Rashel Vargas

English 1101

Homosexuality Argumentative Paper

For many decades, homosexuality has been a very controversial topic up for debate all over the world. Many different writers have developed their own claims and theories on what homosexuality is and how it happens. In this paper I will be arguing my own claim as to what extent I believe homosexuality is genetically determined, based on what I have read and watched. I will also be discussing to what extent homosexuality is a choice and the roles that biology, evolution, religion, family, and culture play in it. I believe that homosexuality is not a choice and that it is mainly genetically determined, but there are other factors that play a role in it and affect it such as environment, family, and religion.

In “The Last Mile” a chapter from the book *The Gene* by Siddhartha Mukherjee, the author provides statistics from a study that was done between gays. This was a study that was conducted in the 1980s by Bailey, a professor of psychology. In his study Bailey was looking for a similarity in gayness between twin siblings. Bailey found that from 56 pairs of identical twins both twins were gay in 52% and from 54 pairs of nonidentical twins, 22% were both gay (Mukherjee 373). The statistics Bailey found clearly support that genetics plays a big part in homosexuality. This is because identical twins are siblings that share the same genetics and 52% of those both identical twins turn out to be gay which is a big majority. In the study, Bailey also found that “influences such as families, friends, schools, religious beliefs, and social structure clearly modified sexual behavior--- so much so that one identical twin identified as gay and the other as straight as much as 48% of the time” (Mukherjee 374).

In the article, “Everything you need to know about being gay in Muslim countries”, published on The Guardian, the author Whitaker discusses the struggles Muslims face when they are gay. Whitaker stated how in Muslim societies “there is a strong emphasis on upholding social norms”, because of this to them gay men who showed feminine traits shall be referred to as a challenge to social order (5). Choosing to come out can be a very difficult decision for Muslims as in some cases it “results in the person being ostracized by their family or even physically attacked” (Whitaker 4). Like the Muslim culture, the Catholic religion was known to be homophobic. For many years the members of Catholic church and the pope, leader of the Catholic church, openly preached that sexuality is wrong choice until recently. In an article published in May of 2018 by The New York Times, “‘God Made You This Way’, Pope Is Said to Have Told Gay Man”, the author discusses and event that cause many surprised reactions all over the world. In the article, Horowitz spoke on a private meeting that the pope had with a gay man who is a survivor of previous sexual abuse. In this meeting the pope responded to the gay man by telling him “You have to be happy with who you are. God made you this way and loves you this way, and the pope loves you this way” (Horowitz 1). This statement from the pope was a big step forward in proving to the people that homosexuality isn’t a choice, it is something you are born with.

In the article, “Homosexuality: Born or Bred?”, Simon LeVay a neuroscientist, conducted a study that showed how biology has an important role in the development of homosexuality. LeVay created a study where he scanned the brains of 41 cadavers which included 19 homosexual males. In this study, LeVay found that there was a tiny area in the brain that is believed to control sexual activity that turned out to be less than half the size in gay men compared to straight males (2). In this article, Baileys study on twins was also mentioned which proved that homosexuality was genetically determined.

Although I may believe that homosexuality is something that is not a choice, formed since birth thought genetics; there are others who believe homosexuality is a complete choice for a person. In “The Innate, Immutable Argument Finds No Basis in Science”, the author Dean Byrd, attempts to go against Baileys study that proved the role of genetics in homosexuality. Byrd stated that “If homosexuality were in the genetic code, all of the identical twins would have been homosexual” (2). The claims made in this article are non-reliable claims as they come from gay activist who create studies that go against homosexuality. In fact, this article was published on the NARTH website which represents The National Association for Research & Therapy of Homosexuality. This association specifically aims at attempting to change homosexuals and their sexual orientation. This can affect our research as it is expressing a biased opinion; therefore, the information we gather from it will be very one sided and opinion based instead of factually based.

From these texts I’ve read, I’ve come to the conclusion the homosexuality is something that cannot be changed. In these different articles we were able to see how biology and genetics are involved in homosexuality, with statistics from studies done to support it. We were also able to see how culture and religion can play a part in the lives of homosexuals and the deciding to come out and be openly gay. After all, homosexuality is not a person’s choice, ultimately it is determined by genetics, biology, and other influences such as religion, culture, and family.

Sources

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