



P3 Project Report

Master of Design

Stream: Animation Design

P3 Title: Social Acceptance of Homosexuality

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DECLARATION

I declare that this written submission represents the work done by me, summarized in my own words. Whenever other images and texts have been included, they have been adequately referred to their original sources.

I also declare that I have adhered to all principles of academic honesty and integrity and I have not fabricated or falsified any of the data/facts contents in the submissions.

I understand that any violation in above-mentioned will cause for disciplinary action by the institute and also evoke penal action from the sources that have not been properly cited, or from whom proper permission has not been sought.

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Meera Behera", slanted upwards to the right.

Name: Meera Behera

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APPROVAL SHEET

The project titled “Social Acceptance of Homosexuality” by Meera Behera is approved by the partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of “Masters of Design” in animation.

GUIDE:



INTERNAL EXAMINER:



EXTERNAL EXAMINER:



CHAIRPERSON:



DATE:

Acknowledgments

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I am very grateful to all my friends, Seniors, and all my family members for their constant support and encouragement.

Meera Behera

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ABSTRACT

The Film Represents the LGBT community of our country. The film has focused on only one spectrum of these community that is "Homosexuality". As we all know that being a homosexual in our Indian society is a big taboo and is not accepted by our society. Aditya is the main character from the film who dreamt himself as his young version as a heterosexual as his sexual orientation in a world of homosexual and he is been treated the way our society treats to the homosexuals of our society. The motivation for the film came from my friends who belongs to these minorities. The objective of the film is to tell everyone that these minorities goes through a lot of problems in their lives like they have to fight for their right with the society, Parents even after the Law Section 377 Got struck down in the year 2018, September. The law did not make any changes, the condition is same as they were before. So the main objective behind this project is that if the parents can accept their homosexual kids as they are, their lives could become little easier for them. The film is being made in the medium of 2d animation.

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Introduction

LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) .Indian supreme court scrapped section 377 of Indian penal code recently on 6th of September 2018 which was earlier a criminal offense to have private consensual sex between two adults of the same sex. Even though it got legalized now, still people are reluctant to talk about it, people are not open about their sexual orientation, people live in fear, people are also not treated well when the society comes to know their sexual orientation. The reason behind all of this is that society has not completely accepted them. The society should understand that homosexual people also want to be loved. They also dream of having a life partner and kids. The society should understand Love sees no gender, it just happens. The love between 2 men or 2 women is as equal as the love between one man and one woman.

Research

1. The Suffering of Homosexual people of Rural is more or less same as Urban.

While going through the coming out stories from a few rural residents, I figured many common things between them and Urban LGBT people. The List follows below:

They are forced for marriage.

They grew up with a lot of internal confusions

They were mistreated in schools and public places if people come to know about their sexuality.

They go through depressions and anxieties

If they forcefully got married, they regret not telling their families about their sexual orientation

In case the person doesn't know about their sexuality and gets married they go through marital rapes and tends to have marital affairs as well.

They seek LGBT friendly workplace.

They find difficulties to find a partner for themselves

People are not scared of the law, they are more scared of society.

They live with the physiological burden

2. Homosexuality has been mentioned in Indian Mythology

LGBT Themes Indian Mythology

-In the Valmiki Ramayana, Hanuman is said to have seen Rakshasa women kissing and embracing those women who have been kissed and embraced by Ravana.

- In the Padma Purana is the story of a king who dies before he can give his two queens the magic potion that will make them pregnant. Desperate to bear his child, the widows drink the potion, make love to each other (one behaving as a man, the other as a woman) and conceive a child.

-In the Mahabharata, Drupada raises his daughter Shikhandini as a man and even gets 'him' a wife. When the wife discovers the truth on the wedding night, all hell breaks loose; her father threatens to destroy Drupada's kingdom.

3. Homosexuality is called as abnormal and disease by Indian society as well as by the political leaders.

Disease, dangerous and curable are the keywords what public figures think of homosexuality. Yoga guru Ramdev Baba invites homosexuals to his ashram and he also guarantees that he can cure a homosexual person into heterosexual.

Yogi Adityanath, Now the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh.

