

Attitude Towards Same-Sex Marriage and Adoption among Law Students

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Abstract— The LGBTQIA+ community has been marginalised since time immemorial. The topic of same-sex marriage and adoption has been considered taboo for ages in India, restricting its discussion. With changing times and the abolition of Section 377, the community has received more acceptance in the country, opening up avenues for discussion. The recent ruling reinforcing the restriction of same-sex marriage in India has had a giant impact on the queer community as well as the general population, bringing up the topic of same-sex marriage and adoption to the forefront. The ruling brought with it opposing views with some believing it to be a step backward while others considering it the right decision for our country. To keep up with the changing times, laws must be reformed and updated to ensure equity and inclusion. Law students, the aspiring legal practitioners, and their opinion and attitude towards same-sex marriage and adoption would greatly impact the future legislature of the country. This study aims to provide clarity and insight into the current generation's prospective legal scholars' views and opinions on same-sex marriage and adoption. This study explores the attitudes toward same-sex marriage and adoption among law students. The survey method of research was employed, and a sample consisting of 100 participants pursuing an undergraduate degree in law from various colleges in Chennai was selected using convenience sampling. A self-constructed questionnaire consisting of 15 items was administered online for data collection. The data was analyzed using percentage analysis, and the findings have been represented through graphs and charts. Results and findings have been discussed. The implications of this study include providing insights to policymakers, lawmakers, and the general population into the probabilistic change in the future legislature regarding same-sex marriage and adoption. It also opens up avenues for further research.

Index Terms— LGBTQIA+ community, same-sex marriage, adoption laws, changing times, marriage laws (*key words*)

I. INTRODUCTION

The LGBTQIA+ community throughout the world has had to struggle to get legal recognition of their existence and their basic rights met. The Netherlands was the first nation to legalize same-sex marriage in 2001. The United States of America legalized same-sex marriage after a long battle, with Hawaii being the first of its states to legalize it. Same-sex marriage has been legal in the United States since June 26, 2015, when the Supreme Court ruled in favor of it in *Obergefell v. Hodges*. This landmark decision legalised same-sex marriage in all 50 states. Same-sex marriage was signed into law in September 2024 and will take effect on January 23, 2025. It is the first time that a Southeast Asian country legalised same-sex marriage. All of these rulings came into effect after petitions were filed, cases were fought, protests were held, and people tried to appeal to the legislature of their nations for recognition.

Article 377 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) criminalised consensual same-sex sexual intercourse, calling it an "unnatural offence". This law was challenged legally in court and was eventually struck down on September 6, 2018. This was considered a huge step towards the recognition of the LGBTQIA+ community in the country and opened up avenues of discussion. Following this, on November 14th, 2022, two same-sex couples filed writ petitions in the Supreme Court seeking legal recognition of same-sex marriages in India. The petitions were centred around the constitutionality of the Special Marriage Act, 1954 (the Act). The petitioners argue that Section 4(c) of the Act recognises marriage only between a 'male' and a 'female.'. This discriminates against same-sex couples by denying them matrimonial benefits such as adoption, surrogacy, employment, and retirement benefits. The petitioners asked the Court to declare Section 4(c) of the Act unconstitutional. The plea has been tagged with a number of other petitions challenging other personal laws on similar grounds. On October 17th, 2023, the 5-Judge Bench pronounced its verdict on petitions seeking marriage equality for LGBTQIA+ persons. The bench unanimously held that there was no fundamental right to marry and that the court could not recognise an LGBTQIA+ person's right to marry under the SMA. The majority judgment underscored that decisions regarding the legal status of same-sex marriages fell within the purview of Parliament and not the judiciary. This ruling has had a huge impact on Indian society, making it even more isolated for the queer community while also restricting their access to basic rights enjoyed by heterosexual couples.

Seethal Kuttappan and Dalliandeep Kaur Tiwana (2015) conducted a study on "The future of Same-sex marriage in India – An analysis with other countries". The study examines India's legal stance on same-sex marriages, focusing on Supreme Court rulings and comparing India's position with that of other countries. It concludes that while the Supreme Court has not yet legalised same-sex marriages, it highlights the need for legal reforms to ensure equal rights for the LGBTQ+ community.

Legalization of same-sex marriage brings with it a set of rights for couples of the same gender including adoption rights. It would bring about a clearer and more structured process of adoption for same-sex couples. In the recent ruling in October 2023, the Supreme Court in a 3:2 split verdict held as valid the existing regulations that deny unmarried couples, including queer couples, the right to adopt a child as a couple. This is another hurdle in the recognition of queer couples in the country. Without legal recognition, stigma prevails in the society restricting queer couples to be able to adopt individually as well.

Shrishti Pati (2022), wrote an article on "Prejudice faced by Homosexual Couples during Adoption in India". This article highlights the bias faced by the LGBTQ+ community in India, despite meeting constitutional criteria for basic rights, particularly the

right to marriage and adoption. It concludes that most family law issues in India, such as adoption, surrogacy, and succession, are closely tied to marriage, further limiting LGBTQ+ rights.

The law gives its people the power to question and change it in case of it not being accessible to all or providing justice as it promises. The ultimate power to change laws lies in the hands of the lawmakers of the country. The current law students are the future lawmakers. Their views and opinions on the queer community and legalisation of rights owed to them are very important, as they would shape the future legislature of India. The current generation has strong opinions on this issue with a wide range of access to media. As we already know the position of the current lawmakers with the recent ruling to some extent, the future lawmakers' position on this issue would provide great insight into understanding the path the country might be heading towards.

Nayanthara Ravichandran (2014), wrote a paper on "Legal Recognition of Same-Sex Relationships in India". The paper explores whether India should follow other countries in recognising civil partnerships but concludes that this is an inadequate solution. It argues that the best approach is to amend the Special Marriage Act to allow same-sex marriages, as not doing so unfairly discriminates against the LGBTQ+ community.

Need for study

As quoted by Stanislaw Jerzy Lec, "We are all equal before the law, but not before those who apply it." This quote brings out the importance of the stance of the future law practitioners and their viewpoints towards the legalisation of same-sex marriage and adoption. Even if the law recognises that all citizens, which includes queer couples, deserve the basic rights enjoyed by heterosexual couples, the views of the people who apply said law, the future lawmakers' stance on it, make all the difference. All manuscripts must be in English. These guidelines include complete descriptions of the fonts, spacing, and related information for producing your proceedings manuscripts. Please follow them.

II. METHODOLOGY

Aim:

This study aims at exploring the attitude of law students towards same-sex marriage and adoption.

Objectives:

- To assess the general attitude of law students towards same-sex marriage and adoption.
- To assess the behavioural intention of the law students towards same-sex marriage and adoption

Research Design:

The survey research design was used for this study.

Participants:

The target population for this study was undergraduate law students. The sample for this study was identified primarily from 4 law schools in Chennai. The age range of the respondents was 18 to 27 years (Mean = 22.5 years).

Sampling Procedure:

The samples were selected based on the convenience sampling method. The questionnaire was administered online through Google Forms. The respondents were assured confidentiality and were asked to fill in the questionnaire honestly and accurately. They were informed that all responses were equally valuable and participation was completely voluntary.

