



Acceptance and Attitude of Filipinos Towards LGBTQIA+ Community

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Abstract— The battle for equality by the LGBTQIA+ community has been going on for a while, but it has gotten better as more people have come to believe that LGBTQIA+ individuals should be treated with the same respect and rights as everyone else. The social struggle towards the acceptance and attitudes of LGBTQIA+ community in the Philippines is still on topic since then until now.

The study was conducted in Antipolo city with 424 respondents. This study looks into heterosexual persons' impressions about the LGBTQIA+ community, as well as how they relate to their demographic profiles and the elements that may impact their views. This study took a correlational method, using questionnaires to investigate the relationship between the variables. The study revealed that the respondents' sex, age and educational attainment are significantly and moderately correlated, and likewise a significant determinant for both their acceptance and attitude towards the LGBTQIA+ community.

Keywords— Acceptance, Attitude, LGBTQIA+, Perception.

1. INTRODUCTION

The existence of LGBTQIA+ can be traced back for centuries. Historically, the Babaylans exercised their rights to cross-dressing for both men and women, as well as the capacity to marry and have sexual relations with people of the same gender (Reyes, L., 2022).

Currently, despite a society that is moving forward acceptance of differences, LGBTQIA+ issues are still a key topic in the community with a varied perception towards them. The acceptance and attitude towards minority groups, particularly the LGBTQIA+, still differ, as it is closely associated with social stigma. Varying perception on LGBTQIA+ community is dependent on whether a country is progressive or not (Flores, 2019). Countries with a more diverse population tend to have a more open culture that embraces diversity and tolerance for differences. Consequently, in countries with conservative or traditional cultures, gender and social norms must be more strictly adhered to earn social acceptance (Paisley & Tayar, 2015). The Philippines has a collectivistic society; though judging by the intensity of social standards, it is more tightly knit than American culture (Church, 1987, as cited by Church, A. T., Katigbak, M. S., & del Prado, A. M., 2010). Hence, in the Philippines, LGBTQIA+ individuals still encounter bias and discrimination within their families, communities, and schools. Thus, acceptance and



attitude towards LGBTQIA+ is still a long way process. As a result of people's negative sentiments toward LGBTQIA+ people, society has suffered, and the LGBTQIA+ community now demands equality and recognition.

There are gaps in our understanding of how individuals perceive their acceptance and attitude toward LGBTQIA+ people. Numerous research studies have been conducted and published in Western nations relating to acceptance and attitude towards LGBTQIA+ community, however, there needs to be more similar studies in the local context. Consequently, the study examines in detail the demographic profile to pinpoint factors that determine the respondents' acceptance and attitude towards LGBTQIA+ community.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Social Acceptance

To be socially accepted, individuals must be able to embrace others into their social group. Acceptance consists of welcoming the idea or the willingness to openly understand a person's sexual orientation without trying to control, change, or reject them. LGBTQIA+ acceptance refers to how LGBTQIA+ individuals are viewed positively and accepted within a society. Accepting LGBTQIA+ people for who they are can help to boost self-esteem, cultivate respect, and advance equality (Flores, 2019). Moreover, acceptance towards LGBTQIA+ plays a crucial role in ensuring that they are not socially isolated or subjected to prejudice, leaving people doubting their abilities and quality of life.

In the study of Flores (2021), the average degree of acceptance has grown since 1980. Specifically, out of 175 countries, 56 observed an increase in acceptance, 57 saw a decline, and the remaining 62 had no change in acceptance levels. However, despite the improving recognition, there is still a tendency for negative reactions regarding assumed sexual orientation, resulting in continuous social debates about acceptance and attitude. This is because LGBTQIA+ acceptance varies globally, influenced by both country and economic development where those with lower acceptance were observed in less developed and poorer nations (Poushter, J., & Kent, N., 2020).

Acceptance can be established through different factors, including indicators based on an individual's perceived social awareness such as problem perception, social norms, social influence, and stigma in the context of LGBTQIA+ community acceptance.

