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Homosexuality: Genetically Determined

From the womb until a child becomes an adult, and even after that, there have been scientifically proven factors to confirm that homosexuality is in fact genetically determined. A twin study proved that homosexual twins raised apart, despite their different upbringings, turn out to be “gay”- even those that didn’t know they were a twin. Another study showed a genetic differentiation between homosexuals and heterosexuals. According to Charles Darwin’s theory of evolution, humans use a process called natural selection to adapt to their environment in order to have a better chance at survival. Researchers have hypothesized that a mother will give birth to a homosexual male while in distress during her pregnancy because she needs a child that will help her with the family. An additional theory is that the male to female ratio is causing men to mate with other males because there is a larger number of males fighting for females, thus forcing them to adapt. There are still scientists trying to obtain more information to find a specific gene that is responsible for sexual orientation. So far it is confirmed that a set of genes are accountable for homosexuality, which is a relief because it normalizes homosexuals and leaves no room for discrimination. Although, scientists also knew such a discovery would cause an uproar in society, it will lead to a number of complexities. If a mother knew her child was

going to be a homosexual while in her fetus, would she still want to have her baby? People lose their lives every day because of their sexual orientation, this is not something parents want their children to go through.

Dean Hamer was a homosexual researcher at the National Cancer Institute. “The Last Mile” by Siddhartha Mukherjee tells us about his discovery of a possible set of genes that can determine sexual identity (379). Hamer started his research out of pure boredom, but ended up becoming curious as to what exactly determines one's sexuality. He began his research by picking up where other scientists left off based on their articles on homosexuality, but came up empty handed. He ran into a twin-study experiment initiated by a professor of psychology, J. Michael Bailey.

Bailey was also studying the genetics of sexual orientation. Bailey figured that if sexual orientation was genetically inherited, then a gay male identical twin would have a higher probability of having a twin that was also gay. Thus, the twin-study was established in the 1980's. Bailey gathered 110 male twins where at least one of the twins were gay. The study showed fifty-six pairs of those twins comprised of two homosexual males. In 1992 Hamer began his own study collecting information from 114 gay brothers and their family trees. He was determined to find out if sexual orientation was genetically determined after all and wanted to study families of homosexuals as opposed to just one family member. Hamer discovered a pattern in every generation that was carried on the X chromosome of the homosexual males in the family that wasn't present in the genetics of the heterosexual males of the family. Hamer's research continues on today as researchers search for the specific gene on the X chromosome

that distinguishes heterosexuals from homosexuals. Over the years studies have continued to show a pattern of genes found in the brains of homosexuals.

Simon LeVay, a homosexual neuroscientist at the Salk Institute in La Jolla of California, established that a small area in the brain known to control sexual activity is half the size in a homosexuals brain than that of a heterosexuals brain (Gelman and Foote 2). In “Homosexuality: Born or Bred” D. Gelman and D. Foote inform us about LeVay’s determined studies after losing his partner of 21 years to AIDS. During his research he came across the study of a graduate, Laura Allen of UCLA, which showed that a portion of the hypothalamus was more than twice the size in the brain of a woman than a man which motivated LeVay to further his research and influenced him to publish them. The hypothalamus is a small part of the brain in which is responsible for important functions such as managing sexual behavior and maintaining daily physiological cycles. LeVay had done his own research on the hypothalamus which showed that a group of neurons called INAH 3 was more than twice the size in a heterosexual male compared to those of a homosexual male whose INAH 3 was the same size as a females. Nicholas Wade also mentions this discovery in “Pas de Deux of Sexuality Is Written in the Genes”. Wade backs up his argument with accidental circumcision cases where male babies lose their sexual organ and are labeled as a female. These very same males grow up and have desires to be with a woman, not a man.

There's also been the theory that more males are becoming homosexual in order to adapt to the outnumbered females through natural selection. Dr. James O' Keefe said on TED Talk "How Homosexuality Benefits Evolution" that homosexuality is about survival, not sexuality. "We're born with traits that give us and our families the opportunity to succeed in our current conditions", O'Keefe mentions. O'Keefe informs us about a recent study that reveals a mother can declare the sexuality of her baby while still in her uterus with a certain group of genes found and it will be seventy percent accurate. Studies show after a mother gives birth to four heterosexual males, the fifth male will have a thirty percent chance of being homosexual James O'Keefe talks about another study where severe prenatal stress results in a preexposed homosexuality. Thirty seven percent of homosexual males reported their mother experienced prenatal stress as opposed to only three percent of the mothers of heterosexual males. Something sets off in the mother's uterus that turns on homosexual epigenetics (O'Keefe).

When two adults decide to raise a child together, they want that child to live a life with as little difficulty as possible. Even deciding as an adult that you are a homosexual can be a very scary thing in today's society. Brian Whitaker tells us in "Everything You Need to Know About Being Gay in Muslim Countries" about the gruesome stories of homosexuals getting thrown off the tops of buildings and having glue injected into their anus because that's how much they condemn gay men (3). Why would someone put their own life at risk simply to have sexual encounters with the same sex? We don't come into this world looking for a way to die, we all just want to be happy and live our own lives. No one chooses to live a more punishing life. Parents shouldn't have to worry about their child's life being in danger because society won't agree with their

sexual orientation. Homosexuals need to take a stand. With these studies, society will see that being gay is not a choice, but a fight for survival against all odds the world has thrown against them.

Sources:

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