



REPRESENTATION OF LGBTQ COMMUNITY IN CONTEMPORARY INDIAN LITERATURE

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Abstract

GLBT or frequently known as LGBT is an abbreviation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender. To emphasize the diversity of sexual orientation and gender identity, the acronym LGBT can be written as an initialism. The phrase is often used to designate persons who are not straight or non-heterosexual or non-cisgender. The word is not meant just for those who identify as gay, lesbian, transgender, or bisexual, but it does not exclude straight persons, heterosexuals, or cisgenders.

With its roots in queer studies and women's studies, the critical area of queer theory developed in the early 1990s. In addition to queer interpretations of literature, queer theory also contains theoretical discussions of queer identity. Many prominent scholars in the fields of feminism and gay/lesbian studies have contributed to the development of queer theory. These thinkers include Lauren Berlant, Leo Bersani, Judith Butler, Lee Edleman, Jack Halberstam, and Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick.

Introduction

The rise of queer writing in English by Indian authors is a recent phenomenon. It provides an overview of the LGBTQ literary scene in India. It has its beginnings in Indian literature and philosophy. There is no shortage of sexually ambiguous characters in classical Indian literature. Authors like as Ruth Vanita, Devdutt Patnaik, Suniti Namjoshi, and R. Raj Rao have made significant contributions to the discussion of LGBTQ issues. Homophobia is widespread in Indian culture. That same-sex love connection is something only the West can understand, in the eyes of Indians. Historically, same-sex relationships and homosexuality were accepted in Indian society. Two excellent transgender characters from the ancient Mahabharata are Arjuna and Lord Narada. Lesbianism finds early mention in the Kamsutra as well. Several prominent women writers, like Kamala Das, Shobha De, Ruth Vanita, Suniti Namjoshi, Mala Kumar, and Abha Dawesar, have made significant contributions to Queer Literature. People who identify as LGBTQ may face discrimination from both the general public and their own families. The

treatment they get is unacceptable. It's a struggle for them to find themselves. Those people's sentiments should be taken into account by society. Just like everyone else, they have humanity. Even so, they deserve a chance at life.

Results from a number of studies indicate that there are persons who don't fit neatly into either the heterosexual or LGBT categories. One common variation adds the letter 'Q' to the initialism of LGBT in order to recognize this inclusion. Those who identify as queer or who are unsure about their sexual orientation are being acknowledged by the addition of the letter 'Q.' People who don't identify as either heterosexual or cisgender are grouped under the umbrella term queer. People who identify as LGBT in the 19th century are often stigmatized by those who use the word "queer" in its original, derogatory sense.

To those who reject binary gender categories and want a more nuanced term than "LGBTQ," the term "queer" may be a convenient shorthand. Queer, in unclear way, may be used to designate all people who have somehow reference to the initialise LGBTQI.

The queers are not primarily referred to as LGBT although they may be referenced in the initialism of LGBTQI. The queers are a group of people or person in the culture who reject their traditional gender identity and instead hanker for a gender identity which is somehow have connection with LGBT. Similarly to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community, the queer community is often stigmatized. The general public treats them with the same level of ignorance and hostility. Gender queer, also known as queer gender, is a catch-all phrase that may be used as an adjective to describe people who defy conventional gender roles or who choose to embrace a non-binary gender identity. Non-binary describes another term for the queer gender.

When compared to the 19th century, portrayals of LGBT communities, including queer genders, have increased significantly. People in many nations are beginning to accept this alternative gender and contribute to the development of the community. The guiding principle behind the acceptance of transgender children into society is the idea that an individual may come into their own gender in a way that does not offend the feelings of others. To reach young students and educators, queer studies are also performed in certain classroom settings.

LGBT depiction in a selection of contemporary English books. Even more so than for the rest of the LGBT community, the queer gender has a lot of trouble starting new relationships for the same reasons. The study investigates these complexities and considers the rights of various individuals within a community. It also aims to depict human life, including people's actions, statements, and reactions, in order to send particular messages to the public for the sake of informing, entertaining, and educating the public. Further the research proceeded towards queer sexuality in India and also talked about LGBT. The study also discusses the Queer theory, the scientific, biological, and genetic causes for queer gender and LGBT, and the varying legislation pertaining to these identities. It then goes on to compare the perspectives of male and female Indian authors on this problem. This study solicits novelists for their input on scientific problems and potential solutions. From Indian English Literature, the selected authors like R. Raj Rao, Ghalib Shiraj Dhalla, Abha Dawesar, and Mala Kumar.

