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**Homosexuality- How Prevalent Is This Practice In Tamale Metropolis In The Northern Region Of Ghana?**

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**Abstract**

At such a height of the global outcry on homosexuality this research has been carried out necessary to gauge the level of indulgence and people's perception of it. Using Tamale Metropolis as a case study the study estimates the extent of prevalence, people's perception of its source, the level of acceptability and the role of secular education in the *phenomenon*. A cluster random sampling technique was used to select (100) respondents in the Metropolis to fill questionnaires in which the researchers had made an underlining assumption that homosexuality would not be accepted in the society. The data collected were analysed by the use of SPSS (17) software. Hypotheses set was tested by the use of appropriate statistical tools such as Chi-square test, Analysis of variance and Correlation analysis while inferring from frequency tables and bar charts. Findings suggested among other things that majority (53%) of the respondents perceive the practice to be both evil and foreign to the society. As regards how-acquired,

53% of respondents, say it's from peer pressure with the remaining 47% putting it down to other factors including, financial influence, emotional trauma and genetic factors. To mitigate the scourge of the practice recommendations to mitigate the scourge included passing a law to restrict homosexuality, launching a massive public educational campaign to explain it and to encourage many others to treat victims humanely.

**Keywords:** homosexuality, prevalent rate, Tamale Metropolis, Northern Region, Ghana

## INTRODUCTION

Man having sexual relationship with fellow man! The reaction of most Ghanaians with their virtual moral superiority would be to brand it as "illegal, unreligious, dog-like and dirty act" but recent incessant media reports have revealed that the phenomenon of Homosexuality as a way of living is prevalent in our midst today. But has it always been the case, is the homosexual tendency a menace and how long ago has it been so? It is precisely to seek answers to these and several little nagging issues that this survey was conducted in the Tamale metropolis as a case study.

### *General Objective*

To determine the extent to which the menace of homosexuality has attacked the moral fibre of Tamale populace in order to evolve measures of controlling the act.

### *Specific Objective*

- To ascertain whether homosexuality is a genetic factor or an acquired practice.
- To determine whether education has influence on knowledge of homosexuality.
- To make recommendations on measures to be used to manage this problem.

### *Research Hypotheses*

- Ho: Homosexuality as an evil act has not yet reached alarming dimensions in Tamale Metropolis.  
Hi: The evil act of homosexuality has reached very dangerous dimensions in the Tamale society.
- Ho: No one perceives homosexuality to be a genetic issue but an acquired one in Tamale metropolis

- H<sub>2</sub>: People perceive Homosexuality as a genetic problem in Tamale.
- H<sub>0</sub>: In Tamale Metropolis, education has no influence on a person's knowledge of homosexual orientation
- H<sub>3</sub>: In Tamale Metropolis, a person's knowledge of homosexual orientation is influenced by education.

The output of this survey will contribute a tremendous worth of knowledge and literature to the subject under investigation and is very much called for now that it is a thorny global issue. It will also serve immensely as a focal point to policy makers, policy implementers, academicians, security personnel and other stake-holders as a direction for decision making pertaining to homosexuality and lesbianism.

The study would also attempt to determine the mainstay of the practice and as much as possible unveil the underlying factors anchoring the practice of homosexuality as well as serve as basis for recommendations on how to contain this canker that is eating deep into the moral fabric of our society

Many nations throughout the world have since the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century made frantic moves towards giving gay practice full recognition and formerly permitting homosexual marriage adoption and parenting, civil union and similar social vices. Such countries include: Netherland, Belgium, Canada, Norway, Sweden, Portugal, Argentina as well as South Africa. There is the growing fear that in the not-too-distant future some western countries will be allowing human-animal sexual relation. So worrisome is the situation that some concerned individuals have initiated research into people's perception as well as the extent of indulgence of the contemporary society of Tamale metropolis. Such a survey basically revolves around Tamale people's opinion of the practice of homosexuality and measures to put in place to cope with the situation within Tamale and the country at large. The survey also sought to find the major push or pull factors into and out of the dicey indulgence.

Tamale is a metropolitan district that has a total land size of 750km<sup>2</sup> (289,58sqmi) and an elevation of 151m (495 ft.). Tamale had an estimated population of 537,986 and a density of 480.77/km<sup>2</sup> (1,245.18/sq. mi) according to the 2010 census, making it the fastest growing city in West Africa. The town is located 600km north of Accra. It lies along the main Kintampo to Bolgatanga road. It is on this same trunk road that the neighboring West African countries like Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger also utilize when going to and from the other southern cities of the country. It is bounded by Tolon district to the west, Buipe district in the south, Savelegu district in the North and Kumbungu district in the North -West.

Tamale residents are moderate followers of Islam as reflected by the multitude of mosques in Tamale, most notably the central mosque, the sunites and the Ahmadiyyans mosques, north of the town center along Bolgatanga road.

