

The Gays – A Sociological Study A Case Study of Yellammagudda

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ABSTRACT

Diversity is the Law of nature. Because of diversity likes and dislikes of human beings vary. On the basis of human organ we can decide, he is a man, she is a woman. Man includes masculine characteristics and a woman includes feminine characteristics. Apart from these two genders there is a group of people, who does not identify either masculine or feminine characteristics, i.e. "Gay Community". As for as Sexual attraction is concerned among man and woman we find heterosexual relations, which are natural. But among Gays the normal sexual relations are homosexual, which is unnatural and not accepted by mass of society in India. But law gives permission. Keeping this aspect in view an attempt is made to study the gays who are visiting Yellammagudda of saundatti taluka in Belgaum district of Karnataka. The gays are called by different names, viz, "Mangalmukhi" and "Jogappa".

Keywords: Gay, Mangalmukhi, Jogappa.

The Gays of India are of Cultural and religious accepted male transvestite status. They are male, who dress as woman but apparently are not aften homosexual. Many of them even have genital organs surgically removed to symbolize their transition to "womanhood". They are devotees of the Hindu Mother Goddess Yellamma of Saundatti. Through emasculation, they express their faith in her and become conduits for her power. The gays of present study are difficult to label as to gender. They identify themselves as "incomplete men" "incomplete women" or "in-betweens".

Homosexuality is generally considered a taboo by both Indian civil societies, but not the law. Public discussion of homosexuality in India has been inhibited by the fact that sexuality in any form is rarely discussed openly. In recent years, however attitudes towards homosexuality have been shifted slightly. The present study is based on religious aspect rather than sexual aspect. It is not clear what leads one person to be homosexual and another to be heterosexual or bisexual.

Both environmental and social factors have been proposed by psychologists and other engaged in researching this question. In reality both kinds of factors may be involved to some degree. An individual may change sexual performance at different phases of his/her life.

The gays of the present study are themselves considering that they are the servants of goddess Yallamma or Renuka. Hence they are called “Jogappa “ or ” Mangalmurthi ”. Religion has played a significant role in shaping Indian customs and traditions, while Homosexuality has not been explicitly mentioned in the religious texts central to Hinduism.

CONCEPT OF GAY

The word gay arrived in English during 12th century from old French “Gai”, which word’s primary meaning was “Joyful”, “Carefree”, ”Bright and showry”. Later in 17th century the word was used with the meaning “addicted to pleasures and dissipations” this was by extension from the primary meaning of “Carefree” implying “Uninhibited” by moral constraints”. Presently the use of gay to mean “Homosexual” in origin merely an extension of the word’s sexualized connotation of “Carefree” and “Uninhibited” which implied a willingness to disregard conventional or respectable sexual movers.

The word gay is used to describe men and women attracted to the same sex, without lesbian. But in this present study the informants are neither male nor female, because they are having both male and female characteristics, exposing their sexual organs and exhibited homosexual attraction they are eunuchs. The gays of the present study are basically male but wear saree and blouse throughout the year and did woman’s chores. The wearing of clothes and bodily adamant normally associated with the other gender, is not necessarily connected with homosexuality. It is important to understand the specific religious and cultural patterns. They are male to female transgenders. They dedicated their entire life for the performance of service to goddess Yellamma or Renuka of Yellammagudda of Saundatti.

METHODOLOGY

Objectives of the Study

1. The study aims at understanding the social life of the gays.
2. The study aims at understanding their opinions regarding political aspects.
3. The study aims at understanding their problems, including sexual problems and homosexuality.
4. The study aspires to know the governments help for them.

SELECTION OF THE UNIVERSE

The study was conducted in the month of February 2014. In Yellammagudda of Saundatti taluk in Belgaum district of Karnataka. This place is a religious place having a goddess Renukadevi, where the gays visit oftenly to render their service Goddess Renukadevi.