Data Collection Method:

The data collection tool employed was a self-constructed questionnaire. The questionnaire consisted of 22 items that included 21 close-ended questions and 1 open-ended question about respondents' attitude towards same sex marriage and adoption. Out of the 121 responses collected, 5 invalid responses were rejected and 116 responses were recorded. Once the data was finalized, the responses were coded, tabulated, analysed, and interpreted.

Methods used for Data Analysis:

Percentage analysis was used for statistical interpretation. Microsoft Excel 2021 was used to analyse the data and the results have been presented in the form of pie charts and bar graphs.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

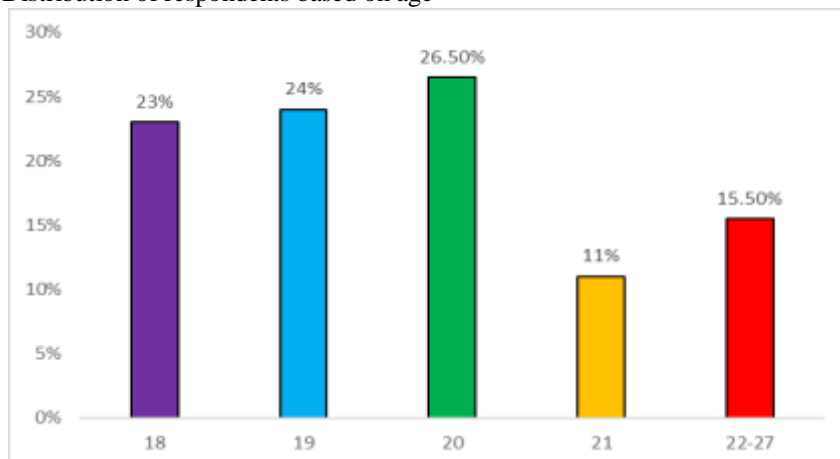
Table 1

Distribution of respondents based on age

Age	Responses	%
18	27	23%
19	28	24%
20	31	26.50%
21	13	11%
22-27	18	15.50%

Graph 1

Distribution of respondents based on age



From graph 1, it can be seen that 26.5% of the respondents were 20 years of age, 24% were 19 years of age, 23% were 18 years of age, 11% were 21 years of age and 15.5% were 22-27 years of age

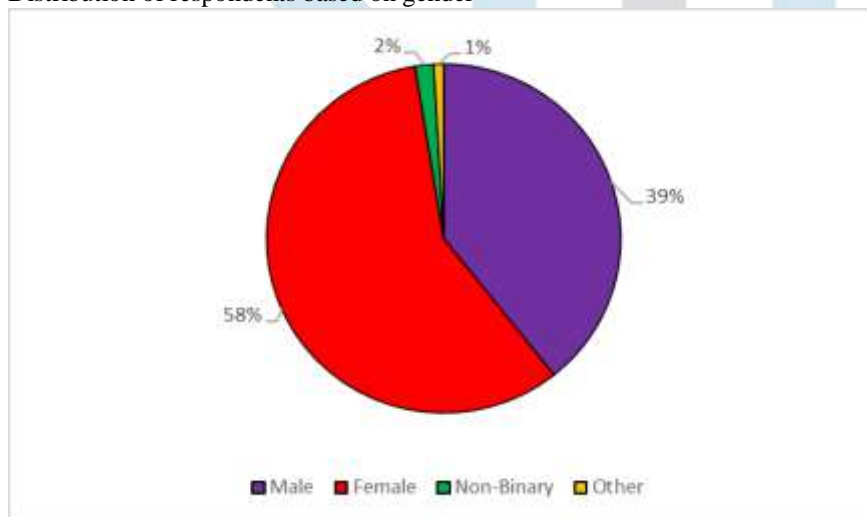
Table 2

Distribution of respondents based on gender

Gender	Responses	%
Male	46	39.3
Female	68	58.1
Non-Binary	2	1.7
Other	1	0.9

Graph 2

Distribution of respondents based on gender



From graph 2, it can be seen that 58% of the respondents were female, 39% were male, 2% were non binary and 1% identified as others.

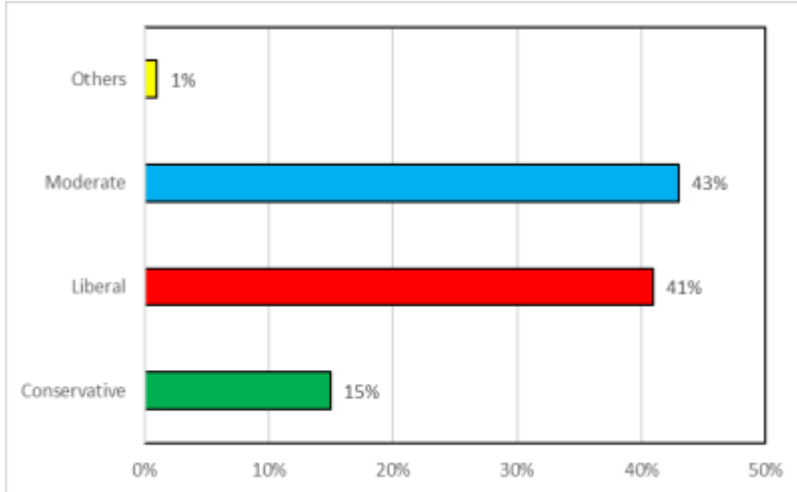
Table 3

Distribution of respondents based on political affiliation

Political affiliation	Responses	%
Conservative	17	15%
Liberal	48	41%
Moderate	50	43%
Others	2	1%

Graph 3

Distribution of respondents based on political affiliation



From graph 3, it can be seen that 43% of the respondents are liberal, 41% are moderate, 15% is conservative and 1% of the respondents have other political affiliations.

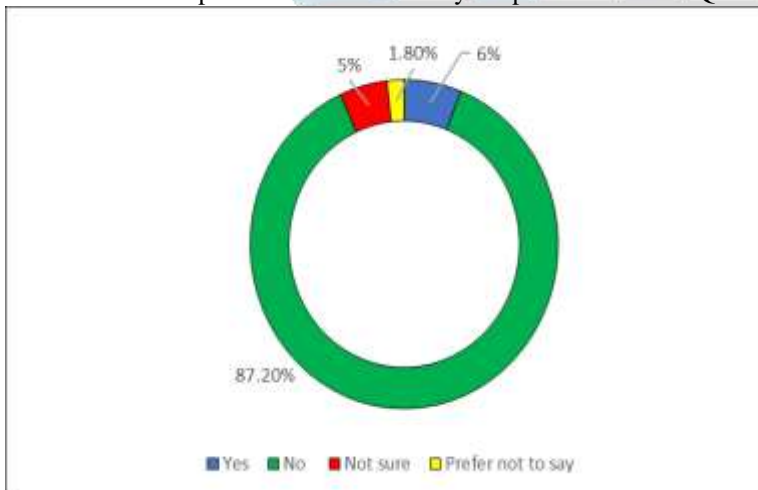
Table 4

Distribution of respondents based on if they are part of the LGBTQIA+ community

Part of the community	Responses	%
Yes	7	6%
No	102	87.20%
Not sure	6	5%
Prefer not to say	2	1.80%

Graph 4

Distribution of respondents based on if they are part of the LGBTQIA+ community



From graph 4, it can be seen that 87.2% of the respondents are not a part of the queer community, 6% are members of the community, 5% are not sure and 1.8% prefer not to say.

