

Gender Based Violence among the LGBT Community

Mr. Vimal Makwana (Assistant Professor)

Faculty of Social Work, Parul University, Limda, Waghodia, Vadodara, Gujarat

Abstract: Gender based violence is really affecting specifically to LGBTIQ people who do not fit within the narrow parameters of the assigned societal gender based roles and status across the globe. As India is following a traditional culture, perceptions of gender roles and appearances, toxic masculinity and other factors, lead to shocking violence among the LGBT community. Though often the instances of violence that have received media attention and have been the focus of public discourse have centred on cisgender heterosexual relationships, more conversations are also emerging around the impact of GBV on LGBTIQ people as well. Gender Based Violence against LGBTIQ people is exacerbated by the existence and legacy of colonial-era so-called buggery laws, which not only criminalize same-sex relations, but perpetuate negative societal attitudes towards LGBTIQ people, and result in LGBTIQ victims of Gender Based Violence not reporting or seeking help for fear of outing, or even imprisonment. For seeking the justices from this Gender Based Violence they fight since long time back i.e. 2001 and in India section 377 has implemented in 2018, after a long fight by LGBT community for their rights.

Keywords: LGBTQ community, Gender Based Violence.

1. INTRODUCTION

Gender based violence is really affecting specifically to LGBTIQ people who do not fit within the narrow parameters of the assigned societal gender based roles and status across the globe. As India is following a traditional culture, perceptions of gender roles and appearances, toxic masculinity and other factors, lead to shocking violence among the LGBTQ community.

L—Lesbian (A lesbian is a homosexual woman. The word lesbian is also used for women in relation to their sexual identity or sexual behavior regardless of sexual orientation)

G—Gay (A Gay is a homosexual man, the word gay is also used for man in relation to their sexual identity or sexual behavior regardless of sexual orientation)

B— Bisexual (sexually attracted not exclusively to people of one particular gender; attracted to both men and women.)

T— Transgender (denoting or relating to a person whose sense of personal identity and gender does not correspond with their birth sex.)

2. WHAT IS GENDER BASED VIOLENCE?

Gender-based violence is a phenomenon deeply rooted in gender inequality, and continues to be one of the most notable human rights violations within all societies. Gender-based violence is violence directed against a person because of their gender. Both women and men experience gender-based violence but the majority of victims are women and girls. (European Institute for Gender Equality)

Sexual violence affects every demographic and every community – including LGBTQ people. According to the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), lesbian, gay and bisexual people experience sexual violence at similar or higher rates than straight people. The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Projects (NCAVP) estimates that nearly one in

ten LGBTQ survivors of intimate partner violence (IPV) has experienced sexual assault from those partners. Studies suggest that around half of transgender people and bisexual women will experience sexual violence at some point in their lifetimes.

As a community, LGBTQ people face higher rates of poverty, stigma, and marginalization, which put us at greater risk for sexual assault. We also face higher rates of hate-motivated violence, which can often take the form of sexual assault. Moreover, the ways in which society both hyper sexualizes LGBTQ people and stigmatizes our relationships can lead to intimate partner violence that stems from internalized homophobia and shame.

Following data shows the rate of violence in LGBTQ community.

The CDC's National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey found for LGBTQ people:

Sr.no	Type of Sexuality	Type of Violence	Percentage (%)
1	Lesbian & Bisexual Women	Rape, physical violence, or stalking by partner	44
2	Gay and Bisexual Men	Rape, physical violence, or stalking	37
3	Bisexual women	Only Rape	46
4	Gay and Bisexual Men	sexual violence other than rape	40

Within the LGBTQ community, transgender people and bisexual women face the most alarming rates of sexual violence. Among both of these populations, sexual violence begins early, often during childhood.

- The 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey found that 47% of transgender people are sexually assaulted at some point in their lifetime.
- Among people of colour, American Indian (65%), multiracial (59%), Middle Eastern (58%) and Black (53%) respondents of the 2015 U.S. Transgender Survey were most likely to have been sexually assaulted in their lifetime
- Nearly half (48 percent) of bisexual women who are rape survivors experienced their first rape between ages 11 and 17. (The Human Rights campaign)

Apart from this various National Government has introduced the laws for LGBTQs but still violence among them remains same.

3. THE LAWS ARE CHANGING BUT THE VIOLENCE REMAINS

Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people have made great strides in the fight for full equality. As of today, 34 countries including India permit marriage or civil unions for same-sex couples and many other countries have passed vital non-discrimination protections. For example, in the United States, the Violence against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 expanded non-discrimination protections for LGBT people to prohibit shelters and other domestic violence services from discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Sadly, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender women face disproportionate levels of violence at the hands of both strangers and intimate partners. A recent U.N. human rights report noted that LGBT people are at a disturbingly elevated risk of homicidal violence, highlighting the increased risk that lesbian, bisexual, and transgender women face because of gender-based discrimination. Another study by the Human Rights Campaign and the Trans People of Color Coalition estimates that transgender women in the United States face 4.3 times the risk of becoming homicide victims than the general population of women. Factors such as poverty or belonging to a racial minority exacerbated the incidence and rates of violence experienced. Transgender people are also more likely to experience violence from law enforcement, in homeless shelters, and in healthcare settings. The recent Transgender Day of Remembrance served as a stark reminder that transgender people around the world face disproportionate levels of violence: in the United States alone, at least 21 transgender people have been killed in 2015.

Social work play very important role in rehabilitation of this community as follows.

4. SOCIAL WORK INTERVENTION

Social work has strong ties to the LGBT community. Because social workers understand intersectionality, they are concerned with every population that is being unfairly oppressed. The skills you'll learn in your social work degree will help you succeed in a variety of fields related to the LGBT population.

1. Youth Counsellor

LGBT youth need support. They often can't get it from their parents or community. That's why so many cities have LGBT youth centres and organizations. A social worker can provide limited counselling services and create a welcoming space for youth working through their sexual orientations and gender identities.

2. Therapist

The LGBT community has unique psychological needs. That's why counsellors who focus on this population are in high demand. With a master's degree in social work (MSW) and a concentration in counselling, you can become a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW). You can offer one-on-one counselling for anxiety, depression or other mental health issues. According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the LGBT populations experiences mental health problems at three to four times the rate of the general population. Your services as an LGBT-friendly counsellor would be in high demand.

3. Advocacy Work

Social work doesn't just focus on the individual. Macro-level advocacy is an important way for social workers to fight against poverty and oppression. If you're passionate about the LGBT community, you can use your social work to promote transgender rights, fair housing ordinances or anti-discrimination laws.

4. Events Promoter

For many LGBT communities, Pride is the highlight of this year. This event is usually held in July to commemorate the Stonewall Riots, but major cities host other LGBT events all year round; however, someone needs to organize them. Although this isn't a typical social work job in LGBT issues, it's a good way to build transferable skills and expand your personal network. Plus, you get to attend the events and enjoy them.

5. Adoption Caseworker

A more typical LGBT-related job for social workers is adoption assistance. Many LGBT couples provide a loving home for adopted children, and you could help make their dreams of becoming a family turn into a reality. As a caseworker, you'd help prospective parents prepare their home, navigate bureaucracy and deal with the emotions of adding a new child.

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