In December 2013, When he was a member of parliaments of BJP he said

"Homosexuality is dangerous to social morality. If social norms and boundaries are done away with, then there is not much difference between man and animal...

I feel that to associate this kind of cheap sophistry with religious texts is gross immorality... There should be no social sanction if someone wants to do at a traffic junction what one does at home. It shouldn't receive any constitutional status either."

4. The consequence of coming out

A homosexual person can never think of telling about their sexual orientation to their parents because nobody knows what consequences they have to go through, they might be disowned by their parents, They might be taken to a mental hospital and treated like a mentally ill person or they might be getting raped by their own family members in a hope that if they sleep with their opposite gender they might get straight and start liking the opposite sex or maybe something worse than this. It is more difficult to be born as a gay woman because in these cases, Parents pressurize to get married once they reach by the age of 22 or 25. Some get marry, suffer the consequences and some don't marry still suffer the consequences. There is less number of Indian parents who accept their kid's sexual orientation as gay.

most LGBT people are acceptable to family only if they agree to behave like heterosexuals.

Prince Manvendra Singh Gohil, whose story of coming out has been well-documented in the media over the past several years, now heads several initiatives to help LGBT people, including the Lakshya Trust that works for HIV/Aids prevention in the LGBT community. He says LGBT people must not get carried away by what they see in the media.

"It was for no small reason that I was in the closet for 41 years," he says. "I know of someone who got a sudden rush of inspiration from a TV programme and decided to come out to his family. It didn't work. He lost his home, his job, everything. I always tell people to be fully aware of their own reality. Be financially prepared. Detach a bit from your family both emotionally and financially before you plan to take this step."

Case No – 35: Ms Bani (name changed) is a lesbian and working as an Officer in a government organization at Kolkata. The moment she expressed her true sexual identity her parents pressurized her to start a heterosexual relationship with a man and when she firmly denied that then they forced her to marry an unemployed gay and their excuse was if she does not get married at the right age then her younger siblings would face difficulty in their marriage and presently her parents do not even raise the issue of her sexual orientation.

Case No – 64: Ms Anita (name changed) is a lesbian and working in a private organization at Chennai. Her parents caught her with her previous partner in a compromising position and that's how they came to know about her true sexual orientation. Following that incident her family members convinced a neighbor who happened to be her childhood friend to rape Anita and for them it is the most useful way of 'reversing' her sexual orientation back to 'normal' heterosexuality. After that incident she left her house and presently living all alone at a rented apartment and she has no contact with her family members.

Secondary Data Collection

Articles-

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-45430953>

What does it mean to be gay in rural India?

<http://devdutt.com/articles/applied-mythology/queer/did-homosexuality-exist-in-ancient-india.htm>

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Homosexuality mentioned in Indian mythology By Devdutt Pattanaik

<https://qz.com/india/1379618/section-377-indias-crusaders-who-stood-up-for-gay-rights/>

What Indian public figures think of homosexualities.

<https://www.advocate.com/religion/2016/9/06/19-lgbt-hindu-gods>

19 LGBT Hindu god and goddess

<https://www.livemint.com/Sundayapp/sAYrieZdZKEybKzhP8FDbP/Being-LGBT-in-India-Some-home-truths.html>

The consequence of coming out stories

Research papers-

https://www.academia.edu/36122569/Socio-Economically_Convenient_Coming-Out_Decision_of_Indias_Lesbian_Gay_Bisexual_Community

http://www.law.hku.hk/hrportal/wp-content/uploads/file/2009-decriminalisation_homosexuality_india.pdf

Videos-

Animation videos

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FQbuO9EKCrE>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JBbQUeLGOVE>

A perfect date by Girija Likhit

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2REkk9SCRn0>

In a heart Beat

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R47uiGLivP0&t=25s>

Arrival: A short Film by Alex Myung (2016)

Primary Data Collection

Interviews:

Sima (name changed)

My name is Anonymous. I am 23 years old. I identify as a lesbian. I am in a relationship with a woman, she is 28 years old. It's been 4 years I am with her. I am from a society where a girl has to be married before the age of 25. It is very tough to live in the world. I knew from my childhood that I am a little different from other kids. I haven't chosen to become a lesbian. It is the way how I am born. I am scared of telling my parents about myself. I am scared, they may disown me for my sexual orientation. They are pressurizing me for the marriage.

