

THE PAPER CRANE

INTRODUCTION

Diversity is one of the most beautiful things about the human race but what is the extent to which it is accepted? We as humans face a lot of dilemmas in the cycle of life. While some decisions are easy to make, some of them involve a lot more than our own will and justification. The prejudice related to gender in society is no different. Gender being bipartite is a complete wrongful notion. By each day as the law and stature are aiming to make this world a better place to live in for diverse groups of people, there are various preconceived notions and practices that come in the way of achieving the result!

The stigmas and the conservative practices in various parts of the world make the visions of the citizens so blurry that they can't let someone be just themselves, love others and accept the way they are.

This month's issue of The Paper Crane is themed towards the presumption of gender being binary and putting the citizens into just two categories which are completely flawed and restricting. Accepting the true self, loving whomever one wants, is just so liberating and makes the world a more happy place. So, embrace yourself with Pride and celebrate yourself every day.

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE



Illustration by: Ishita

Disclaimer: All opinions mentioned in The Paper Crane are not the beliefs of the IJPSL, but that of the author.

The top of the page features a horizontal rainbow gradient. On the left, a white paper airplane is shown in flight, leaving a dashed line trail. On the right, a white paper crane is shown in flight, also leaving a dashed line trail. The title 'THE PAPER CRANE' is written in large, bold, black, sans-serif capital letters across the center of the rainbow background.

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MOVIE REVIEW

by Harleen Narang

Student, Lady Sri Ram College, University of Delhi

Based on the life of Professor Siras of the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), Hansal Mehta's 'Aligarh' is a commentary on the exclusive nature of one of the most prestigious academic institutions of the country vis-a-vis the LGBTQIA+ community.

From the gut-wrenching portrayal of a middle-aged man huddled on the floor of his room, hugging his legs, crying, to him resenting to being put into a box based on his sexual orientation and then resignedly saying in way of explanation that that which he feels inside of him cannot be defined by the three letters that constitute the word gay, the movie ends up acquiring a special space in your heart- and each time you visit that space, your heart fills up with grief and shame. Dr Shrinivas Ramchandra Siras, a professor of Marathi at AMU is fired when a video of his private moments is leaked online- two men break into the privacy of his bedroom, beat both him and his friend up, force them into compromising positions as they shoot videos.

As the plot unfolds, it is made known that the incident was orchestrated- an attempt by the authorities to oust Dr Siras owing to him being at the helm of the linguistic department despite him being an "outsider" and a "bachelor". All at once, the docile professor is rendered homeless and jobless and is made a spectacle of, just because of his homosexuality, few months before his retirement. Deepu Sebastian (Rajkumar Rao), a journalist from Delhi enters the plot like a ray of hope with a mind to get to the bottom of the story, and bring the the culprits whom the society had absolved of any blame, to the book. He forms a deep bond with Professor Siras. Set against the backdrop of the 2009 Delhi High Court judgement, Dr. Siras decides to fight a case against the university and after numerous hearings, the court delivers judgement in his favour. Despite him having achieved his cause, the movie ends on a shattering note, make us question our faith in humanity and cause revulsion at an Indian society that is so intolerant of anything that threatens to swerve from the parochial normal that it can go to any lengths to uphold its conservatism and bigotry.

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THE RIPPLE EFFECT OF AFFIRMATIVE ACTION TOWARDS THE LGBTQIA+

by Harsidak Chawla
Student, Delhi Public School

The LGBTQIA+ community is crippled by the effects of archaic, draconian laws that govern the members of the community. Governments worldwide have exhibited prejudices targeted towards the community, catering to the voter base that constitutes the majority in the country. Especially in South Asian countries where even the existence of laws recognizing the LGBTQ+ community seem absent from the political and legislative arena.

Around the world, most of the West, including the US, Canada, Western European nations, have recognized the existence of LGBTQIA+ communities and have laws favoring the members. However, the majority of the countries in the world still lack social acceptance to even begin with discourse surrounding affirmative action towards the community. Even in countries like Hungary, the LGBTQIA+ community is repressed by discriminatory laws that actively discriminate against the community members, restricting adoption by same-sex couples and legal gender change. This represents the lack of unilateral acceptance of the community even in European nations, where nations like Russia, Poland and Hungary have actively discriminatory laws.

This situation worsens in South Asian nations where the LGBTQIA+ community grapples with shame and discriminatory legislation and lack of social acceptance. The community's situation shows little improvement, which rarely manifests into affirmative action directed towards the community. In India, the LGBTQIA+ community has rarely ever received the respect and acceptance that they as individuals deserve. The current situation represents the dilemma concerning the community. Where on one side, the decriminalisation of Section 377 provides some relief and positive discourse surrounding the LGBTQIA+ community.

