

Manav Rachna International Institute of Research and Studies

Celebrating Pride month in Manav Rachna International Institute of Research and Studies, Faridabad

Sexuality is like a spectrum. Everything in the world is not just black and white. There are so many shades of gray in between and we must recognize them, acknowledge them and accept them. The month of June is recognized as the official Pride Month. People celebrate this month to honour the Stonewall riots of 1969 and establish equal rights and opportunities for the LGBTQIA+ community. Pride parades are organized all around the globe and thousands of people participate in them. Section 377 of the Indian Constitution forbade people from indulging in sexual activities "outside the order of nature," which meant that homosexual relationships were illegal in India. On 6 September 2018, this section was ruled out, and the Supreme Court of India stated that sexual activity between consenting adults of the same sex is not illegal anymore. There are still 69 countries which recognize homosexuality as a criminal act; some of them are Afghanistan, Bhutan, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and Lebanon. According to the surveys, the most 'gay-friendly' countries are the Netherlands, Spain, the United Kingdom, Uruguay and most other European countries. The symbol of pride is the 'Rainbow Flag'. It originally consisted of 8 colours- red, orange, yellow, green, indigo, violet, pink and turquoise. All the colours have a significant meaning. Hot pink means sex; red means life; orange means healing; yellow means sunlight; green means nature; turquoise means magic; indigo means serenity; violet means spirit. Amruta Soni- the first transgender Government officer in India, said the stigma should end. "We are the changemakers who can bring a positive change in the perspective of the society. I overcame all the changes. I am still fighting for my rights in my husband's family," she added. Many celebrities like Jim Parsons, Caitlyn Jenner, Elliot Page, Zaya Wade and many more have been very vocal about belonging to this community and they are making efforts so that people get justice and equality. We need to understand that these people also have the same number of limbs, same structure of nose, and eyes, but they get treated unequally, which is not fair. Just because of their sexual orientation, they shouldn't have to face these challenges or get bullied. The world can become a better place only if we educate ourselves and understand and accept others the way they are.

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