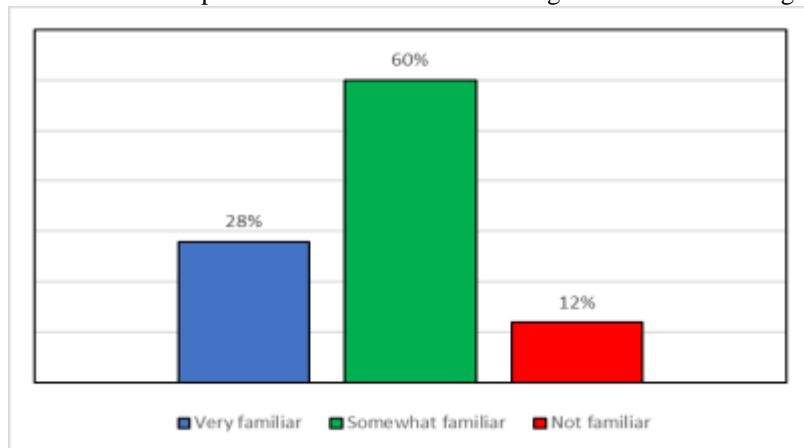
Table 5

Distribution of respondents based on their knowledge of same-sex marriage and adoption laws

Knowledge of same-sex laws	Responses	%
Very familiar	70	60%
Somewhat familiar	33	28%
Not familiar	14	12%

Graph 5

Distribution of respondents based on their knowledge of same-sex marriage and adoption laws



From graph 5, we can see that 60% of the population is somewhat familiar with the laws, 28% is very familiar, 12% is not familiar at all. The majority of the population has some knowledge of the current laws regarding same-sex marriage and adoption in India.

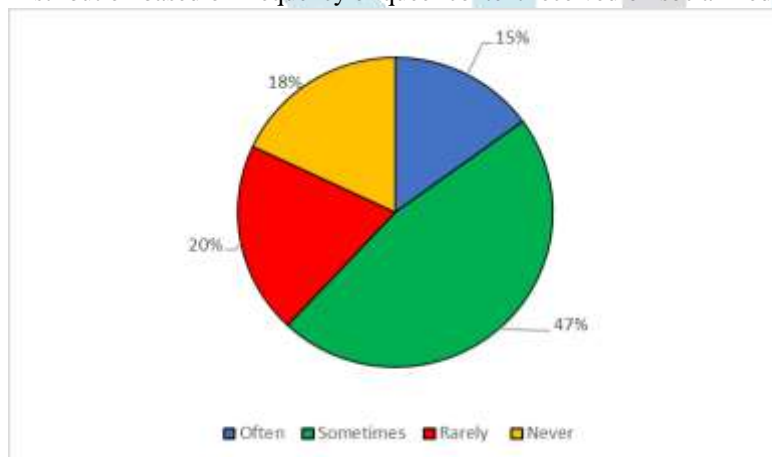
Table 6

Distribution based on frequency of queer content received on social media

Queer content on social media feed	Responses	%
Often	18	15%
Sometimes	55	47%
Rarely	23	20%
Never	21	18%

Graph 6

Distribution based on frequency of queer content received on social media



From graph 6, it can be seen that 47% of the respondents receive queer content on their social media feed sometimes, 20% receive it rarely, 15% receive it often and 18% never. Most of the population is exposed to queer content on their feed at least sometimes.

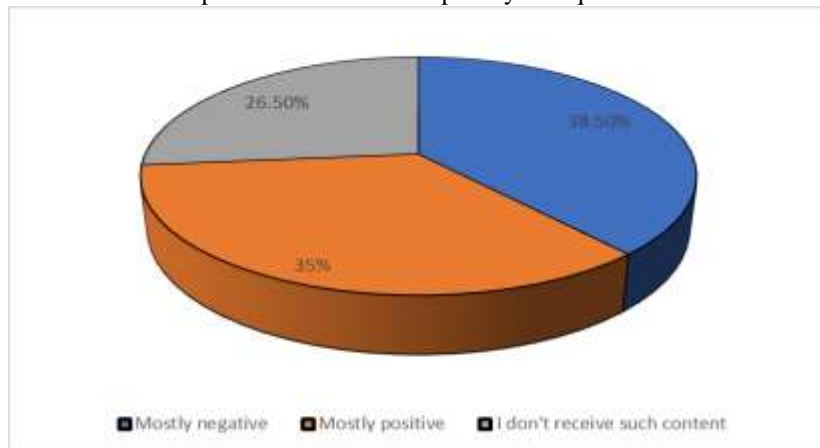
Table 7

Distribution of respondents based on the portrayal of queer content on their social media feed

Portrayal of queer content on social media	Responses	%
Mostly negative	45	38.50%
Mostly positive	41	35%
I don't receive such content	31	26.50%

Graph 7

Distribution of respondents based on the portrayal of queer content on their social media feed



From graph 7, it can be seen that 38.5% of the respondents receive mostly negative content, 35% receive mostly [positive content and 26.5% don't receive queer content.

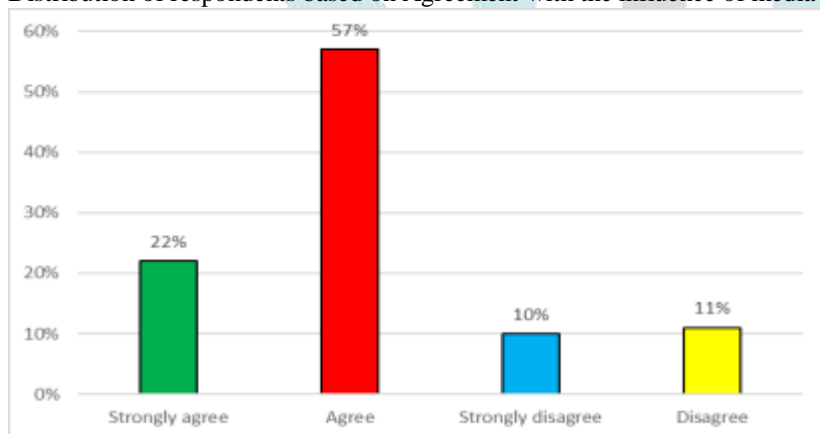
Table 8

Distribution of respondents based on Agreement with the influence of media on attitudes towards the community

Agreement with the influence of media on attitudes towards the community	Responses	%
Strongly agree	26	22%
Agree	67	57%
Strongly disagree	11	10%
Disagree	13	11%

Graph 8

Distribution of respondents based on Agreement with the influence of media on attitudes towards the community



From graph 8, it can be seen that 57% of the population agree, 22% strongly agree, 11% disagree and 10% strongly disagree to media influencing people's attitude towards same-sex marriage and adoption.