Subham (Name changed)

I am a 24-year-old guy from a small city in Maharashtra. I prefer not to compartmentalize my sexuality. But to inform you, I like men in sexually/physically & women romantically/emotionally. I have had fallen for women before. Right now my first priority is to be financially independent. That's very important in the scenario where things don't go the way they should/ I want.. It could be hard, but one has to prepare themselves mentally for such situations (saying is easier than actually doing it). One has to take responsibility for their happiness. As I haven't been in any hetero/homo relationship so far, I might not be able to help you out in a constructive way.

Kanchan

I am Kanchan, I am working in a private company in Bangalore. I am a bisexual. Dating a same-sex person from the LGBT community is really difficulties because I can't get a girl of my age and Even I get a girl, they are not loyal.

Analysis

1. People from the LGBT community secretly date their partners.
2. They can't make a small intimacy (holding hands) in public places
3. They don't get a loyal partner.
4. Many of the time they are cheated by their partner.
5. Sometimes Homosexuals regret for dating a bisexual person as they tend to cheat or marry their opposite sex.
6. They try to get Independent so that they can look after themselves if they are disowned by their parents.
7. Some of them do not get an opportunity to even date because they think they are not normal
8. They become suicidal and go to councils to reduce their stress
9. They disclose about themselves to their close friends, not to all.

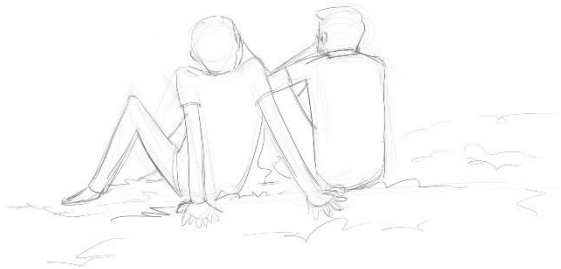
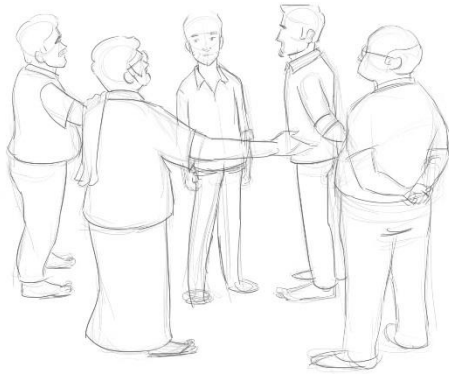
What people do not like about homosexuality?

1. They find it to be against the nature of laws.
2. They think it is against the Indian Culture
3. They don't like them because they can't produce babies.
4. They think Homosexuality is a lifestyle or choice.
5. They think it is a mental disease.

Concepts

1. A world where homosexuality is normal and being straight is not normal. So A Parents (2 men) they send their son to go out with a guy they have chosen for him. They spend a good time with each other but their son requests that guy to reject him for marriage because he is straight.
2. There is one guy and one girl who are best friends from their childhood and their parents decides to get them to marry but the girl refuses to marry him because she would be knowing that her best friend is gay.
3. 2 men spend their holidays together but after the holidays they go back to their lives where they are married to women.
4. A parent admits his son in a hospital in the hope that he will turn heterosexual from being homosexual. He is treated badly in the hospital but one of doctor falls in love with him also helps him to run away from the hospital.

