

## Attitude towards Homosexuality in Ten Countries: A Review

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### ABSTRACT

The present study reviewed researches conducted in ten countries viz. Israel, Italy, India, Albania, Ghana, Portuguese, Indonesia, Russia, U.S.A and Australia. Majority of the countries held a negative attitude towards homosexuality. Attitude also depends on certain characteristics and beliefs of a person. Religious affiliations are associated with negative attitude and intolerance of homosexuality. People with higher education tends to have a positive attitude towards homosexuality. Female gender is associated with more tolerance towards homosexuality than the male gender. Moreover, individuals who are acquainted or had a contact with homosexual had a positive attitude towards them.

*Keywords: Homosexuality, countries, attitude, religion, education, age, gender, acquaintance*

### Homosexuality

According to the Dictionary of True Etymologies, the word homosexuals literally means as 'of the same sex, being a hybrid of the Greek prefix homo meaning 'same' and Latin root meaning 'sex'. Homosexuality is a tendency to have love/sexual preference towards one's own sex. It is an attraction directed towards another person belonging to the same-sex. It an orientation usually called 'sexual orientation' towards someone of the same-sex.

According to APA, "Sexual orientation refers to an enduring pattern of emotional, romantic, and/or sexual attractions to men, women, or both sexes. Sexual orientation also refers to a person's sense of identity based on those attractions, related behaviours, and membership in a community of others who share those attractions. Research over several decades has demonstrated that sexual orientation ranges along a continuum, from exclusive attraction to the other sex to exclusive attraction to the same sex" (American Psychological Association, 2015).

On the contrary, Lillian Faderman and others have argued that it was only in the late nineteenth century that European and American psychologists and sexologists such as Havelock Ellis, Magnus Hirschfeld, and, later, Sigmund Freud began to think of people as falling into categories based on their sexual-emotional preferences, thus creating the categories of "heterosexual" and "homosexual" people.<sup>1</sup>

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### *Nature or Nurture?*

Many researchers, scientists, psychologists and people from different fields all over the world had tried to find the cause behind homosexuality, trying to discover factors or genes that can predict homosexuality. In a research review by J. Michael Bailey et al. on psychology and science behind homosexual orientation concluded that no casual theory is yet significant to draw widespread generalized conclusions. Most of the scientific hypothesis are challenging to be tested. Evidence regarding heritability provides no evidence regarding hormonal influence, and vice versa. Reviewing twin studies on homosexuality revealed that homosexuality is 'somewhat genetic' but still strong research evidences are not available to make strong conclusions. A psychological reason was found that could be a casual factor and predict adult homosexuality which was 'childhood gender non-conformity'. Which means that having interests which are incongruent with their sex such as in boys, cross dressing, playing with barbie dolls, kitchen set, not liking tough sports, enjoying company of females in early childhood. In girls it means not conforming to female specific gender norms and displaying behaviour of opposite gender, such as having interests in rough sports, playing car toys and dressing up like a boy. Children who were not interested in their gender specific conventional behaviour in childhood are more likely to be homosexual as adults than children who were interested in their gender specific roles. Moreover, they also concluded that men and women show differences in sexual orientation, women more likely to be bisexual as compared to men and women also shows greater same-sex attraction. Men are more likely to be gay than bisexual.<sup>2</sup> While comparing men and women homosexual behaviour, there are significant differences, women displaying higher sexual fluidity.<sup>3</sup> There are studies which assessed the level of sex hormones in heterosexual and homosexual males and females. The result of one such study showed that there's no difference in level of testosterone in heterosexual and homosexual males<sup>4</sup> and in another study, homosexual females had more level of testosterone as compared to heterosexual female, though meaning of such a result is unknown.<sup>5</sup>

As for now there's no known and verifiable cause of homosexuality. No theory neither biological nor social can be objectified for board generalizations.