2.2 Attitude

People either have positive or unfavorable attitudes toward LGBTQIA+ individuals. Numerous studies have found that attitudes towards members of LGBTQIA+ have evolved to become more supportive and have improved substantially (Smith, Son, and Kim, 2014). Moreover, Poushter and Fetterolf (2020) stated that many people have expressed a desire to witness advancements in gender equality within their nations.

However, despite this positive opinion, the LGBTQIA+ community continues to face numerous forms of discrimination. According to Amante (2021), despite having an anti-discrimination ordinance in some cities, discrimination against minorities, including LGBTQIA+, still exists. This is likely due to the lack of a National

Framework in the Philippines, thus, the LGBTQIA+ community is not that well-received. Hence, while having multiple organizations involved can benefit the cause, too many can lead to confusion over the community's goals, objectives, and future actions, which makes it difficult to get support. A lot of factors can define attitudes towards LGBTQIA+, other perceptions are influenced by specific factors such as personal experience, cognitive consistency, interpersonal contact, and prejudice.

2.3 Varying Determinants

The acceptance and attitude towards the LGBTQIA+ community can be influenced by a myriad of factors. Global research often uses various factors to associate its influence with LGBTQIA+. According to Sloomaeckers and Lievens (2014), public opinion on acceptance and attitude towards the LGBTQIA+ community were associated with the factors of gender, age, education, and religion. Scrutinizing these demographic aspects is essential in unraveling their influence and contribution in shaping people's perceptions of acceptance and attitude towards the LGBTQIA+ community. Furthermore, it will provide valuable insights for a more comprehensive understanding.

3. METHODOLOGY

This study was conducted in Antipolo City and targeted Filipinos aged 18 and above who identify as heterosexual. To collect the information required for the study, the researchers then a 32-item research-made questionnaire, rated on a 4-point likert scale, which was validated by a group of experts on its construction and effectiveness.

The primary objective is to establish the relationship between the data collected in the respondent's profiles, ultimately aiming to predict determinants based on social acceptance and attitudes towards the LGBTQIA+ community.

Statistical tests and analysis were used in the study including Percentage, Mean, Chi-square test of Independence and Ordinal Logistic Regression to explore the level and analyze the relationship between demographic variables to their acceptance and attitudes towards LGBTQIA+ individuals.

3.1 Participants

The study actively involved 424 heterosexual respondents in the data collection process. The respondents were predominantly females (223 or 52.69%), and the age group was highly compromised by respondents aged 18 – 26 years old (196 or 46.23%). Majority were Roman Catholics (279 or 65.8%) and the respondents' educational attainment were mostly College Undergraduates (138 or 32.55%).

4. RESULTS AND DECISIONS

4.1 Level of Acceptance to LGBTQIA+

In this study, Table 1 demonstrates the level of acceptance of Filipinos towards LGBTQIA+ by sex, age, educational attainment and religion.

Table 1: Level of Acceptance of Filipinos towards the LGBTQIA+

Demographic Characteristics		Mean	SD	Description
Sex	Male	2.83	0.970	High Acceptance
	Female	3.29	0.811	High Acceptance
Age	18-26 years old	3.50	0.794	Very High Acceptance
	27-35 years old	3.08	0.601	High Acceptance
	36-44 years old	2.73	0.872	High Acceptance
	45-53 years old	2.64	0.857	High Acceptance
	54 years old and above	2.51	0.924	High Acceptance
Educational Attainment	No Schooling Completed	2.05	1.133	Low Acceptance
	Elementary	2.54	0.701	High Acceptance
	High School Undergraduate	2.92	0.850	High Acceptance
	High School	2.93	0.831	High Acceptance
	College Undergraduate	3.51	0.737	Very High Acceptance
	Bachelor's Degree Holder	3.05	0.964	High Acceptance
	Master's Degree Holder	4.00	0.000	Very High Acceptance
Religion	Atheist	3.14	1.082	High Acceptance
	Christian	2.86	1.001	High Acceptance
	Iglesia ni Cristo	2.77	1.110	High Acceptance
	Islam	2.64	0.924	High Acceptance
	Roman Catholic	3.18	0.842	High Acceptance