Inspirational Sketches





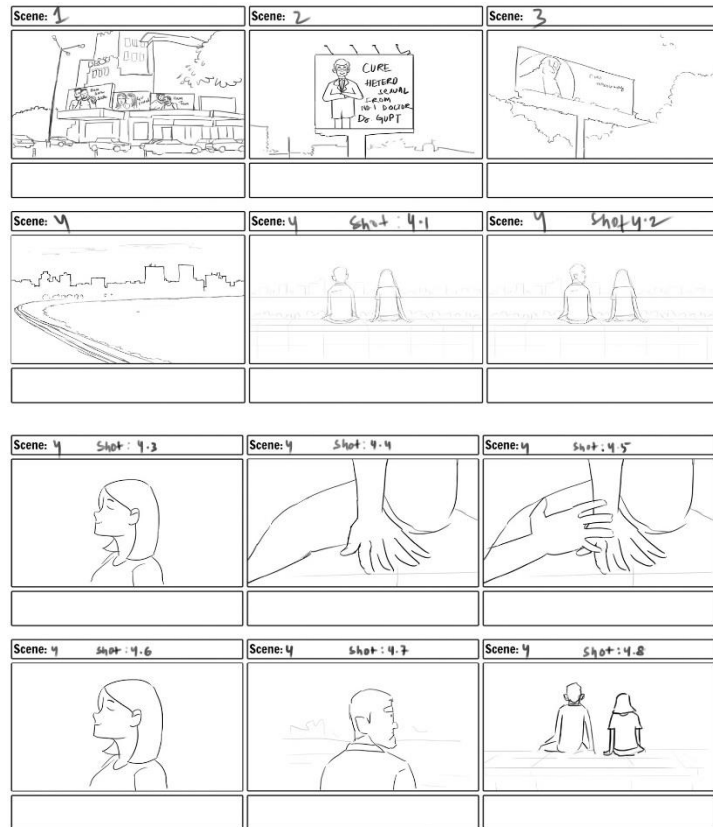
New concepts

Inspiring from Case no.64, Anita's Parents are not at home so she invites her partner at her home to have quality time or a movie/dinner date. Her parents arrive home early and caught them in a compromising position. Anita and her parents have a lot of arguments between themselves that night. Following this incident, secretly Anita listens to her parents and the neighbor's (Anita's best friend) conversations about her rape. And she gets dishearten and permanently leaves the home instantly after that.

Final Concept

A world where homosexuality is normal and heterosexuality is not normal. In order to show this, The film will begin by showing 2 guys are getting married, Gay romance posters are there, heterosexual treatment centers are there, posters of babas saying that they can cure heterosexuality. Gay couples are in Marine drive. Among those gay couples, a guy (Aditya) and a girl (Prachi) are also there and they are hesitating to hold their hands. And he looks around if anyone is looking at them or not and kisses on the girl's cheek. At that time they are caught by someone who shouts at them. A woman with her kid who would be passing by will cover her kid's eyes. Prachi and Aditya will get dishearten and Prachi leaves that place after this incident. While Aditya tries to stop Prachi but she does not stop. Aditya gets really upset and he goes to his homes, he sees his father watching the news on TV where there is a debate going about heterosexual community. At night while sleeping he contemplates about marine drive incident and regrets being a heterosexual. The next day morning, Aditya and his both the father are seating together in the hall. Aditya's father would be discussing about a guy whom he has chosen for his son. His father tells him about the guy and he gets angry and goes to his room. His father gets angry for his denial and he fixes his wedding with the guy he has chosen for him. Now Aditya thinks of ending himself and when he is about to hang himself, he wakes up from the dream and is panicked. He ran to his son's room and hugs him and tells him that he should not think of doing suicide because he is homosexual. His son asks him what happened why he is so panicked, he tells about the dream he saw.

Storyboard









Character design & Expression sheet



There were many challenges or one could even be depressing times during the production of the film. Initially, I struggled to come up with a story than I finally got a story. But It was good learning too. The biggest challenge which drove me to the brink of depression was the visual development phase. To maintain consistency and also finding a style that does justice to the topic was hard to achieve. Iteration after iterations for around one and a half and still going no further than day one made me question myself. This ordeal was not just that of finding the right style for the film, but keeping at it even after so many failures. And pushing yourselves for one more day. One more iteration. One more line on the paper. That I think is what this film taught me.

These challenges that I placed on me made think around the boundaries to deliver the payload to the audience and helped me learn visual storytelling. This doesn't imply that film is a visual medium, but for beginner, this process helped me think visually. And that was a personal choice.

Final Thought

A final word of caution: Film is a very powerful medium. It has the ability to take you into the world and shoes of another, it has the ability to kindle our innermost human emotions and it has the ability to create and destroy. And even though I feel film is a medium of self-expression, we should be cautious about what we are showing to the audience; if we are communicating a false idea intentionally or unintentionally, it has equally condemnable.