### *Historical Perspective*

Homosexuality is not a new age phenomenon; it has been there from a very long time. There are historical evidences of same-sex attraction or sexuality in forms of sculptures and even in writings. One of which is the Mesolithic rock art which depicts male-male sexual activity.<sup>6</sup> There are also written documented evidences in history of male-male sexual activity from the ancient Egypt and dates to the late New Kingdom (1292–1069 BCE). The story includes a sexual tryst between the pharaoh Neferkare and the military general Sisene, who lived during the 6th Dynasty of Egypt's Old Kingdom (2345–2181 BCE).<sup>7</sup> In the 7th century BCE Greek lyrical poet Sappho wrote about romantic love and infatuation between females.<sup>8</sup> Ancient Indian medical texts from the 1st century contain typologies for same-sex-attracted individuals that are strikingly similar to modern ones.<sup>9</sup> According to Charles Darwin's theory, humans and animals have evolved from same ancestors<sup>10</sup> same sex interaction through genital contact is quite common.<sup>11</sup> If animals too exhibit such a behaviours and we humans share same ancestors with animals then homosexuality can't be a new age phenomenon.

### *Psychology and Homosexuality*

Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM) which a manual for mental disorders given by American Psychiatric Association (APA) and mainly used in American for diagnostic

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purposes labelled Homosexuality as a mental disorder in its manual until 1973. In its third revision in 1973, APA removed homosexuality. During that year Robert Spitzer, who was chairman of subcommittee who was handling the question of 'whether homosexuality should be a part of DSM or not?', "reviewed the characteristics of the various mental disorders and concluded that, with the exception of homosexuality and perhaps some of the other 'sexual deviations', they all regularly caused subjective distress or were associated with generalized impairment in social effectiveness of functioning".<sup>12</sup> A widely used therapy was used to treat homosexuality known as 'conversion therapy'. A therapy aimed at changing a person's sexual orientation with the use of psychological and physical interventions. Though there wasn't and still not any scientific evidence that such therapies work.<sup>13</sup>

As per now, homosexuality is not treated as an abnormal behaviour in psychology and there are many therapists who particularly has many LGBTQ+ clients to help them cope better from the discrimination and prejudice faced by them in the society. They help them adjust better and in coming out.

### Israel

Israel is a country in Western Asia located on the south-eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea and the northern shore of the Red Sea. In an overview by Daniel on attitude towards homosexuality in Israel state said that there has been less research on homosexuality and general public's opinion towards homosexuality. The society of Israel can be broken down into two main forces- Military and religion. The military force of Israel is dominated by men which gives it a masochistic culture and makes it homophobic. Whereas the other force is religion which is Jew dominated further segregated as orthodox Jews who are rigid and sees homosexuality as a disease and on the other hand are the secular Jews who are flexible and changes with the world. According to the researcher, the existing studies in Israel suggest that there is an attitude change towards homosexuality which is towards the positive side but there are differences between the communities. Despite the positive change, the prejudice towards homosexuals is still prevalent in Israel. The study also inferred that verbal and physical abuse in Israel society towards homosexual is not uncommon.<sup>14</sup> General public of Israel is still somewhat not accepting homosexuality as a normal behaviour and tends to show a negative attitude. The study suggests that the attitude towards homosexuality in Israel is somewhat complex as some communities which are liberal, flexible and adaptable are accepting it and showing a positive attitude and some other communities which are orthodox are intolerant if homosexuality and display prejudice against the people belonging to the LGBT community. The discrimination faced by homosexuals can also hamper their physical, emotional and psychological well-being.

### Italy

Italy is a country situated in Europe continent particularly on the south-central part of Europe. A study was conducted by Alessandra Santona & Giacomo Tognasso in 2018 on attitude towards homosexuality in adolescence in Italy. Their study investigated the attitude of Italian adolescents towards homosexuals and same-sex marriage. For the purpose of their study they used a sample size of 449 subjects aged between 14 to 21. The tools they used to assess attitude were: The Attitudes toward Lesbians and Gay men (ATLG), the Modern Homonegativity Scale (MHS), and the Attitudes toward Same-Sex Marriage (ATSM). The study conducted that the male had a more negative attitude towards homosexuals as compared to females. In additions to this the study also revealed that the individuals who never had any contact with homosexuals impacted their attitude towards them. The

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individuals with less contact had less positive attitude towards homosexual individuals and same-sex marriage. Homophobia is still prevalent in the society of Italy. <sup>15</sup> Rollè et al. conducted a research in 2018 to investigate Attitudes of Italian Group toward Homosexuality and Same-Sex Parenting with a sample size of 233 over the age of 18. For the purpose they developed a questionnaire. Through their research they concluded that different variables effected the attitude towards homosexuality such as age, religion etc. In term of gender their study didn't find a significant difference between gender and attitude towards homosexuality and as age increases, so that the negative attitude towards homosexuality. With respect to political orientation, negative attitudes were more associated with conservative people compared to liberal ones. If a person is religious and considers religion an integral part of life, views homosexuality negatively. In terms of education, higher the education, higher the positive attitude towards homosexuality. <sup>16</sup> One reason for this that poor knowledge can anchor the cultural stereotypes towards sexual minorities. <sup>17</sup> In general, people of Italy have negative towards homosexuality as per researchers conducted 2018, though the magnitude depended on different variables such as gender (men holding more negative attitude), religion (more the religious affiliations more the negative attitude) and education level (higher education leading to positive attitude).

