

**HOMOSEXUALITY IN THE LENS OF THE MILLENNIALS: AN APPLICATION OF EXPLORATORY FACTOR ANALYSIS**

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**ABSTRACT**

Acceptance of homosexuality has recently seen an increase globally, especially among millennials. This study aimed to identify the factors that affect millennials' acceptance of homosexuality as well as the development of a framework utilizing the Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA) technique. The study was conducted in the Davao Region with 150 millennials as sample respondents. A questionnaire was the research instrument in the gathering of data and was presented to an examiner for content validity. Rotated component matrix discarded 9 items out of 50 and categorized the 41 remaining items into five factors. Five different factors that affect millennials' acceptance of homosexuality were revealed: social positions, intimate relationships, visibility, stereotypes and religion. A framework of homosexuality in the lens of the millennials was developed.

**KEYWORDS:**

Homosexuality, acceptance, millennial, exploratory factor analysis, social positions, intimate relationships, visibility, stereotypes, religion

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**INTRODUCTION**

Homosexuality has been observed by historians in every documented culture. It has persisted for several millennia, and throughout its history it has faced persecution and discrimination from church, state and medical authorities. In order to promote acceptance and support for homosexuals, advocacy groups and social movements have been formed [1].

In present time, acceptance of homosexuals and homosexuality has increased around the world. The average levels of acceptance have increased globally since 1980, though acceptance has become more polarized [2]. Among those with observed high levels of acceptance are the millennials, who were found to be more likely to be accepting of homosexuals compared to other age groups. Yet, the same report also pointed out that the progress in acceptance has slowed [3].

**FRAMEWORK**

Various studies and researches have looked into the social acceptance of homosexuality. These studies have found different factors that may have affected people's acceptance of homosexuality:

**Social positions** are the positions of an individual in a given society. Social positions may fall under occupation, profession, family among others [4]. The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) considers heterosexuals' comfort level with homosexuals occupying various social positions in the society as an important metric in identifying social acceptance and includes questions about it in their annual poll. In the recent poll, a significant decline in comfort was found, with more people reporting discomfort over homosexual family members, teachers and doctors – key social positions in the society [5].

**Intimate relationships** are interpersonal relationships that involve physical or emotional intimacy. These relationships may strictly involve sexual acts of intimacy and affection or lead to marriage and children [6]. Intimate relationships among homosexuals is still a contentious issue around the world, with homosexual acts and relationships being criminalized in seventy-two countries. Most of these countries have some form of tolerance towards homosexuals, only despising and criminalizing homosexual acts; while eight countries criminalize both being homosexual and homosexual acts [7].

**Visibility** is important for homosexuals. Visibility in the society helps the public in forming their attitudes and opinions of homosexuals, reshaping public perception and bringing about social change. Visibility, for homosexuals, can aid the combat for ignorance and discrimination [8][9].

**Stereotypes** are conventional and oversimplified conceptions, opinions or images that characterize someone or something [10]. Homosexuals have had lots of egregious stereotypes that have plagued them and continue to plague them for a long time, mostly to demonize and suppress them [11]. The Southern Poverty Law Center and Children's Aid Society of Toronto among others shot down one of the most persistent stereotypes against homosexuals, that they are perpetrators of abuse, by pointing out that approximately 90%-95% of child sexual abuse are actually committed by heterosexuals rather than homosexuals. Different groups have conducted researches to debunk these stereotypes as it affects perception against homosexuals [11] [12].

**Religion** is a cultural system consisting of designated morals, ethics, practices and worldviews; it serves as a guide for majority of the people in terms of their behavior, perceptions and way of life [13]. Religion can influence perceptions on lots of things, homosexuality included. The Pew Research Center found that the majority has noted the importance of their religion in their views on homosexuality and shows the role of religion in forming perceptions [14].

These factors were found to have affected people's acceptance of homosexuality.

#### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

The study was conducted to identify the factors that affect millennials' acceptance of homosexuality and the framework that can be developed based on the findings.

#### **METHODOLOGY**

Exploratory factor analysis was utilized in the study. This was conducted in the Davao Region with 150 millennials as sample respondents. A questionnaire duly presented to an examiner for content validity was the research instrument in data gathering and was personally administered by the researchers to the respondents.

