

DEDICATION

To all gays suffering the shame and silent pain from a rejected society. Special mention to those interviewed during this research.

To my brother my friend ; my fellow colleagues and to all other persons who may read this research article and may benefit.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks be to God who always cause us to triumph – who have blessed me with wisdom and understanding and guided me through this research.

S.....

I must also say thanks to all those who help in some way or the other in making this research a success. Thank You.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 OVERVIEW

The battle continues for the search for answers to the cause(s) of homosexuality. The cause(s) of homosexuality is uncertain, yet many person attributes the phenomena to a number of factors. Through the years the cause of homosexuality was argued on the basis of nature/nurture; socialization and the social learning theory. Researchers try to prove the cause(s) of homosexuality is hereditary – the factor of genes. Nevertheless the cause or causes still remains uncertain.

It is clear to date that no one knows what are the factors leading to gay sexual orientation. Science probably has a clearer idea of what does not cause or lead to gay behaviour.

Homosexuality Opposing Viewpoint (1993) pg.47

Box 1:1

Homosexuality may be defined as “a developmental problem that is almost the result of problems in family relationship, particularly between father and son. As a result with fathers, the boy does not fully internalize male gender-identity and develops homosexually. This is the most commonly seen clinical model. (Joseph Nicolosi, 1991).

In Georgetown most men have had a homosexual experience that lead to orgasm while growing up. Men also practice homosexual acts under extra ordinary conditions that deny them a feminine outlet, such as

confinement to a prison or to an all male institution. Gays in Georgetown can be categorized into two groups, which can be conceptualized as the following: –

Out Gay –Gays found in the lime light familiar spaces. Gays who have accepted themselves and are comfortable with their homosexual condition despite the rejection of family members and the wider society.

In Gays – Gays who are concern about their self image and are careful with the character identity. They prefer not to be seen in the limelight or familiar spaces and not to be snob by their family members and society. This category of gays accounts for a larger percentage of the gay community in Georgetown.

Out gays in Georgetown attempts to absorb the role and characteristics of the woman completely by dressing and acting the way women do. While on the other hand, In Gays do not engage themselves in such behaviour. Nevertheless, most in-gays tend to go for under-wears of a feminine taste and short clothes that are questionable (pretty short pants).

Gays are often stereotyped, as squeaky voiced, swishing, and arty, most are not immediately detectable by their manner or dress. In fact some gays take pride in their well-developed musculature, athletic abilities, and superficially vigorous masculinity.

Gays in Georgetown are marginalized – they are constantly ridicule and tormented by their neighbours. Being gay in Georgetown means increasingly being tortured and to some extent taken advantage of. Gays faces discrimination in many ways – employment, health care and many other public sectors.

The stigmatization of gays causes them to suffer emotionally and psychologically. In some cases gay are unable to function effectively – there are always uneasy. The uneasiness takes the toll of a low self esteem creating a melodramatic and an unstable self concept.

Children are thought to discriminate against and dislike gays – particularly in Georgetown. Young people give little or no regards for the sexual orientation of persons of different to there, especially gays. Almost all of Georgetown populist concludes, that gay is the reason for the seemly uncontrollable social ill called, AIDS.

The virus that causes Aids was first detected in 1984 in Guyana in the blood stream of a gay. There after the stigma “all gays were Aids comers” was left with gays and spread throughout Georgetown and the country at large. Aids have become a factor in Georgetown for hatred, prejudice and discrimination against gays.

o PURPOSE AND SIGNIFICANCE

The purpose and significance of this research is an effort to help provide an explanation for the causes of the silent pain and use of coping mechanisms of gay thirty (30) years and under in Georgetown.

In recent there has been an increase presence of gays in Georgetown. Thus, this article hopes to establish precedence and major truths about gay community in Georgetown – remove mis-conceptions and suspicions from the minds of gay family members and society.

The biggest problem most people have in understanding gays is that they think of it as a single way of feeling and acting – thus they look for a single way of explaining it. But ... there are a no of many different kinds of gays. Homosexuality Opposing Viewpoint, (1993), Box 1:2.

This research serves as information to help educate gay family members and society to adjust and adapt to the gay phenomena – which is seemingly strange to them. It is also to revolutionize and liberate society to accept gay behaviour – not as a disease, but as a condition of a “human being” that requires respect, worth and dignity.

The research is intended to show that there lies in the life of gays a great amount of pain which they suffer silently from a rejected family members and society. One must also understand the psychological and social effects that causes gay to become traumatized. Such trauma can lead gays to become introverted (home boy) or commit suicide (take his own life).

It is also my propensity to use this research article as to advocate a change in policies that will cause the relevant authorities to make provision for the non-discrimination and comfort of gays in every aspect of society. Society should not be allowed to drive gays into a life of self-hatred.

1.3 OBJECTIVES

To highlight the pain gays suffer as a result of rejection.

To show coping mechanisms used by gays as survival skills.

To help provide an explanation showing the cause of homosexuality is disputed.

To make the public cognizance of the many factors surrounding the gay phenomena.

To help to re-educate the gay community under thirty within Georgetown.

To sensitize and/or stimulate public acceptance of gays in our society.

