



## The Issue of Homosexual Relationship : An Ethical Perspective

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*The highly debatable issue of homosexual relationship comes under the purview of applied ethics and demands moral deliberations in order to discuss the legitimacy of their action. Homosexual acts are against our societal norms, traditional beliefs and religious principles but then they are voluntary acts based on freedom of choice and determinism and thus homosexuality cannot be debarred from being practised. Homosexuality was once considered a legal offence, but is now, decriminalized by majority of the developed countries. Homosexuals are even struggling for its legalization in co-operation with various government and non- government organizations. Hence, in such a situation there is a call for a detailed discussion on the issue of homosexual relationship, especially its ethicality and its influence on the society. This project is undertaken with the objective of bringing forth the ethicality of homosexual liaison, to analyze and see what can be accepted about homosexual relationship and what can be rejected. We shall also examine and see whether homosexual relationship is conducive to the well being of the human society and also find the views of the younger generation especially, the students on this sensitive issue through the method of questionnaire and interview schedule.*

**Keywords** - Homosexual, Decriminalize, Legalization, Ethicality.

**Introduction** :Homosexuality is the romantic or sexual attraction or behavior among members of the same sex, situational or as an enduring disposition. Homosexuality is widely encountered in the animal kingdom. Among humans, the prevalence of homosexuality is difficult to determine accurately. Studies suggest between two and twenty percent of the population exhibit some degree of homosexual sensibility, though in many earlier cultures homosexual relations were prevalent. Throughout history, individual aspects of homosexuality have been admired or condemned according to various societies' sexual norms. When praised, those aspects were seen as a way to improve society; when condemned, particular activities were seen as a sin or a disease, and some homosexual behavior was prohibited by law. Since the middle of the 20th century homosexuality has been gradually delisted as a disease and decriminalized in some of the developed countries. Homosexuality is rapidly thinning out in the society and this trend is being all the time more exercised. It is estimated that a little

less than 10% of the culture is homosexual, though a superior percentage of the populace seems to believe, it is acceptable even though it may not be alluring to them. The pro-homosexual movement is very aggressive and is supported by leading politicians, organizations, agencies, etc.

The research project entitled “**The Issue of Homosexual Relationship: An Ethical Perspective**” is prepared with the aim of justifying homosexual relationship. Screening the topic from an ethical standpoint means moral evaluation of the conduct and voluntary actions of homosexuals with reference to an ideal. Ethics also called as “**Moral Philosophy**” is the science of customs or habits of men. It evaluates the voluntary actions and habitual actions of persons and considers their rightness and wrongness. Ethics seeks to determine the supreme ideal involved in human conduct. It seeks to teach us how we can pass correct moral judgments upon human conduct, consider it as

right or wrong with reference to the supreme ideal of human life. Ethics is therefore defined as the science of the Highest Good, the study of what is right or good in human conduct. Ethics investigates the nature of the “**summum bonum**” which is the highest personal good and the highest social good. It is the root of all moral distinctions. Ethics is the theory of morality. It converts moral faith into a rational insight. It criticizes the common notions of morality and discovers the rational and essential elements in them.

We can say that Ethics indirectly exerts a great influence on all the aspects of our practical life. The right solution of the imperative tribulations of politics, religion, economics, legislature, etc., depends upon the correct notions of right and wrong and thus there is a great need for a detailed discussion on this debatable topic from an ethical point of view.

#### **Objective :**

The purpose of this Research Project is:

- (i) To evaluate the conduct of homosexuals with reference to the ideal of 'Rightness'.
- (ii) To discuss the ethicality of homosexual relationship based on natural law.
- (iii) To examine and see whether homosexual relationship is conducive to the well being of the human society.
- (iv) To discuss the findings based on questionnaire and interviews and to give suggestions with regard to the issue of homosexual relationship from an ethical standpoint.
- (v) To find out the attitude of the society towards homosexual relationship.

