A Guide to Methodology

CASE STUDY Attitudes towards homosexuality

This survey is about a law enacted in 1988 that prevented councils from in any way promoting homosexuality. It was repealed as of 17 November 2003. The survey was undertaken shortly after the passing of the infamous Clause 28 of the Local Government Bill and was used to explore attitudes of older teenagers towards homosexuality.

QUESTIONS FROM THE SURVEY OF ATTITUDES TOWARDS HOMOSEXUALITY AMONGST 16–20-YEAR-OLD FURTHER EDUCATION STUDENTS IN BIRMINGHAM.

Clause 28 of the Local Government Bill came into force on 27 May 1988 (repealed as of 17 November 2003). For 15 years this law prevents local councils from ‘intentionally promoting homosexuality’. Nor may they ‘promote the teaching... of the acceptability of homosexuality as a pretended family relationship’ in schools.

(Circle the answers you think are applicable)

1) Had you previously heard of Clause 28?
   yes  no

2) Do you understand the clause?
   yes  no

3) Do you agree with the clause?
   yes  no

4) Do you feel that Clause 28 affects only gay and lesbian people in society?
   yes  no

5) Do you think that the clause will make any difference to general opinion on homosexuality?
   yes  no

6) Do you agree with homosexuality being included in sex education at school?
   yes  no

7) Do you think the inclusion of homosexuality, as part of sex education in schools, intentionally promotes homosexuality?
   yes  no

8) Do you consider that the timing of Clause 28 is in any way a response to the AIDS media scare?
   yes  no

9) How did you become aware of homosexuality?
   (Tick the appropriate answer(s)) :
   a) Friends
   b) Parents
   c) School
   d) Media (i.e., newspapers, television, etc.).
10) Which groups in society, do you consider, to be most at risk from AIDS?
   a) Gays yes no
   b) Heterosexuals yes no
   c) Intravenous drug users yes no
   d) Lesbians yes no
   e) Prostitutes yes no

11) Do you consider there to be any truth in the term ‘The gay plague’, in connection with the problem of AIDS?
   yes no

12) What is the age at which homosexuality is legal?
   (Circle your answer).
   a) Females: 16 18 20 21 25 other (please state)
   b) Males: 16 18 20 21 25 other (please state)

13) What do you think the consenting age limit should be?
   a) Females ...........
   b) Males ...........

14) Do you think homosexuality should be made illegal?
   yes no

15) Do you think acts of an affectionate nature, between homosexuals (male and female), should be confined to their home?
   a) Female yes no
   b) Male yes no

16) Is there anyone in your family or social circle, either male or female, whom you know to be homosexual?
   yes no

17) If you had, or have a child, would you be, or are you prepared to discuss homosexuality with them?
   yes no

18) Do you agree with two gay men, or two lesbian women, rearing children in a family situation?
   a) Gay men yes no
   b) Lesbian women yes no

This questionnaire is anonymous and confidential, however it would help us if you would provide some general details about yourself

Age ....

Sex Male Female

Religion (if any) ............

Would you describe yourself as being: (please tick one)
   African
   Afro/Asian
   African Caribbean
   Asian
   European
   Oriental
   Other (please specify)
If you have any general comments on this issue, or the questionnaire overall please write them on the back.

Thank you very much for your time and co-operation.

Adapted from Todd, K., Johal, I., Kane, A. and Barth, S., 1990, ‘Homosexuality, AIDS and Clause 28’, Birmingham Polytechnic, Sociology Research Workshop Project.

For the hypotheses go to: http://www.qualityresearchinternational.com/methodology/CASE STUDY Attitudes towards homosexuality Hypotheses.pdf
For the coding frame go to: http://www.qualityresearchinternational.com/methodology/CASE STUDY Attitudes towards homosexuality Coding Frame.pdf