Tamale is located in northern region and more precisely in the Dagbon kingdom. The local chiefs and district chiefs of Tamale are subservient to the Dagomba paramount chief (king) in Yendi the seat of paramountcy.

Due to its central location, Tamale serves as a hub for all administrative and commercial activities in the northern region, doubling as the political, economic and financial capital of northern region. The center of Tamale hosts regional branches of financial institutions and a considerable number of international non-governmental organizations. Tamale grew from a conglomeration of towns where one could find an architectural blend of traditional mud houses and more modern buildings the new and modern facilities include the newly constructed sport stadium replacing the town's former principal football pitch. The hospitality industry has grown significantly with new hotels and guest houses springing up all around the township.

With transportation, Tamale is served by Tamale Airport, located approximately 7 miles (11km) from downtown. The airport is mainly used by commercial airlines such as city link, Strabo air lined and Antrack air, which run regular flights between Tamale to Accra's Kotoka international Airport along with other regional capitals. Public transportation in the outward appearance of taxis is the most convenient means of getting around Tamale for visitors. The popular means of intra-city movement for a great number of the residents is by bicycle and/or motorbike. Transportation out of town is facilitated by the tro-tro private mini-bus system, metro mass and STC buses all of which provide a means of transport that connect Tamale with many other major surrounding towns and cities.

With a literacy ratio of 43%, according to 2010 census, the region as a whole lags behind in secular education but Tamale metro itself has a fairly high literacy rate being home to several pre-university schools and many tertiary institutions. The native inhabitants are mainly small scale farmers, metal-ware and scrap recyclers and a host of others on the buying and selling business. The rest are the many white and blue colour workers. Suffice it to say Tamale is a typical cosmopolitan city bustling with vigour and life. Occasionally it has its fair share of the isolated chieftaincy, religious and politically, based conflicts which can sometimes rock the city if only to calm within a few days to allow normal city hustle and bustle to go on.

In this session highlights of the statistics of homosexuality globally, from Africa and in Ghana are presented. It also touches briefly on the concepts and definitions, the effect of

homosexuality, the causes, possible prevention mechanism, the religious perspective of homosexuality as well as the scientific aspect of homosexuality.

### **Global Statistics on Homosexuality**

The William Institute of the UCLA School of Law, a sexual Orientation law and public policy think tank, estimates that nine millions presenting 3.8% of Americans identify as gay, lesbian, and bisexual or transgender (2011). With bisexuals making up of 1.8%, gay or lesbian representing 1.7% and transgender adults make up 0.3% of the population.

([gaylife.about.com/od/comingout/a/population.htm](http://gaylife.about.com/od/comingout/a/population.htm))

The number of homosexuals in Australia Nationwide statistics; 1.2% of adult identify as homosexual or lesbian, 1.6% of adult men identified as homosexual and 0.8% of women as lesbian. 1.4% of women and 0.9% of men said they were bisexual.

Source: The 2003 'sex Australia' survey of 20,000 people with a special weighting to Sydney's homosexual center. Conducted by the Australian Research Center of Sex, Health & Society (ARCSHS) at La Trobe University. Published in Australian & NZ Journal of Public Health, Vol 27 No2 2003 ISSN 1326 0200.

The report by the office of National Statistics placed Britain's gay and bisexual community at 1.5% of the adult population, almost 750,000. Six years before, however, ministers had estimated the figure at almost 3.5 million. ([guardian.co.uk/society/2010/sep/26/gay-britain-national-survey-statistics](http://guardian.co.uk/society/2010/sep/26/gay-britain-national-survey-statistics)). Among Canadians aged 18 to 59, 1.0% reported that they consider themselves to be homosexuals and 0.7% considers themselves bisexuals, about 1.3% of men considered themselves homosexual, about twice the proportion of 0.7% among women. However, 0.9% of women reported being bisexuals, slightly higher than the proportion of 0.6% among men. ([statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidian/040615/da040615b-eng.htm](http://statcan.gc.ca/daily-quotidian/040615/da040615b-eng.htm))

For the first six months after gay marriage was legalized in the Netherland, same-sex marriage made up of 3.6% of all the total number of marriages. The numbers have steadily dropped since then to around 3% with 2,500 gay couple's marriage in 2001, 1,800 in 2002, 1,200 in 2004 and 1,100 in 2005. ([gaymarriage.lifetip.com/cat/643g/gay-marriage-facts-statistics/index.html](http://gaymarriage.lifetip.com/cat/643g/gay-marriage-facts-statistics/index.html))

### **Brief History of Possible Existence of Homosexual Practice In Africa.**

The controversy as to Africa's place in the practice of homosexuality is what has necessitated many gay activists to dig deep to unearth so many shocking revelations especially about Africa. In one breath it is reported in Google IBT by Ludovica Laccino IB times-Thursday, January 30, 2014 that the practice was not totally strange and foreign to Africa for as far back as in the

1880s a Ugandan King, Mwanga II was known to be deep in the practice of homosexuality. He writes, revealing that the martyrs were burnt alive by the mentioned king because they (martyrs) had refused the King gay sex when they converted to Christianity. This came as a sharp argument against the criminalization of homosexuality by the Ugandan Government. He added that his research showed that throughout Africa's history homosexuality has been a consistent and logical feature of African society's belief systems. Indeed, he concludes that it is rather anti-African to criminalise the practice, insisting it was the British who rather introduced legislature against the practice in the early 1900s.