In the evaluation of acceptance levels towards LGBTQIA+ individuals, the results revealed a High Level of Acceptance ($M=3.29, SD=0.811$) for females and ($M=2.83, SD=0.970$) for males. Notably, females exhibited a significantly higher degree of acceptance compared to males. However, it was observed that both male and female respondents shared an understanding that LGBTQIA+ individuals are not considered problematic. It demonstrates how acceptance of LGBTQIA+ persons has advanced.

The result in the table revealed that both genders exhibit a high level of acceptance, which aligns with the results of the study "Exploring College Students' Acceptance and Attitude towards the LGBT Community" of having equal acceptance towards the LGBTQIA+ community (Kamarudin, Aisyah & Ahmad, Roslee & Mohd Nasir, Mohd Azrin & Yusoff, Che & Sawai, Rezki & Mahyuddin, Muhammad & Hisham, Hizral., 2021).

Regarding the age-related considerations, the overall acceptance level was found to be High. Respondents aged 18 to 26 demonstrated a Very High Level of Acceptance ($M=3.50, SD=0.794$), and that younger people are more likely than older people to welcome or support LGBTQIA+ as Lewis, G. (2011) stated. This age group exhibited exceptionally high ratings across facets such as problem perception, adherence to social norms, susceptibility to social influence, and sensitivity to stigma.



Furthermore, education emerged as a significant factor influencing one's willingness to accept LGBTQIA+ individuals. The data illustrated that individuals with No Schooling Completed displayed a Low Level ($M=2.05, SD=1.133$) of acceptance. This disparity was attributed to a lack of exposure to diverse viewpoints and educational opportunities. Conversely, a Very High Level of acceptability was observed among those with educational attainments, including college undergraduates ($M=3.51, SD=0.737$) and master's degree holders ($M=4.00, SD=0.000$). In a study by Fingerhut (2011), it stated that people with higher educational attainment are more likely to support or ally with LGBTQIA+ because they have the knowledge, abilities, information, and a deeper understanding of diversity and social issues. The correlation suggested that formal education can shape an individual's perspectives, enhance critical thinking abilities, and foster exposure to diverse ideas, thereby influencing their acceptance of others.

Lastly, religious beliefs were identified as a substantial determinant of acceptance levels towards LGBTQIA+ individuals. According to Ryan, Russell, Huebner, Diaz, and Sanchez (2010), Religious groups and religions have less favorable views of LGBTQIA+ people and are more inclined to ignore those views than to embrace them. The findings indicate that contrary to the study above, many religions nowadays exhibit a high level of acceptance towards LGBTQIA+. All religions states used in the study demonstrated a High Level of acceptance and Roman Catholic ($M=3.18, SD=0.842$) have clearly high weighted mean, as per the findings on religious affiliation.

4.2 Level of Attitudes to LGBTQIA+

Table 2 shows the level of attitudes of Filipinos towards LGBTQIA+ by sex, age, educational attainment and religion. The table illustrates that both men and women hold favorable attitudes towards the diverse community. Females ($M=3.32, SD=0.767$) and males ($M=2.80, SD=0.885$) demonstrate a Positive attitude towards the LGBTQIA+ Community. As individuals become acquainted with the community's members, there is potential for an improvement in perceptions. All ages show a positive attitude. This discovery suggests that younger individuals are more inclined to harbor positive attitudes and offer support to LGBTQIA+ individuals (Lewis, G., 2011). They also tend to be more tolerant, fostering a positive stance toward the LGBTQIA+ community (Kamarudin, Aisyah & Ahmad, Roslee & Mohd Nasir, Mohd Azrin & Yusoff, Che & Sawai, Rezki & Mahyuddin, Muhammad & Hisham, Hizral., 2021).