SOURCE OF DATA COLLECTION

The main source of empiric data collected in the present study are two:

1. Primary source and 2. Secondary source

Primary Source

The data from primary source was collected by the researcher through field work. To collect required information prepared structured, close ended interview schedules were administrated to the respondent to elicit data for analysis in order to arrive at objective conclusions.

Further the researchers and research students personally met the respondents during “Bharath Hunnime” (the moon day) on which day the gays of different places of India visit every year. The data informally collected through the interview method, which immensely helped the researcher and students at the time of analysis of data.

Sampling Procedure

To select the samples random sampling method was used. This method is more suitable for the project study to pick up samples for students for the present study gays were selected as samples.

Secondary Sources

Secondary data source is also equally important with primary data. The secondary data provide necessary background material for the study in the present study. The secondary data was collected from libraries and internet, which throw more light on the subject under study.

The Classification and Tabulation

Classification of data is necessary to arrange the data in some scientific manner. To put this data in concise, precise and logical order tabulation of the data is inevitable. Therefore to classify and to tabulate the data researchers and the students edited the interview schedules for completeness accuracy and infirmity. The classification and tabulation of the data was done manually.

Limitations of the Study

The present study is subjected to some limitations. The present study is confined only to gays, Visited to Yallammagudda of Saundatti taluk of Belgaum district of Karnataka State

Area of study

For the present study Yellammangudda of Saundatti taluk of Belgaum district of Karnataka . It is situated in the east of Belgaum city distance 80 kms. The temple of Goddess Renukadevi is pilgrimage for Shakthi Devotees. Every day thousands of pilgrims visit the temple with great devotion. The congregation is especially large crossing 10 lakh mark on the two auspicious days viz., “Banada Hunnime” and “Bharath Hunnime” (Both days are moon days).

During the Renukadevi fair on Bharatha Hunnimme (Moon day) thousands of gays together visit Yellammangudda and serve with great devotion. Another practice of devadasi cult is prevalent in this area.

Socio-Economic profile of the respondents

For the proper understanding of the respondents It is necessary to understand the Socio-Economic Background of the respondents. Hence, in the present study various aspects pertaining to the caste, educational level, occupational conditions and other aspects of the respondents are collected.

Caste of the gays

Sl. No	Variables	Frequency	Percentage
1	OBC	22	36.67%
2	SC/ST	30	50.00%
3	Others	08	13.33%
Total		60	100%

Caste is an important aspect of Indian society, which influences every path of Hindu. It is generally believed that the gays of attending the Yallammangudda area of lower caste. Hence information regarding caste of gays is collected.

Of all the respondents majority of the respondents belonged to SC/ST i.e., 30 (50%) 22 (36.69%) respondents belonging to 8 (13%) respondents have not mentioned their caste. Perhaps they might also belong to lower castes.

Education plays a vital role in modeling the personality of the individuals. Generally it is believed that the gays attending in Yallammangudda are illiterates. Hence information regarding their education status is collected.

EDUCATIONAL STATUS

Sl. No	Variables	Frequency	Percentage
1	Literate	32	53.33%
2	Illiterate	28	46.67%
Total		60	100%

The above table has given information that even the literates also becoming the gays attending Yallammangudda. Among all the respondents 32 (53.33%) respondents were literates remaining 28 (46.67%) respondents were illiterates. It shows most of the respondents having the education up to high school level. More respondents has studied college level of education.

Occupation of individual also shows one’s personality. Man’s status in the society and style of life depend upon his occupation. Hence occupation of respondents is collected here.

Occupation of the respondents

Sl. No	Variables	Frequency	Percentage
1	With dance	42	70%
2	Joga	18	30%
Total		60	100%

From the above table it is known that most of the respondents earn their livelihood through dancing either in streets or in drama theatres. Of all the respondents 42 (70%) respondents were dancing for their daily bread. Remaining 18 (30%) respondents were chosen “Joga” (Begging) for their livelihood.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

The gays from various states of India visit Yellammangudda at least once in a year, but the gays of Karnataka, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh visit Yallammangudda more than one time in a year. Hence the information is collected regarding their frequent visit to Yallammangudda.