Exploratory Factor Analysis (EFA) was used to identify the factors of homosexuality in the lens of the millennials. The Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin measure of sampling adequacy was used to test the magnitude of partial correlations among variables. Bartlett's test of sphericity tested whether the correlation matrix is identity matrix or not. The scree plot was used to graphically determine the number of the factors that made up homosexuality in the lens of the millennials.

#### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

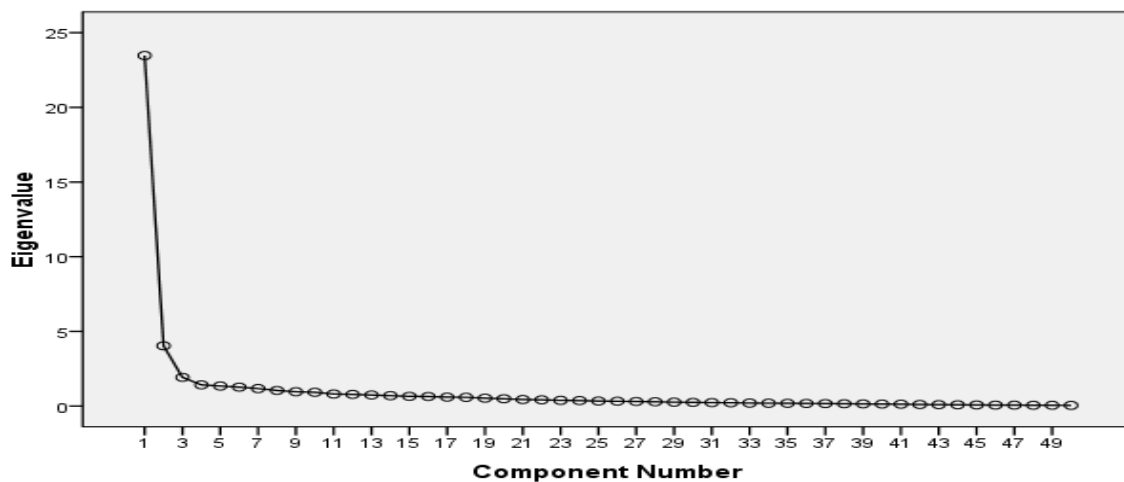
This section shows the analysis and interpretation of the gathered data.

**KMO and Bartlett's Test.** Shown below is the Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) Measure of Sampling Adequacy and Bartlett's Test of Sphericity. The Kaiser Meyer Olkin measure of .917 implies that the samples are in high correlations and it allows factor analysis that fits for data. As shown, the Bartlett's test of Sphericity yields a value of 6.930 and a level of significance smaller than .001 signifies that it allows the data to proceed factoring homosexuality in the lens of the millennials. Moreover, the Bartlett's test of Sphericity implies to reject the null hypothesis and that there are no factors on homosexuality in the lens of the millennials.

*KMO and Bartlett's Test*

Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy.		.917
Bartlett's Test of Sphericity	Approx. Chi-Square	6.930E3
	df	1225
	Sig.	.000

**Scree Plot.** Figure 1 shows the graphical explanation of the total variance explained and the graph of the Eigen values against all the factors. The Scree Plot shows the gradual trailing of the Eigen values and identifies the relatively fit of each component based on its relative importance. The graph is very useful for determining how many factors should be retained. The point of interest is where the curve flattens. As observed, the curve gets flatter as it reach component number six since it is where Eigen value less than 1 begins. If the items of each dimension are less than minimum the dimension will be discarded. Thus, only five factors were retained.

**Scree Plot****Figure 1: Graphical Explanation of Total Variance**

**Rotated Component Matrix.** As presented in Table 1, some millennials' view on homosexuality is affected by the social positions that homosexuals occupy in the society. This factor has attributes like not allowing their children having a homosexual teacher with loadings of .815 and not accepting their son or daughter being gay with loadings .611. This factor affirms the findings by GLAAD (2018) that there is a growing discomfort with homosexuals being in key social positions in the society.