Furthermore, individuals with higher levels of education are more likely to exhibit positive and open-minded attitudes. In the table it shows that no schooling education ($M=2.23, SD=1.020$) shows a negative attitude while others show a positive attitude toward the LGBTQIA+. Higher education often grants access to increased opportunities and resources, given the strong correlation between education and social and economic status. Greater security and confidence may lead individuals to be more receptive to diverse ideas and experiences.

In terms of religious groups, the findings indicate favorable attitudes toward LGBTQIA+ individuals, only Islam is the only one that shows negative attitudes ($M=2.45, SD=0.688$) towards LGBTQIA+, while the rest of the religions show positive attitudes. The growing acceptance of LGBTQIA+ individuals within religious communities can be attributed to evolving attitudes in broader society, which has become increasingly accepting of LGBTQIA+ persons.

Table 2: Level of Attitude of Filipinos towards the LGBTQIA+

Demographic Characteristics		Mean	SD	Description
Sex	Male	2.80	0.885	Positive
	Female	3.32	0.767	Positive
Age	18-26 years old	3.46	0.754	Positive
	27-35 years old	3.04	0.605	Positive
	36-44 years old	2.80	0.851	Positive
	45-53 years old	2.70	0.868	Positive
	54 years old and above	2.54	0.822	Positive
Educational Attainment	No Schooling Completed	2.23	1.020	Negative
	Elementary	2.69	0.718	Positive
	High School Undergraduate	2.97	0.753	Positive
	High School	2.84	0.892	Positive
	College Undergraduate	3.47	0.727	Positive
	Bachelor's Degree Holder	3.15	0.771	Positive
	Master's Degree Holder	3.50	0.577	Highly Positive
Religion	Atheist	3.18	1.006	Positive
	Christian	2.97	0.917	Positive
	Iglesia ni Cristo	2.59	1.054	Positive
	Islam	2.45	0.688	Negative
	Roman Catholic	3.16	0.804	Positive

4.3 Relationship Between the Descriptive Profile of the respondents to their acceptance and attitude towards LGBTQIA+ community

As evident in the table 3, the respondents' sex ($\chi^2 = 37.996$, $cv = 0.299$, $p = 0.000 < 0.05$), age ($\chi^2 = 95.583$, $cv = 0.274$, $p = 0.000 < 0.05$), and educational attainment ($\chi^2 = 92.462$, $cv = 0.270$, $p = 0.000 < 0.05$) are significantly and moderately correlated to their acceptance of the LGBTQIA+ community. Likewise, the result also shows significant and moderate correlations between respondents' attitudes towards LGBTQIA+ and their sex ($\chi^2 = 28.146$, $cv = 0.258$, $p = 0.000 < 0.05$), age ($\chi^2 = 113.793$, $cv = 0.299$, $p = 0.00 < 0.05$), and educational attainment ($\chi^2 = 93.895$, $cv = 0.272$, $p = 0.000 < 0.05$). On the other hand, respondents' religion exhibits a weak correlation with both acceptance ($\chi^2 = 20.111$, $cv = 0.126$, $p = 0.065 > 0.05$) and attitude ($\chi^2 = 14.857$, $cv = 0.108$, $p = 0.249 > 0.05$), deemed statistically insignificant. Thus, sex, age, and educational attainment contribute to both the respondents' acceptance and attitude to LGBTQIA+.

Age and sex are factors that demonstrate an effect of being more accepting; for example, young people and women were more accepting and tolerant towards the LGBTQIA+ population, (Kamarudin, Aisyah & Ahmad, Roslee & Mohd Nasir, Mohd Azrin & Yusoff, Che & Sawai, Rezki & Mahyuddin, Muhammad & Hisham, Hizral., 2021). The impact of education on LGBTQIA+ individuals is also inferred similarly (Slootmaeckers & Lievens, 2014). This is



likely caused by more awareness of and understanding of issues relating to LGBTQIA+ individuals, as well as a more remarkable ability to think critically and reject rumors. Thus, this illustrates the influence and connection between sex, age, and level of education and acceptance of LGBTQIA+.

