

Human sexuality- my view & historical/cultural influences

Name

Institutional Affiliation

bestonlineessays.com

Human sexuality- my view & historical/cultural influences

Part I

Sexuality as a central concept in a human tends to determine to a greater extent on the major unfolding that occurs in one's life. As Greenberg, Bruess & Oswalt (2014) points out, human sexuality captures an interrelationship of aspects that are biological, psychological and social cultural in nature. Personally, as a young African-America young man, the three dimensions of human sexuality appear to have significantly influenced since I was a young boy till now.

The essence of biological aspects of my sexuality has played a vital role in changing how I perceive my physical appearance as man and how I respond to sexual stimulation. For instance, I have learned that as a man, I am always supposed to make the first move when approaching a person of feminine gender. The biological dimension of human sexuality has the upper hand in shaping one's sexual characteristics (Greenberg, Bruess, & Oswalt, 2014). Psychologically, I have learned how I am supposed to express myself, especially from emotional perspectives. For example, in most circumstances, I always find myself having to suppress my emotions simply because I am a man. Finally, from social-cultural aspects, the fact that I am a man profoundly determines what I can do in different societal settings.

Based on the personal experience I have so far, most of the information I have gained about sexuality portray men as controller of almost all facets of human life and are expected to be tough. I can relate the concept to my experience with my parents, teachers and peers who have significantly influenced my views on sexuality. For instance, my parents have always told

me that a man needs to be stable in all aspects before he starts a family life. Such ideas have significantly shaped my thoughts on sexuality, especially in seeing men as pivotal in determining the success of a family.

Part II

The Enlightenment period (1500s-1700s)

The time can be described as an era that was characterized by increased rationality among human beings. Initially, the concept of sexuality was perceived to be primarily meant for procreation and gender roles (Greenberg, Bruess, & Oswalt, 2014). During this time, people started to question strict beliefs that were attached to gender and sex. Evolution in regards to how people perceive sex and sexuality tend to be very unstable, making it hard for people to stick to established beliefs (John, 2014). In this respect, many people sought to get evidence that is more objective rather than subjective to validate norms and expectations that had been passed from one generation to the next regarding sexuality. Arguing from this perspective, it is clear that enlightenment period played a crucial role in ensuring that human beings understand their sexuality much better.

The Victorian era (The early 1800s)

The period was highly characterized by conservative values which were expected to be observed by both men and women. Despite the preceding enlightenment period, gender roles remained persistent during the Victorian era (Greenberg, Bruess, & Oswalt, 2014). During this period, men were perceived to be only people who were expected to have sexual desires. Women who openly express their sexual desires openly are usually seen to be immoral by many people (Zosuls et al., 2011). During Victorian era, such women were perceived to be prostitutes

or to be suffering from a particular illness that required medical attention. The occurrences that happened during this duration explain why men are still expected to make the first move while approaching women. A woman who looks for men is perceived to have loose morals in the society.

The women liberation movement (the late 1800s)

The period is expressly remembered as the time when condoms were first invented. Studies that were conducted during this period indicated that 1 out of 3 women were engaging in either cheating or fornication. The discoveries that were made by the women's liberation movements regarding irresponsible sexual behaviors led to the introduction of rubber condoms (Greenberg, Bruess, & Oswalt, 2014). Despite the invention of condoms being a positive move, it is ironical that such developments only happened after adverse sexual affairs were revealed among women (Marshall & Clive, 2015). The concept explains why sexual innocence and purity are still attached to women even today.

The great depression (through the 1940s)

The period profoundly influenced sexuality by changing the goal of dating from seeking for a future husband to a way of looking for a sexual partner. Also, the extreme economic hardship increased the need for birth control as many people sought to keep a manageable family. America and Europe experienced birth control boom throughout the 1930s (Greenberg, Bruess, & Oswalt, 2014). The harsh economic conditions that were experienced during the great depression lead to the legalization of the use of contraceptives which was initially seen as immoral and obscene especially by different religious groups. The idea explains why many

countries, both developing and developed relate birth control methods with economic development.

The sexual revolution period (1960s-1980s)

The period was characterized by remarkable changes on the concept of sexuality. Specifically, typical gender roles were notably rejected as people adopted different values and attitudes towards sexuality that were prohibited before (Greenberg, Bruess, & Oswalt, 2014). For example, heterosexual marriages became rampant, and intercourse outside monogamous relationships became widely accepted. Women also gained more power especially on the use of contraceptives as compared to early years. Commoditization of sexuality was utilized by some members of feminine gender as a source empowerment for women (Jennife & Tennley, 2014). For instance, intrauterine devices were first manufactured in the U.S. during this period. Therefore, it is fair to argue that the period had an influence on today's sexuality aspects as it marked the period when women started becoming more vocal about the issue.

Modern gay liberation (through the 1980s to 1990s)

As people continued to disregard typical gender roles, the focus now turned towards legitimization of sex without procreation during this period. The emergence of the popular gay culture significantly affected the society's attitudes and perception towards sexuality (Greenberg, Bruess, & Oswalt, 2014). The gay pride movements gained more pace with annual parades being held every year and embracing of signs such as rainbow flags. Legitimization of gay culture occurred as a result of significant changes in the society which included removal of homosexuality from the DSM by the American Psychiatric Association (Greenberg, Bruess, &

Oswalt, 2014). Hence, it is justifiable to assert that modern gay liberation era highly shaped today's attitude towards sexuality as it gave gays a voice in the society.

The 1990s to current – increased use of contraceptives characterized by increased permissiveness

The period between the beginnings of the 1990s up to today has been characterized by increased change of perception towards sexuality across the globe. There is widespread acceptance of various sexual behaviors that were previously seen as deviant (Greenberg, Brues, & Oswalt, 2014). For instance, many gay couples are nowadays adopting children to create an aspect of having a full family. Different types of birth control methods such as injections, implants and emergency pills are now widely used.

bestonlineessays.com

References

Greenberg, J., Bruess, C., & Oswalt, S. (2014). *Exploring the Dimensions of Human Sexuality*.

Massachusetts: Jones & Bartlett Publishers.

Jennife, D., & Tennley, V. (2014). Virginty for Sale: A Foucauldian Moment in the History of Sexuality. *Sexuality & Culture*, 18(3), 487-504.

John, L. (2014). Sex and Sexuality: An Evolutionary View. *Psychoanalytic Inquiry.*, 34(8), 831-846.

Marshall, W. W., & Clive, H. (2015). Historical developments in sex offender treatment. *Journal of Sexual Aggression*, 21(2), 125-135.

Zosuls, K. M., Miller, F. C., Ruble, D., Martin, C., & Fabes, R. (2011). Gender Development Research in Sex Roles: Historical Trends and Future Directions. *Sexual Roles*, 64(12), 826-842.

bestonlineessays.com