

ABNORMAL SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR - A STUDY OF SOCIAL FACTORS

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<p>Article history Received 12 September, 2010 Received in revised form 2 Jan, 2011 Accepted on 9Feb, 2011 Available online March 25, 2011</p>	<p>Abstract Most of us fail to comprehend why somebody would be interested in undertaking homosexual activity. In the present study, we tried to conclude some causes of such altered type of sexual behavior. The present study was conducted retrogressively on 32 cases of sodomy lodged in various police stations of Amritsar and Patiala over last 10 years, to derive some criteria, which forced the accused to adopt such behavior. In 45.65% of cases, the accused was illiterate, in 63.04% poor, in 32.61% in the age group 15-20yrs. So, illiteracy, poor socioeconomic status and ignorance about the law may be considered as some of the factors which encouraged the accused to commit such crime. In all cases, the victim and the accused were known to each other to a variable extent indicating that the victim falls prey to the accused because he was not aware of his intentions.</p>
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Introduction

According to American academy of pediatrics, sexual orientation is not determined by any one factor but by a combination of genetic, hormonal and environmental factors. The present study aims at understanding the environmental factors leading to abnormal sexual orientation and the crime associated with such behavior.

Homosexuality, the time old sexual perversion is practiced all over the world, with no restriction of age involving children and old subjects equally. This form of homosexuality may result in violence of any extent. In ancient India, homosexuality was stigmatized as inferior activity, but never persecuted. The term homosexuality is derived from Greek prefix "homo"- which means same and the Latin root "sex"- which means sex. The term "gay" is used mostly to refer to self-identified homosexual people of either sex. Lesbian is a gender specific term that is used for self-identified homosexual females. The Greeks of "Golden age" also practiced sodomy and therefore it is sometimes referred as 'Greek love'. [1]

The new urban pattern draws a sharp line between homosexuality and heterosexuality and interprets any sign of affection between persons of same sex as a sign of homosexuality. [2]

A gay activist described homosexuality as need for men, who are twice as manly and capable of satisfying their women and then have sex with other men. [3]

Homosexuality is discussed in details based on 32 cases of sodomy.

Material and methods

The present study was conducted retrogressively on 32 cases of sodomy lodged in police stations of Amritsar and Patiala. Various factors were studied like age of accused and victim, their socioeconomic status, education, their marital status, whether the accused and the victim were known to each other. Whether the crime was done by a single or multiple persons? Looking into the medical reports of the victim and accused, we tried to find out if the victim or accused was a habitual homosexual or the crime was the result of some environmental factors which forced the accused to commit such a crime.

Observations

In the present study, 32 cases of sodomy with 32 victims and 49 accused were found, out of 49 accused 3 were unidentified. So, the data in the following tables is based on 32 victims and 46 accused. The number of accused is more, because in 10/32 cases, the accused were more than one, with a maximum no of 6 accused in one case. The distribution of age groups of victim and the accused are depicted in the following table

Table 1
 Showing age distribution of accused and victim

Sr. no	Age groups (years)	Accused number %age	victims number %age
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1	0-5	0	0	4	12.5
2	5-10	0	0	16	50
3	10-15	12	26.09	4	12.5
4	15-20	15	32.61	4	12.5
5	20-25	9	19.57	3	9.38
6	25-30	7	15.22	0	0
7	>30	3	6.52	1	3.12

From the table-1 we could observe that the most common age group of accused is in 15-20 years, whereas that of victim is 5-10 years

Table 2

Showing socioeconomic status, educational qualification and marital status

		Accused %age	Victim %age
Socio-economic status	Poor	63.04	65.63
	Low Middle	36.96	34.37
	Illiterate	45.65	56.25
Educational qualification	Low qualification	30.43	0
	Students	23.91	43.75
Marital Status	Married	13.04	0
	Unmarried	86.96	100

Out of 32 cases, in one case the accused was of 80 years and on medical examination, he was found to be habitual homosexual passive agent with lax anal sphincter and funnel shaped area around anus. He also denied identifying the accused, who according to him were 3 in number.

Discussion

In the present study, maximum no of active agents(accused) were in the age group 15-20years(32.61%)i.e. the age with high sexual activity, whereas the victims were most commonly in the age group 5-10years(50%), which is the age, when children are more mobile, innocent and have no knowledge of sexual activity, leading to their victimization. Minimum age of active agent at which the offence was done was 10years. This can be presumed that sexual activity starts at this age. The Family relationships existing in our society are largely responsible for the emotional disturbances which develop in early childhood and which in many cases lead to violent sexual and anti-social behavior at adolescence. [4]

According to Kadu et al [3], the prevalence of homosexuality in his study was found to be in middle class in 45.09% cases and in lower class in 39.12% cases. In contrast the crime related to homosexual behavior in the present study was observed to be in lower class in 63.04% cases and in 36.96% cases, it involved lower middle class.

Illiteracy of the accused (45.65% cases) could be one of the reasons of ignorance about the law and outcome of the crime like sodomy associated with

abnormal sexual behavior. Rests of the accused were also having lower educational qualification.

In the present study, 13.04% accused were found to be bisexual i.e. they were married but still went for homosexual crime. In contrast a study conducted by Kadu et al [3] in about 84.31% cases, the persons with homosexual behavior were married. Marked difference in results obtained as far as marriage is concerned was due to the fact that most of the accused in the present study were teenagers.

Out of 32 victims, on medical examination one was found to be habitual passive agent with lax anal sphincter, anus lying at the bottom of a funnel shaped depression with surrounding skin thickened and glazed, as is mentioned by Bernard [5]

According to behaviorist theory, a boy exposed to a homosexual role model may be swayed towards becoming gay. A variation in both heterosexual and homosexual orientations results from social expectations. [6]

From a medical standpoint, homosexual crimes like sodomy are loaded with health dangers, including infections, bleeding and disease transmission problems. While promiscuity among heterosexuals also carries many dangers, they are generally far less than sodomy, and infections from sexual relations are actually relatively rare in monogamous couples who practice appropriate hygiene. A major reason this is true is that numerous genital secretions produce high levels of germicides which minimize enormously the chances of infection from heterosexual relations. On the other hand, no such secretions are produced for sodomy relations. [7]

It is of interest to note that unnatural sex offences constitutes anal intercourse done against the will, with a man, woman or animal and shall be punished under section 377 IPC with imprisonment for life as a maximum punishment. No society, culture, country, religion tolerates unnatural sexual offence yet prevalence of sodomy is mentioned in arts, paintings and literature.

The causes of homosexual behavior [8] according to Cameron are as follows:

- Sexually permissive and experimental. This view holds that the homosexuals choose this lifestyle as a result of pleasure-seeking and reluctance to play by society rules.
- Homosexual behaviour is a mental illness, symptomatic of arrested development. It is believed that homosexuals have unnatural or perverse desires as an outcome of poor familial relations in childhood or some other trauma(according to a number of psychoanalysts)
- The third view is biological and holds that such desires are genetic or hormonal in origin and that there is no choice involved and no childhood trauma necessary.

Conclusion

From the present study of 32 cases of sodomy, we can conclude that environmental factors illiteracy, poor socioeconomic status, age etc. play an important role in determining the sexual behavior of an individual leading to criminal activity. All the victims who had suffered the physical and mental trauma as a result of abnormal sexual activity of the accused were already familiar with the accused, leading to this conclusion that such crimes are prevalent amongst known persons.

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Conflict of interest

None declared.

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