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J Hum Ecol, 57(1,2): 53-59 (2017)
DOI: 10.1080/09709274.2017.1311656

Incidence of and Experiences in Homosexuality among University Students: Implications for HIV/AIDS Prevention

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KEYWORDS Bisexuality. Heterosexuality. Sexual Deviations. Sexual Experiences. Sexual Orientation

ABSTRACT The objective of the study was to examine and determine the extent of homosexuality amongst university students and the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)/Human Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) implications thereof. The survey research design, which employed a questionnaire with open-ended and closed items and follow-up interviews were used in this study. The study thus used mixed methods to generate both quantitative and qualitative data. Quantitative data was analyzed using frequencies and were reported in percentages while qualitative data was mainly used to buttress observations made through quantitative data. The sample, identified mainly through snowball sampling, comprised 40 homosexuals who self-confessed. Results reveal a fairly high incidence of homosexuality among university students and that homosexuality is not a preference or choice but is innate. Though at times subjected to harassment, isolation and stigmatization by others, these students are generally comfortable with their sexual orientation. The results also show that many homosexual students do not take adequate precautions to protect themselves against HIV/AIDS, mainly because of lack of knowledge. The study recommends that the maltreatment of homosexuals should discontinue and that homosexuals should be given adequate knowledge on HIV/AIDS prevention.