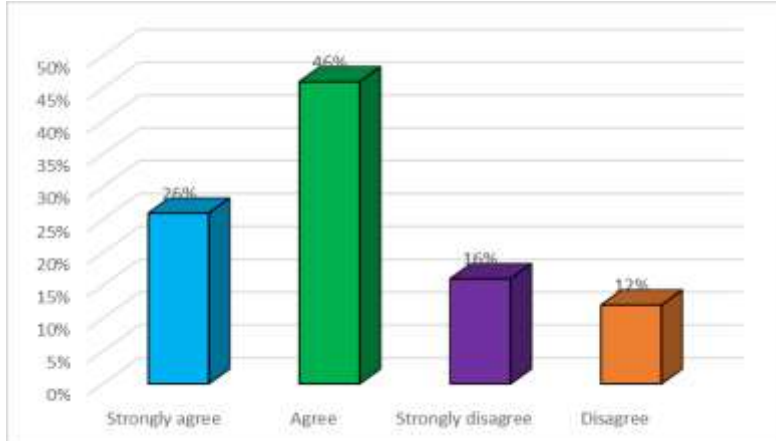
Table 9

Distribution of respondents based on whether Same-sex couples should have the same legal rights as heterosexual couples

Same-sex couples should have the same legal rights as heterosexual couples	Responses	%
Strongly agree	30	26
Agree	54	46
Strongly disagree	19	16
Disagree	14	12

Graph 9

Distribution of respondents based on whether Same-sex couples should have the same legal rights as heterosexual couples



From graph 9, it can be seen that 46% of the population agree, 26% strongly agree, 16% strongly disagree and 12% disagree when asked if same-sex couples should have the same legal rights as heterosexual couples. Majority of the population believes that same-sex couples deserve the same rights as heterosexual couples.

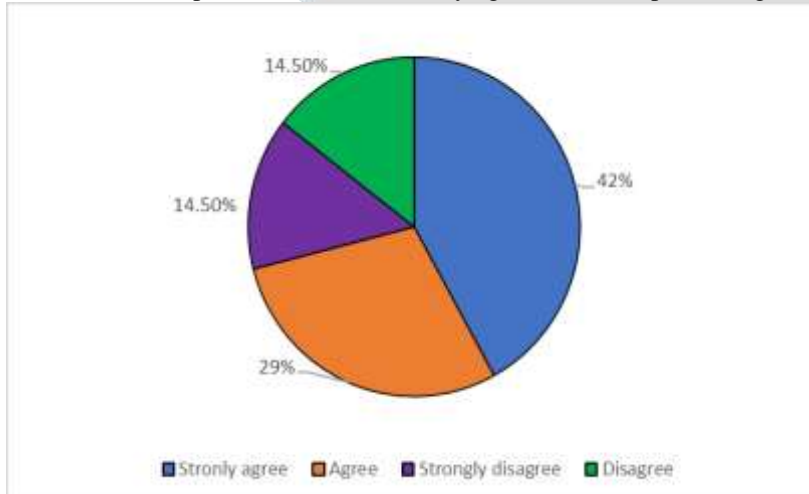
Table 10

Distribution of respondents based on if denying same-sex couples the right to marry is a violation of basic rights

Denying same-sex couples the right to marry is a violation of basic rights	Responses	%
Strongly agree	34	42
Agree	49	29
Strongly disagree	17	14.5
Disagree	17	14.5

Graph 10

Distribution of respondents based on if denying same-sex couples the right to marry is a violation of basic rights



From graph 10, it can be seen that 42% strongly agree, 29% agree, 14.5% strongly disagree, and 14.5% disagree when asked if denying same-sex couples the right to marry would be a violation of their basic rights. Majority of the population believes that the right to marry is a basic right even for members of the queer community which is a counter to the statement made in the recent ruling of legalization of same sex where it was said “right to marry is not a fundamental right”.

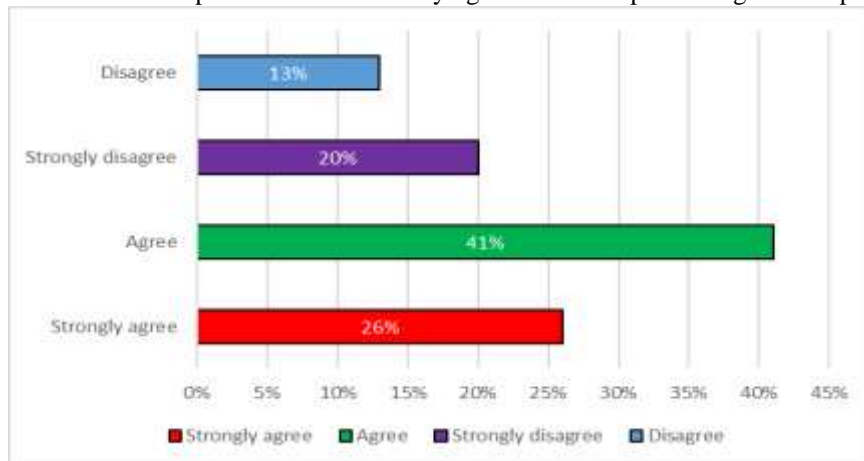
Table 11

Distribution of responses based on if denying same-sex couples the right to adopt is a violation of basic rights

Denying same-sex couples the right to adopt is a violation of basic rights	Responses	%
Strongly agree	31	26
Agree	48	41
Strongly disagree	23	20
Disagree	15	13

Graph 11

Distribution of responses based on if denying same-sex couples the right to adopt is a violation of basic rights



From graph 11, it is seen that 41% of the respondents agree, 26% strongly agree, 20% strongly disagree and 13% disagree when asked if denying same-sex couples the right to adopt is a violation of basic rights. Majority of the population agreed that adoption is a basic right for same-sex couples.

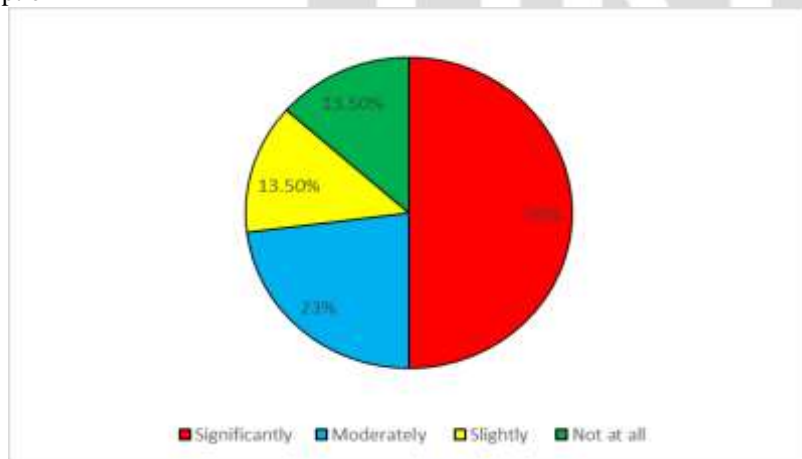
Table 12

Distribution of respondents based on if religious beliefs influence people's attitude towards same-sex marriage and adoption

Religious beliefs affecting people's opinions towards same-sex marriage and adoption	Responses	%
Significantly	58	50
Moderately	27	23
Slightly	16	13.5
Not at all	16	13.5

Graph 12

Distribution of respondents based on how much religious beliefs influence people's attitude towards same-sex marriage and adoption



From graph 12, it can be seen that when asked how much religious beliefs influence people's attitude towards same-sex marriage and adoption 50% said significantly, 23% moderately, 13.5% slightly, 13.5% said not at all. Majority of the population said that religious beliefs significantly influence people's attitudes towards same-sex marriage and adoption in India.