*Table 1: Rotated component matrix with grouped attributes of social positions.*

Dimension	Attributes	Loadings
<b>Social Positions</b>	Item6 – I would not allow my child to have a homosexual teacher	<b>.815</b>
	Item3 – I cannot associate with known homosexuals	<b>.777</b>
	Item1 – I would not agree having a homosexual friend	<b>.771</b>
	Item2 – Finding out that an artist was gay would greatly affect my appreciation of his/her work	<b>.752</b>
	Item15 – I would not accept being employed by a homosexual	<b>.737</b>
	Item10 – Homosexuals should be kept separate from the rest of society (i.e., separate housing, restricted employment)	<b>.720</b>
	Item19 – I would not vote for a homosexual in an election for public office	<b>.705</b>
	Item18 – I would decline membership in an organization just because it has homosexual members	<b>.678</b>

Dimension	Attributes	Loadings
<b>Social Positions</b>	Item20 – If I knew someone was gay, I will not form a friendship with that individual	<b>.650</b>
	Item4 – I would look for a new place to live if I found out my roommate was gay	<b>.614</b>
	Item21 – If I were a parent, I could not accept my son or daughter being gay	<b>.611</b>
	Item35 – Homosexuals should not be allowed to obtain top political positions in the government	<b>.607</b>
	Item38 – Homosexuals should not be allowed to teach in any schools, colleges, and universities	<b>.604</b>

Table 2 reveals that some millennials' view on homosexuality is affected by homosexuals' intimate relationships. This factor has attributes like being against same sex marriage with loadings of .665 and same sex couples displaying affection in public being revolting with loadings .648. This factor affirms the current situation described by Duncan (2017) that intimate acts and relationships between homosexuals are despised, deemed illegal and can be punishable in several countries around the world.

*Table 2: Rotated component matrix with grouped attributes of intimate relationships.*

<b>Dimension</b>	<b>Attributes</b>	<b>Loadings</b>
<b>Intimate Relationships</b>	Item23 – I think same sex marriage should not be legalized	<b>.782</b>
	Item29 – Having a same sex relationship is not a good example for everyone	<b>.764</b>
	Item12 – The love between two males or two females is greatly different from the love between two persons of the opposite sex	<b>.669</b>
	Item7 – I am against same sex marriage	<b>.665</b>
	Item11 – Two individuals of the same sex holding hands or displaying affection in public is very revolting	<b>.648</b>
	Item31 – Homosexual practices cannot show the fruits of goodness, faithfulness, and self-control	<b>.647</b>
	Item36 – Homosexuals should not be allowed to cross-dress	<b>.639</b>
	Item28 – Same sex attraction is a dysfunctional form of idolatry	<b>.624</b>
	Item30 – Marriage is not a realistic option for most homosexual people	<b>.620</b>
	Item27 – Homosexuality is against society and social morals	<b>.605</b>
	Item14 – Homosexuality, as far as I'm concerned, is sinful	<b>.543</b>
	Item22 – Homosexuals should not be allowed to adopt a child	<b>.508</b>
	Item17 – The increasing acceptance of homosexuality in our society is contributing in the deterioration of morals	<b>.508</b>
	Item50 – The increasing number of HIV cases are caused by homosexuals	<b>.504</b>

Table 3 reveals that some millennials' view on homosexuality is affected by homosexuals' visibility in the society. This factor has attributes like finding it undesirable and alarming that homosexuals are becoming more visible in the society with loadings of .547 and various attributes that tackle about homosexual visibility in communities, events and organizations. This factor affirms recent calls from Roth (2014), Freakley (2019), among others wherein they called for more, and continued visibility for homosexuals in order for more informed opinions and perceptions to be formed amongst the people in the community.

**Table 3: Rotated component matrix with grouped attributes of visibility.**

Dimension	Attributes	Loadings
<b>Visibility</b>	Item47 – I would not participate in any parades with homosexuals	<b>.727</b>
	Item44 – I avoid contact with homosexuals whenever I can	<b>.671</b>
	Item42 – I believe that homosexuals cannot be trusted with confidential issues	<b>.602</b>
	Item45 – Homosexuals do not deserve to attend religious ceremonies or enter places of worship	<b>.563</b>
	Item48 – Gays who choose to go “out of the closet” should not be admired or praised for courage	<b>.563</b>
	Item49 – I find it undesirable and alarming that homosexuals are becoming more visible in the society	<b>.547</b>
	Item41 – Gays should not be allowed in the Armed Forces	<b>.524</b>

