

Where Are We Heading To; Conceptualising Nihilism and the Lgbtqia+ Community

Oyagiri, Buduka Isaac¹, Apampa Oluseyi Apampa², Government Ntobari Osaro³, Agwuike Chinwendu⁴

Abstract

This paper served as an exploratory investigation into two polarizing ideologies, Nihilism and LGBTQIA+. The study delves into the intricate interplay between the two concepts, employing perspectives from religious authorities, science, health, and the law of identity. Over the past few decades, society is inundated with persistent, victimizing and immoral struggles by perceived marginalized groups, embroiled in their pursuit to force all societies to legitimize and accept their orientation. Notable among these movements was the recent pride movement (LGBTQIA+ rights movement). Similar to preceding equality and freedom movements. The pride movement had encountered multifaceted challenges, including but not limited to stiff resistance from religious institutions. This paper undertakes an incisive analysis of these challenges as it evaluated the strength of arguments for and against these ideologies. Further, this paper aims to examine the moral, religious, scientific, and health implications of both nihilism and LGBTQIA+ approached seeking to reveal the underlying beliefs that shape individuals' understanding of life, identity, and societal norms. Additionally, this exploration intends to uncover intersections and differences in interpretations of various issues, including those related to LGBTQIA+ rights and the philosophy of nihilism, highlighting potential impacts on personal well-being and society as a whole. The study combined primary and secondary sources, encompassing a comprehensive survey research methodology. Employing meticulously crafted questionnaires and interview, we conducted surveys tailored to individuals under 21 and those over 25. This dual-pronged approach aimed to discover potential variations in opinions across age groups. The secondary sources included journal articles, online books and other online materials. In the culmination of our research journey, it found among others that while Nihilism and LGBTQIA+ stand as distinct ideological constructs, both are intricately entwined in the tapestry of self-identity and personal authenticity. It was also found that although, it was significant for individual experiences, self-actualization, pursuit of pleasure, it was paramount and indispensably imperative for these aspirations to be pursued and enjoyed within the bounds of society and sound morality. Society's role of nurturing, enculturation and internalization but deviant behaviour should be studied for proper understanding, empathy and advising when navigating the intricate nuances of human existence.

Keywords: *Nihilism, LGBTQIA+, Law of Identity, Concept, Acceptance, Discrimination, Religion, Moral.*

Introduction

Nihilism and LGBTQIA+ viewpoints currently ranges as topical and thought-provoking ideas in today's complicated and diverse society. Nihilism questions conventional ideas of meaning and purpose, whereas LGBTQIA+ perspectives seek to promote equality and inclusion for a people with a variety of sexual orientations and gender identities.

Examining how both nihilism and LGBTQIA+ perspectives approach to human existence can afford deeper insights into the beliefs and value systems that shape individuals' understanding of life, identity, and societal norms. Additionally, the exploration will reveal how these ideologies intersect and diverge in their interpretations of LGBTQIA+ issues, including uncovering the implications of these concepts as they may affect personal well-being and the broader fabric of society. Hopefully, this analysis can aid a greater understanding for the diverse perspectives that shape our world today.

¹ LL.B, LL.M, PH.D, B.L, Lecturer Department of Jurisprudence and Public Law, Babcock University, School of Law and Security Studies, Iperu Remo Campus, Ogun State, Email: oyagirib@babcock.edu.ng, (Corresponding Author)

² LL.B, LL.M, B.L, Lecturer Department of International Law and Security Studies, Babcock University, School of Law and Security Studies, Iperu Remo Campus, Ogun State.

³ M.Sc. Department of Mass Communication, Babcock University, Ilishan-Remo, Ogun State.

⁴ Research Assistant Babcock University, School of Law and Security Studies, Iperu Remo Campus, Ogun State.

For instance, attempting a historical analogy of the practices of LGBTQIA+ communities. It can be seen that it encountered widespread disapproval across numerous societies globally. Those exhibiting the characteristics of this community often do a veneer, presenting a facade to the external world that concealed their true identities. Among the reasons for concealment of the reality is pervasive social stigma accompanying public acknowledgement of homosexuality, prompting substantial number of gay and lesbian individuals to remain within the figurative "closet," obscuring their sexual orientation and sometimes even lacking awareness of their own identity. Sigmund Freud's terminology aptly encapsulates this phenomenon, underscoring the weight of societal pressures as well as values that shapes behaviors.