Review of the Relevant Literature:

The books, articles, and websites pertaining to such themes as the LGBTQ's portrayal in contemporary Indian English fiction have been skimmed for this study of the literature. Before reviewing the selected papers, there has to be a brief conversation on what it means to be queer in the LGBT community. Many scholars have offered their own queer definitions of LGBT. With such rapid expansion, it's hardly surprising that there's been so much discussion over which LGBTQ subculture really represents the majority. The goal of the LGBTQ movement is to shed awareness on the richness and variety of sexual traditions. It's not necessary to use an explosive phrase like "queer" to refer to those who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender. It's used to denigrate those who want to be with others of the same sex. There is some overlap between the LGBT and the queer community. People who identify as gay or intersex are not exclusively heterosexual or cisgender.

Those who reject the gender assigned to them at birth and pursue identities and relationships that are mutually unacceptable in a given society are the true queers. Queer theory refers to an approach to cultural and literary research that rejects binary notions of sexuality and gender. Queer theory is a critical theory that emerged in the early 1990s. Reading queer texts and theorizing 'queerness' are both part of the idea of queer.

According to this view, the goal of studying lesbian and homosexual identities is to better understand one's own inner life. This is an in-depth look at how a normal culture defines the behaviors and identities of each gender. Whereas the study of lesbians and gays focuses on the

normal and abnormal aspects of their sexual orientation. According to queer theory, there is a wide range of sexual identities and behaviors that may be seen as both abnormal and normal. Numerous investigations have been undertaken to ascertain whether homosexuality is related to genetic predispositions. The personal history of an individual has been deemed irrelevant by several scholars who argue that everyone is welcome here regardless of their circumstances. They only wish for it or accept it as they see its effects on others. The study's authors also discovered that people's decisions to follow such a lifestyle are often the result of personal experiences from their pasts. Being a member of the LGBTQ community can have emotional and mental repercussions for some people.

There are biological reasons why they identified with the LGBTQ community or similar groups. According to the findings of a recent study, homosexuality is a genetic feature that is always passed down the maternal line in heterosexual families but never from father to son. There are numerous different laws that have affected the LGBTQ community and they vary from nation to country and territory to territory. To marry someone of the same gender is mandatory under the law, despite the fact that such unions are not recognized by the state. The legislation also made it possible to put homosexuals to death. A number of pro-LGBT policies, however, have been enacted in recent years. The Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1885, which legalized sexual activity between women in England, received the approval of Queen Victoria and therefore became law in 1886. When the Sexual Offences Act of 1967 passed in the United Kingdom, it decriminalized homosexuality. But it does allow gay actions to take place in secret until the age of 21. A similar statute decriminalizing homosexual acts between consenting adults was recently enacted by the Supreme Court of India. There are a number of Indian novelists who have explored queer identities in their fiction.

1. R. Raj. Rao

R. Raj. Rao was born in Bombay, India. In 1986, he acquired a Ph.D. in English from the University of Bombay and then used the Nehru centennial British Fellowship to do postdoctoral study at the centre of Caribbean studies at the University of Warwick in the United Kingdom. At University of Pune, where he also serves as department chair, he teaches and directs courses in English. Rao's sexuality as a homosexual man is not hidden from the public.

Novels –

01)Hostel Room 131

In the narrative of Hostel Room 131, two young guys meet and eventually fall in love with one another. Similarly, homophobia is a major theme in this work of Queer literature. Siddhartha, a 23-year-old Bombay native, is the protagonist of Hostel Room 131. The two men, Siddhartha and Sudhir, meet at the Pune engineering college dorm. Sudhir is a young man of twenty. Siddhartha has an immediate attraction to this total stranger. Both Siddhartha and Sudhir, as well as Guarav and Vivek, are involved in homosexual relationships in "Hotel Room 131," which is a significant theme in the novel.