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On the other hand, laws passed like the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, that do not allow for self-determination of transgender status portray the dark reality of the community in India. However, even amongst this chaos, some affirmative action directed towards the community can positively affect and lead to more significant discourse and positive action. The recent Madras High Court judgement by Judge Anand Venkatesh regarding the "elimination of illegal discrimination against members of the LGBTQIA+ community". This judgement represents a ray of hope regarding the political situation of the LGBTQIA+ community. Affirmative action directed towards the LBTQIA+ community can have a positive ripple effect on society and has the potential to manifest into a more inclusive space for members of the community.

ALLYSHIP

by Divyanshi Arora
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What does it mean to be an ally?

An ally is someone who uses their power and privilege to support and advocate for members belonging to a marginalised community. In the context of the LGBTQIA+ community, an ally would be someone who doesn't associate with the queer spectrum but advocates for the rights of those who do.

Why is it important to be an ally?

People who identify as cis-gendered-heterosexual individuals carry with themselves the privilege of belonging to a community that does not have to face stigma on a daily basis, be it on a personal or a professional level. As an ally, it is imperative to use this privilege and create an inclusive and safe space; one where those whose space is taken away by society can be heard.





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Following are examples of practices picked up by a good ally:

- Face the prejudices and biases you have in mind, and further understand the issues the community faces and how deep-rooted they are by reading on them through authentic sources
- Checking your privilege!
- Never assume what people from the community want/need; communicate!
- Supporting queer-owned businesses
- And most importantly, call people out for cracking problematic/ offensive jokes, because “silence in the face of injustice is complicity with the oppressor”.

JOURNAL FEATURES

The Dilemma of Being Themselves: A Psycho-Economic Insight into the Difficulties faced by the Transgender Community

The paper stands very true to the current plight of transgender community across the world, the conditions they face and because of their identity, they are devoid of basic economic, social and psychological aids. From the economic perspective, there has been a comparative study between the transgender community of India and USA. Due to effective policies and proper implementation, the conditions in the USA are substantially better than India but to be treated as equals in any part of the world is still a far cry for the community. In the end, authors have recommended policies help the future generations to be more aware and accepting for the transgender community.

Comparative Study of the Progression of Queer Rights in India and the UK, with Special Emphasis on Intersex People

By addressing an issue around which dialogue is imperative in today's times if we are to achieve complete equality of all genders, the paper pushes forward the LGBTQIA+ narrative. It addresses misconceptions surrounding the community and also brings out the particularly striking contrasts between the degree of progress that has been made by the UK and India - it shows how the UK is far ahead of India in this regard, and even though India is progressing, it has a long distance to cover before it succeeds in making the country inclusive, safe and equal, for all genders.

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IMPACT REPORT

via Pew Research Center

% of people who say homosexuality should be accepted by society

| 0-20 | 20-40 | 40-60 | 60-80 | 80-100 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Russia Nigeria Tunisia Lebanon Indonesia Kenya Ukraine | India Bulgaria Turkey Lithuania | Poland Czech Rep. Greece Slovakia Israel South Africa Hungary South Korea | U.S. Brazil Mexico Argentina Japan Philippines Italy | Canada Australia Sweden France Netherlands U.K. Germany Spain |

EVENTS REPORT

Being an academic journal, the IJPSL acknowledges the profound gap existing in academia between research and the non-binary spectrum. To celebrate Pride month, it hosted a colloquy on July 11th and 12th, 2021 titled **'Navigating LGBTQIA+ Discrimination in Different Fields with Special Emphasis being laid on Research and Academia'** where members of the LGBTQIA+ community- Ms. Vyjayanti Vasanta Mogli and Ms. Simran Shaikh- were given a safe space to share first-hand experience in their fields. Both the speakers emphasized the importance of 'solidarity' and 'allyship' for the LGBTQIA+ Community in the world as a whole.

Ms. Mogli raised her concerns over corporate begging and the consequent effect it has on the loans for marginalized communities. While Ms Shaikh mentioned the lack of healthcare data concerning the LGBTQIA+ Community. Being trans women, both the speakers shared their rollercoaster journeys with our audience and instilled the value of acceptance.



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Call for Entries!

Academics is much more than extensive curriculums, rote learning and shining grades. It is also about addressing the emotional, social and ethical needs of students in an integrated learning format.

Our next issue will be catering to important aspects like counteracting the existing mechanistic learning structures, promoting the application of critical-thinking skills, introducing holistic educational models like Experiential Learning, the inclusion of undiscussed yet essential subjects like sex education and psychological well being in alignment with SDG-4, highlighting the significance of holistic teaching methods. It will also focus on holistic teaching methods that could be adopted by educators to help students discover their identities and find meaning in community and world connections and many more.

Send in your entries:

Short opinion pieces, thought snippets, poems, book and film reviews (200 words) and artwork or photographs now!

prandoutreach.ijpsl@gmail.com.

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