1.4 FOCAL CONTENT

This research proposes to clearly define and amplify the trauma gays under age thirty in Georgetown suffer. The silent pain and strange coping mechanism – the insecurity of being reprimanded by society causes gays to be more and more fearful for their lives.

Georgetown happens to be the capital of Guyana and one of its six towns, with a 65% of the country's population. The commercial activities, the many night clubs and other limelight excitement seem to be the atmosphere gays love to be delighted in. Some gays prostitute themselves for money in Georgetown while others up for a steady stable relationship. Most gays who prostitute themselves happen to fall between the ages of sixteen to twenty-five.

Gays in Georgetown can be found in such places as nightclubs and other familiar recognized spaces. Recognized spaces such as the St. Georges Cathedral, Georgetown seawall, Revolution square, and the Promenade gardens. However for all these spots mentioned, there are what are consider a “gay season”. At no given time one would fine a cluster of gays in anyone of these places – a more understanding of the seasonal phenomena can be seen in table 1.1.

< -- > = Few * = Fair amount ^ = Large amount

In addition to the space mentioned where gays can be found, I can't help to bring to your attention two other well-known spots. Those spots are –

The Stabroek market area, more specific the **south car park and the dread shop and**

The familiar Camp Site that can be found at Camp and South Road in Georgetown.

Nevertheless, despite the presence of so many gays in Georgetown they are still often discriminated against. There are also stigmatized and are called a manner of names - batty boy and fly. Society, sinners and saints

Days	Seawall	Night-clubs	P.G.	R.S.	S.G.C.
Monday	< -- >	*	*	< -- >	< -- >
Tuesday	< -- >	< -- >	< -- >	< -- >	< -- >
Wednesday	< -- >	*	< -- >	< -- >	< -- >
Thursday	< -- >	< -- >	*	< -- >	*
Friday	< -- >	^	^	< -- >	*
Saturday	*	^	^	*	*
Sunday	^	^	*	^	*

agreed that these gays are bound for hell so the public always would be shouting to them fire! Fire!.

... Gay people have been and continue to be the victims of irrational discrimination, they ought to be protected by civil rights law. Matthew Coles, Public law and Policy, 9:2 Box 1:3

1.5 DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

The highlighted area on the map depicts the familiar open spaces where gays are found in Georgetown.

1.6 MAJOR QUESTION

The silent pains and coping mechanism gays age thirty and under suffer in Georgetown

1.7 SELECTION OF COLLABORATOR/RESPONDENT

—
Respondents will be selected from the many familiar space in the Georgetown area. Visits will be made to these areas at appropriate time of the gay season. Even though respondents will be drawn from these familiar spots, respondents will also be drawn from unfamiliar spaces. Gays found in the limelight or familiar spaces are of a different kind found in unfamiliar spaces.

The main methodology of selecting respondent for this research will be the questionnaire. Coupled with the questionnaire they will be the inter-person conversation. Inter-person conversation will be held in house (confidential) for those who wish not to be identifying with those in the open. There will also be focus group discussions and all names going to be pseudonyms.

1.8 ASSUMPTIONS

- o It is assumed that most gays age thirty and under in Georgetown uses “strange” coping mechanism to survive. Gays often receive pressure from a rejected society and from their insensitive family members. Gays find it hard to say to their parents the painful truth – “I am a gay” – even though they have come to accept themselves and behaviour. Gays are often confronted with the pressuring questions, why are you not married? – When are you going to get married? Such related questions are often as a result of the suspicion arbores by their relative and society.**

Further gays cover their “real self” by trying to portray a macholistic (see glossary) image. They become involved in outstanding masculine activities, even though sometimes they are not comfortable.

Gays become involved in sports and the continuous consumption of large amounts of alcohol. It is believed that gays look for sport and activities, that can help them to cope with parental and societal pressure - sports and activities that involves being half-nude also makes them comfortable.

Some gays even try to cover their “real-self” by rooting deep into religious activities and or pursue after a continuous education. It can be said that most, if not all gays work concertedly towards independence and respectability. Gays are most comfortable with leadership positions, and/or authoritative roles.

1.9 THEORETICAL BASE

Theories help carry knowledge from one situation to the next, in order to aid what is similar and decide what is different in our ongoing practice experience. They help to bring order to our practice experience, it help to bring order to our practice by providing a filter screen or frame work which to put into perspective that mass of knowledge of facts.

Impression and supposition we develop in the process of therapeutic contact.

Carl Rogers (1902-1987) in his client-centered theory poised his assumption “everyone has a self-actualizing motives”. The individual has the capacity to guide, regulate, direct and control themselves, providing that certain conditions exists. The individual has the potential to understand what is in their life that is related to distress and anxiety. Further individuals have the potential to reorganize themselves in such a

way as not only to eliminate his distress and anxiety, but also to experience self-fulfillment and happiness.

Underlying concepts in personality theory can be capsulated; all individuals exist in a continually changing world of experience of which they are the center. (The Phenomenal field). Individuals react to their phenomenal field as they experience and perceive it. They react to reality as they perceive it rather than, as others may perceive it.

As an individual there is tendencies that strive to actualize maintain and enhance the individual. Behaviour is basically the goal-directed attempt of individual to satisfy their needs as experienced in their phenomenal field. The best vantage point for understanding behaviour is from the internal frame of reference of the individual.