#### **Methodology :**

Our research work will be based on the primary facts that will be collected through questionnaire and interviews. Materials for the Research Project will be

gathered from different sources: library, media, and internet and through interface discussions. On the basis of interview schedule, tables will be formed and findings will be enumerated. In the end, conclusion and suggestions will be given.

#### **Questionnaire:**

1. Name
2. Age
3. Educational qualification
4. Is homosexual relationship natural?
5. Is it normal?
6. Is homosexual act ethical?
7. Does homosexual act support freedom of choice?
8. Is homosexuality harmful for society?
9. Does homosexuality pose a threat to children?
10. Is homosexuality a depressing and sad life style?
11. Are homosexuals obsessed with sex with different partners?
12. Does homosexuality undermine religion and hence the stability of society?
13. Does homosexuality cause AIDS and other deadly diseases?
14. Should homosexuals be given special political rights?
15. Should homosexual relationship be decriminalized?
16. Should homosexual relationship be legalized?
17. Are homosexual acts forbidden by God?
18. Does homosexuality threaten the family?
19. Does homosexuality undermine moral values?
20. Do you support homosexuality?

**TABLE – I**

Sl. No.	Name	Age	Qualification	Is homosexual relationship natural	Is it normal	Is homosexual act ethical	Does homosexual act support freedom of choice	Is homosexuality harmful for society	Does homosexuality pose threat to children
1.	Swati Shree	20	B.A. III	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
2.	Tatat Yasmeen	19	B.A. III	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
3.	Nihita nandan	21	B.A. I	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
4.	Rajmani Singh	18	B.A. I	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
5.	Sweta Raj	21	B.A.	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
6.	Priyanka	22	B.A. III	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
7.	Alka Rani	20	I.A. II	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes
8.	Sushma	22	B.A. III	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
9.	Malindi Sinha	22	B.A. III	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
10.	Nisha Sinha	18	B.A. III	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes
11.	Aradhna Kumar	22	B.A. III	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
12.	Swati Kumari	20	B.A. III	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
13.	Nusrat Yasmeen	20	B.A. III	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
14.	Sapna Kumari	19	B.A. III	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
15.	Sonam Jha	21	B.A. II	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
16.	Kumari Ranjana Bharti	20	B.A. III	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Doubtful	Yes
17.	Sanobar	18	B.A. III	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
18.	Komal Kumari	21	B.A. III	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
19.	Ankita	20	B.A. III	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
20.	Archana Kumari	20	B.A. III	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
21.	Aarshi Parween	20	B.A. III	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes
22.	Hafza	20	B.A. III	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
23.	Talat Naaz	19	B.A. III	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
24.	Smriti Prakash	20	B.A. III	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
25.	Vijay Lakshmi	21	B.A. III	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
26.	Abha Kumari	20	B.A. III	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
27.	Renu Kumari	20	B.A. III	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
28.	Deepa Shahi	20	B.A. III	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
29.	Rinki	20	B.A. III	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
30.	Anudita Kumari	20	B.A. III	Yes	Yes	Yes	yes	No	No

**TABLE – II**

Sl. No.	Name	Age	Qualification	Are homosexuals obsessed with sex	Does homo-sex-uality cause AIDS and other diseases which are costly and deadly	Should homosexuals be given special rights	Should homosexuals be decrimi-nalized	Should homo-sexual relationship be legalized	Are homo-sexual Act forbidden by God
1.	Swati Shree	20	B.A. III	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
2.	Talst Yasmin	19	B.A. III	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
3.	Nihita Nandan	21	B.A. I	Doubtful	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
4.	Rajmani	18	B.A. I	Doubtful	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
5.	Sweta Raj	21	B.A.	Doubtful	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
6.	Priyanka	22	B.A. III	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
7.	Alka Rani	20	I.A. II	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
8.	Sushma	22	B.A. III	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
9.	Malindi Sinha	22	B.A. III	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
10.	Nisha Sinha	18	B.A. III	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
11.	Aradhana Kumari	22	B.A. III	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
12.	Swati Kumari	20	B.A. III	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
13.	Nusrat Yasmit	20	B.A. III	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
14.	Sapna Kumari	19	B.A. III	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
15.	Sonam Jha	21	B.A. II	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
16.	Kumari Ranjana	20	B.A. III	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
17.	Sanober	18	B.A. III	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
18.	Komal	21	B.A. III	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
19.	Ankita	20	B.A. III	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
20.	Archna Kumari	20	B.A. III	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
21.	Aarshi Parween	20	B.A. III	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
22.	Hafza	20	B.A. III	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
23.	Talat Naaz	19	B.A. III	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
24.	Smriti Prakash	20	B.A. III	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
25.	Vijay Lakshmi	21	B.A. III	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
26.	Abha Kumari	20	B.A. III	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
27.	Renu Kumari	20	B.A. III	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
28.	Deepa Shahi	20	B.A. III	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
29.	Rinki	20	B.A. III	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
30.	Anudita Kumari	20	B.A. III	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No

