



Sexual Identity, Sexual Orientation, And Research on Homophobia Among Counsellors in Social Work

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Abstract

This study explores the concept of sexual identity and its intersection with social perceptions, professional practices, and prejudice, particularly within the field of social work. The theoretical part of the paper addresses sexual orientation, sexual identity, homosexuality, and homophobia within a heteronormative context. The research focuses on homophobia among counsellors, measured using the Homophobia Scale (Wright, Adams, Bernat, 1999), and examines differences in homophobic attitudes based on demographic and personality variables such as gender, region, age, education, and professional environment. While affective and behavioural indicators of homophobia remained low, cognitive negativism presented a higher average score, possibly influenced by current social debates and cultural polarization. The findings highlight the need for comprehensive education and direct engagement with LGBTQIA+ individuals in counsellor training to combat misinformation and reduce prejudice. Ultimately, the study advocates for systemic changes in professional education and practice that prioritize equity, empathy, and a nuanced understanding of sexual diversity.

Keywords: sexual orientation; sexual identity; heterosexism; homophobia; social work; counsellor