Table 3: Relationship Between the Descriptive Profile of the respondents to their acceptance and attitude towards LGBTQIA+ community

Descriptive Characteristics	Relationship	χ^2 value	Cramer's V	Strength of Relationship	p - value	Interpretation
Sex	Acceptance	38.000	0.299	Moderate	0.000	Significant
	Attitude	28.146	0.258	Moderate	0.000	Significant
Age	Acceptance	95.580	0.274	Moderate	0.000	Significant
	Attitude	113.793	0.299	Moderate	0.000	Significant
Educational Attainment	Acceptance	92.460	0.270	Moderate	0.000	Significant
	Attitude	93.895	0.272	Moderate	0.000	Significant
Religion	Acceptance	20.110	0.126	Weak	0.065	Not Significant
	Attitude	14.857	0.108	Weak	0.249	Not Significant

For the attitude, sex plays a role in explaining their attitude towards LGBTQIA+. According to Lewis (2011), women exhibit a more favorable attitude towards the group than males. Age also influences on shaping attitudes toward the LGBTQIA+ community, mostly the younger individuals, as noted by Lewis (2011), who are generally demonstrating more openness and receptivity about LGBTQIA+ which leads to a more positive attitude compared to older individuals. Educational attainment, on the other hand, is often associated with attitudes towards LGBTQIA+ people, especially those with higher levels of education, as numerous studies have stated (Fingerhut, 2011; Sloomaeckers & Lievens, 2014).

4.4 Determinants of Respondents' Acceptance and Attitude towards LGBTQIA+ community

The findings shows that sex, age and educational attainment of the respondents were a significant determinant for acceptance towards LGBTQIA+ community. Specifically, it shows on sex that females are 1.897 times more likely to be more accepting to LGBTQIA+ than males with an estimate of 0.640. This suggests that males are less likely to embrace LGBTQIA+ people than females. In addition, the table also shows that those who age older than 18-26 years old are more likely to be less accepting towards the LGBTQIA+ group than individuals who fit on the said age range.

This finding indicates that as people age, their acceptance towards LGBTQIA+ also decreases. The estimate of -1.064 for 27-35 years old for instance is evidence that shows a negative correlation between acceptance and age, implying that older people in that given age range are generally less likely than younger people to be accepting of the LGBTQIA+ community, similar with individuals ages 36 years and above compared to 18-24 years old. As a result, older adults are more likely than younger people to have a lower level of acceptance towards the LGBTQIA+ population.

Table 4: Determinants of Respondents' Acceptance towards LGBTQIA+ community

<i>Predictor</i>	<i>Estimate</i>	<i>SE</i>	<i>Z</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>Odds ratio</i>
<i>Sex:</i>					
<i>Female – Male</i>	0.640	0.201	3.181	0.001	1.897
<i>Age:</i>					
<i>27 - 35 years old – 18 - 26 years old</i>	-1.064	0.324	-3.286	0.001	0.345
<i>36 - 44 years old – 18 - 26 years old</i>	-1.725	0.357	-4.833	<.001	0.178
<i>45 - 53 years old – 18 - 26 years old</i>	-1.850	0.331	-5.591	<.001	0.157
<i>54 years old and above – 18 - 26 years old</i>	-1.772	0.311	-5.688	<.001	0.170
<i>Educational Attainment:</i>					
<i>No Schooling Completed – Master's Degree Holder</i>	-16.363	0.384	-42.629	<.001	7.83e-8
<i>Elementary – Master's Degree Holder</i>	-15.470	0.297	-52.134	<.001	1.91e-7
<i>High School Undergraduate – Master's Degree Holder</i>	-14.895	0.278	-53.567	<.001	3.40e-7
<i>High School – Master's Degree Holder</i>	-15.020	0.186	-80.620	<.001	3.00e-7
<i>College Undergraduate – Master's Degree Holder</i>	-14.166	0.213	-66.500	<.001	7.05e-7
<i>Bachelor's Degree Holder – Master's Degree Holder</i>	-14.557	0.238	-61.117	<.001	4.76e-7
<i>Religion:</i>					
<i>Christian – Roman Catholic</i>	-0.470	0.250	-1.884	0.060	0.625
<i>Iglesia ni Cristo – Roman Catholic</i>	-0.522	0.456	-1.144	0.252	0.594
<i>Atheist – Roman Catholic</i>	0.231	0.447	0.517	0.605	1.260
<i>Islam – Roman Catholic</i>	-0.524	0.609	-0.859	0.390	0.592