### **Statistics of Homosexuality in Africa**

One continent that seems not to waver its tradition is Africa. You might be wondering what exactly the laws are in the continent. There are four countries in Africa whose differing gay populations and stances are noteworthy.

Uganda has perhaps some of the harshest laws against homosexuality and homosexual behaviors than any of the countries in the world. In essence, homosexuality is punishable by law with life in prison. Therefore, it comes as no surprise that only about 1.5 percent of the population in Uganda is homosexual. Paradoxically Uganda's history reveals lots of information that would ridicule such a stance against the practice.

South African is almost the complete opposite of Uganda. South Africa is the only African country in which there are actual laws that protect the rights and freedom of gay people in the nation to exercise their beliefs and wants. That being the case, it comes as no surprise that South Africa, with a homosexual prevalence rate of 7% has the highest homosexual population among the African nations.. It constantly hosts gay events and even has a gay-only hotel.

Barrack Obama's country of Origin is Kenya. With his views on homosexual marriage, you might think the country he hails from has similar views. However, Kenya remains rigid against homosexuality. Despite recent attempts by governors to reverse the issue, 96% of Kenyan's population still perceives homosexuality to be immoral and illegal.

Egypt is one of the most historic, beautiful and legendary countries not only in Africa, but in the world as well. However, in order to keep true to its mostly Islamic religion, Egypt still has laws condemning homosexuality. Most of the population sees homosexuality as sinful as well. Even after the 2011 revolution, Egypt still remains strictly anti-gay nation. Its history of homosexuality dates back into several centuries before the birth of Christ

## Statistics of Homosexuality in Ghana

A self-styled human right advocate for homosexuals, Nana Kwaku Sarpong, has disclosed that three (3) percent of Ghana's population is homosexuals. Speaking on Adom FM's Dwaso Nsem on Friday, Nana Kwaku Sarpong poured out his frustration on how homosexuals in Ghana are treated. He argued that everyone in Ghana is entitled to his or her freedom but expressed worry over the manner in which people who are into same-sex relationship are shunned by society. In sharp contrast to this personal stance in reaction to Great Britain's recent warning of possible sanctions against any allied nations found discriminating against homosexuals, the great majority of Ghanaians cried foul at such a threat. They were prepared for possible withdrawal of financial assistance but never barged on their rigid rejection of the practice which most people myopically branded western.

## Concept and Definitions

**Heterosexual-homosexual continuum (also referred to as the sexual orientation):** is a psychological philosophical understanding of human sexuality that places sexual orientation on a continuous spectrum from heterosexuality to homosexuality, with sexuality ranging from exclusive attraction to the opposite sex to exclusive attraction to the same sex. This concept stems from Alfred Kinsey's 1940s surveys of sexuality.

**Heterosexuality:** is a romantic attraction, sexual attraction or sexual behavior between persons of the opposite sex or gender in the gender binary.

**Bisexuality:** this is a romantic attraction, sexual attraction or sexual behavior toward both males and females. The term is mainly used in the context of the human attraction to denote romantic or sexual feelings toward both men and women. It may also be defined as encompassing romantic or sexual attraction to people of all gender identities or to a person irrespective of that person's biological sex or gender, which is sometimes termed pan sexuality.

**Transgender:** is the state of one's gender identity (self-identification as woman, man, neither or both) or gender expression not matching one's assigned sex (identification) by others as male, female or intersex based on physical/genetic sex.

## Effect of Homosexuality

The following statistics are depressing, but might be useful in speaking and fighting for our right, acceptance and privileges.



### **Suicide and Depression**

(U.S Dept. of Health and Human Services, 1989). Suicide is the leading cause of death among gay and lesbian youth. Gay and lesbian youth are 2 to 6 times more likely to attempt suicide than heterosexual youth. Over 30% of all reported teen suicide each year is committed by gay and lesbian youth.

### **Rejection**

Fifty (50) percent of all gay and lesbian youth report that their parents reject them due to their sexual orientation. Twenty-six percent of gay and lesbian youth are forced to leave home because of conflicts over their sexual orientation in a study of 194 gay and lesbian youth, 25% were verbally abused by parents and nearly 10 percent dealt with threatened or actual violence.