### India

India is country located in the continent of Asia and with world's second largest population. India is a country of diversities and birth place of many cultures. Being a vast country with full of cultural diversities, with such diversities comes differences in beliefs and opinion. It would be invalid to generalize beliefs of individuals belonging to one small piece of land. A research was conducted by V. Vijayalakmi, Rishabh and Madhav Dixit all over India in 2018 among college students to understand their perception and attitude towards homosexuality. Their results show that a vast majority (45.2%) of the individuals viewed homosexuality as a choice, whereas 44.04% has an opinion that "it happens". Only a small minority (7.2%) of the individuals were not ready to accept homosexuality. They also assessed whether the individuals perceived a difference in love between homosexuals and heterosexuals. A majority (51.2%) were not sure about it and a very small minority (9.5%) thought that there is some difference. Majority of the individuals believed that they can judge just by looking that a person's sexual orientation. Despite a positive perspective towards homosexuals, individuals reported that they would feel uncomfortable in the company of homosexuals and also individuals felt offended upon asking about their sexual orientations. <sup>18</sup> Though people a positive attitude and weren't prejudiced towards people with different sexual orientation, they still are not ready to exhibit their liberal attitude which means that discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation is still prevalent in the Indian society. Also, sample size of their study was 81 and the population size was all over India which around 136 crores. Such a small sample size may not be the true representative of such a huge population therefore it could hamper the external validity of their research and generalizing such results can lead to disastrous conclusions. Delhi-NCR is considered a hub of diverse individuals and of educated/knowledgeable individuals. As shown in many earlier studies that knowledge is positively correlated with positive attitude towards homosexuality. <sup>16</sup> As one might predict that the attitude of Delhi people towards homosexuality would be somewhat towards the positive side was concluded in a research conducted by Anand in 2016 on 336 individuals reciting in Delhi-NCR. The sample consisted of a wide spectrum of age and Homosexuality Attitude Scale developed by Kite and Deaux (1986) and a questionnaire with open ended questions constructed by the researcher was used for the study. The result of his research had a bright side. He concluded that the individuals' attitude is slightly inclined towards the positive side. The researcher also

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observed a difference in age and attitude, younger individuals have slightly more positive attitude as compared to older individuals. And as for gender, the researcher didn't find any significant difference in the attitude.<sup>19</sup> To understand the attitude of psychiatrists towards homosexuality in India, Reddy Srikanth et al. conducted a research. According to the researchers, "Attitudes towards homosexuality held by psychiatrists in a particular country can influence the way homosexuality is perceived in the general society: a favorable attitude will have a favorable impact and an unfavorable attitude will have a negative impact." The key findings of the study were that the psychiatrists in India had a neutral attitude towards homosexuals. Moreover, study showed that the Indian psychiatrist reported seeing only 1-10 homosexual patients every year. (didn't come out of the closet or wasn't asked about the sexual orientation). Psychiatrists reported feeling comfortable while treating a homosexual client<sup>20</sup> which is contrary to the findings of an older study in 1982 by Kuntz, that doctors felt uncomfortable around a homosexual patient.<sup>21</sup> Kuntz's research was conducted 1982 and Anand's in 2016 which has quite a time lapse. It can be said that there's a positive shift in the attitude of psychiatrics towards homosexuality. In another study conducted in India by G Banwari, K Mistry, A Soni, N Parikh, and H Gandhi in 2015 on 244 medical students and interns regarding their knowledge about homosexuality and their attitude towards homosexuality. Their research concluded that there's inadequate knowledge regarding homosexuality among medicals students and interns but their attitude is somewhat neutral towards homosexuality but the female respondents had more of positive attitude as compared to male participants.<sup>22</sup> In fact there are evidences that Indian Medical textbooks provide inadequate knowledge about this particular subject.<sup>23</sup> The studies state that the attitude of Indians towards homosexuality is somewhat positive, though individuals lack adequate knowledge of the subject.