2. Ghalib Shiraj Dhalla:

American author Ghalib Shiraj Dhalla. Dhalla's great - ancestors were Ismailis who moved to Kenya from India. His most well-known work is the book Ode to Lata, which was first released in 2002 and then turned into a film titled The Ode in 2008. In 2011, he released a collection of books titled The Two Krishnas (The Exiles in India).

1) Ode to Lata (2002)

Ode to Lata, the first book, came out in 2002. This is Dhalla's debut book, and it deals with the challenges of balancing work and social life. Ali is the novel's main character. It is study of culture, religion, body image, racism, sex and friendship. A bisexual couple's tale..

2) The Exiles:

In 'The Exiles,' a gay guy has an extramarital affair with another man. Desire, adultery, and religion are all explored in this book with sensuality and intensity. Invoking unforgettable characters from Hindu mythology and romantic Sufi poetry, The Exiles examines how the arrival of a new world brings with it the opportunity to make decisions that may alter our perceptions of the world, our relationships with others, and even our own identities. Pooja Kapoor is a wife who has been deceived and who has fallen in love with a young Muslim guy. She is lonely and needs God to help her, but in order to do so, she has to face some hard realities about her history. The Exiles is a classic story of love and sorrow set in Kenya, India, and finally Los Angeles, told from the perspectives of the wife, husband, and lover.

3. Mala Kumar:

This is a tale about Indian and American women coming to terms with their gender. Mala Kumar works as a specialist in international development from her home in New York. The hard work and schooling she put in paid off, as she now works for some of the world's most

famous organizations, including the United Nations. Mala spends her time away from work and writing exploring the cultural offerings of New York City, pushing herself to her physical limits at the gym, dreaming up exotic travel plans, and watching French films without subtitles.

01) The paths of Marriage:

Lakshmi is a brilliant student who, after a difficult childhood in India's poorest region, decided to marry and travel to the United States in search of a better life. By stubbornly refusing to let go of her cultural norms, she compels her American daughter, Pooja, into an arranged marriage, which causes animosity between them. Deepa, Pooja's daughter, is a lesbian who is out to everyone except her family. Deepa's biggest fear is being exposed, but the woman she loves gives her an ultimatum: come out to Pooja or we'll split up. In an attempt to heal their fractured family, three generations of Indian and Indian-American women go from the grim slums of Chennai to the frenetic streets of New York.

02) The Circumstances of Marriage:

From the grim slums of Chennai to the whimsical streets of New Orleans to the hectic streets of New York City, The Circumstances of Marriage follows three generations of Indian and Indian-American women as they navigate the ups and downs of marriage. Lakshmi moves her family from India to the United States so that she can give them a better life. Painfully shaped by her own history, she insists that her daughter Pooja have an arranged marriage. When Deepa, Pooja's daughter, "realizes she needs to come out to her mother as a lesbian, the three powerful women find themselves in the midst of a difficult but cathartic collision of generations. This moving tale emphasizes the need of working together and developing empathy as a means of advancement.

4. Abha Dawesar

Abha Dawesar is an English author and visual artist who was born in India on January 1, 1974. Her works mostly deal with sexuality or relationships between people. Dawesar has received various awards for her work and was even granted a scholarship from the New York Foundation for the Arts. Her book *Babyji*, published in 2005, was a double winner of the Stonewall Book Award and the Lambda Literary Award for Lesbian Fiction. Her current residence is in the Big Apple.

1) Babyji

It is a novel by Abha Dawesar first published in 2005. Set in 1980's Delhi, India, it recounts the coming of age and the sexual adventures and fantasises of 16 year –old bespectacled school girl, the only child of a Brahmini family. The three simultaneous affairs, she has in the course of the novel are all secrete and, all with members with her own gender: two with older women and with a classmate.

2) The Three of Us

The Three of Us, Abha Dawesar's debut novel, explicitly explores the sexuality of the happy-gay- lucky Andre Bernard a 24 -year – old Manhattan banker, and his affairs with his boss and most of the characters". It is bisexuality entering your drawing room without announcing itself as queer.

Conclusion

The study's author argued that parents should be open to the possibility of sexual orientation and gender identity overlap in their children. Assist the so-called "opposite-thinking sexes" in starting their own families and seeing them through to fruition with the aid of modern scientific knowledge. A comprehensive list of the sources consulted in the course of the research will serve as the thesis's last chapter.

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