In most cases client centered theory is predicted believes that the client innate self-actualizing tendencies will flourish if the conditions are right. Client center theory help the client reflect on feeling and use clarifying statement.

2.0 REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.1 INTRODUCTION

Psychology has failed – it is still failing to tell us positively about same-sex attraction. We would think that science by now would be able to come up with some clear explanation – but so far nothing has been documented. As it relates to psychology and science, we are just left with theories and hypothesise, most of which yet to be proven and the others have been proven wrong. There is no clear-cut answer to same sex orientation; there are just statistical probabilities and an ocean of more or less, compelling theories. June Reinisch, Kinsey Institute New Report on Sex, (1990).

In reality, gay condition is a developmental problem, one that is often as a result from early problems between father and son. A review of psychological literature demonstrates that genetics and hormonal factors do not seem to play a predetermining role in homosexual development. However, some predisposing factors make some boys more vulnerable to gender identity injuries. Homosexuality Opposing Viewpoint (1993) pg 30.

Some problems associated with gay's sexual orientation include the following:-

Assertion difficulties - failing to assert one self firmly and to be identify with there gender.

The sexualisation of dependency and aggression, and

Defensive detachment - the child growing up will detach him from other males in order to protect himself.

However, Joseph Nicolosi (1991) in an article Reparative Therapy of Male Homosexuality said, there are a number of homosexual men who reject being labeled gay, along with all the implications that such label will bestow upon them. Although the homosexual may name an undeniable aspect of the psychology, gays describe a life-style and values they do not wish to claim. These men experience conflicts between the values and their sexual orientation.

Researchers argue that gay orientation couldn't be cured – it can be changed. God hates our sin but he loves us as sinners. The precedents still stands, for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God – further, God love the world, He give us his only begotten son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. Jesus came not into the world to condemn the world but that the world through Him might be saved. Holy Bible, St John chapter 3:16 &17.

2.2 SCIENTIFIC CAUSES OF HOMOAEXUALITY IS UNCLEAR.

The gay phenomenon remains a mystery to many social scientists. The biggest problem most people have in understanding gays is that they think of a single way of feeling and acting and therefore look for a single way to describe the causes. Our understanding of gays sexual orientation is limited by the complexity of the issue and the problem associated with conducting the research. Psycho-biologist Stephaine Sanders 1985 said:-

“We came into this world with nothing determine but with some perimeters laid out and sexual orientation is probly the first of such undetermined thing.”

Many social scientists like Martha Barrett and John Mc Neill have argued that the cause of homosexuality is more than of scientific interest – It is an issue that may very well have a great deal of strong social repercussions. The question of whether gay sexual preference is as a result of upbringing or an inborn quality, is indeed an extremely sensitive subject. The topic invokes strange emotions and prejudices, no matter which side one takes. Never the less, for one to comprehend fully the cause one becoming gay, a great deal of objectivity and compassion is required. People do not just engage in gay activities of this.

It is a mistake to hope we can change or modify gay behaviour. If we understand its' nature and accept it as given, then we come closer to the kind of attitude which will make it possible for gays to lead a decent life in society. David Gelman (1992).

Scientific theories on the causes of gay behaviour reflect the classic debate on whether a person's makeup is a product of biology or environment. Researcher Roy Master speculates that gay behaviour is a product of upbringing, especially a child's relationship with his father. Others researchers like Ivan Pavlov and Joseph Nicolosi have focused instead on physical causes, such as brain structure or hormone exposure while in the womb.

James Dobson, focus on the family, March (1991) said it is not true that people become gay because an older person of the same sex seduced them in their youth. The childhood and adolescent sexual experiences of both gays and heterosexual are fairly similar, except that gays recall later that they found opposite-sex encounter less satisfying than did same-sex.

2.3 GAYS SHOULD NOT BE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST.

Many persons are forced to live closeted lies without the love and support that each human being deserves – in large part because of society’s homophobic attitude. These antiquated views help to foster negative self-images, which ultimately lead to tragedy.

Society imposes an image that being gay is somehow wrong, or bad and disgraceful. These attitudes are senselessly hurting a great many people through out our nation. Jeff peters, Human Rights 18:01,”

Vanderbilt University 1989 completed a report on anti gays discrimination. It found that the health of gays is affected when day after day they are forced to say the opposite of what they feel.

Until the gay rights movements began in 1969, gay behaviour was little researched. Today there is still no single definitive cause of gay behaviour. It is wrong fir some one to discriminate against gays, because there is no clear cause. One must be careful to understand, God and sex are two subjects that cannot be reduced to scientific formulas.

On radio stations around the world gays are subjects of ugly jokes. Hatred of the gay community is splashed a crossed editorials and in letters to the editor. In more recent time pop songwriters have come to join the bandwagon of discriminating against gays. Example, bom boy boy in a batty man game. Television programs and movies often depict gays as the villains or unhappy, lost souls to be pitied. Gays find it

increasingly difficult to lead their lives without facing acts of discrimination and violence.

Researcher Alfred Kinsey has reported that over 90% of gays all over the world have experienced some form of discrimination in they sexual orientation. Many gays were punched, kicked, and even hit – quarter had objects thrown at them, one third been chased; quarter have been sexually assaulted and 40% had been spat upon. In many worst cases gays were beaten to death.