For the variable of educational attainment, it shows that those with higher education are more likely to have an association with the likelihood of acceptance towards the LGBTQIA+ community. No schooling completed for instance shows strong evidence that suggests its association with a difference in acceptance with p-value of <0.001. The findings suggest a decrease in acceptance towards the LGBTQIA+ community from Master's Degree holders to those with no schooling completed, which is indicated by the estimate of -16.363 and odds ratio of 7.83e-8. Similar results were also present for those with college undergraduates and high school undergraduates as opposed to those with no schooling completed. In other words, individuals with no schooling completed are more likely to exhibit lower acceptance than those with higher education attained. Likewise, religion has shown no significant effect as a determinant for acceptance towards LGBTQIA+.

4.5 Determinants of Respondents' Acceptance and Attitude towards LGBTQIA+ community



Table 5: Determinants of Respondents' Attitudes towards LGBTQIA+ community

<i>Predictor</i>	<i>Estimate</i>	<i>SE</i>	<i>Z</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>Odds ratio</i>
Sex:					
Female – Male	0.932	0.203	4.591	<.001	2.539
Age:					
27 - 35 years old – 18 - 26 years old	-1.041	0.325	-3.201	0.001	0.353
36 - 44 years old – 18 - 26 years old	-1.468	0.356	-4.123	<.001	0.230
45 - 53 years old – 18 - 26 years old	-1.563	0.332	-4.709	<.001	0.210
54 years old and above – 18 - 26 years old	-1.638	0.308	-5.315	<.001	0.194
Educational Attainment:					
Elementary – No Schooling Completed	0.779	0.528	1.475	0.140	2.178
High School Undergraduate – No Schooling Completed	1.171	0.523	2.238	0.025	3.226
High School – No Schooling Completed	0.807	0.460	1.754	0.079	2.240
College Undergraduate – No Schooling Completed	1.707	0.481	3.550	<.001	5.512
Bachelor's Degree Holder – No Schooling Completed	1.532	0.488	3.141	0.002	4.629
Master's Degree Holder – No Schooling Completed	3.317	1.178	2.816	0.005	27.569
Religion:					
Christian – Roman Catholic	-0.235	0.246	-0.955	0.340	0.790
Iglesia ni Cristo – Roman Catholic	-0.769	0.460	-1.673	0.094	0.464
Atheist – Roman Catholic	0.477	0.453	1.053	0.292	1.611
Islam – Roman Catholic	-0.793	0.607	-1.306	0.192	0.453

As evident in table 5, sex, age, and educational attainment contribute as determinants to the respondents' attitude to LGBTQIA+. Sex has a significant effect on attitude with a p-value of <0.001. The estimate of 0.932, and its odds ratio of 2.539 indicates that there is an increase in the level of attitude towards LGBTQIA+ on female compared to male. This illustrates that women are more likely than men to show a higher level of attitude to the members of LGBTQIA+. Similar to acceptance, the factor of age has also revealed that it has an effect on their attitude towards LGBTQIA+. Those who age from 18-26 years old are more likely to show a favorable attitude than those who are not included within the said age range. Based on the result, from the age of 18-26 years old there is a decrease in attitude as an individual ages. Moreover, educational attainment appears to be a significant predictor of attitude. Specially, individuals who have attained a higher level of education are more likely to exhibit a favorable attitude compared to those with no education attained. In particular, Bachelor's Degree holders are more likely to show a

higher level of attitude towards LGBTQIA+ than those with no schooling completed, which is supported with its estimate of 1.532 and odds ratio of 4.629.