### **Homelessness**

Approximately 40 percent of homeless youth are identified as gay, lesbian or bisexual service providers estimate that gay and bisexual youth make up 20-40 percent of homeless youth in urban areas. In a study of male teenagers self-described as gay or bisexual, 27 moved away from home because of conflict with family member over sexual orientation. Almost half had run away from home at least once.

### **Substance Abuse**

Gay and lesbian are at much higher risk than the heterosexual population for alcohol and drug abuse. Approximately 30% of both the lesbian and gay male population. Substantially high proportions of homosexual people use alcohol, marijuana or cocaine than is the case in the general population. 55 percent of gay men have had a substance abuse problem sometime in their life. In a study of gay male adolescents; sixty-eight percent reported alcohol use, twenty-six percent are reported to use alcohol once or more per week. Forty-four percent report using other drugs and eight percent consider themselves drugs dependent. Eighty-three percent of lesbians are reported to be using alcohol and fifty-six percent reported using other drugs. Eleven percent had used crack/cocaine in the three months preceding the study.

Rosarion M, Hunter J, Rotheram-Borus MJ (1992).

### **Homosexuality and Mental Health Problem**

Heterosexual's people, research indicates Homosexual people tend to experience more mental health problems than heterosexual people. Discrimination may contribute to the higher risk believes lead researcher Dr. Apu Chakraborty of university college London UK. His team



looked at of mental disorder among 7,403 adult in the UK whose details were obtained from the adult psychiatric morbidity survey 2007. Rates of depression, anxiety, obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD), phobia, self-harm, suicidal thoughts, drug dependency and alcohol were significantly higher in homosexual respondents. Four percent had depression episode in the last week compared to two percent of heterosexual people. The rate of alcohol dependence ten percent versus five percent and for self-harming it was nine percent versus five percent. The proportion of homosexual a person who described themselves as being fairly or happy was 30 percent, versus 40 percent for heterosexual people. Dr. Chakraborty dismissed the idea that the higher mental problem among homosexuals is as a result of discrimination. This was confirmed by his earlier study carried in the UK, USA and Holland which suggested that non-heterosexual people are at higher risk. These higher levels of psychiatric problems in homosexual people call for greater efforts at preventing the issues arising. Dr. Chakraborty adds that mental disorder, suicidal ideation, substance misuse and self-harm are among homosexuals than heterosexuals people. He stated that, although the level of discrimination was low, it was still significantly higher than heterosexual people. The study is published in the British journal of psychiatry

### **Promiscuous**

An official Publication of Institute for Sex Research founded by Alfred Kinsey, Alan Bell and Martin Weinberg reported that only ten percent of male homosexuals could be termed as “relatively monogamous” or relatively less promiscuous. Additional findings show that sixty percent of male’s homosexuals had more than 250 lifetime sexual partners, and twenty eight percent males homosexuals had more than 1,000 lifetime sexual partners. Another startling fact from the finding is that, seventy-nine percent admitted that more than half of their sexual partners were strangers. It has been revealed that seventy percent of Americans with AIDs are male homosexuals and bisexuals.

### **High Dropout Rate**

Approximately 28 percent of gay and lesbian youth drop out of high school because of discomfort (due to verbal and physical abuse) in the school environment. Gay and lesbian youth are at greater risk for school failure than heterosexual children. Academic failure, lack of student involvement and low commitment to school are profound for gay and lesbian youth because schools are neither safe, healthy nor productive places for them to learn.

### **Verbal and Physical Assault**

Teenage student, (gay and straight) say the worst harassment in school is being called a gay. In a national survey, youth (gay and straight) described being called a gay or lesbian as the most deeply upsetting form of sexual harassment they experienced. Gay students hear anti-gay slurs as often as 26 times each day; faculty intervention occurs in only about 3 percent of those cases. In Seattle, 34% of student who described themselves as gay, lesbian or bisexual reported being the target of anti-gay harassment or violence at school, compared to 6% of heterosexuals' students. 27% of gay and lesbian youth have been seen physically hurt by another student.

In 53 schools in Washington State, 77 incidents of anti-gay harassment and violence have been reported in the past three (3) years, with 34 of the incidents (44%) serious enough to warrant possible criminal allegation.

### **Victims of Crime**

Gay and lesbian are the most frequent victims of hatred crimes. Gay and lesbian are at least 7 times more likely to be victims than heterosexual peoples. In a study of five metropolitan areas (including Boston, Chicago, Minneapolis 1<sup>st</sup> Paul, New York City and San Francisco), there 1,833 reported incidents of anti-gay and anti-lesbian crimes, which was at 31% increase over the year.