... We are no longer seeking just a right to privacy and protection from wrong. We also have a right heterosexual have – to see government and society affirm our lives.

...until our relationships are recognized in the law, through domestic pattern legislation or the definition of beneficiaries... Jeff Levi (1987).

2.4 CONCLUSION

The gay phenomenon still remains unclear – researchers are still working to find its cause(s). As it stands, the lack of love and respect for gays often equals the lack of knowledge about gays.

I propose that healthy sexual development for gay oriented persons is the evolution of sexual attitudes, feelings, and behaviour which overall enhances adaptation in the various sub cultures to which they belong. The latter proves that healthy sexual development demands a positive homosexual core identity and the skills to adapt to other sub-groups. Both conditions are essential to a healthy sexuality. Gays have all rights like every other citizen in any country at any given time. Homosexuality Opposing Viewpoints, pg 16.

Date	Activities	Reflections
5.2.02	<p>Consultations were made with the lecturer and the research topic was given – “The silent pain and coping mechanism of gays under the age of thirty years in Georgetown.” I was also given instructions to find myself related literature and return to see the lecturer at my earliest convenience.</p>	<p>I have always been interested in researching the levies of those seemly of a abnormal sexual orientation. My interest grew even as I received the research topic – I felt good because a challenge is a head of me. I proceeded to talk with friends to see what they know about the topic and in what way they can help. I also visited the library and had borrowed books of importance to the topic.</p>

<p>11.2.02</p>	<p>I returned to see the lecturer with my related literature. I was given an article to make a critique under specific guidance. The activity was to prepare me to be Focused on my own research.</p>	<p>Critising the article was good but yet no comfortable. It demanded brain - power that was not prepared to exhort at that time. Nevertheless, the activity had turn out to be a comfortable one for me after I had focused my efforts to work.</p>
<p>26.2.02</p>	<p>A visit was made to the lecturer to return the critique of the article. The critique was marked and further instructions were given to proceed to the next level – being the level of preparing the introduction.</p>	<p>The thought of having to prepare the introduction were a sobering one. The introduction carries nine parts – nine parts that demands reading and comprehension skills. I have managed to muster the courage, despite the negative though of distraction. The introduction was complete before the time I had given myself. It was partly funny.</p>

2.3.02

The introduction paper was submitted to the lecturer to be marked. The procedure of the next level for the research was outlined, and instructions to proceed were given to me. The next level of the research is the level of finding related literature/literature review. I was also required to submit a copy of my proposed questions for the questionnaire to do my fieldwork.

Finding related literature is almost equated to process of reviewing literature. It was a stressful to me at one time, I was confused, I just wanted to get it over and finish with it. Almost every colleague seems to have had a different understanding of what to do at this time in the process of the research. However, I came through fair and it is now time to move on.

5.3.02

Copies of the proposed questions were presented to the lecturer for verification. The other process defined and the go-ahead given for the activity of fieldwork.

Fieldwork sounded good and exciting at first, until I was awoken to the stark reality is neither all good nor exciting. The first night of my fieldwork visit I was abused verbally by a Gay who thought that I was up to some thing and just playing. During the process of fieldwork activities I was strip and search by the police who thought I was out on the road too late. I was also stoned by a group of passersby who took me to be one of the many to whom I was seeking information from. The excitement and goodness of the fieldwork process can be reflected in the relaxation gained from Bar side atmospheres and private areas where gays can be found.

<p>12.4.02</p>	<p>I then went back to see the lecturer because fieldwork was completed. I am now given the task at this point to analyse the data received from the fieldwork by questionnaires.</p>	<p>Analysing the data received from the fieldwork was interesting. Became stock with the new revelations and facts the questionnaires had to offer to this research. Learning the coping mechanism gays use and their terms of operation was simple, but strikingly awesome.</p> <p>At this point I am putting together my procedures and activities along with my conclusion and recommendations. Section three, four, and five of the research are waiting to be marked, to have the research fully put together for its final grade.</p>
-----------------------	--	---

o Limitations

It was a challenge, in that the research was motivating and the process melodramatic. Although suffering the consequences of depression, frustrations and emotional pains, I knew that there was a task to be accomplished. My social life received less attention and my nights became even shorter. As a single man, my domestic chores were given a second place and I have struggled to keep up with my church activities.

The foremost of my disappointments was the lack of adequate finances to be able to take care of the research process- money answered all things. Capsulating my worse nightmare has to live in one of the underdeveloped areas in the country. Many nights I was spirited to work, but my environment was unfriendly-there is no electricity. The flickering of candles and lamps are considered unhealthy, thus, I was limited many nights. There were nights when I thought of using the university's library, but having to go through the deplorable conditions of the underdeveloped area made me not use the library. The area has no light; its moody at rainfall, and having to go through such swamp is considered a health hazard.

I was devastated further, not having a personal computer at my disposal. I was unable to meet many of my deadlines: many times what was urgent to me was not considered urgent to friend who was gracing me with the favor of typing for me.

Nevertheless, amidst all the difficulties I can recall hearing the distinct words from my inner self/my spirit saying "you can make it" and it can to pass. I took courage, became rejuvenated and found a new strength to continue and complete the research, that I was long interested in.