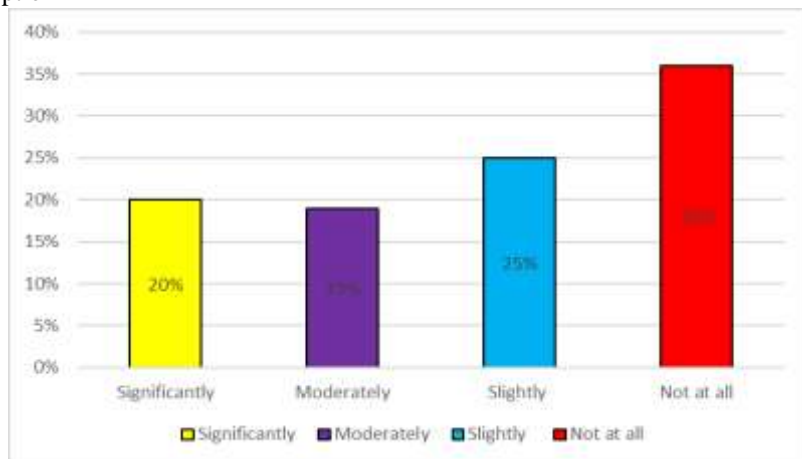
Table 13

Distribution of responses based on how much religious beliefs influence their personal attitude towards same-sex marriage and adoption

Religious beliefs influence your attitude towards same-sex marriage and adoption	Responses	%
Significantly	23	20%
Moderately	22	19%
Slightly	30	25%
Not at all	42	36%

Graph 13

Distribution of responses based on how much religious beliefs influence their personal attitude towards same-sex marriage and adoption



From graph 13, it can be seen that when asked how much religious beliefs influence their personal attitude towards same-sex marriage and adoption 36% said not at all, 25% slightly, 20% significantly and 19% moderately. Majority of the population believes that their religious beliefs do not influence their attitude towards same-sex marriage and adoption at all.

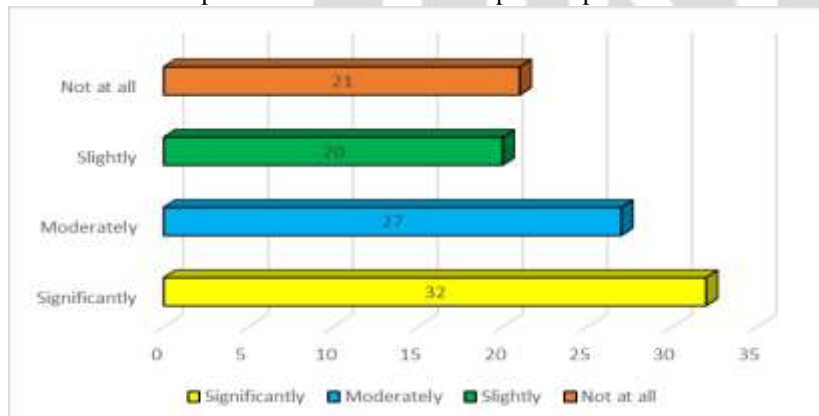
Table 14

Distribution of responses based on how much public opinion should influence the legalization of same-sex marriage

How much should public opinion influence the legalization of same-sex marriage?	Responses	%
Significantly	37	32
Moderately	32	27
Slightly	25	20
Not at all	23	21

Graph 14

Distribution of responses based on how much public opinion should influence the legalization of same-sex marriage



From graph 14, it can be seen that when asked how much public opinion should influence the legalization of same-sex marriage, 32% of the respondents said significantly, 27% moderately, 21% not at all, and 20% said slightly. Majority of the respondents believe that public opinion should significantly affect the decision of the legalization of same-sex marriage.

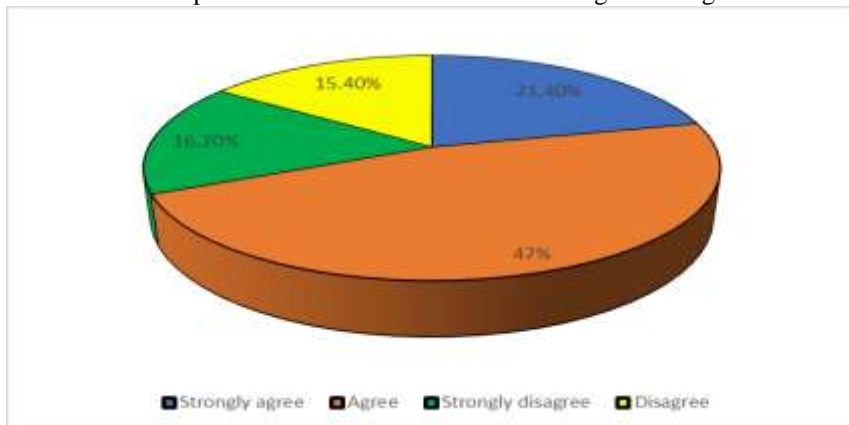
Table 15

Distribution of respondents based on if Same-sex marriage challenges cultural or traditional values

Same-sex marriage challenges cultural or traditional values	Responses	%
Strongly agree	25	21.40%
Agree	55	47%
Strongly disagree	19	16.20%
Disagree	18	15.40%

Graph 15

Distribution of respondents based on if Same-sex marriage challenges cultural or traditional values



From graph 15, it can be seen that 47% of the respondents agree, 21.4% strongly agree, 16.2% strongly disagree and 15.4% disagree when asked if same-sex marriage challenges cultural or traditional values. India is a diverse country with diverse cultures and traditions. Majority of the respondents agree that same-sex marriage challenges cultural and traditional norms.

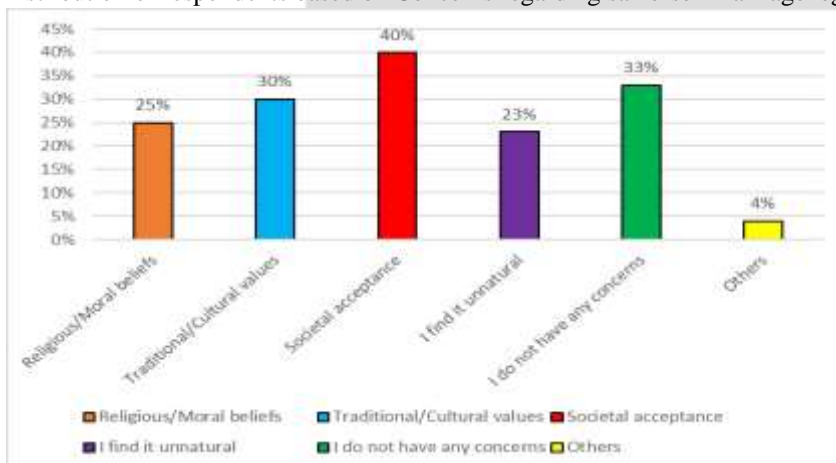
Table 16

Distribution of respondents based on Concerns regarding same-sex marriage legalization

Concerns regarding same-sex marriage legalization	Responses	%
Religious/Moral beliefs	29	25%
Traditional/Cultural values	35	30%
Societal acceptance	47	40%
I find it unnatural	27	23%
I do not have any concerns	39	33%
Others	5	4%

Graph 16

Distribution of respondents based on Concerns regarding same-sex marriage legalization



From graph 16, it can be seen that 40% of the 117 respondents find social acceptance as a concern, 33% do not have any concerns, 30% said traditional/cultural values, 25% religious/moral beliefs, 23% find it unnatural and 4% have other concerns regarding same-sex marriage legalization in India. Majority of the population found societal change as a major concern for legalization of same-sex marriage in India. While 33% of the population also report having no concerns regarding its legalization.