Source:

- US Department of health human Services. Report of the Secretary's Task Force on Youth Suicide(1989)

### **Homosexuality and Nature**

Homosexuality is against Nature because sexual relations are permitted only within the confines of marriage, and marriage is only permitted between a man and a woman. Any sexual conduct outside these confines can only be described as an act against Nature.

God in his wisdom created man and woman differently. He introduced marriage in to the Garden of Eden between man and mandating them to procreate and fill the Earth.

### **The Bible and Homosexual**

It warranted God's wrath on Sodom and Gomorrah; it is 1<sup>st</sup> account (most famous) about homosexuality. Sodomy became another word for homosexuality. (Gen 19)

It is an Abomination; you shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination. (Lev 18:21)

It is a capital offense, punishable by death; if a man lies with a male as he lies with a woman; both of them have committed an abomination. They shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them. (Lev 20:13)

Without repenting it will keep you away from the kingdom of God; Do not be deceived, neither fornication, nor idolaters, nor sodomites, will inherit the kingdom of God. (1 Cor 6:9) It is unnatural; for this reason God gave them up to vile passion. For even their women exchanged the natural use for that is against nature. (Rom 1:26). Indeed there are several instances in the bible where it is clear that the Good Lord abhors it

### **Islam and Homosexuality**

Homosexuality is not allowed in Islam. There are various instances in the Quran and the Hadith where it is stated clearly the stand of Islam towards homosexuality.

#### **In the Qur'an**

We also (sent) Lut: he said to his people; Do ye commit lewdness such as no people in creation (ever) committed before you? For ye practice your lust on men in preference to women; ye are indeed a people transgressing beyond bound, Holy Qur'an 7:80-81 (the story is repeated Qur'an chapter 27 and 29)

Of all the creatures in the world will ye approach male and leave those whom Allah has created for you to be your mates? Nay ye are people transgressing (all limits). Qur'an 26:165-166

The end result for not giving up homosexuality was the destruction of entire cities when our decree issued we turned (the cities) upside down and rained down on the brimstones hard as baked clay spread layer on layer marked as from thy Lord: nor are they ever fear from those whom do wrong: Holy Qur'an 11:82-83

#### **From the Hadith (saying the prophet Mohammed (S.A.W))**

Narrated By Abdullah ibn Abbas: the prophet (peace be upon him) said if you find anyone doing as Lot's people did, kill the one who does it and the one to whom it is done. Abu Dawud 38:4447

Narrated By Abdullah ibn Abbas: the prophet (S.A.W) said, if a man who is seized committing sodomy, he will be stoned to death. Abu Dawud 37:4448

Narrated by Abus'aid al-khudri; the prophet (peace be upon him) said; A man should not look at the private part of another man, and a woman should not look at the private part of another woman. A man should not lie with another man without wearing lower garment under one cover; and woman should not lie with another woman without wearing lower garment under one cover (Abu Dawud 31:4007).

In fact, it is common in all races, at all times that the practice of homosexuality is evil and forbidding. Even though the practice is abnormal, those who practice it use calling for God's, people and government wrath upon themselves.

### **Science and Homosexuality**

Science looked at the causes of homosexuality and more genetically, the causes of human sexual orientation, with the general conclusion being related to biological and environmental factors. The biological factors that have been researched are genetic and hormonal developmental period that influence the resulting brain structure and other characteristics such as handedness.

There are wide range of environmental factors (sociological, psychological, or early uterine), and various biological factors that may influence sexual orientation, though many researchers believe that it is caused by a complex interplay between nature and nurture, they favor biological models for the cause. The American Academy of Pediatrics stated in pediatrics in 2004.

Sexual orientation probably is not determined by any one factor but by a combination of genetic, hormonal and environmental influences. In recent decades, biologically based theories have been favored by experts. Although there are continuous controversy and uncertainty as to the genesis of the variety of human sexual orientation, there is no scientific evidence that abnormal parenting, sexual abuse, or other adverse life event influence sexual orientation. Current knowledge suggests that sexual orientation is usually established during early childhood. The American Psychological Association, American Psychiatric Association and National Association of Social Workers Stated in 2006.

Currently, there is no scientific consensus about the specific factors that cause an individual to become heterosexual, homosexual, or bisexual-including possible biological, psychological or social effects of the parent's sexual orientation. However, the available evidence indicates that the vast majority of lesbian and gay adults were raised by heterosexual parents and the vast

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majority of children raised lesbian and gay parents eventually grow up to be heterosexuals. The Royal College of Psychiatrists stated in 2007.

“Despite almost a century of psychoanalytic and psychological speculation, there is no substantive evidence to support the suggestion that the nature of parenting or early childhood experiences play any role in the formation of a fundamental heterosexual or homosexual orientation. Is biological in nature, determined by a complex interplay of genetic factors and the early uterine environment? Sexual orientation is therefore not a choice.”

