

Live in a sexually active society sociology essay

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Sexual Revolution
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Nowadays we live in a sexually active society. Sex is everywhere today, and it is demonstrated in a much more luxurious form than it was several decades ago. Many people understand sex as a natural evolutionary process, or a sign of development and modernization, but it is not the truth because our contemporary views on sexual relationships were formed by different scientists for ages. Thus, we are going to explore Alfred Kinsey's views on sex revolution, paying a specific attention to its stages, and to think about both positive and negative aspects of this great openness. We seem to know everything about sexuality, implying only a traditional, "normal" sex. In fact this is not the case. The concept of sexuality covers the entire spectrum of behavioral responses of this type in humans, including psychological, emotional and physical reactions. In this respect every person looks like a color mosaic, there is no monochrome ("black" - completely bad, or "white" - absolutely ideal) people; so, to meet a monochrome person is a rare exception, which brightly demonstrates a presence of a rule by its example. Everything is mixed almost in every person, but one thing we are putting on the show, and the other, the "wrong" part of our conscience, we try to suppress and conceal. It can be mentioned that incorrect and false information has taken its roots in the basis of public opinion. From the early childhood people were suggested an idea that there are two irreconcilable camps in the world, which are divided in sexual terms. The majority of people tend to think that there are "normal", that is, those who have a sexual relationship with the opposite sex - between men and women (heterosexual), and these people form the majority, and there exist "abnormal" - gays and lesbians (homosexuals), and these people forms

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minority. However, it is not the case in reality. Researching the issue of sexual attitude as one of the stages for sexual revolution by Kinsey, we can note that people most often confuse two terms such as homosexuality (desire for the same sex), and bisexuality - the desire for both sexes, which, according to experts, is inherent in all people in varying degrees. In his term, Freud believed that people are generally bisexual since the moment of their birth, while a child is imparted various norms, traditions and dogmas of the society in which he lives during the process of his maturing. Naturally, the person can not be described by one term. In the middle of the last century, professor Alfred Kinsey, the father of the sexual revolution in the United States, and the most well-known expert in the field of sexology, proved that sexual behavior is more varied, and it does not fit into a simple scheme where exists only heterosexual or homosexual person. Heterosexual and homosexual concepts are able to characterize only two strictly opposite poles, while the majority of people live in the middle of them, being a kind of smooth transition between these two poles. In any way, these terms can not characterize the man as a personality, and demonstrates only a model of behavioral reactions. The results of Kinsey's research greatly contributed to the development of the idea of sexual revolution, while Kinsey also set stages for sexual revolution. Moreover, Kinsey was convinced that sexual orientation in a significant part of individuals can undergo many changes throughout the life. The results of his surveys, according to Bullough (1998), have shown that most of the adult American men determined the direction of their sexual orientation to 20-25 years, while women do it little bit earlier - to 15-20 years. Meanwhile, the amount of men who receive homosexual experience is reducing in achieving certain age, while the amount of women, <https://assignbuster.com/live-in-a-sexually-active-society-sociology-essay/>

regardless of their marital status, is growing. Dwelling on the sex between adults, Geddes (1954) stated that " even the degree of extra-marital coitus among females could have been surmised by the differences in the situation after the first and the second World Wars (especially as a result of sexual revolution), for according to the testimony of the courts the number of divorces due to adultery on the part of the wife had greatly increased after the second, as compared with the first war." To add, Kinsey's ideas on human sexuality favor the exclusion of homosexuality from the list of mental illnesses in the United States in 1973. Observing the scales of the sexual revolution, according to Bullough (1994), we have found that Kinsey's statistics stunned American population. People received a lot of information to think about. Firstly, homosexuality and homoerotic feelings were much more widespread than previously thought. Secondly, sexual behavior and erotic feelings are often not the same, people want one thing and do another, and human desire and behavior may be different at different stages of the life. Thirdly, there was not found a " wall" between homo-and heterosexuality because these notions were two different things, and the two poles of the same phenomenon. Of course, everything of these caused a heated debate about the nature of " normal" sexual behavior, and where is the boundary between the so-called " norm" and deviations, which are associated with any social or mental problems, and disorders that are called pathology in medical circles. Supporters of the counter-sexual revolution accused Kinsey in many evils, saying that he was deeply corrupted, gradually injuring oneself by homosexuality and pedophilia. Some scientists stated that Kinsey interpreted the results of his experiments and questioning in the wrong way by the reason that Kinsey used well-known pedophile

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inmates in prison, and people with sexual deviations to describe the nature of the "normal" person. Adhering to the false argument that people are sexually active from the birth, Kinsey also justified incest and sex with children. Thinking about some benefits of the greater sexual openness, it is possible to note that many people stopped to feel a shame for their desire to enjoy sex because there is nothing shameful in the process of love between two people, when sex is interpreted as the highest level of relations. To continue, people of different sexual orientation received a freedom to demonstrate their feelings and feel the own mental health, instead of being "abnormal" for natural love to the person of the same sex. Researching negative consequences of the same event such as sexual revolution, we can note that many young people begin to try sex much earlier than they achieve a true necessity to try it. It becomes a kind of fashion to try premarital sex, explaining this by desire to gather some sexual experience. Moreover, not well considered sexual relations may lead to undesired pregnancy, or to some venereal diseases. Children are our future, and they need to see an example of ideal parents before them, but even many adult people practice extramarital sex, and destroy the own families by such swinging, while society has already got accustomed to different types of sexual behavior that stops to react in proper way on the break of the institute of marriage. So, sexual revolution adds promiscuity to modern life, demonstrating people that they can and even should enjoy sex as a kind of possibility to achieve physical relaxation, even without sincere feeling to the partner. In conclusion, we have explored Alfred Kinsey's views on sex revolution, paying a specific attention to its stages, and discussed both positive and negative aspects of the great sexual openness of modern

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generation. Moreover, we have also demonstrated the facts that Alfred Kinsey proved that the majority of people are bisexual, that is, they may enjoy sexual satisfaction by interacting with the opposite sex as well as with the own one. And the division of people into normal (who enjoy the satisfaction only by the interaction with the opposite sex) and abnormal (who enjoy the satisfaction from interacting with the same sex they are) is not true. So, as it was previously mentioned in the assignment, these are the two extremes of the same phenomenon, while the majority is in the middle of the two concepts.