DATA ANALYSIS

o Introduction

The data for this research was gathered from its population through in-house conversation and a structured questionnaire. Out-door on the

spot questioning and interaction was also done to derive the perception reflecting hereunto. Nothing should be misunderstood to be the thought and ideas of the researcher.

Respondents have come to accept homosexuality as normal, but they are not comfortable being called “gays.” They believe the term gay distinguishes a life-style. The research data reveals that sixty-five percent (65%) of gays say they were born gay and twenty percent (20%) have accepted their behaviour to be a reflection of their “real-self.”

Gays have defined their activities as beyond society’s stereotypic views. Society’s concepts of gays are reflected in the thoughts that to be gay is to penetrate or to be penetrated. However, not all gays like to be penetrated nor do they like to penetrate. There are gays who simply enjoy making love until they reach an orgasm. Other gays masturbate their partners and have their partners masturbate them to an orgasm. Gays even find fun in wining on one another until they reach an orgasm.

Gays found in popular open place have organised and structured themselves to operate within the system of being managed by “pimps.” (Glossary) The concept of gay pimps is better conceptualized when one can understand, gays while waiting for a client organized themselves together to play and talk with each other. In the midst of their fun, one is identified as the leader or the one who will make the appropriate connection for the others when the need arises. Gays that can be found at other popular bar-side waiting to be connected to a client enjoy more freedom of choice.

Gay’s quest is for freedom and inner satisfaction; they place very high regards on their privacy and respect. Despite they crave for public privacy, they can be seen making love, performing acts of penetration and “heading” (glossary) in the presence of one another and in the public.

The expectation of reading this section of the research can be enjoyed through factual statements that help us understand the silent pain and coping mechanism of gays under thirty years in Georgetown. One can expect to find defined statements in the form of tables and percentages of ethnicity, religion, age group occupation, educational status, family forms, and family awareness of sexual orientation and family responses to sexual preferences. Table 4.1 is a reflection of the families from of the despondence.

FAMILY FORMS	NO. OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTA GE
Nuclear	5/20	25%
Extended	7/20	35%
Single Parent	7/20	35%
Common Law	1/20	5%

o ISSUES AND CONCERN

During the gathering of data for this research respondents have expressed a few major issues that are of concern to them. The issues and concerns are as follows.

The need for family acceptance.

The knowledge of having a gay in the family often traumatizes family members and causes them to reject that gay family member. This is the phenomenon where family members refuse to accept gays as being part of their loved ones.

The need for societal acceptance.

In this case the gay is rejected and refused by the wider society. They are often discriminated against and are treated as “outcasts,” nobody wants anything to do with them.

Having to live in denial of their real self.

Gays live a life of denial in Guyana because there is no policy to give them recognition; they are not secure against discrimination and are not given equality status. Gays living in denial are concerned of having to deny their “real self,” that which makes them comfortable.

Having adequate security and protection from the police.

Many times the police refuses to give adequate protection to gays and secure them from danger. Gays when recognised are not given the services of the police.

Gays are given mixed signals from public authorities.

Respondents consider this to be one of their biggest issues of concern. Public authorities perform sexual activities with gays at night, but hate them during the day and when it is convenient.

o MANIFESTATION

★ The need for family acceptance.

Family rejections are manifested in several ways. Some gays are asked to leave the home (move out) when their family members become knowledgeable of their sexual preference. In cases where the gay is dependent on family support, when the knowledge of their condition reaches their family members, the support stops or is lessens.

Ravan is between the ages of eighteen and twenty-four (18-24) years. he is a student at the University of Guyana and he is dependent on his family for support. In recent times he was pressured to make a statement of his sexual orientation to his family. To tell them he is gay.

The knowledge of Ravan’s sexual preference has led to his family members with drawing some their support from him.

Rejections from family members are also manifested in the breakdown of communication.

When family members become cognisant of the gay family member, because of the stigma attached to the term “gay” – they tend to withdraw their interaction and withhold their speech. If the gay family member is an adult he is either asked to go and live on his own or the rest of the family moves out and leaves him on his own.

Shanna, age twenty-five of African decent, an Accounts Clerk, was sent to live on his own by his parents. This decision was supported by his four older brothers and his small sister. Despite shanna being an in-gay /closeted, his family was embarrassed about his life style. They were so embarrassed that they moved to the United States of America.

The communication between Shanna and his family members leaves much to be desired.

★ *The need for societal acceptance.*

In Georgetown most persons hate gays. Society does not accept gays and thus does not socialize its member to accept the gay person. Persons with seemly abnormal sexual preferences especially, suffer discrimination in all forms. They would have objects thrown at them, they would be called funny names, such as fly, anti-man and girls with balls. To prevent this from happening they cover themselves with many opposite-sex friends. Some of them are able to live in denial of their real self by playing a matcholistic game, having many girlfriends: but their real interest is boys, cute boys.

Gays also suffer discrimination when seeking attention and employment. Gays complain of being taken advantage of for no apparent reason.

Dexroy who is an ingay, was walking down the road one day talking to a friend. They passed a crowd of boys who heard him speaking and said that he was speaking funny, so they began to call him names, he returned the name calling by calling them funny names.

One boy seem to have felt that the name calling was not enough, so

he decided to pick a fight with Dexroy, his thought probably was that Dexroy was incapable of giving him a good thrashing.

★

Having inadequate security and protection from the Police.