Visit to Yellammanagudda

Sl. No	Variables	Frequency	Percentage
1	Yearly	45	75.00%
2	Twice in a year	15	25.00%
Total		60	100%

The data in the above table indicates majority of the gays visit only once In the year i.e., on Bharath Hunnime (Sacred moon day) of all the respondents have opined that they visit only one time in a year remaining 15 (25%) respondents have opined that they visit more than one time to Yallammangudda in a year.

Religious belief is a matter of life and death. For religion one can die. So only because of only religious beliefs most of the gays become male to female, wearing clothes and body ornaments normally associated with the female. Hence an attempt is made to understand the factors responsible for becoming gay.

Who force to become gay?

Sl. No	Variables	Frequency	Percentage
1	Family	08	13.33%
2	Friends	11	18.33%
3	Society	05	8.32%
4	Inspiration of God	36	60.005
Total		60	100%

The study indicates that the majority of the gays become female because of feeling of inspiration of goddess. They felt that in their dream goddess Yallamma force them to become female. This opinion is given by the most of the respondents i.e., 36 (60%) 11 (18.33%) respondents have opinioned that their friends who already became female, have force them to became female. 08 (13.83%) respondents have opined that because of their family practice other members of the family have forced them to become female. Remaining 05 (8.33%) respondents have opined that their social circumstances forced them to become gay.

Society doesn't look everyone equal. Social outlook is different to look over the respondents. Hence the information is collected regarding opinion of the society towards the respondents.

Opinion of the Society

Sl. No	Variables	Frequency	Percentage
1	Good opinion	10	16.67%
2	Not good opinion	32	53.33%
3	Some have good opinion	18	30.00%
Total		60	100%

The present study shows that most of the people in the society have no good opinion towards the respondents of all the respondents 32 (53.33%) respondents have opined that social outlook towards them Is not good. 18 (30%) respondents have opined that some people have good opinion towards them. Remaining 10 (16.67%) respondents have opined that the society has good opinion towards them.

The gays of present study are male to female transgender that dedicated their entire life for the Goddess Yellamma.

They are male who dress as woman but apparently are not necessarily connected with homosexuality. Hence information regarding homosexuality is collected.

Opinion about Homosexuality

Sl. No	Variables	Frequency	Percentage
1	Yes	10	16.67%
2	No	50	83.33%
Total		60	100%

No doubt the data in the present study said that they are not homosexual. Although they exhibit their breast and genital organs to public to forcibly collect aims. Majority of the respondents 50 (83.33%) have opined that they are not homosexual. Remaining 10 (16.67%) respondents have agreed that they are having homosexuality. While the researchers personally asked some of the respondents regarding homosexuality they replied informally that majority of gays are homosexual. They have not given correct information while filling the interview schedule. Further information regarding their sexual harassment by the people in the society is collected. Since they wear female dresses many times they are sexually abused.

Opinion about Sexual Harassment

Sl. No	Variables	Frequency	Percentage
1	Yes	54	90.00%
2	No	06	10.00%
Total		60	100%

The present study clearly indicates that most of the gays are being sexually exploited. Of all the respondents 54 (90%) respondents have opined that while they are roaming they are being sexually abused. Remaining 6 (10%) respondents have not experienced such type of sexual harassment.

Since the wear female dresses and behave like female. They themselves feel indifferent. Therefore information is collected regarding their self perception.

