

For example, in France, a legal person may face persecution both by the administration and the Criminal Court. Legal entities in England, Belgium, Finland, Netherlands are also held criminally responsible for crimes against the environment security [5, c. 70].

Japanese law "on the punishment of crimes against the environment" in 1970 states criminal liability for the negligent breach of the requirements on emissions of pollutants that threaten the health and lives of people. The main form of guilt under this Act is negligence. For example, in the case of harm to human health caused by air pollution in the area of Tsu in 1971, the court found six companies guilty of negligence, as they had not carried out a pilot study to assess the possible negative impact of the manufacturing process on the environment, as well as for the fact that no measures had been taken when the harmful effects became apparent. [2]

As a rule, major penalties applicable to legal persons are: a fine, a restriction or termination of activity, liquidation, special confiscation.

We believe that the possibility of legal persons' criminal liability for the commission of pre-emptive-captivity against the environmental safety and the environment can and should be considered in connection with the realities of environmental crime in Belarus. It should be noted that the effectiveness of the criminal-law sanctions is stronger and in the criminal law a significantly greater fine for an individual is used is. Moreover the application of the criminal liability creates certain undesirable reputation for the enterprise. In our opinion, it is also necessary to perform an expert examination on the feasibility of the introduction of the following sanctions applicable to the entity:

- fine and (or) the termination of a legal entity;
- prohibition to engage in certain activities, and (or) an obligation to eliminate the harm caused;
- banning the manufacturing of certain types of products;
- banning certain types of activity of the enterprise;
- cancelling the license;
- discharging the office managers;
- factory closing;
- closing down the business.

Prohibition to perform certain activities or termination of Legal Aid-ray person are quite a severe and effective preventive measure, especially for businesses and private sector organizations.

Where the offense is committed by an organization's, institution's or enterprise's employee deliberately, liability should only be applied to that person. In our opinion if he commits a crime while on his duties in the interests of a legal person, the given individual and legal persons should be held responsible [3, p. 13].

We consider the abovementioned suggestions applicable in the legislation of the Republic of Belarus, that is proved by the experience of legal persons' criminal liability abroad. It can have a positive impact on the level of criminal-legal regulation of responsible for the acts in question. Moreover, the introduction of criminal liability of the legal persons, in our opinion, will increase the degree of responsibility for environmental transgression related to environmental pollution.

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#### STUDENTS' ATTITUDES TOWARDS HOMOSEXUALITY

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*In this article we carry out the analysis on theories of the origins of non-normative sexuality and submit the data of our own research on particularities of students' attitudes towards non-normative sexuality. In the*

*western world individuals practising homosexual behavior have experienced a history of oppression by the culture that has long regarded such practices as sinful and sick. Not long ago homosexuality was considered pathological behavior and in some countries the subject of the pathology of homosexuality continues to be hotly debated by different specialists.*

Currently the problem of public attitude to homosexuality is becoming increasingly relevant. Public opinion has been paying a great deal of attention to the issue. It's associated with LGBT community which has started to assert their rights in recent decades. They are struggling to achieve equality for all people, to eliminate prejudice and discrimination against LGBT persons and to support gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgender.

The issue of homosexuality is also considered by historians, sociologists and anthropologists, evolutionary biologists, neurologists, psychologists and psychiatrists. The study of various aspects of homosexuality has become one of the leading topics in the field of gender psychology in many countries of Western Europe. However, in Russia and in our country this issue had been strongly banned for a long time. It was only mentioned in specialized books relating to medical and forensic-criminological sciences.

And yet over the last decades, we can clearly see some positive changes. Since the mid 80-ies the issue of homosexuality came to be seen not only in the framework of scientific interest. It was openly talked about in the society and even discussed. The works of such authors as I. S. Kon, F. Montemor, L. S. Klein seemed to be a breakthrough in the issue of homosexuality.

Many people still believe that the existence of same-sex love is a shameful and immoral phenomenon, but thanks to some research in psychology, neuropsychology and history, people have obtained more knowledge of this issue. But this does not mean that they have started to behave more tolerant towards sexual minorities.

Scientists have found that hostility to homosexuality is much stronger than hostility to other groups. According to the studies conducted in 1990 one third of homosexuals said that they were treated with contempt and every fourth was even physically abused [3].

Thus we decided to evaluate students' attitude to homosexuality.

Homosexuality is romantic attraction, sexual attraction or sexual behavior between members of the same sex or gender [4]. This term was forgotten for a while, but a Berlin sexologist Magnus Hirschfeld renewed this term in 1905. In 1908 Henry Havelock Ellis legalized the use of the term «Homosexuality» in his book «Sexual Inversion» [1].

According to the research of Allis and Armes in 1987, about 4% of the male population and 1% of the female population are homosexuals. The percentage of gays and lesbians remains constant for many years and it's the same for the majority of cultures (Hyde, 1986) [2].

Because of endocrinology, physiology and neuroendocrinology we know far more about reasons and factors in homosexuality than it was 20 or 30 years ago. Although some researchers are still sure that family and peculiarities of upbringing can affect formation of the sexual orientation, it is undeniable that homosexuality has certain natural background which is biologically predetermined.

