parental Manipulation Theory is recognized, however the Kin-Selection Theory contradicts this.

2.3 Planophysical theory

The Planophysical theories are those that point out homosexuality as an error of nature, a characteristic which has been developed no doubt by nature, but not in correspondence with D. Halperin grand plan, he believed in Planophysical theory (Halperin, 1990). His theory adheres to the tradition of psychological theory on this topic. Halperin was a Freudian psychologist, and puts emphasis on Freud's belief that homosexuality is developed from an uncertain Oedipus complex. Even though Halperin has achieved interest from such as Christian coalition, yet the psychological neighborhood at large disregard his theory, because it produces only a result, not a cause. He has not been able to provide any scientific evidence but, however he does provide some examples. He put forward that a strong mother and a weak father, with an uncertain Oedipus complex will result to a weak, and then homosexual son, as the mother has a stronger image than the weak character of the father. Psychologists debate that this same interpretation would also probably result to a stronger son, longing for compensation of his father's weakness.' Homosexuality came over because individuals have

made it so' (Taylor, 2003) argued by J. Foucault, a social scientist. Foucault theory provides for the social background of homosexuality considering that homosexuality came into view as one of the types of sexuality, just ' after it was transformed from the practice of sodomy into an internal androgyny, a hermaphroditism of the soul' (Thorp, 2003). Two leading social theorists on homosexuality are J. Foucault and D. Halperin. Both have largely contradicted the opinions on the environmental contributions of the formation of man's homosexuality. The theorists affirmed that homosexual an abnormality, and then become a species, advocating itself with a new word.

2. 4 Biological Theory

A variety of theories are available concerning the source of homosexuality. Biological theorists have gathered strong evidence such as genetic, anatomical and endocrine data to support their debates. The prevailing argument is whether or not nature is the main cause of homosexuality that is an individual's surroundings and background, or else of his ancestry and biology. The American Psychological Association (APA) basically believed that homosexuality is a mental disorder. Thereupon, investigates its origins, causes and development which have resulted to its dismissal by the APA from their lists of illness and disorders. Hooker's (1957) findings have participated to the APA dismissal of homosexuality. Later in the 1975, APA cleared a public declaration that homosexuality was not a mental disorder. Further in 1994, the APA lastly declared that ' homosexuality is neither a mental disorder nor a moral depravity. It is considered by certain part of the population to be the way individual expresses human love and sexuality.

3. 0 Empirical Perspective

3. 1 Alfred Kinsey's pioneering research

Late Alfred Kinsey carried out a study based on human sexuality for the University of Indiana. Kinsey had two objectives (Thompson and Devine, 2003) for his studies: 1) To determine how many adult males are involved in homosexual behavior, and 2) To propose theories about its reason. When respondents were asked if they had engaged in homosexual sexual relations, a huge amount of the sample population answered 'no', but when were asked if they are involved in same-sex sexual relations, the percentage replying 'yes' were nearly twice. The analysis demonstrated that 30 % of males had gone through at least orgasm in a homosexual behavior. The results of this study became the generally popular Kinsey Scale of Sexuality. This scale rates all people on a series of sexuality, ranging from 100% to 100% homosexual, and everything in between (Pillard, Richard, 2003). 10% of adult males have reported that they have sexual relations with a same sex-partner; this study has been focusing to put forward the word homosexual into familiar language.

3. 2 Ellis Theory

In the twentieth century, the biological foundation of sexual orientation were first questioned about a century back when the British sexual savior Havelock Ellis debated that homosexuality was natural and thus not immoral, that it was not an illness, and that many gays and lesbians made huge contributions to society (Robinson, 1976). Edward Carpenter and Havelock Ellis debated that laws against same-sex relationship should be abandoned

as individual engaging in such activities were biologically different from those with opposite-partners.

3.3 Hooker's Study

Hooker's (1957) research was innovative in many important aspects. Hooker eliminated the first psychological analysis carried out to examine for biological determinism in 1957 on a grant from the National Institute of Mental Health. The research was carried out to analyze the relationship between homosexuality, psychological development and illness. Hooker studied both heterosexuals and homosexuals. Both groups were corresponded for intelligence quotient (IQ), education level and age and they were then administered to three psychological tests. Firstly, instead than accepting the predominant view of homosexuality as pathology, she asked the question of whether homosexuals and heterosexuals varied in their psychological adaptation. Secondly, instead than studying psychiatric patients, she takes a sample of homosexual men who were behaving normally in society. Thirdly, she selected a procedure that posed experts to rate the adjustment of men excluding previous knowledge of their sexual orientation. This approach addressed a major source of bias which had denied many prior studies of homosexuality. Three psychological tests were: The Rorschach Thematic Apperception Test (TAT) The Make-A-Picture-Story Test (MAPS) They were then examined by psychologists, and the outputs were enumerated. The outputs of Hooker's tests yielded no significant distinctions in answers on any of the three tests. As both homosexuals' and heterosexuals' answers were similar, she concluded a zero correlation among social determinism of sexuality, meaning that, homosexuality is not

naturally linked with psychopathology. In an analysis of published studies comparing heterosexual and homosexual samples on psychological tests, Gonsiorek (1982) discovered that even though some distinction have been determined in test results between heterosexuals and homosexuals, both groups frequently score within the normal range. Gonsiorek stated that ' Homosexuality in and of itself is not related to maladjustment or psychological disturbance. Homosexuals as a group are not much psychologically disturbed on account of their homosexuality.

3. 4 Genes Studies

The most quoted research was carried out by molecular biologists at the National Institutes of Health under the approval of Dean Hamer. He studied the probability of homosexuality being an X-linked characteristic, and then studied the family trees of openly gay men, and thought he saw a maternal attachment, persuading him to explore his theory of X-linkage. He took 49 DNA samples from homosexual men, and genetically studied them. He discovers that there was a ' unusual concordance' for 5 genetic markers on section of the X-Chromosome called Xq28. Family trees research, along with the discovery on Xq28, led his analysis to be called the ' gay gene study'. The statistical possibility of the 5 genetic markers on Xq28 to have corresponded randomly was calculated to be 1/100, 000 lending even more support to his findings. This finding of a possible ' gay gene' prompts a look into two evolutionary approaches, and how they are influenced. The Superior Heterozygote Theory declares the actual expression of homosexuality is the result of Homozygosity for inactive genes. In simple terms, if the individual's genetic code is Heterozygotic (that is one heterosexual gene and one

homosexual gene), if the homosexual allele (half of the genetic code) is the allele passed on the next generation, it will convert to phenotype.

Heterozygote can only be passed through to the next generation by mothers (as the Y-chromosome is incapable of Heterozygosity), this again relate homosexuality to X-linkage (Johnson, 2003).