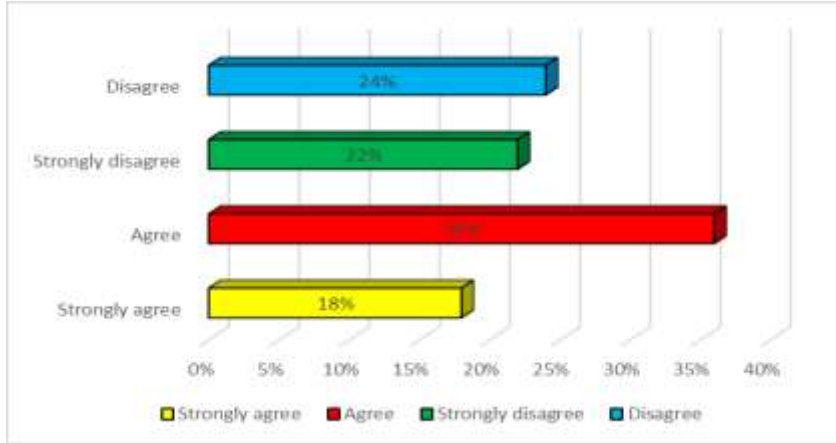
Table 17

Distribution of respondents based on if same-sex couples provide the same quality of parenting as heterosexual couples

Same-sex couples provide the same quality of parenting as heterosexual couples	Responses	%
Strongly agree	21	18
Agree	42	36
Strongly disagree	26	22
Disagree	28	24

Graph 17

Distribution of respondents based on if same-sex couples provide the same quality of parenting as heterosexual couples



From graph 17, it can be seen that 36% agree, 24% disagree, 22% strongly disagree and 18% strongly agree when asked if same-sex couples provide the same quality of parenting as heterosexual couples. While the majority of the population agrees (54%) that same-sex couples do provide the same quality of parenting as heterosexual couples, the population that disagreed (46%) was almost as equal as the population that agreed. The population is split on if same-sex couples can provide the same quality of parenting as heterosexual couples.

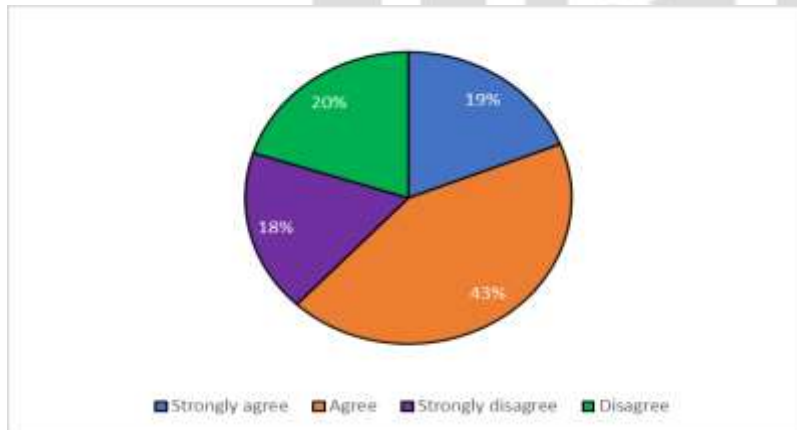
Table 18

Distribution of respondents based on if Same-sex couples should have the same priority as heterosexual couples in adoption processes

Same-sex couples should have the same priority as heterosexual couples in adoption processes	Responses	%
Strongly agree	22	19%
Agree	51	43%
Strongly disagree	21	18%
Disagree	23	20%

Graph 18

Distribution of respondents based on if Same-sex couples should have the same priority as heterosexual couples in adoption processes



From graph 18, it can be seen that when asked if same-sex couples should have the same priority as heterosexual couples in adoption processes, 43% agree, 19% strongly agree, 20% disagree and 18% strongly disagree. The majority of the population believes same-sex couples should have the same priority as heterosexual couples in adoption processes. There are no legal provisions currently in India for same-sex couples to adopt.

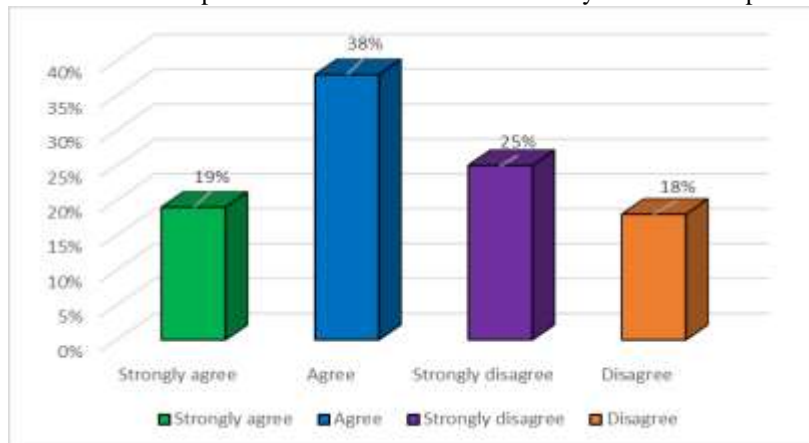
Table 19

Distribution of responses based on if Children raised by same-sex couples would be equally well adjusted

Children raised by same-sex couples would be equally well adjusted	Responses	%
Strongly agree	22	19%
Agree	45	38%
Strongly disagree	21	25%
Disagree	29	18%

Graph 19

Distribution of responses based on if Children raised by same-sex couples would be equally well adjusted



From graph 19, it can be seen that 38% agree, 25% strongly disagree, 19% strongly agree and 18% disagree when asked if children raised by same-sex couples would be equally well adjusted as those raised by heterosexual couples. Majority of the population believes that children raised by both same-sex and heterosexual couples would be equally well adjusted.