Professor Michael King states: “The conclusion reached by scientists who have investigated the origin and stability of sexual orientation is that is a human characteristic that is resistant to change. Scientific evidence on the origin of homosexuality is considered relevant to theological and social debate because it undermines suggestion that sexual orientation is a choice.”

Garica-Falgueras and Swaab state in the abstract of their 2010 study, “The fetal brain develops during the intrauterine period in the male direction through a direct action of testosterone on the developing nerve cells, or in the female direction through the absence of this hormone surge. In this way, our gender identity (the conviction of belonging to male or female gender) and sexual orientation are programmed or organized into our brain structures when we are still in the womb. There is no indication that social environment after birth has effect on gender identity or sexual orientation.

In studies with twins, researchers have found that far more of them are likely to share the same sexuality than with siblings that do not share the same DNA; however, the number falls short of 100%. These results show that there is a high correlation with a person’s genetic makeup and their sexuality. Neurologically speaking, gay men tend to have brains similar to straight women. Certain neurological responses, like the startle response, also show this correlation. The same is also present in other species (yes, many animals exhibit bisexual or even primarily homosexual behaviour).

There have been other trends documented, such as the fact that the more brothers a boy has, the more likely he will identify as gay, and this is true even when the boy is not raised with his older brothers. Gay men are also more likely to be left-handed. The ratio length of the index finger to the ring finger, which is caused by hormones in uterus and does not change as one grows older, also shows correlations between gay men and straight men. Some theories include that the hormonal balance of the womb, which influences sex development (whether or not the child is a boy or girl or intersex), influences a child’s predisposition to a certain sexual orientation.

If a female and a male are twins, sometimes the testosterone from the male affects the female embryo's development. Females thus affected are more likely to develop lesbian tendencies than other females. Considering the 26<sup>th</sup> pair of chromosomes in humans, due to particular rare genetic factors, some people born with XX chromosomes become males as opposed to females and people born with XY chromosomes become females as opposed to male. These people are more likely to exhibit homosexual behavior.

Despite social science and biological research, it is still not known what causes someone to be gay, lesbian, bisexual or straight. Scientists and social scientists will no doubt have to continue to study the causes of homosexuality in both animals' humans. No matter what the find, gays, lesbians and their supporters will continue to fight for fair and equal treatment.

In view of these scientific revelations there appears to be no justification for people treating them as criminals but a gradual stepwise education needed to pull everyone out of the shortsightedness of man's efforts to study God's handicraft. For as long as there is still a shade of doubt over the cause of this practice society will be very unfair to those who are born with such a tendency or biologically prone to developing the tendency.

## METHODOLOGY

In order to gather the information needed to achieve the stated objectives, the research structure adopted was descriptive, explanatory and exploratory. The study was descriptive to the extent that some of the questions focused on identifying the objectives of the study.

It was explanatory with regard to ascertaining reasons for the existence of an increased rate of the phenomenon and exploratory with respect to finding out some possible prevention mechanisms.

The study covered the total adult population of age 18 and above of the Tamale Metropolis. According to 2010 population and housing census, the population was estimated to be 210,869 and a growth rate of Tamale was 2.9% make it fastest growing city in West Africa.

With the projection formula  $p_{t+n} = p_t e^{rt}$

Where;  $p_{t+n}$  = future year

$P_t$  = Base year population

$e$  = natural log

$r$  = population rate of growth

$t$  = time.

Using an interval of four (4) years, i.e. from 2010 to 2014

Dividing the growth rate ( $r$ ), i.e. 2.9% by 100, we get 0.029

Therefore  $P_{(2014)} = 210,869 * e^{0.029*4} = 236805.0166 \sim 236805$

Sample survey was the method used to come out with generalized findings for the entire population. The method was considered the most appropriate basically for two reasons and this includes time and financial constraints to cover all the population. This is because the demand of any statistical investigation almost, always exceeded the resources available to the researcher.

The sample size was determined based on;

- i. The assessment of the likely response rate,
- ii. A predetermined level of precision not more than 10% margin of error.
- iii. A confidence interval of 90%.

Sample size ( $n$ ) =  $N / (1 + Ne^2)$

Where,

$N$  = population size

$e$  = margin of error

$Ne^2 = 236805(0.1^2) = 2368.05$

Therefore  $n = 236805 / (1 + 2368.05)$

$n = 236805 / 2369.05 = 99.957 \sim 100$

The purpose of the field research was to observe at first hand the opinions on practice of the phenomenon in the Metropolis and to sample views and perceptions on the ground about the phenomenon. For the purpose of this research, the researcher used both primary and secondary data. These different methods were meant to complement and corroborate each other.

The principal method of collecting the primary data was through in-depth interviews, the administration of questionnaires. In this study, the researchers made use of administration of



questionnaire because it provided an efficient means by which statistically quantifiable information can be collected.