The homosexuality exists anytime and anywhere. It's fixed in all societies and historically confirmed. Sometimes gays and lesbians achieved a high position in society and government, science and art, church and jurisprudence. But attitude to homosexuality varies in different cultures and different times.

In recent decades we're seeing a homophobic boom which is increasing in a worrying way.

Today the issue of homosexuality is the least studied issue in Russian-speaking psychology.

The purpose of our research is to study peculiarities of students' attitudes towards homosexuality. The sample consisted of 54 people. All of them were students of Polotsk State University and they were between 18 and 21 years old.

The following techniques were used:

- Semantic differential by Ch.E. Osgood;
- The Incomplete Sentences Technique by Sacks and Levy.

We put forward the following hypothesis in our research: students' attitude towards homosexuality depends on the spheres of interaction.

We have distinguished three social spheres of interaction which are important for students: a sphere of interpersonal relationships, a sphere of social interaction (a wider sphere) and an educational sphere.

According to our data, students' attitudes towards homosexuality in the sphere of interpersonal relationships and in the sphere of social interaction differ from each other ( $p = 0,025$ ).

We suppose that people may feel more loyalty to close associates than to strangers or unfamiliar people. Even if people don't like some personal quality of their friends or acquaintances, they are more tolerant to these people, only because they know them.

We have had a large number of neutral responses in the sphere of social interaction; we can suggest that people don't care much about personal lives of people who aren't part of their social network.

Students' attitudes to homosexuality in the educational sphere and the sphere of social interaction do not differ.

Thus we can see that 16,7% of the students are positively disposed to sexual minorities if they are a part of their interpersonal relationships. 13,43% of the students are negatively disposed and 19,91% – neutrally disposed.

Concerning the sphere of interpersonal relationships there are significant differences. Only about 8,8% of the students are positively disposed to sexual minorities, 14,81% – negatively disposed and 26,39% – neutrally disposed.

When considering the results of the two spheres directly we can see the following data: 25,46% of the students are positively disposed to sexual minorities, 28,24% – negatively disposed and 46,30% – neutrally disposed.

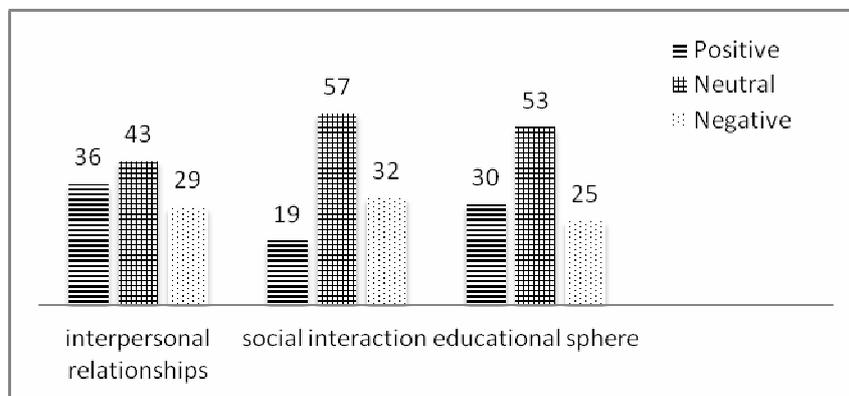


Fig. The indicators of students' attitudes to homosexuality in different spheres of interaction

In order to measure connotative meanings we used Semantic Differential by Osgood. The connotations are used to derive the attitude towards the given object, event or concept.

In accordance with the results we have got we can see that between the scales of «Evil – Good» and «Valuable – Worthless» ( $P < 0,05, R = 0,42$ ), «Evil – Good» and «Undesirable – Desirable» ( $P < 0,05, R = 0,36$ ), «Unpleasant – Pleasant» and «Valuable – Worthless» ( $P < 0,05, R = 0,37$ ), «Unpleasant – Pleasant» and «Undesirable – Desirable» ( $P < 0,05, R = 0,51$ ) there is a moderate correlation.

Thus we can conclude that though the majority of the students have neutral attitudes towards sexual minorities according to The Incomplete Sentences Technique by Sacks and Levy, we see that the connotations given by the students are negative in Semantic Differential by Osgood.

This can be explained by the fact that hatred of homosexuality as well as anti-Semitism, xenophobia, racism, sexism is rooted not so much in the individual as in social psychology.

The level of homophobia in a society depends on a number of different factors:

- on the level of social and cultural tolerance;
- on the level of sexual anxiety;
- on the level of sexism and sexual chauvinism;
- on the nature of the traditional ideology, especially religion;
- on the level of education and sexual culture;
- on some situational social and political factors [4].

Today we can see a homophobic boom in Russia and neighboring countries. Discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation has been carried out in a sharp and aggressive form such as physical and moral humiliation, in some cases – even murder.

Having analyzed students' attitudes towards homosexuality we can say that our hypothesis is confirmed. Students' attitudes towards homosexuality depend on a sphere of their interaction.

Although humanity wonders why people have different sexual orientations, we should never forget that the answer to this question doesn't apply to the problem of moral assessment or civil rights of gays and lesbians. Social status of every society depends on civil and personal qualities of its individuals, not on their belonging to one or other sexual orientation.

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