



## A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF HOMOSEXUAL MALE YOUTH AMONG THE MIZO'S ON THEIR AGE GROUP

**P.c Lalhmingangi**

*Guest Lecturer, Mizoram University, Zokaitluangi 7& Professor, MZU, Mizoram India.*

### **Abstract**

The study examined Homosexual male youth and compared the two age groups of 15-21 and 22-28 by using the psychological scales of Aggression and Satisfaction with life scale. (Homosexual = 160, two age groups of 15-21 = 80 and 22-28 = 80 years of age). Kinsey heterosexual homosexual rating scales were used to screen out the level of sexual orientation, Aggression (Bush and Pery), Satisfaction with life scale along with the demographic profile were employed. Results showed that Age difference emerged to be positively related to dependent measures and predicted the adjustment problems in the targeted population.

**Key Words:** 1.Homosexual, 2.Agression, 3.Satisfaction with Life Scale, 4.Kinsey Heterosexual-Homosexual Rating Scale.

**Introduction: Homosexuality** refers to the practice of same sex behavior. Homosexuality is a very controversial topic and issues in many years back and till today. The word homosexual refers to both men and women having sexual and romantic attraction primarily or exclusively to members of one's own sex. The degree to which the romantic relationships of same-sex couples are similar to those of other-sex couples has been the subject of some discussion (Herek, 2006; Kurdek, 2005). The word 'homosexual' (whether it refers to both men and women 'Gay' while 'lesbian' refers to women only) has its roots in the Greek language, where 'homo' means 'the same or similar.

Youth is generally the time of life between childhood and adulthood (Macmillan 1981). The age in which a person is considered a "youth", and thus eligible for special treatment under the law and throughout society varies around the world. Age between "15-29" is defined as "Youth" according to the commonwealth (Commonwealth Secretariat, (2011)). Youth is the stage of constructing the Self-concept. Young people are disproportionately the victims of violence as well, which can have negative consequences for both physical and mental health (Boney-McCoy & Finkelhor, 1995; Singer, Anglin, Song, & Lunghofer, 1995).

Aggression refers to a range of behaviors that can result in both physical and psychological harm to oneself, other or objects in the environment. The expression of aggression can occur in a number of ways, including verbally, mentally and physically. Aggression, in its broadest sense, is behavior, or a disposition, that is forceful, hostile or attacking. It may occur either in retaliation or without provocation. Aggression differs from what is commonly called assertiveness, although the terms are often used interchangeably among laypeople, e.g. an aggressive salesperson (Akert et al, 2010).

Quality of life has also been defined "as the satisfaction of an individual's values, goals and needs through the actualization of their abilities or lifestyle" (Emerson, 1985). This definition is consistent with the conceptualization that satisfaction and wellbeing stem from the degree of fit between an individual's perception of their objective situation and their needs or aspirations (Felce & Perry, 1995). The World Health Organization defines Quality of life as "an individual's perception of their position in life in the context of the culture and value systems in which they live and in relation to their goals, expectations, standards and concerns. It is a broad ranging concept affected in a complex way by the person's physical health, psychological state, personal beliefs, social relationships and their relationship to salient features of their environment"(Oort, 2005).

### **Statement of the Problem**

The study endeavors to determine the difference of two age groups (Homosexual) on the psychological scales of Aggression and Satisfaction of their life among the mizo male youth. There is no previous study on the issues of homosexuality among the Mizo's. However there is a common presumption in the Mizo society that MSM (mens



having sex with men) is more vulnerable and prone to psychological problems as compare to heterosexual. MSM in Mizoram can be classified into 4 groups, viz, blooming, beautiful, touchable and hidden. Blooming are those MSM, who are not ashamed of their identity and act exactly like women in the public and they are moderately active in sex. Beautiful are those MSM, who dress like a men but talk and act mostly like a woman and they are highly active in sex. Touchable are those MSM, who never act and dress like women but prefer another man for sexual intercourse and Hidden are those MSM who hide their identity in public. They slept around where ever they could.(FXB India suraksha). The age groups of 15-21 are under the supervisions and punitive of their parents, they hide their sexual orientations as the impression of MSM in Mizoram does not coincide with the belief in Christianity, their identity. As a result they are living in the community with a hidden burden and fear of discrimination. So these age groups are referring as 'Hidden group'. The age groups of 22-28 are more open of their sexual orientation, exposed their identity and reach the stage of accepting who they are. Gonsiorek concluded that "Homosexuality in and of itself is unrelated to psychological disturbance or maladjustment. Homosexuals as a group are not more psychologically disturbed on account of their homosexuality (Gonsiorek, 1982, 1991; Riess, 1980).