Based on the findings, the same demographic profile of the respondents' sex, age, and level of education serves as a determinant for both acceptance and attitude. According to numerous studies, said factors supposedly influence an individual's acceptance and attitude toward the LGBTQIA+. As stated by Sloommaeckers and Lievens (2014), differences in perception are consistently seen concerning LGBTQIA+ through the characteristics of sex, age, education, and religion.

Differences in perception and behavior related to gender are associated with established notions about gender roles and expectations (Woodford, M. R., Silverschanz, P., Swank, E., Scherrer, K. S., & Raiz, L., 2012), attitudes (Lewis, G., 2011), problems with acceptance and due to people's perception (Kamarudin, Aisyah & Ahmad, Roslee & Mohd Nasir, Mohd Azrin & Yusoff, Che & Sawai, Rezki & Mahyuddin, Muhammad & Hisham, Hizral., 2021).

Age is another factor that affects the perspective of an individual to people who identify as a member of LGBTQIA+ and is a consistent predictor of homonegativity according to numerous studies. Younger individuals exhibit more acceptance and support compared to older people (Manaslastas, E.J., Ojanen, T.T., Torre, B.A., Ratanashevorn, R., Hong, B.C., Kumaresan, V., & Veeramuthu, V., 2017). It also affects tolerance of LGBTQIA+ people and shows a positive attitude towards the community.

Education is another determinant, especially for individuals with higher educational attainment (Keleher PhD, A., and Smith PhD, E., 2012). This is due to the claim that education broadens knowledge and viewpoint which leads to more excellent information and a greater awareness of LGBTQIA+, that ultimately leads to more accepting perspectives towards LGBTQIA+.

Only religion was excluded from the factors identified by Sloommaeckers and Lievens (2014) as predictors due to insignificant result despite numerous studies have asserted that religion has an impact on people's perceptions of and attitudes towards the LGBTQIA+ group, both positively (Jerome, Ting, & Yeo, 2021) and negatively (Ryan, C., Russell, S. T., Huebner, D., Diaz, and Sanchez, J., 2010).

5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In spite of the prolonged struggle for equal rights spanning over two decades within the LGBTQIA+ community, their voices remain unheard and marginalized. The majority of heterosexual Filipinos continue to conceal this community, rendering them susceptible. Previous research has primarily focused on discrimination, but this study, conducted during the second semester of the academic year 2022-2023, delves into factors influencing respondents' acceptance and perspectives toward LGBTQIA+. Employing a correlation design, the study determined the association between independent values and dependent variables by collecting data through a validated questionnaire. Statistical analyses, including percentage, mode, Chi Square test, and Ordinary Logistic



Regression, were employed to enhance reliability and validity. However, to fully grasp the complexity of the issue, further investigation into numerous determinants is deemed essential.

The respondents displayed a remarkably high level of acceptance toward the LGBTQIA+ community, indicating robust support for the group. Additionally, respondents generally exhibited positive attitudes toward the LGBTQIA+ community, reflecting a high level of favorable disposition. Gender, age, and educational attainment of the respondents were found to have a significant positive correlation with both acceptance and attitude toward the LGBTQIA+ community. Furthermore, the demographic profile of respondents, including gender, age, and educational attainment, emerged as determinants influencing acceptance and attitude toward the LGBTQIA+ community.

To promote gender equality and raise awareness of fundamental human rights, it is suggested that the LGBTQIA+ community collaborates with local communities to organize events like Pride March. They can also support each other by establishing new LGBTQIA+ organizations and assisting existing ones in nearby barangays. Local Government Units (LGUs) and the government are urged to conduct educational discussions such as SOGIESC 101 to enhance understanding of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and sex characteristics. Measures such as increasing visibility, establishing safety protocols, engaging with LGBTQIA+ groups, and developing programs emphasizing SOGIESC identities are recommended.

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