The refusal to adequately protect and secure gays in matters relating to the law by the police is manifested in ways that causes some amount of concern.

Five percent (5%) of the respondents have claimed to be chased by police officers whenever they would have to the station. In reporting their matters with their squeaky voice, the Police Officer will say to them “I either want a man or a woman to talk to me, so when you decide who you are the door is always open, get out.” Ten percent (10%) of the respondent population has also said that even though they are ingays, whenever they report matters to the Police and they find out it is a gay related case; they refuse to take the appropriate action necessary to justify the victim of the case.

Teyon, sixteen years of age, was forced to leave his mother’s house because his family does not accepts his behaviour. He went to live with his twenty-seven years old lover. One evening, his lover decided to give him a “trashing” this led to serious injuries. He reported the matter to the Police, stating that the lover is a “good friend” who is sharing the house with him. The Police took a statement and proceeded to arrest the lover, the neighbours then said to the police, “the boys are lovers,” without arresting Teyon’s lover, they left and never returned.

★ *Gays are given mixed signals from public authorities.*

Respondents are of the opinion that many public authorities are hypocrites. This opinion was expressed because public authorities say one thing and do another. Public authorities refuse to give homosexuality recognition on pen and paper or at professional levels, but at night they can be seen at nightclubs, bars or even in familiar gay space, looking and waiting to be connected. Two percent (2%) of the respondents claim to have had sexual acts committed with them by known public authorities.

This concern is further manifested in the acts of public authorities having relationships with gay unknown to their “nuclear” family. They love gays by “night” and “secret” and when there is a need, but hate them at “day.”

★ *Having to live in denial of their real self.*

Gays having to live in denial of their real self, have to pretend they are straight. Pretending to be straight, they become involved in masculine things or religious activities. They basically find something to buy up most of their time and keep them out of the home away from family members.

○ CAUSES

★ *The need for family acceptance.*

Lack of knowledge of gay sexual orientation is the main reason why family rejects gay loves ones. In the socialization process in our culture “homosexuality” in many families is a “taboo area” (glossary). Family members do not accept gay behaviour because it is considered an awkward behaviour for men to be performing like women. Family members are also afraid of the stigma and shadow cast against the other members of the family. Gays are rejected in families by family members because they is always a fear of them sexually molesting the younger ones and leading them astray.

★ *The need for societal acceptance.*

Fundamentally, society is of the view that gays are the cause of the seemingly uncontrollable virus HIV/AIDS. Members of society be it Christian or no Christian rejects gays because they believe that gay behaviour is an abomination unto God. Such a belief is as a result of religious input into the socialization process of members of the society. What is interesting is that ninety percent (90%) of the respondents are affiliated to a Christian church. Society further believes gay behaviour causes a curse upon the land - Gays will all go to be in hell.

Gay activities cannot reproduce, that is a major societal concern. How will we get young ones to be added to our nation when men are leaving the natural use of women and turning to their fellow men? Society is also scared of gays because they believe that they will become “child molesters” and that they are “bad” immoral male figures for the young generation.

★ *Having to live in denial of their real self.*

The cause of gay denying their real self in our culture is a survival strategy. To be acceptable, loved, cared for and be comfortable in their own family, they have to pretend and deny who they really are. Because of their need for societal acceptance and favour, gays live a lie many days in silent pain. In order for a gay to get a proper job – even though he has the qualifications, he has to deny his real self. To survive discrimination and being constantly abuse, gay’s refuses under society’s pressuring conditions to accept their real self.

The peace of being able to live a “free” life in Georgetown causes gays to be secreted and appear straight in the eyes of their family members and the wider society.

★ *Having inadequate security and protection from the police.*

All citizens of any country deserve the rights of full protection and adequate security of the police officials. Gays in Georgetown definitely need the protection of the police to survive the discriminatory acts and advantages being taken against them day after day; they need to be protected from violent lovers and need to feel secure. To be able to approach the police station and make a complain knowing that action will be taken.

★ *Gays are given mixed signals from public authorities.*

Gays are often stereotyped, be it “ingays” or “out gays.” Guyanese have it as one of the parables “lil boys, dogs and anti-man (gays) don’t mess around at all.”

Public authorities are professional people; the underlying cause of just having a “fling” (see glossary) with gay is to protect their professional status. Having a relationship with a gay as a professional person is as equal of having sex in the open. Public authorities go by night or early morning under disguise, hoping that they would not be recognised by gays and molested after the “fling.”

o COPING MECHANISM

★ *The need for family acceptance.*

There are many coping mechanism gays use to cope in order to achieve family acceptance. However this data will only reflect a few major ones. To achieve family acceptance some gays move away from the home of their love ones and live by themselves. They are able to do what they want without the family members having to know anything and treat them any way differently. When gays think family members reject them, to gain their acceptance and attention gays traumatize with hot temper. Gays also hide their behaviour and are very discrete in the way they go about their activities with their lovers.

Kwesi is the sixth child of seven children for his parents and they live in a nuclear family. Kwesi’s religious upbringing is shaped with the doctrine of the Christian faith.