Gay youth have frequently internalized a negative image of themselves. They are the only group of adolescents that face total rejection from their family unit with the prospect of no ongoing support. Many families are unable to reconcile their child's sexual identity with moral and religious values. Remafedi found that half had experienced negative parental response to their sexual orientation with 26 percent forced to leave home because of conflicts over their sexual identity (Ramafedi 1985).

Gay and lesbian youth reported a higher incidence of verbal and physical abuse from parents and siblings than other youth (Huckleberry 1982). The National Gay Task Force found that more than 33 percent of gay males and lesbians reported verbal abuse from relatives because of their orientation and percent reported physical abuse as well (Los Angeles 1986 & Larkin Street 1984). Due to this harassment from the family and if it becomes too much to bear for gay youth may lead to suicide attempt. Gay youth become fearful and withdrawn; they used to feel totally alone often suffering from chronic depression, despairing of life that will always be as painful and hard as the present one.

#### **Objectives: The objectives of the study are:**

1. To determine lower scores in physical aggression and anger during the first age group (15-21 years), then second age group will follow.
2. To determine that 1<sup>st</sup> age group 15-21 would manifest higher verbal aggression and hostility with lower satisfaction in life scale than 2<sup>nd</sup> age group 22-28 years.
- 3.

**Methods and Procedures:** 160 homosexual male youth were selected out by following purposive random sampling procedures from the different parts of Mizoram. Only Mizo male youth were included to serve as participants for the present study. Homosexual Mizo youths were selected from different registered drop-in Centres located in Aizawl and Lunglei; some were identified through clients of the selected drop-in centres and Link-workers specially serving MSM in different part of Mizoram. Only those who have showed high scores on Kinsey homosexual rating scale (means exclusively homosexual) were selected for the samples. On final count, only 160 Mizo male youths were selected for the representative of Mizo male homosexual participants with due care of the equal representation of the two age groups (15-21 and 22-28).

#### **Psychological tools and Procedure**

**1. Kinsey Heterosexual-Homosexual Rating Scale (KRS; Kinsey et al., 1948).** The KRS is a 7-point, Likert style scale used to assess sexual orientation along a continuum such as exclusively heterosexual with no homosexual, predominantly heterosexual, only incidentally homosexual, predominantly homosexual, but more than incidentally homosexual, equally heterosexual and homosexual, predominantly homosexual, but more than incidentally heterosexual, predominantly homosexual, only incidentally heterosexual, exclusively homosexual. Participant has to report their behavioral experiences and sexual arousal from "exclusively heterosexual" to



“exclusively homosexual.” The “Kinsey Scale,” was developed by Alfred Kinsey and his colleagues to assess their sexual orientation for psychological evaluation and research purpose.

**2. The satisfaction with Life Scale (SWLS: Diener, Emmons, Larsen& Griffin, 1985):** It consists of 5 items. The scale consists of 1-7 point scale ranging from 1 (strongly disagree), 2 (disagree), 3 (slightly disagree), 4 (neutral), 5 (slightly agree), 6 (agree), 7 (strongly agree). The Satisfaction with Life scale is scaled in a positive direction and there are no reverse scores.

**3. Aggression Questionnaire (Buss, A. H., & Perry, M.1992):** This 29-item, Likert type scale measures participants’ disposition toward physical aggression, verbal aggression, anger, and hostility. Although the full measure will administered, only the physical aggression subscale was analyzed. Participants rate how each item describes them on a scale of 1 (extremely uncharacteristic of me) to 5 (extremely characteristic of me). The AQ has been shown to have high validity and reliability ( $\alpha = .80$ ), which was consistent with the present sample ( $\alpha = .83$ ). It was included in the questionnaire battery to ensure that assignment to various conditions yielded an equal distribution of dispositional physical aggression throughout the experimental conditions.

