

# SEXUAL ORIENTATION:

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# SEXUAL ORIENTATION:

- ◎ Is the degree to which an individual is sexually attracted to persons of the opposite sex and or to persons of the same sex.
- ◎ Most behavioral scientists conceptualize sexual orientation as a continuum ranging from exclusive heterosexuality to exclusive homosexuality. Kinsey research in late 40's and early 50's in U.S.A.he put 7 points 0-6.
- ◎ Sexual orientation comprises several distinct components, including erotic attraction or sexual desire, sexual behavior, romantic attraction and self identification as heterosexual ,homosexual or bisexual person.



# SEXUAL ORIENTATION:

- ◎ It is not uncommon for an individual to be at different points on the scale for different components.
- ◎ For example many people who are sexually attracted to persons of the same sex have never participated in any homosexual behavior ; many who have had frequent homosexual actions do not identify themselves as homosexual or bisexual persons,also individuals may shift over time on one or more of the components..



# FREQUENCY OF DIFFERENT SEXUAL ORIENTATION:

In a survey of sexuality in U.S.A 10.1% of adult men and 8.6% of adult women reported at least one of the following.

1. they are currently attracted mostly or only to persons of their own sex..
2. they found having sex with someone of the same sex somewhat or very appealing.
3. they had engaged in sexual behavior with a person of the same sex since age 18.



# FREQUENCY OF DIFFERENT SEXUAL ORIENTATION:

- ◎ In terms of self identification 2.8% of the men and 1.4% of the women identified themselves as homosexual or bisexual.
- ◎ This is an under estimate because many people are reluctant to report desires or behaviors that are still considered to be immoral or pathological.

# CAUSES OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION:

- ◎ Causes of sexual orientation:
  - ◎ To what extent is an adult's sexual orientation determined by earlier life experiences or to innate biological influences; such as genes or prenatal hormones.
  - ◎ San Francisco study 1981 included 1000 homosexual and 500 heterosexual men and women.
  - ◎ The study uncovered one major factor that predicted a homosexual orientation in adulthood for both men and women.
  - ◎ childhood gender non conformity.

# SAN FRANCISCO STUDY:

| Gender nonconformity preferences and behavior | men  |        | women |        |
|---|------|--------|-------|--------|
|   | Homo | Hetero | Homo  | Hetero |
| Had not enjoyed sex typical activities        | 63%  | 10%    | 63%   | 15%    |
| Had enjoyed sex atypical activities           | 48%  | 11%    | 81%   | 61%    |
| Atypically sex typed (masculinity/femininity) | 56%  | 8%     | 80%   | 24%    |
| Most childhood friends were opposite sex      | 42%  | 13%    | 60%   | 40%    |



# SAN FRANCISCO STUDY:

- ◎ The San Francisco study also yielded many negative findings which disconfirmed common theories about the causes of homosexuality.
- ◎ \* A person's identification with opposite sex parent while growing up have no significant effect on sexual orientation.
- ◎ \* homosexuals of both sexes were no more likely than their heterosexual counterparts to report having their first sexual encounter with a person of the same sex. moreover they neither lacked heterosexual experiences during their childhood and adolescent years nor found such experiences unpleasant.





# SAN FRANCISCO STUDY:

- ⊙ \* A person's sexual orientation is usually determined by adolescence even though they might not yet have become sexually active.
- ⊙ they typically experienced same sex attraction 3 years before they engaged in active experience.
- ⊙ these findings indicate that homosexual feelings not homosexual behaviors are the crucial antecedents of an adult homosexual orientation.
- ⊙ these disconfirm simple learning theory of sexual orientation including the popular lay people version that an individual can become homosexual by being seduced by a person of the same sex or by having an admired openly homosexual teacher, parent or clergy person.



# SAN FRANCISCO STUDY:

- ◎ Cross cultural data also consistent with this for example the Sambian culture of new Guinea in which all boys engage in exclusively homosexual behavior from pre puberty through late adolescence. then all of them marry and become exclusively heterosexual.
- ◎ Many scientists agree that the origin of both childhood gender unconformity and adult homosexual orientation may lie in an individual biology ; possibly in the genes or prenatal hormones.

# THE BIOLOGICAL FACTORS:

- ① 1-the hypothesis of prenatal hormone effect , a study followed girls who were exposed to extremely high levels of prenatal testosterone
- ② The girls who born with ambiguous genitalia , which was surgically corrected soon after birth .
- ③ In mid childhood reported to be more likely to be tomboys' than the control group.
- ④ In early adulthood they were more likely than the control to have same sex fantasies, prenatally testosterone had muscled their brain.

# THE BIOLOGICAL FACTORS:

- ◎ It has been reported that the hypothalamus of homosexual men differs in a small structural detail from that of heterosexual men (the hypothalamus is intimately involved with sexual hormones and sex behavior )but all homosexual men had died from AIDS complications.
- ◎ There is a very high ambiguity regarding prenatal hormones effect as a factor in sexual orientation, but the link between genetic factors and homosexuality is well established.
- ◎ A study of homosexual men who were identical twins , 52% of their twins brothers were also homosexuals ,compared with 22% of fraternal twins brother.

# THE BIOLOGICAL FACTORS:

- ◎ In lesbians 48% of their identical twin sisters are lesbians compared with 16% of fraternal twins lesbians. Only 6% of their adopted sisters are lesbians.
- ◎ A study of 5000 twins confirmed the heritability of sexual orientation for men but not for women.
- ◎ Chromosomal analysis of 114 families of homosexual men and 40 families in which there were two homosexual brothers showed evidence of a genetic marker of homosexuality on X chromosome.
- ◎ homosexual men had more homosexual male relatives on the mother side than on the father side of the family..



# THE EXOTIC BECOME EROTIC THEORY:

- ◎ Proposes that genetic and other biological factors do not influence adult sexual orientation perse but that they influence a child's temperament and personality traits, there is a solid evidence that most personality traits have a strong genetic or heritable base including temperaments such as emotionality , sociability and activity level.
- ◎ temperament predisposes a child to enjoy some activities more than others, some prefer rough play (male typical)other prefer quite play (female typical).



# THE EXOTIC BECOME EROTIC THEORY:

- ◎ Gender conforming children will come to have comfortable but non erotic friendships with members of the same sex , while gender nonconforming children will come to have comfortable but non erotic friendships with members of the opposite sex.
- ◎ Thus only the exotic becomes erotic..

THANK YOU...