Table 4 reveals that millennials’ view on homosexuality is affected by prominent stereotypes that exist about homosexuals and homosexuality. This factor has attributes like homosexuals being more likely to commit deviant sexual acts, such as child molestation, rape, and voyeurism than heterosexuals with loadings of .741 and homosexual people being more prone to sinful activity compared to straight ones with loadings of .607. This factor affirms prominent stereotypes that organizations like The Southern Poverty Law Center and Children’s Aid Society of Toronto among others have found that despite being false continue to persist and affect opinions on homosexuality till this day.

**Table 4: Rotated component matrix with grouped attributes of stereotypes.**

Dimension	Attributes	Loadings
<b>Stereotypes</b>	Item9 – Homosexuals are more likely to commit deviant sexual acts, such as child molestation, rape, and voyeurism (Peeping Toms), than heterosexuals	<b>.741</b>
	Item16 – Homosexuals should be forced to have psychological treatment	<b>.656</b>
	Item33 – Homosexual people are more prone to sinful activity compared to straight ones	<b>.607</b>

Table 5 reveals that some millennials’ view on homosexuality is affected by their religion. This factor has attributes like homosexuals are not religious with loadings of .740 and homosexuality is against any religion with loadings of .558. This factor affirms the research conducted by the Pew Research Center (2014) where it came out that most people has noted religion as an important factor in one’s view of homosexuality

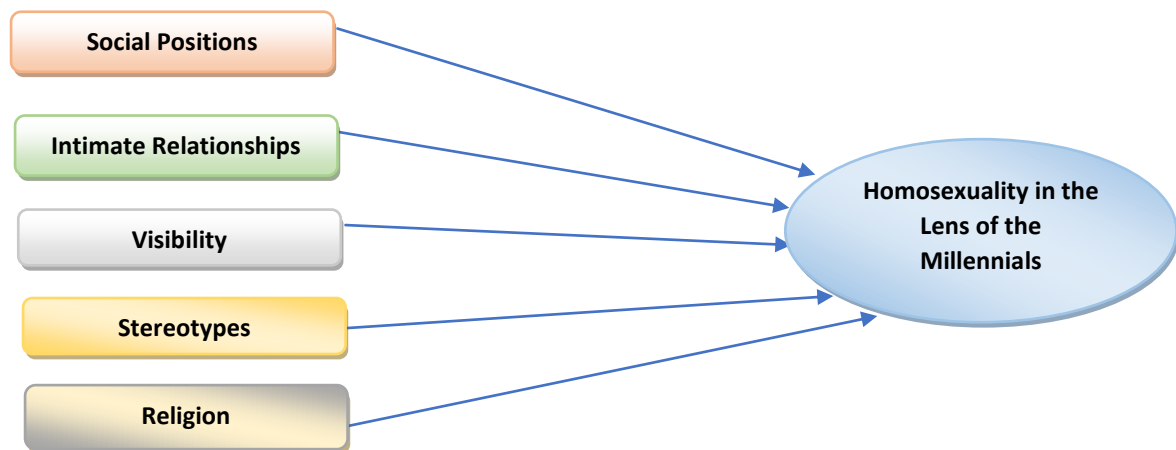
**Table 5: Rotated component matrix with grouped attributes of religion.**

Dimension	Attributes	Loadings
<b>Religion</b>	Item32 – I believe that the bible condemns homosexuality	<b>.743</b>
	Item34 – Ethically speaking, homosexual people are not religious	<b>.740</b>
	Item26 – Homosexuality is against any religion	<b>.558</b>
	Item37 – Homosexuals should not be allowed to become church leaders in any religion or sect	<b>.509</b>

**STUDY FRAMEWORK**

Presented in Figure 2 is the framework developed based on the findings. The researchers found out that the factors of homosexuality in the lens of the millennials are social positions, intimate relationships, visibility, stereotypes and religion.

*Figure 2: Homosexuality in the Lens of the Millennials Framework*

**CONCLUSION**

Based on the findings, the researchers concluded that there are five factors that affect millennials' acceptance of homosexuality, namely; social positions, intimate relationships, visibility, stereotypes and religion.

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