Using a direct contact method, the researcher personally administered 100 questionnaires to respondents through a simple random sampling technique in selected neighbourhoods in the Tamale Metropolitan Assembly. The neighborhoods were also selected through a simple random sampling to make the research as scientific as possible. The literate respondents' responded to the questionnaires by themselves with a minimal guidance and the researcher took time to translate clearly to illiterate respondents. 20 questionnaires were pre-tested to potential respondents to examine its strength and weakness and some corrections were made.

Various descriptive and inferential tools were used in the treatment of the data used for the study. SSPS (17) software was used for all the analysis.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

**Table 1 source of information about homosexuality**

		Freque	Perce
		ncy	t
Valid	film or TV shows	38	38.0
	Friends	12	12.0
	Internet	19	19.0
	School	31	31.0
	Total	100	100.0

Source: field survey, 2014

Table 1 shows the frequency of the various sources from which the respondents got the information about homosexuality. From the above table, 38 percent out of the total respondents had it through film and television shows (the media), 31 percent from schools, 12 percent through friends and 19 percent from the internet

Figure 1 above represents the knowledge of the respondents about the subject under investigation. 31 percent said that they were perfectly clear with it, 46 percent out of them said

they know homosexuality, 17 percent of them were not very clear with it while 6 percent among them had no idea about homosexuality.

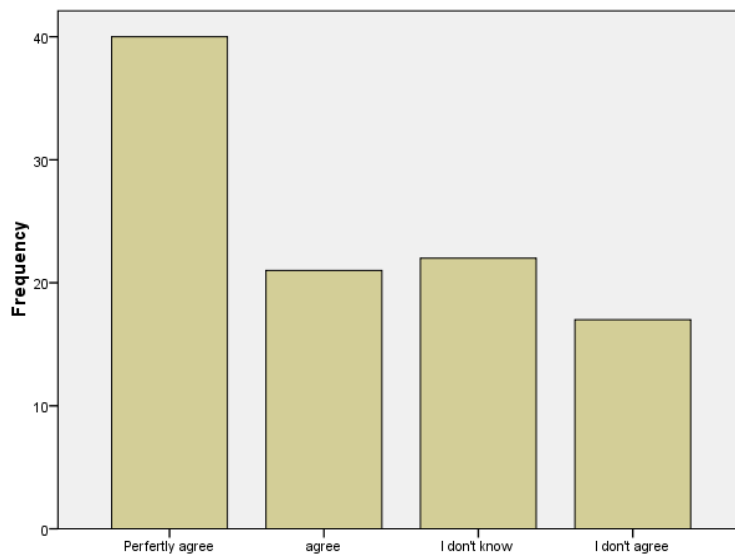
**Table 2 the closest attitude of respondents towards homosexuality.**

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	B	34	34.0
	C	61	61.0
	D	5	5.0
	Total	100	100.0

**Source:** field survey, 2014

The indication from the above table 2 shows that 34% of the respondent responded that homosexuality is a kind of moral corruption which needed to be punished which represent the letter B, 61% out of them responded that they can't accept homosexuality while 5 percent of them say that no one had the right to interfere into other person's life.

**Figure 1. Educational influences on homosexuality.**



**Source:** field survey, 2014.

In figure 1 above, it shows that 40% of the total respondents have perfectly agreed that education has influence on homosexuality, 21% agreed that it influences, 17% of them did not

agree that education had influence on it while 22% out of them did not know whether or not education really has an influence on knowledge of homosexuality.

**Table 3 Factors that cause homosexuality**

	Frequency	Percent
Valid	3	3.0
they were born homosexuals	4	4.0
emotional trauma	9	9.0
environmental effect	17	17.0
financial problem	14	14.0
peer pressure	53	53.0
Total	100	100.0

Source: field survey, 2014.

From table 3, it has been indicated that 53% responded that homosexuality is obtained through the influence of others, 17% said that is due to environmental factor, 14% said that is because of financial influence, 9% of them said it is due to emotional trauma. However 4 percent out of the respondents believed that homosexuals were born with it.

A test for the hypothesis (based on the proportionality count) leads to a rejection of the statement that people perceive homosexuality to be a genetic problem. It has therefore been concluded that a great number of people in Tamale metropolis do not consider the homosexual practice to be a genetic issue but attribute it to peer and environmental factors.

Table 4 Chi-square test of (table 4.5)

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	45.629 <sup>a</sup>	9	.000
Likelihood Ratio	49.976	9	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	.637	1	.425
N of Valid Cases	100		

Source: field data, 2014.

a. 7 cells (43.8%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 1.02.

### Hypothesis

Ho: The level of influence that a person's education has on knowledge of homosexuality is negligible in Tamale metropolis.