### Albania

A country officially known as Republic of Albania situated in the Southeast Europe. A research, Dr. atbardha Osmanaga from Albania conducted a research in Shkodër, Albania assessing the attitude of students towards homosexuality. The sample the researcher used for the purpose of the study consisted of students from Faculty of Educational Sciences, Department of Psychology and Social Work. According to the researcher, he used this particular sample because it's important for the future psychologists and social workers to have a positive attitude towards homosexuality. The study concluded that the prejudice towards homosexuality in the students of Albania existed. Though the attitude of psychology department students were more positive as compared to the students from department of social science but the difference wasn't statistically significant. The study found a positive correlation between age and attitude, younger students being less prejudiced.<sup>24</sup>

### Ghana

Ghana is a country situated in the African continent. "The common view is that African countries are some of the most homophobic in the world"<sup>25</sup> Global Index of Religiosity and Atheism released by WIN-Gallup International (2012), in that report Ghana was rated as the most religious country in the world, with 96% of people of Ghana stating that they are religious. In a question, "Irrespective of whether you attend a place of worship or not, would you say you are a religious person, not a religious person or a convinced atheist?" 96% people reported being religious.<sup>26</sup> A study in Ghana by John K. Anarfar and Angela A. Gyasi-Gyamerah showed that religious affiliations has a strong influence on individuals' attitude towards homosexuality. For the purpose of the study religious affiliations were categorized into, non-religious, moderately religious and highly religious. People who strongly believed in religion and were highly religious had more negative attitude towards

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homosexuality as compared to the moderately religious and non-religious individuals.<sup>27</sup> A researcher Kwasi Otopa Antiri, conducted a research on attitude of students of University of Cope towards homosexuality in Ghana in 2016. The study shows that 75% of the respondents view homosexuality as a negative practice and 82.2% were disgusted by homosexuality. 83.25% of the respondents felt that there shouldn't be laws to protect the rights of homosexuals. The researcher also assessed whether students perceive homosexuality as a choice or a heredity play. A vast majority (86%) responded perceiving it as a choice. upon asking whether they'll take a homosexual as a roommate, 99.25% were unwilling to take in homosexual as a roommate.<sup>28</sup>

### Portuguese

Portuguese is located in the continent of Europe. Researchers in Portuguese, Lopes et al. investigated knowledge and attitude of medical students towards homosexuality and found that the medical students were unsure about their own attitudes and had inadequate knowledge about specific health care needs of homosexual individuals. Male gender turned out to be associated with more negative attitude towards homosexuality. Individuals who were more religious were more homophobic as compared to the individuals who were less religious as they were more tolerant of homosexuality. Students who were in more advance year in medical school showed even less tolerance to homosexuality.<sup>29</sup>

### Indonesia

Indonesia as the name suggests is located in Asia, Southeast Asia to be exact. Indonesia has a strong religious hold. In a research conducted by Binahayati Rusyidi and MD.Kamrujjaman in Indonesia reported overall negative attitude towards homosexuality in Indonesian college students. They viewed homosexuality as a deviant behaviour and against religion. Thought the LGBT activists work consistently for the protection rights of LGBT right but there are no formal laws that protects LGBT from discriminatory acts. 40% of the study participants had never interacted with homosexuals. The study found a positive correlation between level of interaction with homosexuals and their positive attitude towards them indicating that as the interaction level increases so does the positive attitude towards the group. It was a statistically significant predictor. Also the older students held more negative attitude towards homosexuality as compared to the younger student who viewed homosexuality rather positive. This study also indicates future implications because it was conducted on 511 social work college students from 17- 28 age. According to the researcher the negative attitude shown by the students can have a harmful impact on the future practice of social work. They can be perpetuating prejudice. It was further suggested by the author that this topic should be a part of academics and should be openly discussed in order to eliminate the prejudice.<sup>30</sup>

### Russia

Russia is a country in Asia and as well as Europe and is the world's biggest country. Pew is a research centre who does surveys worldwide to assess attitudes of the individuals living all over the continent. According to its 2013 survey done in 39 countries, 74% of Russians believed that society should not accept homosexuality and only 16% reported a contrary opinion.<sup>31</sup> In a research in Russia, by Gulevich et al. reported that the respondents had a negative attitude towards homosexuality and viewed it as a threat to the nation, culture and heterosexuals, though they view the threat as symbolic rather than real. They viewed homosexuals as an active group which is violating the societal and cultural norms and is an immoral behaviour. They view it as a western influence trying to erode the Russian culture and as an attempt to extinct Russian population because it does increase the population.