These two distinct philosophical concepts, Nihilism and LGBTQIA+ identities, hold the potential of social transformation and advancement. In a broader philosophical context, both ideologies inspire individuals to challenge prevailing norms, values and established paradigms, creating an environment where the existing status quo is subjected to rigorous scrutiny attack and sometimes negative publicity just to overturn same. Nihilism, driven by skepticism towards absolute meaning, prompts an exploration for 'a more personalized and authentic understanding of existence' not a shared existence and values questioning what meaningful it serves. Conversely, the LGBTQIA+ movement seeks to disrupt traditional perceptions of gender and sexual orientation. It accuses the heterosexual value in gender as absolute, meaningless and exclusive and from that base canvases that LGBTQIA+ is striving to foster increased inclusivity and acceptance within society.

The historical struggles of the LGBTQIA+ community and the philosophical underpinnings of Nihilism as against value systems intertwine to underscore the perpetual inherent contradictions within human societies. These two forces, though distinct in nature, converge to highlight the profound capacity for individuals to question, reimagine, and redefine the confines of their personal identities exterior to the societies they inhabit through critical introspection and the challenging of prevailing norms whether religious, socio-political or moral. In that both Nihilism and LGBTQIA+ perspectives ignite a confrontation of society authentication philosophy of understanding of marriage, family and healthy living as espoused in creation and by insisting on cultivating an environment that enthrones a skewed value system that champions inclusivity, diversity, absent moral or free moral agent, self – seeking patronages in sexual identities and urges and the ongoing thought on evolution of human.

Background

These concepts are not new, related concepts as homosexuality, lesbianism, bestiality, existed in Bible times and their impulses are just a refinement with swag. The concept of LGBTQIA and Nihilism existed during the late 17th and 19th century in the ancient Greece and received public acknowledgement because of followership and its catastrophic effects. Homosexuality had been documented virtually in every civilization from Ancient Greece to Rome, to Victoria England, right up to the present day. Heinrich Hossli and K. H. Ulrichs began their pioneering homosexual scholarships in the late 19th century, they found little in the way of comprehensive historical data, except for materials from bible account, ancient Greece and Islam. The atmosphere of the 1960s changed things with the sexual revolution made human sexuality an appropriate object of research. A new emphasis on the social and intellectual history appeared.

In simple sense, LGBTQIA+ is an acronym that defines lesbianism, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual; the plus (+) meaning there are more to the verified diverse gender and sexual identities e.g. Pansexual and others. From LGB to LGBTQ to LGBTQIA+; in the 1990s, gay and bisexual activist adopted the acronym LGB to describe their community (see Figure 1). This was largely made possible by the works of people like these activists participating in a 1975 "Pride in Boston". Out of all the letters in the acronym, LGBTQ, "the L" was the first to come into existence. For centuries, the word had been associated with the works of Sappho, an ancient Greek woman from the Island of Lesbos who wrote poems about same-gender passion.



Figure 1. The Pride Flag Represented by A Rainbow of Colours, Symbolizing Diversity and Inclusion Within the LGBTQ Community

The oldest use of the term to describe same-gender love has been traced back to the 17th century but its modern use emerged in the 1890s, when it was used in an English language medical dictionary and a variety of books on psychology and sexuality. Overtime, it grew in popularity and was adopted by women who secretly, then proudly, loved other women. Karl Heinrich was the first to try to label his own community at the dawn of homosexuality and bisexuality, as early as 1862, he used the term “Urning” to refer to men who were attracted to men, in his words: “We Urnings constitute a special class of human gender.....we are our own gender” “A third sex”.

In 1994, the annual observance of LGBTQ history month began in the United States, and it has since been picked up in other countries. This observance involved highlighting the history of the people, LGBTQ rights and related civil rights movement. It is observed during October in the United States, to include National Coming out Day, on October 11. The Federal government first recognized the Month in 1999, when President Bill Clinton declared June “Gay and Lesbian Pride Month”. In 2011, California became the first United States’ state to pass a law requiring LGBTQ history to be taught in public schools. In 2009, President Barack Obama declared June LGBTQ Pride Month. On the 1st of June, 2021, President Joe Biden also declared June, LGBTQ Pride Month. Pride Month began after the Stonewall riots, a series of gay liberation protests in 1969 Modern-day Pride Month both honors the movement for LGBTQ rights and celebrates LGBTQ culture. The Stonewall Inn in the gay village of Greenwich Village, Manhattan, site of the June 28th, 1969, Stonewall riots, and the cradle of the modern worldwide LGBTQ rights movement is adorned with rainbow pride flags.

In the United kingdom, it has been observed during February since 2005, to coincide with the abolition of Section 28, of the Acts of Parliament, those sections are called Clauses, therefore Clause 28(1), was a legislative designation for series of laws across Britain that prohibited the promotion of Homosexuality by local authorities. It was in effect from 1988 to 2003 in England and Wales.