With the exception of one of his sisters who on her own away from the family, the other family members don’t know that he is gay. The family members are concerned about the way in which Kwesi is going. Often strange questions such as – are you gay? Why is it that most of Your friends look so funny? Are asked. To hide his sexual preference and cope with family pressure; Kwesi uses “temper tantrums.” In rage to the top of his voice, he would say, “I don’t know what you are talking about, what is so funny about my friends? Would you just leave? me alone? Added to temper tantrums, denial is his best form of defense.

★ *The need for societal acceptance.*

Defense and coping mechanism uses to combat societal pressures are taken from the things members of society prefers. They believe that at a certain age a male must get married or have a girlfriend. Men must do masculine things, such as being strong, don't cry, to prove to the world that he is a man. Have a girlfriend and getting children and boasting among your friend how much virginity you have taken.

With such a concept, smart gays being cognisant of what society expects, becomes involved in society's mould to keep society members quiet and off of their backs. Gays go as far as sheltering under Christendom and rooting themselves in religious activities to allow persons to be at peace. Ninety percent (90%) of the respondent's claims to be Christians and ten percent (10%) are deeply rooted in religious activities.

Table showing coping mechanism used to cope with family and society

COPING MECHANISM	NO. OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
Having a girlfriend	3/20	15
○ Temper tantrums	1/20	5
Hide/pretend/lie	8/20	40
Living alone	3/20	15
Involved in religious activities	3/20	15
Have a Christian life	18/20	90

★ *Having to live in denial of their real self.*

Respondents coping mechanism to cope with these phenomena differ in every way. It is not an easy task having to deny one's real self day after day - It's just disgusting. Nevertheless, sixty-five percent (65%) gays find coping with the phenomena very difficult. some gays are depressed, confined sad and annoyed. Others are uncomfortable, frustrated, upset and suicidal. Fifteen percent (15%) of gays suffer mixed emotions. They like being gay for the financial gains and sexual pleasure and hate being gay for the rejection and pain and the guilt to live with from the rejection and pain. Twenty percent (20%) of gays are really "high spirited." They are comfortable, confident, and proud and feel good coping with all round pressure.

★ Having inadequate security and protection from the police.

To cope with inadequate security and protection from the police gays turn to violence. In gay relationships, when conflict arise and there is a need to settle disputes, that is often done through "hitting out/trashing or tantrums, burning of clothes, throwing away of personal belongings or simply, one party moving away from the other." In cases where outsiders want to take advantage of gays, they will meet with harsh penalties. Gays band themselves together (no matter how far they are) to give the advantage seeker a trashing. The nature of the case warrants the course of action. If it is a case of the gay and a "fling partner" alone the gay will represent himself by using whatever means it takes – bass, ice picks or knives.

★ Gays are given mixed signals from public authorities.

The coping mechanism used here is simple and economical when gays recognise a public authorities they simply refuses them or have them pay more for their services. Gays also use treats to keep the officials in subjection and get them to do what they want. The best of the triumph used by the gays is manipulation on professional people.

o RECOMMENDATION

That the gays be given the free chance and scope to form a “therapy group” - people that we can relate to, learn from and they in turn will learn from us.

To have a “recognise” institution to support and care for persons living with HIV/AIDS in the gay community.

Respondents are requesting “hassle free” clinical facilities to have regular check and medical attention.

Have an institution of support where families can be counseled to understand gay behaviour and their sexual orientation.

There should be many public programmes featuring and highlighting the nature and complexities of gays sexual orientation – the hope that the public will accept gays.

That government creates and implements policies that will equate gays with the rights of every other citizen and gays will not be discrimination.

4.7 END PIECER

Respondents are still in awe of the mystery the gay phenomena – some are even confined in trying to find a single cause definition to answer the so –call social ill. The respondents in the age group of majority, eighteen to twenty-four (18-24), fifty- five percent, are still asking the question “why did it happen to me.” Despite the formal education received by gays which.

Ranges along a continuum - secondary to university (see table 4.7.1.) they are unable to answer the mind-boggling question.

★ This age group is also annoyed with the age group twenty-five to thirty. They believe that the “black horses” (see glossary) should stand back and give the little brown horses a fair chance in the race.

★

★ Mark, twenty years old, think its time for him to get a fair chance

★ to run on the field, the black horses have had a good time and to

★ some extent damaged the field and left it for us little horses to now

★ survive on through hardship.

★

★ Shaun age nineteen, believe that the older horses or the black horses

FORMAL EDUCATION	NO. OF RESPONDENTS	PERCENTAGE
PRIMARY	-	-
SECONDARY	10	50
TECHNICAL	5	25
UNIVERSITY	5	25

★ should stay at home and either try relationships or get out of the way.

★ They can now wait to die, there is no need for competing with the

★ little ones because the little ones think they should be given a free

★ time without old horse’s obstruction.

★

In the gay community in Georgetown there is a deep quest for money and material things, as a result some gays prostitute themselves at familiar places. Some gays are unable to keep a steady stable relationship because of greed – they want more of whatever is in style - they just believe one partner is not enough for them. In addition to the foregone, society does not give them the chance to keep a steady stable relationship. However, the few gay relationships they might be having, violence seem to be their foundation or a very important part of the relationship. Gay are a jealous set of people, they really can't stand to see their partner talk too long with anybody, that often is the basis for the hitting out and temper tantrums.

Nevertheless, gay seems to be living and coping pretty well under the pressure they are receiving from day to day in the Georgetown community.