Opinion regarding inferiority feeling

Sl. No	Variables	Frequency	Percentage
1	Yes	15	25.00%
2	No	45	75.00%
Total		60	100%

The study shows that most of the respondents have no feeling of inferiority complex. They opined that they are themselves become gay to serve goddess. Hence their does not arise question of inferiority or superiority. Of all the respondents 45 (75%) respondents have no feeling of either inferiority or superiority. Bur remaining 15

(25%) respondents have feeling of inferiority. Perhaps these 15 respondents have become female unwillingly.

Everyone in the society feel that, an organization or an association is required for their alround development. Today in India every caste and sub caste male and female are having their well organized organization in the society. So keeping this in mind information is collected regarding having their own organizations.

Organization of the gays

Sl. No	Variables	Frequency	Percentage
1	Yes	44	73.33%
2	No	16	26.67%
Total		60	100%

The study indicated that most of the respondents are having their organizations. Through these organizations they satisfied some of their requirements. These organizations protect their right of living in the society. Of all the respondents' 44(73.33%) respondents are members of one or the other organizations. Remaining 16(26.6%) respondents are not having any organization.

To minimize the gulf between gays and other people are political representation is necessary. Today even gays are meeting best use of political field. Many gays are contesting elections. Hence information is collected regarding reservation in politics.

Representative of political field

Sl. No	Variables	Frequency	Percentage
1	Yes	52	86.67%
2	No	08	13.33%
Total		60	100%

The study revealed that the representation in the political field is the most essential requirement of the gays. Of all the respondents 52 (86.6%) respondents are urgently in need of representation in political field. Remaining 8 (13.33%) respondents are opined that they are not required any political representation, because they are devoted to serve goddess.

Government is the ultimate source and institution to fulfill all the requirements of the citizen. Hence information is collected regarding any requirements from the governments.

Demand from the government

Sl. No	Variables	Frequency	Percentage
1	Reservation	22	36.67%
2	Styfund	26	43.33%
3	Basic amenities	12	20.00%
Total		60	100%

Most of the respondents are not having their own residences. Still they staying in the temples and beg for their day to day livelihood. Of all the respondents 26 (43.33%) respondents have required sty fund in the form of money from the government for their day to day life. 22 (36.67%) respondents have opined that government should give reservation in all fields. Remaining 12 (20%) respondents have opined that government should give basic amenities like food, shelter and clothing.

CONCLUSION

The gays of India in general the gays of south India in particular are of cultural and religious accepted male transvestite status. As it is known they are wearing dress as women. Some have surgically removed their genitital organs to symbolize womanhood. They are devotees of Hindu mother goddess Yellamma of Saundatti. Through emasculation they express their faith in her and become conduits for her power.

The present study is conducted at Renukadevi premise of Yallammagudda of Saundatti taluka in Belgaum district. The study disclosed the following conclusions.

The majority of the respondents of the present study belonged to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.

The study shows that even the life rates also become gays.

For their livelihood majority of the respondents are depending upon dancing in public place or in dramas.

Most of the respondents visit Therenukadevi temple of Yallammagudda once in a year, that is on Bharathhunime (sacred moon day).

The study indicated that majority of the gays wear female dresses only because of inspiration of goddess Renukadevi.

The present study shows that most of the people in the society have bad opinion towards the respondents.

Formally the data in the present study revealed that the gays of the present study are not homosexual. But informally they have agreed that most of the respondents are homosexual.

The present study clearly indicates that most of the gays are being sexually harassed.

The study indicated that most of the respondents have no feeling of inferiority complex. They are of the opinion that they became gay to serve their mother goddess Renukadevi.

The study indicated that most of the respondents are having their organizations, though these organizations they fight against their exploitation.

Most of the Respondents required political representation from bottom to top.

SUGGESTIONS

Most of the Respondents have implied sty fund in the form of money, reservation in all fields and satisfaction of their basic amenities by the Government should provide political reservation for them.

Government should give sty fund to enhance their status in the society.

Government should provide job reservation for them.

Government should give free travelling in busses and railways for them.

The perception of the society towards them should change.

To prevent becoming female a society should create awareness among them.