**General findings :**For the purpose of finding the views of the younger generation on the issue of homosexual relationship, we interviewed 30 students and they also filled the questionnaire. The students were of the age group 18 to 22. Their educational qualification varied from under graduate to post graduate.

From the findings of the table 1, we have come to know that except for a few almost all students believe that homosexual relationship is not natural. With regard to the question as to whether such relationship is normal half the students are in favor of it and the other half against it. Regarding the ethical perspective of homosexuality almost all students are of the opinion that such an act is not at all ethical. On the other hand, majority of students feel that homosexual relationship support freedom of choice. Again regarding the question as to whether homosexuality is harmful for the society 90% of the students are in favor of it and they strongly believe that homosexual relationship is harmful for the society. With the exception of 2 students 28 students believe that same sex relationship will have adverse effect on the society. Again on the question as to whether homosexuality is a sad and depressing life style students have divergent opinion. Half of the students have given negative response.

From the findings of table 2 we see that 50% of the students feel that homosexuals are obsessed about sex with multiple partners. According to the findings, it is evident that half of the population feels that homosexuals are abnormal. 99% of the population feels that homosexuality causes AIDS and other diseases. From the religious and social standpoint all of the students feel that homosexuality undermine religious values and hence stability of the society. About half of the students feel that as a normal citizen of the country the homosexuals are also entitled to civic and political rights. But this would encourage its practice which will not be conducive to the society. Majority of the students feel that since homosexuality is a matter of personal choice and comfort, thus it should not be categorized as a criminal offence. When asked whether homosexual relationship be legalized or not, almost all of the students answered against it. They feel that homosexual relationship should not be legalized because of wrong impact on society and on the upcoming generation. 70% of the students feel that homosexual act is forbidden by God and should not be practiced. 85% of the students feel that homosexuality pose a threat to the family because it brings social disgrace. 95% of the students feel that homosexuality undermine moral values as it is against our society, religion and God. The last question put up to the students as to whether do they support homosexuality

almost all the students answered against it.

### **Conclusion & Suggestions :**

Having seen the findings of the questionnaires that were filled by the students and the interface discussions that were held with them, we come to the conclusion that homosexual relationship is natural but not normal. Hence, it should not be treated as a disease or a case of insanity. Rather it should be accepted as a mental inclination or longing for the same sex partner due to reasons that may be personal, emotional or physical. From the ethical standpoint, we can say that since freedom of will is a postulate of morality every individual is free to decide whether he wants to spend his life with the same sex partner or not. But, then freedom of will doesnot mean indeterminism. Homosexuality if encouraged will have an adverse effect on the society. Also, homosexuals donot reproduce and this will affect the natural cycle of life. Hence, though homosexuals should be given equal rights and opportunities as a normal citizen of the country, yet this practice should not be encouraged.

Homosexuals should be counselled for their right livelihood. The government and NGO's should spread awareness through the medium of newspapers, internet, television, etc. regarding homosexuality and its adverse effects on the person concerned as well as the society. In fact, sex education should be introduced at an elementary as well as college level for preventing the youth from being misled.

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