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Homosexuality, Environmental or Biological?

The idea of homosexuality is believed to be due to a biological or environmental factor and has been argued for 100 years. First of all, what is homosexuality? Homosexuality is the desire of being with someone of the same sexual orientation. Second, what does it mean to be a biological or environmental factor? In regards to homosexuality, an environmental factor is the belief that being homosexual is the result of the person's environment - how they were raised and their experiences/situations throughout their life. A biological factor is the regards to someone's homosexuality being due to their genetics, something that can be hereditary. Although some may argue that homosexuality is environmental or a balance of both biology and environment, homosexuality is mainly biologically based; homosexuality is usually not chosen or changed, there is also a similarity in their genes proving a connection.

Genetics plays a large role in our lives and has been proven to take part of sexuality. Being homosexual is mainly biologically based and can be proved through Bailey Pillard study of twins and siblings along with their correlation to being homosexual. Pillard was a psychology professor decided to conduct a study on the relation of homosexuality and genes through siblings which share similar genes. According to "The Last Mile" a chapter of a book The Gene by Siddhartha Mukherjee, Bailey Pillard's study of twins showed, "Among the 56 pairs of identical

twins, both twins were gay 52%. Of the 54 pairs of nonidentical twins, 22% were both gay-", (373). This proves that genetics has some part of homosexuality, the general population is 10% gay and the study of twins which have the closest resembling DNA is much greater. The extent of homosexuality being purely choice is clearly incorrect. Pillard also compared family trees of siblings comparing them along with their DNA as well and found a correlation a stretch on their X chromosome, the Xq28 (Mukherjee 376). Chromosomes carry DNA which determine characteristics that are passed down hereditarily, the X chromosomes are the chromosomes the biological mother passes down, supporting the factor genetics has on homosexuality. Not only is homosexuality proven genetically, it can be seen in comparisons of the brain.

Men and women have many differences biologically, which can be seen through the use of the brain. Although men and women may complete the same task, their brains are used differently (Wade 2). In the article, "Pas de Deux of Sexuality Is Written in the Genes", By Nicholas Wade states, "- men and women use their brains in different ways … circumcision accidents, in which boy babies have lost their penises and been reared as female. Despite every social inducement to the opposite, they grow up desiring women as partners, not men", (Wade 2). This signifies that a biological male, despite being raised and having been told to be a female, still has an attraction towards females. The person's brain is still a biological male and has the genetic information implanted to yearn for women as a significant other. The body is programmed genetically and is proven to be a greater impact than the environmental surroundings of the person, otherwise there would not be a yearning for women specifically. This

means that biology takes a major part of someones' sexuality and can be seen through people who struggle with their environment and are still homosexual despite certain dangers.

Although homosexuality is mainly biological, others may believe homosexuality is mainly due to their environment. Religion and culture can impact a person and who they are, and this in itself is a reason why some believe that homosexuality is environmental. In the article, "Everything you Need to Know About Being Gay in Muslim Countries", by Brian Whitaker, the misconception that there are no homosexuals in muslim countries is addressed. In muslim countries men and women are separated and are expected to be heterosexual, yet this separation leads to the likeliness of a homosexual relation to form even when it is custo to hold hands and kiss between the same sex (Whitaker 2). Homosexuality -when expressed in an unmasculine manner, otherwise overlooked if it goes unnoticed- is viewed as degrading in muslim countries. The idea of their image being tarnished having the world know there are homosexuals in muslim countries leads to drastic consequences, such as being imprisoned and fined large quantities. "Coming out results in the person being ostracised by their family or even physically attacked. A less harsh reaction is to seek a 'cure' … through expensive but futile psychiatric treatment", meaning regardless of the dangers in their country, their feelings as homosexuals cannot be changed. Certain religions and cultures are against homosexuality where it is deemed wrong and 'not natural', so who would choose to go against the norm and risk their life? This must mean that there is something greater at work that goes deeper than choice, genetics.

Homosexuality is mainly biological and can be analyzed/detected to where it might take place in the body. In “Homosexuality: Born or Bred?”, an article written by Newsweek Staff, discusses the topic of homosexuals being either born or made into their attraction. Simon LeVay, a neurologist, studied the hypothalamus in heterosexual men, women, and in gay men. “The male hypothalamus that regulates sex was more than twice as large as a woman’s. … -one group of gays, the sex-regulation area was smaller than in straight men” (Newsweek Staff 9). The hypothalamus is a part of the brain that affects certain body systems. When the hypothalamus in homosexual men is smaller than heterosexual men, it demonstrates a similarity between women’s hypothalamus. This can indicate similarity of behaviors to women, such as an attraction to men. This expresses another reason proving that homosexuality is mainly biological.

Genetics plays a major role in homosexuality, as it is not always a choice to be homosexual. Through studies from Bailey Pillard, a section of the chromosome can be proved to be correlated with homosexuality which is seen in siblings. Despite certain beliefs, homosexuality is biologically based. Others may believe that homosexuality is mainly environmentally based, but change would be easily done if so, yet it can only be repressed at most. Homosexuality can be proven to be mainly biologically based through analysis of genes, sections of the brain, and through experiences of wanting change but no avail. Biology is the main factor in homosexuality.

Work Cited

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