5.0 Conclusion & Recommendation

5.1 Introduction

... “And it came to pass” this is central thoughts turning over in my mind as I peruse to complete this research. At first it was difficult to relate and accept gays as human being.

Growing up as a child my values are shaped in the beliefs of Christianity. It was learnt that persons with an abnormal sexual orientation are promiscuous and should be left alone. Today I am more cognisant that gays are human beings with dignity and worth – they have felling.

The potential of gays cannot be fully realized because of discriminatory acts measured against them day after day. Most gays are “assets” to their families and society – their contributing can benefit a wide cross section of public and private sector. The data reveals over fifty (50%) of gays have had a secondary education and the others have either a technical or university education. It is therefore necessary for one to understand that

gays can play a meaningful part in the development of the family and the wider society.

Despite some of the “squeaky voices” and “tailored walks”, it cannot be taken away that most of their desires and efforts are towards perfection and professionalism.

In light of the foregone concepts and thoughts, the following questions are asked to stimulate a new thought pattern for gay family members and the wider society.

Why should we allow our precious human resource to go to waste?

Why reject and discriminate against gays who are assets to societal development? and

What are the criteria used to determine who contributes to society and who does not?

Policy makers and leaders of pressure groups should realize that gays have “something” to offer and should be adopted into society to live comfortably. Gays are not asking you to get involved in their “behavior” and their sexual activities – They are only asking to be recognized as human beings that deserve the rights and privileges as a citizen, like every other citizen.

“We have the right to equality, that distinction – the right to special protection for our physical, mental and social development.

A right to understanding and love from my parents and from society – the right to be protected against abandonment and

exploitation at work and the right to enjoy the spirit of solidarity, understanding, friendship and justice among all people”.

5.2 Assumptions

The assumption of this research can be capsulated to understand the following: Gays are often pressured by the insensitive family member to “cover” their real self with a so-called matcholistic image. Gays often tend to root themselves into religious activities or peruse after a continuous education.

The research data stands to bear testimony to the capsulated assumption. It was discovered that a percentage of the research population root themselves into religious activities and a greater part is affiliated to Christianity. There is also proof of gays covering their “real” self in strange ways and becoming involved in masculine activities.

The distinct fact of being rejected stands to bear through the discriminatory acts upon gays by their insensitive family members and an ignorant society that is not prepared to deal with them.

5.3 Major Question

The research focused on the silent pain and coping mechanisms gays under age thirty years in Georgetown suffer. The research data has realized that it is true that gays in Georgetown suffer silent pains and they use strange coping mechanisms. This was highlighted as respondents conversed with the researcher.

In a synopsis, gays are hurt to denying their “real self” each day – they feel so inadequate to the lives being constantly disconnected and condemned. The coping mechanisms range from lies all the way up to the temper tantrums. Gays are treated with less respect and worth in Georgetown because society does not accept their sexual orientation.

The research focus has alas discovered that the fundamental causes for the secret pain gays suffer as a result of insensitive family member rejection and societal discrimination. It is clear and admit that neither gay family members nor society have been socialized to accept persons with a different sexual orientation than they consider normal sexual preferences.

5.4 Researcher Recommendations

It is my desire that our formal educational system should have in it's curriculum a subject to educate individuals from an early age to accept persons with "abnormal" sexual orientation and preferences – especially gays.

The ministers of religious gospel and other social groups should take a careful look at the method(s) of dealing with gays.

There should be a recognized "parent/child" therapy group for gays and their parents.

In the socializing/engendering of the child, both parents should be there to influence the processes that help influence the child form a natural concept about him.

A crisis center be set up with a hot line to help gays cope with their difficulties. A center that will also provide adequate security and protection.

Gays should establish a support group for themselves – respect will be given to their dignity and worth.

Policy makers and pressure groups should take a more comprehensive look at the gay phenomena and have their policies reflect non-discrimination and individuality for gays in Guyana.

5.5 Lessons Learnt

During the process of this research, there are a few but remarkable lessons I have learnt. Foremost, I have learnt that the reality of having to deal with gays outside of their world – it's not an easy task but a broad one. My first encounter with a gay person when I was at the stage of fieldwork – “what do you want, a lash off, if not anything for free”. It is seemly dangerous to deal with gays outside of their world on their planet. To traverse certain areas and “lime” at one gay spot at night – even during the day, is all about a sexual activity for those wanting?

I have also learnt it is a good thing to have an exchange for your respondents. In the course of interviewing gays, I had given them an exchange of condoms and “gay related materials”. There's also the learnt lesson of using every possible resource available to my access for the project. Research is not all about what the researcher knows but what the researcher wants to know, I have learnt the lesson of respecting persons' views from their perspective.

To achieve maximum results when interacting with collaborators, probing was done. Many times, it was all about giving up my fear and accepting the challenge of working under seemly pressuring conditions.

Grown up, I am guilty of stereotyping gays but I have learnt that gay activities go beyond what I have conceptualized – I had a personal bias against gays. Today, with the knowledge I have received from part of the community, I can accept them for their dignity and worth and give them the respect they deserve.

I have learnt to remove my inner fears and bias – to deal with the guilt of bitterness for gays and just see them as human beings.

This research project has helped me to develop a sense of confidence within myself and always be brave hearted in my educational pursuits.