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They view it as an agenda by Western democracy. Also they view homosexuals trying to convert heterosexuals into homosexuality. The study also revealed a relationship between genders, religion with homosexuality. Male being more homophobic and people with strong religious affiliations. The study also correlated attitude towards homosexuality with type of personality and found that people who held negative attitude scored less on 'open to experience's, 'strong gender identity' and 'high authoritarianism'.<sup>32</sup>

### U.S.A

The U.S.A situated in the continent of North America. It is one of the most developed countries in the world. A researcher from Pennsylvania State University, U.S.A, Daniel DellaPosta reviewed the data from 2006-2010 of General Social Survey (a body which studies different the complexities of the American society) to see whether there exists a longitudinal difference in LGBT acquaintanceship and attitude towards them. The findings of the study suggests that to some extent, people who were acquainted with LGBT people at the baseline showed an attitude change towards the positive dimension. The study was also aimed at understanding the attitudinal change in individuals who didn't have any homosexual acquaintance at baseline. The contact also depends on the prior attitude. The study here revealed something interesting that an average person without any gay acquaintances would likely experience a larger attitude shift from contact compared with the average person who actually did have a gay acquaintance.<sup>33</sup> In another research in the U.S.A by Christina C. Graham in South Carolina was aimed to understand teachers' implicit and explicit attitude towards homosexuality. The response rate of this study was very low, the researcher sent 11,500 e-mail invitations to middle and high school teachers of South Carolina, less than 1% of those responded. The study showed that teachers who were homosexual had a very positive attitude towards students who were homosexual as compared to teachers who were heterosexual. Also, teachers who had more knowledge about sexual minority showed more positive attitude as compared to teachers who had less knowledge which means that knowledge is positively correlated with positive attitude towards homosexuality. Teachers who were LGB did not come out with their sexual orientation in their schools because there was no employment protection for them at the time of the research and also because they did not want unwanted attention towards them. Teachers who held a negative attitude towards homosexuals thought that sexual minorities are in no danger and that they are not being treated unequally so they do not require any protection against the discrimination faced by them.<sup>34</sup>

### Australia

Australia is a continent and a country both. It is also one of the most developed countries. In a study in Victoria, a state in Australia by Priscilla Camilleri & Martin Ryan understanding Social Work Students' Attitudes toward Homosexuality and Their level of Knowledge's impact on attitudes toward Homosexual Parenting as an Alternative Family Unit. The results were on the bright side, participants of the study had a positive attitude towards homosexuality and same-sex parenting. Moreover, the participants were quite knowledgeable about homosexuality. Participants of this study preferred lesbian parenting as compared to gay parenting.<sup>35</sup> A research was conducted in South Australia with a large sample size of 790 ranging from 18-78 age. The study showed that there were predictors for negative attitude towards homosexuality such as strong religious affiliations, male gender, and older age, less knowledge of the subject and less number of LGBT friends. One result of the study was quite surprising that high level of education could also predict negative attitude towards homosexuality. The reason for such a contrasting result was explained by the researcher as due to changing socialisation patterns among different age cohorts, in that

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younger people (irrespective of the education) are becoming more tolerant of diversity. The individual who had high levels of education still scored on the positive side averagely.<sup>36</sup>