Hi: Education does have a significant influence on the knowledge of homosexuality in Tamale metropolis.

$$\chi^2_{\text{cal}} = 45.629 \quad \alpha = 0.05 \quad df = 9$$

$$\chi^2_{\text{table}} = 16.919$$

Decision: from table 4.8,  $\chi^2 = 45.629$  which is greater than  $\chi^2_{\text{table}} = 16.919$ , hence we reject the null hypothesis and conclude that the education does influence significantly one's knowledge of homosexuality in Tamale metropolis.

### Analysis of variance

(Ho): homosexuality is not evil and cannot affect society.

(H<sub>1</sub>): Homosexuality is evil and is affecting the metropolis significantly society.

Table 5 Homosexuality is evil

	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	1.183	3	.394	.459	.711
Within Groups	82.457	96	.859		
Total	83.640	99			

Source: field work, 2014.

F cal = 0.459

F $\alpha$  = 0.05 (3, 96)

F table = 2.68

Decision: From the above table 4.7, the f ratio is 0.459 with a degree of freedom of 3 and 96 at a significance level of 0.05, we obtained f table to be 2.68. Since the f ratio is less than the f table, we fail to reject the null hypothesis and conclude that homosexuality is evil and can affect the society.

Table 6. Homosexuals treatment by the society.

	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	5.223	3	1.741	2.385	.074
Within Groups	70.087	96	.730		
Total	75.310	99			

Source: field survey, 2014.

Ho: homosexuals should be treated well by the society.

Hi: homosexuals should not be treated well by the society.

F ratio = 2.385

F $\alpha$  = 0.10 (3, 96) = 2.13.

Base on the result obtained from table 4.9, the F ratio 2.385 greater than the F ratio 2.13 at 0.10 confidence level. Therefore we reject the null hypothesis and concluded that homosexuals should not be treated well the society.

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

(1) Findings with regards the closest attitude of the people towards homosexuality is that, majority of the respondents said that they cannot accept homosexuality representing 95% as against 5% who said that everyone has the right to belong to any sexual orientation.

(2) With respect to the factors causing homosexuality, the research found that most people attribute the surge of the practice largely to peer pressure with 53% response with another fraction of 47% contending that it due to environmental factors like, financial influence, emotional trauma with the barest minimum blaming it on genetic factors.

(3) With the aspect of the educational influence on awareness of homosexuality, it was found that 61% responses accepted that there it is an educational influence on person's knowledge of homosexuality while 17% think otherwise. However, on further analysis, it was revealed that the educational influence on homosexuality has an influence on the respondents' knowledge about homosexuality.

(4) By hypothesis testing, research has also showed that; (a) homosexuality is evil and can affect society; they should therefore not be treated well by the society.

(5) With the silent stance of government, high percentage responses indicated that it is because of political reasons and ultimately for the opportunity to access loans from the western world.

## Conclusion

Homosexuality is a real threat to our family system, cultural values, moral status, and health status and could eventually attract God's wrath. Findings in this exercise indicated clearly that most people in the metropolis take the practice of homosexuality as the worst offence not only to mankind but also to God. It has also come out clearly that homosexuality in nature is embodied with a complex interplay and a combination of several factors, just as social grievances can be colored with political interpretations. In seeking to control the act therefore, a combination of several factors will equally be needed. In our situation where a great proportion of the populace knows only next to nothing about the causes, influencing factors the scientific strides so far made at coming to grips with any genetic relationship, we may have to adopt a

humane treatment lest non homosexuals rather incur God's wrath. The researchers contend that the following recommendations if well adopted could go a long way to remedy the situation.

### **Recommendations**

How can this negative practice be managed in a prudent manner in order to mitigate it? The recommendations made in this section are based on our research findings as well as on some of the suggestions made by the respondents. The recommendations are as follows;

- (a) A vigorous educational campaign should be made across the country to inculcate in the youth of today the spirit of uprightness and the possible consequences related to the practice. The educational institutions should especially be special targets.
- (b) Religious leaders of various faiths should see it as an obligation to seek for in-depth knowledge on the issue and in turn teach their followers as to best way to treat somebody involved with the practice
- (c) Political leadership should endeavour to invite highly knowledgeable scientists to share some of their findings and recent stride talked in this direction with us who appear not to have taken pains to analyse the situation carefully before pronouncing judgment as we appear to have done already.
- (d) Parents and guardians will have to make conscious efforts to give their children a closer supervision than it has been before to ensure that their adversaries do not make easy prey of them especially in this era of sophisticated electronic communication.
- (e) It is our legal or judicial system which need strengthening in terms of equipping itself with the updated means of tackling issues related to thorny matters like homosexuality; as to whether the practice is criminal or otherwise as to it borders on human rights violation etc. Then and only then will society see that comments as those the researchers started the script with will be deemed as misguided.

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