

Lgbt clients



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LGBT LGBT LGBT is an abbreviation for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender, a community just like the general public, comprises of people from all races, levels of education, ethnicities and income levels. However, different traditions and cultures handle LGBT community and issues related to sexual orientation differently (Burnes et al, 2009). For example, the level of acceptance by their families, terms and language used to refer to them, as well as, the levels of self acceptant about their own identity. Therefore, it is important for a person handling LGBT clients understand and use acceptable language among the LGBT people. This is important considering language has a history of being used to oppress and discriminate the LGBT community. Moreover, every person has a right to live an entirely functioning and emotionally healthy life regardless his or her gender identity and expression.

The importance of understanding the terminologies to use when addressing a LGBT client, does not only show respect but also contribute to LGBT client's self acceptant and Council's competence in handling LGBT clients. There are several advantages in understanding the language and terminologies as a LGBT councilor. The first advantage is that such knowledge help in creating a welcoming environment for the LGBT persons and people close to them by establishing a counseling space that affirms LGBT person's identity (Burnes et al, 2009). For example, a councilor may intentionally have LGBT-positive magazine in his or her counseling office and waiting rooms. The second advantage could be acceptable language help achieve an open, informative and fruitful discussion with a client on their experience. By doing so the councilor is able to assist the client overcome any potential inbuilt negative attitudes of themselves and their loved ones. Third advantage is that

constant use of acceptable language ensures that the counselors' own perception or knowledge about LGBT does not interfere with his or her work. Lastly, understanding the LGBT's languages makes it possible to acknowledge the diversity among LGBT people. For example, LGBT persons from different race, age or religion will use different terminology to refer to the same thing.

There are a number of terms that the LGBT persons generally prefer being referred to and those they term abusive. The first term one should avoid when referring to LGBTs is homosexuals, instead, use words such as, gay people, lesbians, or gay man. This is because homosexual is a clinical term that tend to suggest being attracted to same sex is a psychological disorder. The second term is referring to LGBT couple as homosexual couples instead of gay couples or just a couple like any other. The third offensive term is gay lifestyle instead of gay lives or lesbian lives. Referring being gay as a lifestyle suggests that gay life is a choice that can be cured. The fourth term that need to be avoided is admitted homosexual, in place of, openly lesbian, bisexual or gay. Lastly, one should avoid referring to rights associated with LGBT persons as special rights but equal rights (The Military Outreach Committee, n. d).

In conclusion, this paper portrays a clear picture of the need to understand the right terms to use when dealing with LGBT persons. By understanding these terminologies an individual is able to acknowledge that, like any other person, LGBT people have the right to live an entirely functioning and emotionally healthy life regardless their gender identity and expression. Also it is clear that being gay or lesbian is neither a lifestyle nor a disorder.

References

<https://assignbuster.com/lgbt-clients/>

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