World's view of homosexuality

Using international surveys, ISSP- International social science survey programme (2008), WVS - World Value Survey (2005-2008), Pew (2013), Ipsos (2013), a longitudinal study reported that the attitude towards homosexuality is moving towards the positive end overtime across nations, but the change is of slow rate. According to the report collected on four different international surveys, median level of acceptance has increased on ISSP to, 21% people saying that homosexual behaviour isn't wrong. On the report from WVS, 45% of people are comfortable with homosexual neighbours. On report from Pew, 40% people reported that homosexuality should be accepted in the world. Cross national analysis indicates that the, homosexuality is highly accepted in west Europe, especially the Low and Scandinavian countries and also in Euro-Anglo former colonies. Lower acceptance rate was seen in other European countries especially ex-communist and also in Moslem countries. Multivariate model shows that the best predictor of acceptance of homosexuality is level of development. Religious affiliations lead to negative attitude towards homosexuality. The study broke down the factors which contribute to the overall attitude towards homosexuality into two- individual level and country level. At individual level factors that contribute to greater acceptance are-female gender, more education, young age, a religious affiliation, and identifiers with left-wing vs. right-wing political parties and at country level acceptance is greater in developed countries, Christian countries, countries that were not formerly communist, and countries having enacted gay rights legislation.<sup>37</sup> Pew is an international research centre which aims to understand global attitude and trends. In a survey they tried to understand attitude towards homosexuality of different people from all over the world in 2019. Highest percentage of individuals reporting that homosexuality should be accepted in the society was seen in Sweden (94%) followed by Netherlands (92%), Spain (89%), France (86%), Germany (86%), UK (86%), Canada (85%), Australia (81%), Argentina (76%), Italy (75%), Philippines (73%), U.S (72%), Mexico (69%), Japan (68), Brazil (67%), Czech Republic (59%), South Africa (54%). The countries where individuals reported below 50 percentages are: Hungary (49%), Greece (48%), Poland (47%), Israel (47%), South Korea (44%), Slovakia (44%), India (37%), Bulgaria (32%), Lithuania (28%), Turkey (25%), Russia (14%), Kenya (14%), Ukraine (14%), Lebanon (13%), Tunisia (9%), and Nigeria (7%). A comparative analysis from 2002 and 2019 data was also conducted which showed that overall level of acceptance towards homosexuality has increased globally.<sup>38</sup>

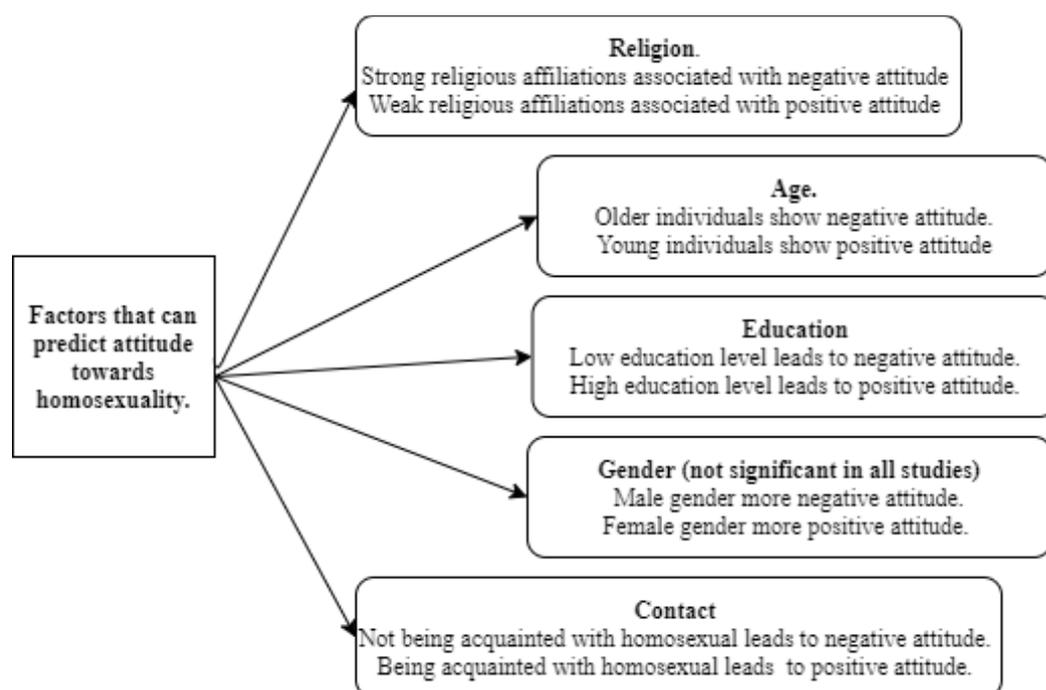
## DISCUSSION

The research was aimed at reviewing the already existing studies on attitude towards homosexuality in 10 different countries and understand the attitude towards homosexuality of different people living in different parts of the world. For the purpose 10 countries viz. Israel, Italy, India, Albania, Ghana, Portuguese, Indonesia, Russia, U.S.A and Australia. Historically there are many evidences of same sex orientation which means that the concept is not new and it's been there in the world from a very long time but people are still not accepting it as a normal human tendency which are leading to many discriminatory acts towards such individuals which can be hazardous to their mental health. In many countries it's still illegal to have same-sex relationships whereas in some same-sex marriages cannot be officially registered. Until 1973 psychology viewed homosexuality as an abnormal behaviour which needs to be corrected and conversion therapy was used. Scientifically there aren't enough evidences to attribute it to biology of an individual. How the world views it is quite complex and how much the world knows about it is not enough? Many countries are

