

Homosexual in Taiwanese Teenager's Vision— those who are as same as us.

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I. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the Study

As time goes by, values gradually change and arouse many social reflections. Lots of controversial issues emerge in our society; for example, equality of civil rights and equality of gender. Homosexuality is also one of the most disputed issues in our society.

Many homosexuals suffer from bullies or unusual judgments in Taiwan. One of the reasons is that Taiwanese do not quite understand the issue on homosexual. Those who have blurred sexuality are usually afraid of admitting their sexual orientations. In order to know teenagers' perception of homosexuals, we will have a questionnaire survey for high school students. We want to make more people understand what the homosexual is and help them get rid of stereotypical impression on homosexual.

1.2 Research Questions

In order to understand whether the homosexual in Taiwan are accepted and other extension questions about homosexual, including same-sex marriage, children adoption and even bully, we had a deep search and have come up with a questionnaire. In this questionnaire, the purposeful questions are categorized into 5 main issues, including (1) the current situation of homosexual in Taiwan or (2) bullying homosexual (3) support for homosexual. Our research question as follows.

1: How do the teenagers feel about homosexuality?

2: What kinds of bullies do gay people in Taiwan suffer the most?

3: Why are homosexuals afraid of admitting their sexual orientation?

II. Literature Review

2.1 Homosexual

Homosexuality has a variety of historical backgrounds all over the world. No matter where it is, when it comes to homosexuality, people's perspective and attitude are not entirely the same. Four thousands year ago, Egyptians regarded

the male's sodomy behavior as relatively sacred. The people of Carthage in North Africa and Norman in North Europe regarded homosexuality as noble. Although the Carthaginian, who lived in Pompeii, had violated the moral norm, which set by god, they still prevailed among the homosexuality in the town. The development of homosexual culture in Europe is based on ancient Greece and ancient Roman, especially in ancient Greece.

In ancient Greece, the commonest homosexual connection was "pederasty", that means the old man build an abnormal relationship with a young boy. The boy usually played the role of receiver until he grew a moustache. After the boy grew a moustache, their relationship would end. The ancient Greeks considered homosexuality was purer than heterosexuality, giving the homosexuality a beautiful definition as "the uppermost relationship of the mankind" at that time. Not only did the later period of Roman republic start to accept homosexuality, but acknowledge it as a social culture. They were influenced by the ancient Greek culture. Homosexuality in ancient Roman was explained by different forms in different times, such as literatures, arts and poetries.

However, after Christianity spread in Europe, the behavior of homosexuality is completely defined to a serious crime in the Old Testament. People who were homosexual would be dealt with death penalty because the most priests conformed to the four segments tests of the Confucian classics; one is in Leviticus 20:13, another is in Romans 1:26, the other is in Corinthians 6:9, and still other is Timothy 1:9. Although the point has existed for 2,000 years, it hasn't had an explicit answer.

The homosexual history in Taiwan started with some small alliances and groups. In February, 1990, some lesbians students and supporters backed up these groups and established the first communicative publish welfare organization, *Between Us*, in Taiwan. In addition to bravely showing themselves, they also became a member of Asian Lesbian Network (ALN) four months later. Another group as famous as *Between Us* is *Gay Chat*. It's constituted by some gay male college students in 1993. It's the first social group that was set up by college students in Taiwan. They also influenced firmly on gay students and their friends in the universities and colleges.

Gay and lesbians have had a lot of relational activities and parades since the earlier years. For instance, the large fair "Rainbow • Homosexuality • Dream

Park” was held in June (the month of gay pride), in 1997. Similarly, “Seeing Homosexuality” is the first going-out picnics to open the prelude of the homosexual with the homosexual identify.