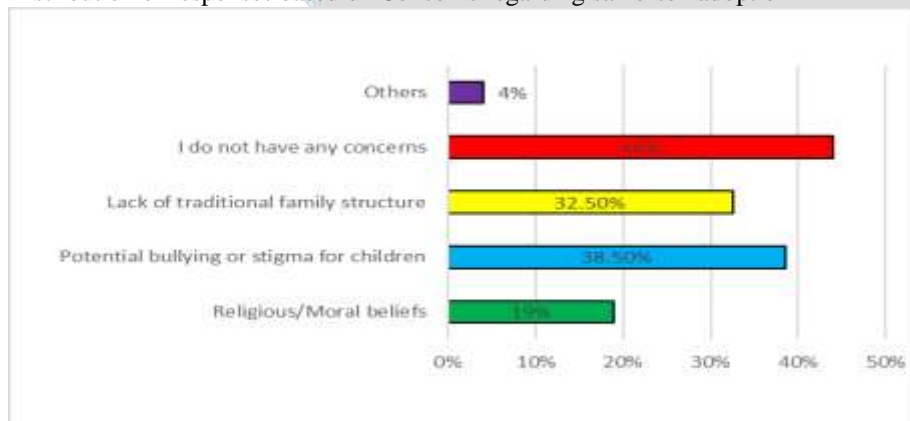
Table 20

Distribution of responses based on Concerns regarding same-sex adoption

Concerns regarding same-sex adoption	Responses	%
Religious/Moral beliefs	22	19%
Potential bullying or stigma for children	45	38.50%
Lack of traditional family structure	38	32.50%
I do not have any concerns	51	44%
Others	5	4%

Graph 20

Distribution of responses based on Concerns regarding same-sex adoption



From graph 20, it can be seen that when asked about their concerns regarding same-sex adoption 44% said they don't have any concerns, 38.5% chose potential bullying or stigma for children, 32.5% said lack of traditional family structure, 19% said religious or moral beliefs and 4% said other concerns. Majority of the population said they do not have any concerns regarding adoption by same-sex couples.

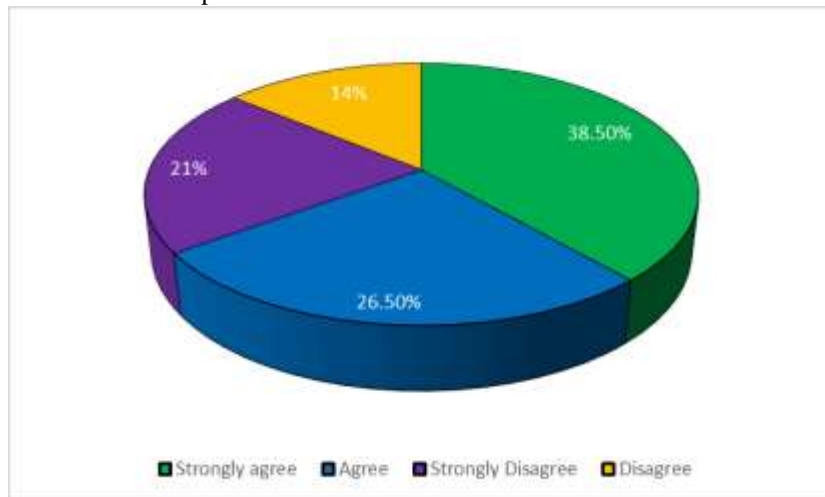
Table 21

Distribution of respondents based on if India should follow other nations and legalize same-sex marriage and adoption

India should follow other nations and legalize same-sex marriage and adoption	Responses	%
Strongly agree	31	38.50%
Agree	45	26.50%
Strongly Disagree	16	21%
Disagree	25	14%

Graph 21

Distribution of respondents based on if India should follow other nations and legalize same-sex marriage and adoption



From graph 21, it can be seen that 38.5% strongly agree, 26.5% agree, 21% strongly disagree and 14% disagree when asked if India should follow other nations and legalize same-sex marriage and adoption. Majority of the law students believes that India should legalize same-sex marriage and adoption.

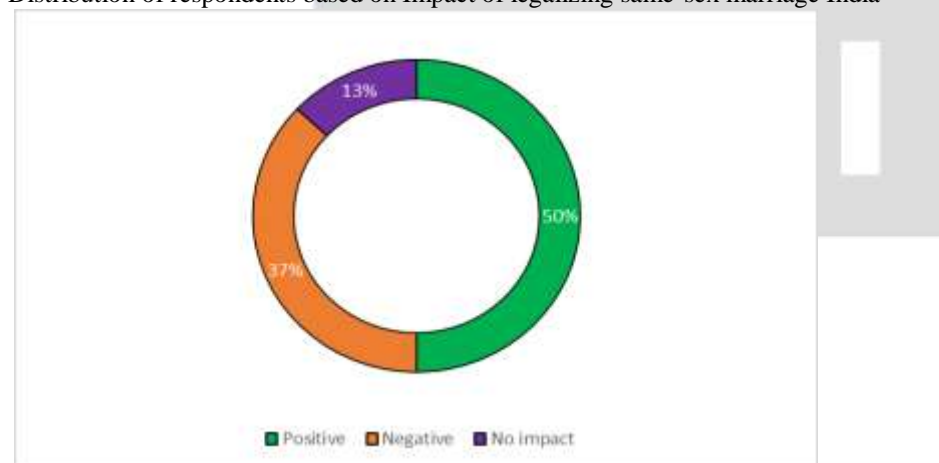
Table 22

Distribution of respondents based on Impact of legalizing same-sex marriage India

Impact of legalizing same-sex marriage India	Responses	%
Positive	43	50%
Negative	58	37%
No impact	16	13%

Graph 22

Distribution of respondents based on Impact of legalizing same-sex marriage India



From graph 22, it can be seen that 50% of the respondents think legalizing same-sex marriage in India would have a positive impact, 17% say negative and 13% said it would have no impact in India. Majority of the population believes that legalizing same-sex marriage would have a positive impact on the Indian society.

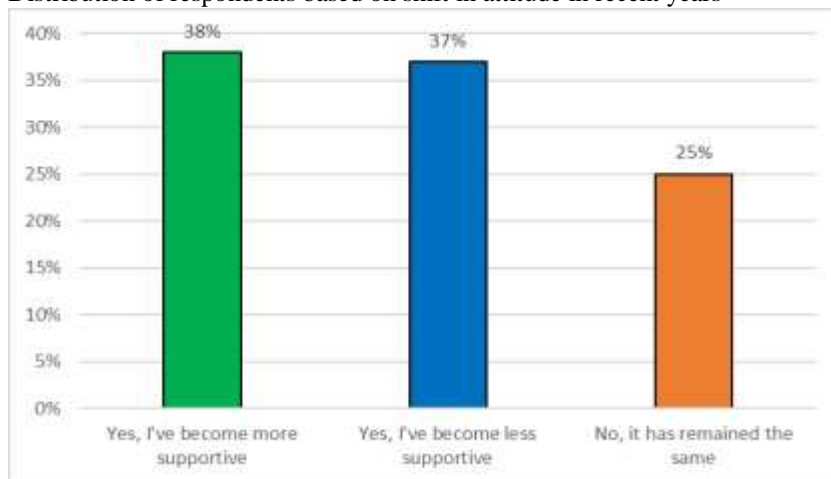
Table 23

Distribution of respondents based on shift in attitude in recent years

Shift in attitude in recent years	Responses	%
Yes, I've become more supportive	44	38%
Yes, I've become less supportive	43	37%
No, it has remained the same	30	25%

Graph 23

Distribution of respondents based on shift in attitude in recent years



From graph 23, it can be seen that 38% have become more supportive, 37% have become less supportive, and 25% of the respondents' attitude has remained the same when asked if there has been a shift in their attitude towards the community in the past 5 years. Majority of the respondents (75%) have experienced a shift in their attitude in the past 5 years. Of the population that has experienced a shift, there is an almost equal split in those who have become more supportive towards the community and those who have become less supportive.