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somewhat accepting it such as U.S.A, India and Australia whereas rest of the seven countries being intolerant of homosexuality. Israelis showed a negative attitude towards homosexuality. In Italy too individuals held a negative attitude towards homosexuality and individuals who were females, liberals, had weak religious affiliations and high level of education had their attitudes leaned towards the positive side of the spectrum. In India, a positive attitude was displayed by Indians. Despite feeling positively and having positive cognitions towards homosexuals, Indians behaviours still didn't reflect with positively and displayed discrimination towards homosexuals. The medical students in India didn't have adequate knowledge of this subject. Albanians students showed a prejudice. People in Ghana who were religious held a prejudice against homosexuals and discrimination was also evident. In Portuguese the knowledge of the subject was not enough and again strong religious affiliations had a negative impact on the attitude. In Indonesia, individuals had a negative attitude and interaction with homosexuals shifted the attitude towards the positive side. Russians viewed homosexuality very negatively and saw it as a threat to their culture, nation and towards heterosexual. They viewed it Western propaganda and their way of influencing. For them homosexuality is immoral and against nature. U.S.A and Australia are somewhat accepting towards same-sex oriented individual and had a positive attitude. In world survey, Sweden showed the most positive attitude towards homosexuality with 94% of individuals accepting homosexuality and Nigeria was the country where homosexuality was viewed the most negatively. Longitudinal reviews showed that the acceptance level of homosexuality is increasing worldwide and the societies are becoming more tolerant of homosexuals but the rate of change is very slow. A pattern was observed in most of the researches throughout 10 countries which was that there are few factors in individuals that can predict or determines the attitude such as gender, education level, religion, contact and age. Religious belief of a person very strongly effects their attitude. Individuals who has a strong religious belief holds a negative attitude towards homosexuality and views it an immoral behaviour. Stronger the religious belief, stronger the negative attitude. Age is also very prominent in determining the attitude. Young individuals are very much accepting of homosexuality than older one. It could be because the amount of young individuals who identifies themselves as homosexuals are more in number as compared to older ones and young individuals can better empathise with their age group. In terms of gender, some studies which are in minority show that there isn't significant difference and majority shows that females are more tolerant and accepting towards homosexuality as compared to males. Having a friend or a known person who is homosexual increases the probability of positive attitude towards them. Which can again be because we feel more empathy towards someone we know. Higher education level can lead to a positive attitude towards homosexuality and also knowledge about homosexuality can lead to a positive attitude. The fact that homosexuality is viewed as an abnormal and immoral behaviour is disturbing and that people are treated differently because of their sexual preference. That's all it should be, a preference. The current scenario of the world is not safe for the LBGTQ+ community. Mentally it is a torture for them and deteriorating their mental health. They are subjected to prejudice due to which they are more likely to face mental health problems.<sup>39</sup>

**CONCLUSION**



*Figure 1: Similar trends in the attitude towards homosexuality in ten countries.*

Studies from 10 different countries were reviewed to understand the attitude towards homosexuality. A similar trend was evident in most of the researches which is that there are a few factors which can predict a person’s attitude towards homosexuality which means that there are a few personality factors can be used to determine someone’s attitude. These factors are gender, religion, age, acquaintance and education level. Religion is the most evident factor of all. Individuals with strong religious affiliations expressed their attitude towards the negative dimension. In terms of age, young individuals are more tolerant of homosexuality as compared to older individuals. People with higher education also has more positive attitude as compared to less education. In some studies, gender differences were evident whereas in some they weren’t and in the ones where it was significant, females tend to have a positive attitude towards homosexuality. Having a homosexual friend or have encountered someone also leads to a positive attitude. These conclusions are consistent with a longitudinal study conducted by Smith and Kim.<sup>37</sup> There research also showed that developed nations also tend to have a positive attitude as compared to underdeveloped and developing nations. As in the present review developed nations showed inclination towards positive attitude.

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## Attitude towards Homosexuality in Ten Countries: A Review

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