Results and Discussion : The parametric statistical analyses of Descriptive statistics, Cronbach Alpha ,normality, linearity, additively and homogeneity were checked with an objective to justify the appropriate statistical treatment for further analyses of specific item, missing responses, outliers and those responses outside the sampling frame as well as deviated responses from the distributed data are excluded for statistical analyses. The descriptive statistics of the scales/Subscales of the behavioral measures are presented in Table – 1.

Results (Table – 1) showed the mean, standard deviation, Skewness, kurtosis, Alpha, linearity of the Scales/ Sub Scales of the behavioral measures of (a) Aggression (Buss, A. H., & Perry, M.1992), (b ) The satisfaction with Life Scale (SWLS: Diener, Emmons, Larsen& Griffin, 1985) for the whole sample.

Table 1: Descriptive Statistics of the Scales/Subscales, of the Behavioral measures of mean, Standard deviation, Skewness, Kurtosis, Linearity and Alpha (Physical, Verbal, Anger & Hostility, Satisfaction with life scale).

Sources of Variables	Mean	Standard Deviation	Skewness	Kurtosis	Linearity	Alpha
Physical	29.12	6.01	.02	.58	.56	.87
Verbal	16.78	4.47	.16	.75	.55	.87
Anger	22.48	5.11	.04	.94	.47	.86
Hostility	25.50	5.09	.09	.82	.86	.84
Swls	18.38	4.53	.02	.93	.99	.64

Reliability indices emerged to be robust at each level of analysis and that determined applicability of the scales of the behavioral measures for the present study. The reliability coefficients emerged to be robust signifying the trustworthiness of the test scale for measurement purposes in the project population of Mizo Youth.

Table -2: Mean and Standard Deviation Values for Two Age Group on the Behavioral Measures

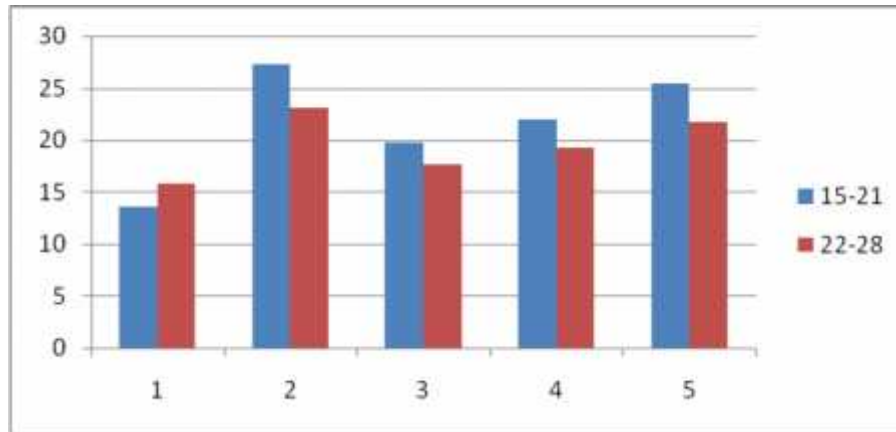
Age Group		Physical	Verbal	Anger	Hostility	SWLS
15-21	Mean	<b>27.31</b>	<b>19.81</b>	<b>21.98</b>	<b>25.46</b>	<b>13.63</b>
	S.D	4.44	3.06	3.98	3.96	1.91
22-28	Mean	<b>23.14</b>	<b>17.61</b>	<b>19.20</b>	<b>21.76</b>	<b>15.84</b>
	S.D	3.67	4.27	5.23	4.77	2.81

The result (Table – 2) revealed that homosexual 1<sup>st</sup> age group scores (M=27.31) higher in physical aggression as compared to 2<sup>nd</sup> age group (M= 23.14). In verbal Aggression the 1<sup>st</sup> age group scores (M= 19.81) higher than 2<sup>nd</sup> age group (M= 17.61). The results also revealed that homosexual 1<sup>st</sup> age group score higher in the mean score of



anger and hostility than 2<sup>nd</sup> age group .In satisfaction with life scale scores the 2<sup>nd</sup> age group scores (M= 15.84) higher than the 1<sup>st</sup> age group.