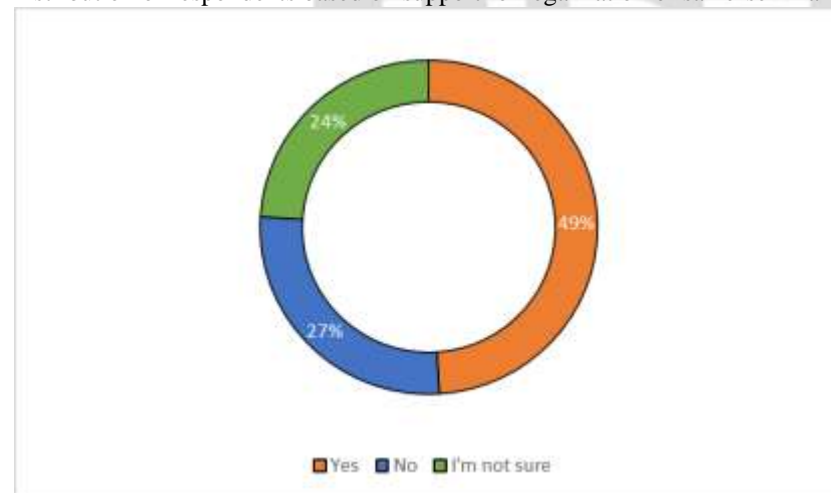
Table 24

Distribution of respondents based on support for legalization of same-sex marriage and adoption as a future policymaker

Support for legalization as a future policy maker	Responses	%
Yes	57	49%
No	32	27%
I'm not sure	28	24%

Graph 24

Distribution of respondents based on support for legalization of same-sex marriage and adoption as a future policymaker



From graph 24, it can be seen that when asked if as a future policymaker they would support legalization of same-sex marriage and adoption, 49% of the respondents said yes, 27% said no and 24% are not sure. Majority of the respondents said they would be in support of legalizing same-sex marriage and adoption as future policymakers.

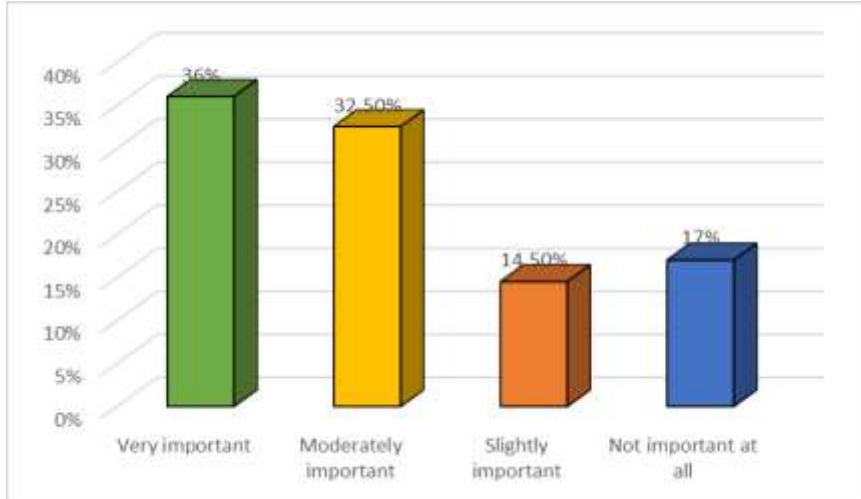
Table 25

Distribution of respondents based on the importance they place on this issue as a future policymaker

Importance of this issue as a future policymaker	Responses	%
Very important	42	36%
Moderately important	38	32.50%
Slightly important	17	14.50%
Not important at all	20	17%

Graph 25

Distribution of respondents based on the importance they place on this issue as a future policymaker



From graph 25, it can be seen that 36% of the future policymakers find the issue of legalization of same-sex marriage and adoption very important, 32.5% find it moderately important, 14.5% slightly important and 17% not important at all. Majority of the population places significant importance on the issue of same-sex marriage and legalization. The template is used to format your paper and style the text. All margins, column widths, line spaces, and text fonts are prescribed; please do not alter them. You may note peculiarities. For example, the head margin in this template measures proportionately more than is customary. This measurement and others are deliberate, using specifications that anticipate your paper as one part of the entire proceedings, and not as an independent document. Please do not revise any of the current designations.

IV. CONCLUSION

The current law students' attitude towards same-sex marriage and adoption and opinions on its legalization are of crucial importance to understand if the future lawmakers and policymakers would bring about or support a potential shift in laws.

From the findings of the study, it was observed that most of the law students were of liberal or moderate political affiliation and were not a part of the LGBTQIA+ community. The majority of the respondents believe people's religious beliefs influence their attitude towards same-sex marriage and adoption, but the majority do not think their attitude is influenced due to their religious beliefs. The majority of law students also agree that denying same-sex couples the right to marry or adopt is a violation of their basic rights. In the judgement passed on October 17, 2023, the bench unanimously held that there was "no fundamental right to marry," and this is against what the majority of the current law students believe. The majority also believe that public opinion should influence the decision on the legalization of same-sex marriage and adoption in India. They find societal acceptance to be a major concern for the legalization of 'same-sex marriage' in India. The majority of the population does not have any concerns regarding the legalization of 'same-sex adoption' in India. This shows a discrepancy between concerns regarding same-sex 'marriage' and 'adoption,' which could be because marriage is seen as a bigger hurdle in Indian society as compared to adoption. The majority also believes that same-sex marriage challenges traditional or cultural norms. Most of the population believes that same-sex couples would provide the same quality of parenting, and the kids would be equally well-adjusted as those raised by heterosexual couples. The majority are in support of legalizing same-sex marriage in India and also would support it as a future policymaker. Most of the population believes that legalization of same-sex marriage and adoption would have a positive impact on Indian society. This issue has been talked about and discussed a lot more in recent times, leading to an attitude shift in the majority of the population with an almost equal split between those who have become more supportive and those who have become less supportive than before. The majority of the future lawmakers place significant importance on the issue of same-sex marriage and adoption in India.

The overall attitude of the law students toward same-sex marriage and adoption and its legalization is positive and in support of it. When asked to report about significant constitutional hurdles for the legalization of same-sex marriage and adoption, many responded by quoting the present heteronormative laws of marriage, which fail to recognize same-sex unions, and any shift faces resistance due to political and religious sensitivities. There was a response that highlighted the discrepancy in the verdict announced by the 5-judge bench, announcing that there is no fundamental right to marry. The response was stated as, "I am personally of the opinion that the Constitution poses no hurdle to legalizing same-sex marriage in India. The decision in the Supriyo judgement that the right to marry doesn't constitute a fundamental right seems to run counter to Art 19(1)(a)."

Implications:

- Findings can be used to understand the probabilistic change in future legislation.
- To understand if there is a shift in understanding and support for the community

Scope for further research:

- Assessing the attitude of law students nationwide for better understanding
- Conducting similar research in a different cultural context
- Conducting extensive research to understand the why of the negative attitude towards the community

Limitations:

- The study was conducted on 117 law students, which might limit the generalizability of the findings to a broader population.

- The study focused on participants from Chennai, which may not fully capture the diversity of the population's attitude across different regions.
- The study consisted of a self-constructed questionnaire, and convenience sampling was used.

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