However, gay and lesbians in Taiwan have been surrounded by legal problems. In 1986, for instance, Chia-wei Chi went to court to get married with his same-sex companion, but they were rejected. And the Legislative Yuan refused and replied to them that it disobeyed the social custom. Certainly, they got the strong assault. Not until 2000, after the president, Shui-Bian Chen, was invited to attend the homosexual activity that was held by the same-sex activists from the U.S.A and received the point “the basic right of homosexuality, including security and human rights, education rights, work equal rights and respecting the homosexual”, did he express extremely and overtly that homosexuality is neither a crime nor a disease. This event also became an important milestone for the homosexual campaign in Taiwan. Although the history of homosexuality and the homosexual human rights are keeping going, Taiwan still hasn't completely settled cases on its lawful subject.

2.2 Same-sex marriage

Nowadays, a lot of countries are striving for the legalization of the same-sex marriage. There are many countries in Europe which admit the same-sex marriage. Some countries are still fighting for the bill of same-sex marriage, and Taiwan has no exception. Same-sex marriage that means that two people of the same gender are allowed to get marry legally. Although some countries accept same-sex relationship, they do not allow same-sex marriage. Same-sex marriage still is not approved by law. The Legislative Yuan and a female legislator, Mai-Chin Hsiao, made every effort to propose a draft of the law on October, 2003 and October 11, 2006. In the end, it has not been passed. In 2001, Holland was the first country to pass the bill of same-sex marriage. From then on, other countries have passed it as well.

2.3 Bully

Bullying is a kind of behavior through which someone oppresses others. The victims will be bullied for a long while, causing their mental and physical conditions to get worse.

III. Methodology

We collected the data by receiving the questionnaires we dispatched, and then we used the program “excel” to arrange it. In order to make readers immediately understand our report, we have made the pie charts. We do our utmost to analyze these data and draw our findings into the pie charts to make the report more accurate.

3.1 Participants

We sent out 200 copies of the questionnaires for high school students whose ages are between 16 and 18 to fill in, and the final valid questions are done by 100 men and 100 women. In order to understand whether homosexuality will influence teenagers’ values, we choose them. We also want to know that how teenagers in Taiwan think about homosexuality, homosexual marriage, and adoption of children.

IV. Data Analysis

Question 1: Is there any gay around you?

Our first question is: Is there any gay around you? And we got some data from our questionnaire as follows. According to the figure, we know that there’re about 60% of people who express that there are gay people around them, and 40% have never meet the homosexuals.

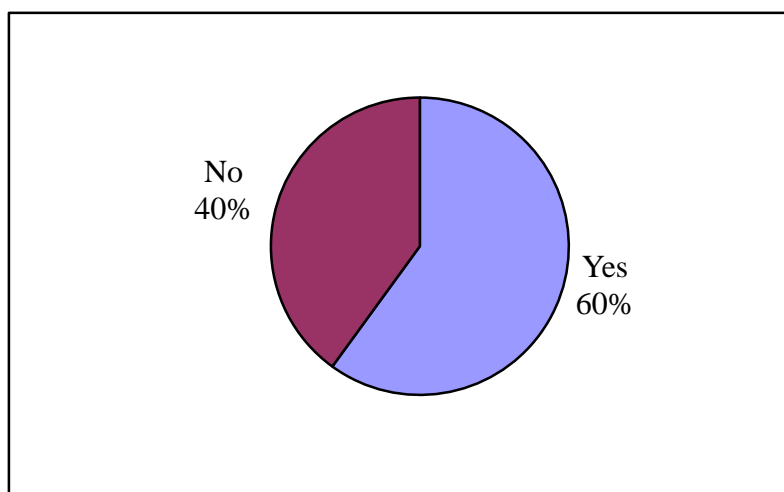


Figure 4.1 The percentage of gay people around you.

Question 2: Have you ever seen gay and lesbians being bullied?

Although most people can accept homosexuality, few ones can't tolerate them. Because of hatred, it gives rise to the phenomenon of bullying. We also found out that bullying gay people is a fact in our research. According to this data, we found out that about 56% of the people have seen homosexuals suffering from being bullied or they have heard the news about bullying from the TV, while 44% of them haven't known about it.