**Fig 1: Mean scores of ‘Age Group’ of the whole samples on the dependent measures**



**Table - 3: Bivariate Correlation between the scores of the scales/subscales ( SWLS, Physical Aggression, Verbal Aggression, Anger & Hostility) for the whole samples.**

	Variables	Swls	Physical	Verbal	Anger	Hostility
Correlations	SWLS	1	.45**	-.36*	.29**	.31**
	PHYSICAL		1	-.22**	.17**	.16**
	VERBAL			1	-.14*	-.19**
	ANGER				1	.84**
	HOSTILITY					1

\*\* Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2- tailed). \*Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2- tailed).

The behavioral measures between the scales/subscales were significantly correlated with each other. The result Table-3 clearly revealed that SWLS indicated positive relationship with Physical aggression, anger and hostility, at the same time wherein emerge negative relationship with verbal Aggression. The result Table – 3 also proved that physical aggression shows positive relationship with anger and hostility. The table shows that Anger has positive relationship with hostility, where as verbal Aggression scores indicate negative relationship with anger and hostility.

The Result findings indicate that the 1<sup>st</sup> age group (15-21) shows higher scores in Aggression sub Scales of Physical, Verbal, Anger and hostility as compared to the 2<sup>nd</sup> age group (22-28) In the scales of Satisfaction with life scale the 2<sup>nd</sup> age group (22-28) are more satisfied with their life as compared to the 1<sup>st</sup> age group ( 15-21).

Conclusion: In this study, the homosexual male youth of mizo 1<sup>st</sup> age group (15—21) are more aggressive as compared to the 2<sup>nd</sup> age group (22-28). The results also indicate that the 2<sup>nd</sup> age group (22-28) is more satisfied in their life as compared to the 1<sup>st</sup> age group (15-21).From this study, results showed that Age difference emerged to be positively related to dependent measures and predicted the adjustment problems in the targeted population.



## References

1. Akert, R.M., Aronson, E., and Wilson, T.D. (2010). *Social Psychology* (7th ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.
2. Boney-McCoy, S., and Finkelhor, D. (1995). Psychosocial sequelae of violent victimization in a national youth sample. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, 63, 726–736.
3. Buss, A. H., and Perry, M. (1992). The Aggression Questionnaire. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 63(3), 452.
4. Commonwealth Secretariat, (2011). *Commonwealth Youth Programmed*, the commonwealth.org.
5. Emerson, E. (1985). Evaluating the impact of deinstitutionalization on the lives of mentally retarded people. *American Journal of Mental Deficiency*, 90(3), 277.
6. Felce, D., and Perry, J. (1995). Quality of life: Its definition and measurement\*. *Research in developmental disabilities*, 16(1), 51-74.
7. Gonsiorek, J.C. (1982): Results of psychological testing on homosexual populations. In: *Homosexuality. Social, Psychological and Biological Issues*. (Eds: Paul, W.; Weinrich, J.D.; Gonsiorek, J.C.; Hotvedt, M.E.) Sage, Beverly Hills, California, 71-80.
8. Gonsiorek, J.C. (1991): The empirical basis for the demise of the illness model of homosexuality. In: *Homosexuality: Research Implications for Public Policy*. (Eds: Gonsiorek, J.; Weinrich, J.D.) Sage, 115-136.
9. Herek, G. M. (2006). Legal recognition of same-sex relationships in the United States: A social science perspective. *American Psychologist*, 61, 601–621.
10. Huckleberry House. (1982) *Client Statistics*. San Francisco, CA.
11. Kinsey, A., Pomeroy, W., and Martin, C. (1948). *Sexual Behaviour in the Human Male*. Philadelphia, PA: Saunders.
12. Kurdek, L. A. (2005). What do we know about gay and lesbian couples? *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 14, 251–254.
13. Los Angeles Suicide Prevention Center. (1986). "Problems of Suicide among Lesbian and Gay Adolescents". Preliminary Data. Los Angeles: Unpublished.
14. Macmillan Dictionary for Students Macmillan, Pan Ltd. (1981), page 1155. Retrieved 2010-7- 15.
15. Oort, F. (2005). Using structural equation modeling to detect response shifts and true change. *Quality of Life Research*, 14(3), 587-598.
16. Remafedi, G. (1985) "Male Homosexuality: The Adolescent's Perspective". *Adolescent Health Program*, University of Minnesota: Unpublished.
17. Singer, M.I., Anglin, T.M., Song, L., and Lunghofer, L. (1995). Adolescents' exposure to violence and associated symptoms of psychological trauma. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 273, 477–482.