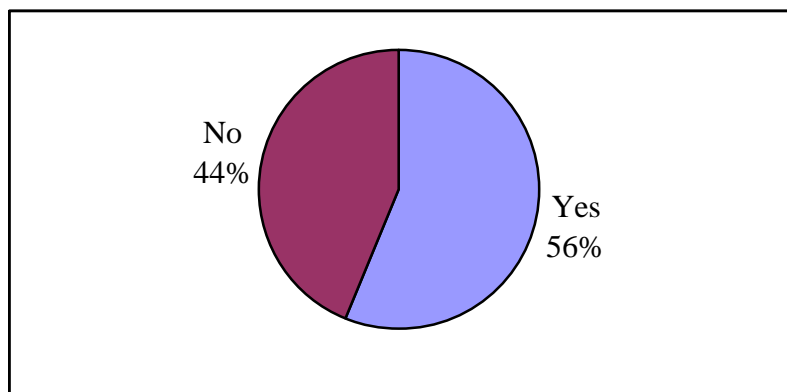


Figure 4.2 The percentage of people have seen gay and lesbians being bullied.

Question 3: Why are gay people afraid of admitting their sexual orientation?

In our data, we investigated what kinds of bully the gay people have suffered. According to the analysis, we discovered that the bullying behaviors include verbal bully (35.3%), cyber bully (31.9%), relationship bully (20.0%), physical bully (9.8%), and other (3.0%).

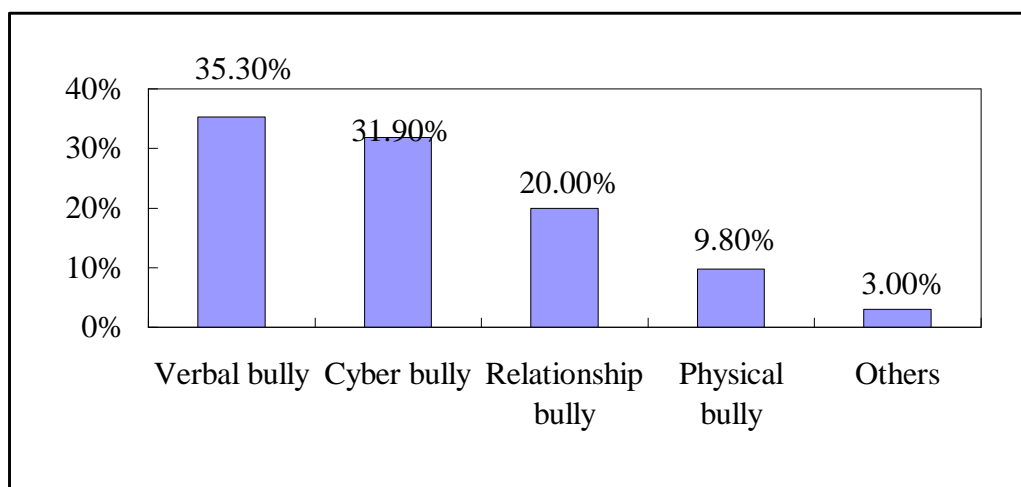


Figure 4.3 The reason why gay people are afraid of admitting their sexual orientation.

Question 4: Will you support your family or friends if he/she is homosexual?

Another question we asked is that as there are more and more homosexual around us, one day if your friends or family say “I am gay,” what would you do? Here are the answers from the questionnaires. According to the figure, we know that about 89% of people support their family or friends if they are homosexual, and 11% of them can't accept it.

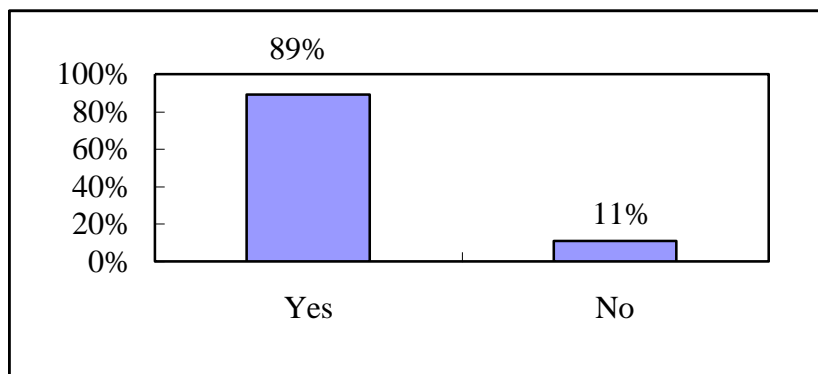


Figure 4.4 The percentage of people support their family or friends if he/she is homosexual.

Question 5: What makes you oppose to homosexuality?

We investigate what makes people unable to accept homosexuals, and there're three reasons listed in the following figure. According to the information, around 50% of the people feel unfriendly with gay and lesbians, 30% think that is disgusting, and 20% are afraid that others would misunderstand that they are homosexual too.

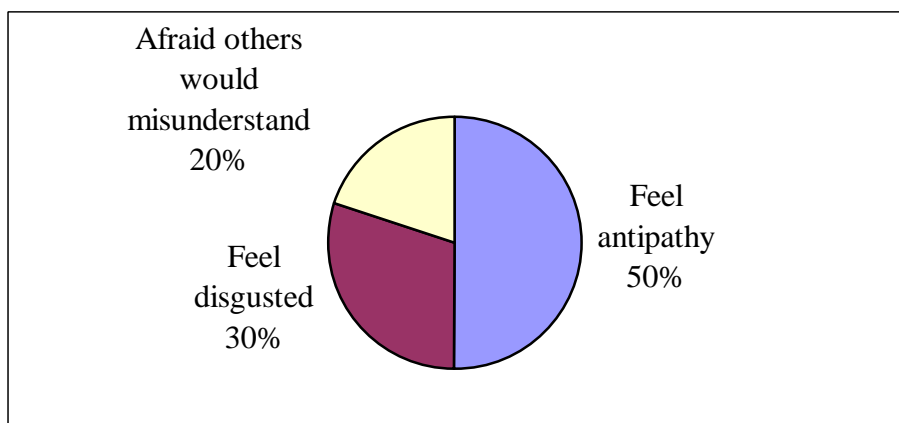


Figure 4.5 The reason makes you oppose to homosexuality.

Question 6: What makes you disagree the same -sex marriage?

As the minority of the people in our research oppose to the same-sex marriage, we further investigated them about the reasons why they can't accept the same-sex marriage. As you can see, there're about 50% of the people who think it's abnormal, while 7% think it's harmful to social customs. 18% think gay people cannot bear children and 25% think that it will cause bad influences to the next generation.

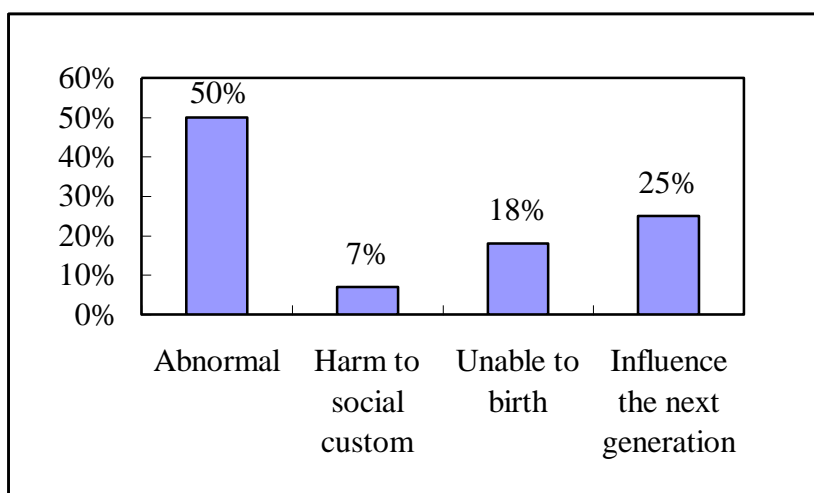


Figure 4.6 The reason makes you disagree the same-sex marriage.

V. Discussion

According to the results that we analyzed from our questionnaire, we can discuss the main issues we have talked about earlier.

Question1

From this, we can conjecture that the presence of homosexuals is more than one's imagination. And this is a common thing. With these data, the majority of homosexuals accept their sexual orientation. And it expresses that they are more and more concerned about the issue of homosexuality.

Question2

From this, we can know the ratio of homosexuals being discriminated is very high. And homosexuals being discriminate are usually bullying or injured. We can conjecture that Taiwanese community still excludes homosexuality. And they do not emphasize to implement gender equality.

Question3

Among all kinds of bullying, the most common one is verbal bully. People who have discrimination against homosexuals might use some cursing words to insult homosexuals. For example, homosexuals would be called sissy or tomboy. We can surmise that the people, who hate homosexual, might think it does not matter to harm homosexuals by using words. But the cursing words may cause traumas in homosexuals' minds, humiliating their self-respect. It is like committing crime of public dishonor.

Question4

We can infer that most people still tend to accept and tolerate homosexuality, let alone our relatives and friends. They also think homosexuality and heterosexuality are not different, so that we need not to reject and discriminate homosexuality. And we also investigate further the reason of some people who are still opposed.

Question5

Thus, most people who can't accept homosexuality result from antipathy. They might think it is strange that people of the same-sex can fall in love with each other and they think that it is disgusting about their intimate actions. We speculate that many people still can't pay respect to homosexuality. They even make them suffer from social public opinions.

Question6

We have asked those who are opposite to same-sex marriage about "why do you oppose to it?" Half of them thought that it is unusual. Some of them considered that it could influence social custom and next generation. These questions can be solved. For example, there are many ways to influence one's education; it isn't depending upon whether their parents are same-sex.

VI. Conclusion

By doing this project, we know that teenager's ideas and concerns about gay and lesbian issue among Taiwanese teenagers. In the first place, we did not keep a repulsive or a totally acceptable attitude towards their different sexual orientation, but not until we finished our research did we understand that the homosexuals are being misconstrued.

Nowadays many people repel the gay and lesbians, considering that being gay is not accordant with logic. They find it very strange for those of the same-sex to fall in love. Those young people who do not have mature values hurt them verbally, even giving them brutal opinions. We also found the similar situation at school is that the homosexual suffer from bully because of their sexual orientation. After finishing this project, we have gained some valuable understandings from the questions that we raised.

To sum up, we hope that we can make more and more people realize the homosexual because they are not weird and awful, and they do not fit into a strange stereotype or a disease. In fact, they are just like average people. They care for society and pray. When being in love, they have to try to get some approval because they bear much abnormal pressure from the traditions of our society. However, we are very glad to see some people seem to be changing their thinking about the homosexual after doing the questionnaires with us. We hope that people can support gay people and voice out positive opinions to support gay people. We also hope that our society can improve social and gender equality. Consequently, the hurt and hatred towards gay and lesbians will be decreased.

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Appendix Questionnaire

1. 請問您生活週遭是否有同性戀者的存在？
是(至 Q2) 否(至 Q4)
2. 請問您是否有看過/聽過他們(身邊的同性戀者)遭受霸凌？
是(至 Q3) 否(至 Q4)
3. 請問他們所遭受的霸凌種類是?(可複選)
言語霸凌 肢體霸凌 關係霸凌(刻意排擠)
網路霸凌(利用網路謾罵、散佈謠言)
4. 假使您的親朋好友是同性戀者，您會？
支持(至 Q6) 反對(至 Q5)
5. 請問您反對的原因是?(可複選)
覺得很噁心 因為他們會有傳染病
怕別人誤認為我是同性戀 覺得很反感
6. 請問您贊成同性婚姻嗎？
贊成(至 Q8) 反對(至 Q7)
7. 請問您反對的原因是?(填完至 Q8)
不正常 危害社會風俗
影響下一代 無法生育
8. 請問您知道同性婚姻在某些國家是合法的嗎？
知道 不知道