The acronym LGBTQIA+ means; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (or questioning) and the “+” means and others for example Pan Sexuality, intersex, non-binary and so on. The history of the LGBTQIA+ community is marked by a transformational journey from facing discriminations and criticisms to gaining acceptance over time. By taking action and offering support, the LGBTQ community came to accept persons of various sexual orientations. As a result, the terms "LGBTQIA+" or "LGBTQIA+" are now used to be more inclusive. LGBTQIA+ member’s legal rights and social acceptability have come a long way, yet discrimination against them persists in a variety of ways, including hate crimes, unfair work practices, and exclusion from some communities. Despite the victories achieved in the fight for complete equality and tolerance, the LGBTQIA+ community continues to work for a future in which everyone can live authentically without fear of discrimination.



Figure 2. Diagram Exploring the Question What Is Nihilism

Nihilism is gotten from the Latin word “nihil” which means “nothing”. It is the belief that nothing in the world has a real existence and absolute meaning. Nihilism is a philosophy based on a belief that all values are groundless, denying the existence of genuine moral truths and affirming the utmost meaninglessness of life and existence. Nihilism originated in 19th-century Russia by Friedrich Nietzsche Jacobi. It was characterized by moral and epistemological skepticism. For Nietzsche, “there’s no objective order or structure in the world expect what we give it”. He proposed that existence is meaningless, moral codes, worthless and God is dead. Perhaps, the original contribution Nihilist was Gorgias of Leotini who is famous for having said: “Nothing exist, if anything did exist, it could not be known. If it was known, the knowledge of it would be incommunicable”.

The proponents and father of Nihilism, used the word to negatively characterize transcendental idealism. Friedrich Nietzsche popularized the term to describe the decline of traditional morality in Western society. In the 20th century, nihilism encompassed various philosophies denying moral truths, knowledge, and purpose in life. It could be suggested that nihilism is skepticism to existing meanings and values and challenges same by foisting on the existing values a state on meaninglessness because it does not conform to its aspired meaning.

Nihilism is a philosophical view that asserts the belief that all values are groundless, denying the existence of genuine moral truths and affirming the utmost meaninglessness of life and existence in life. Accordingly, nihilism insist there is no ultimate purpose, truth or moral values in life. Nihilism rejected aestheticism and promoted utilitarianism and scientific rationalism, influenced by thinkers like Feuerbach, Darwin, and Spencer. The philosophy clashed with religious and secular authorities, emphasizing individual freedom and opposition to social order.

Nihilism can also be regarded as a school of thought that denies any objective ground of truths (moral truths). Nihilists believe that there is no inherent absolute meaning or purpose of life and that all human actions and activities are ultimately pointless. This concept is pretty bleak and decries a pessimistic view of the world, partial, none reality construct of social reality but it is an interesting philosophical concept nonetheless. It only became popular, however, after its appearance in Ivan Turgenev’s novel, where he used ‘Nihilism’ to describe the crude skepticism espoused by his character.

In Russia, Nihilism became identified with an unorganized revolutionary movement from 1860 1917 that rejected the authority of the state, church and family. In his early writing, anarchist leader Michael Bakunin composed the notorious entreaty still identified with nihilism: “Let us put our trust in the eternal spirit which destroys and annihilates only because it is the unsearchable and eternally creative source of all life-the passion!”

Insights From Online Surveys on Acceptance of Gays, Lesbians, and Nihilism

The Pew Research Center, conducted two surveys: one of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender adults and the other of the American public. The Pew Research Center's surveys revealed a notable common thread: a growing societal acceptance of gays and lesbians. However, this positive trend comes with important nuances. While an impressive 92% of LGBTQ adults recognized an increased acceptance over the past decade, many of them still reported facing ongoing discrimination in various forms. Moreover, within the general public, opposition to same-sex marriage remains significant, often intertwined with religious beliefs. Remarkably, almost half of Americans (45%) view engaging in homosexual behaviour as a sin.

While not perfectly aligned for direct comparison, the surveys provide valuable insights. The LGBTQ survey included bisexuals (who constituted 40% of the participants) and transgender adults, whereas the general public survey focused on the perspectives of gay men and lesbians. Yet, when considered collectively, the surveys reveal intriguing commonalities across multiple domains: levels of acceptance, the dynamics of disclosing identities to friends and family, the meaningful impact of personal connections, and the complexities of navigating religious terrain.

*Our Survey Insights on Nihilism and Lgbtqia+ Perspectives: A**Comparative Analysis*

In pursuit of illuminating insights, research conducted surveys to shed light on Nihilism and LGBTQIA+ perspectives. Notably, the LGBTQIA+ survey encompassed individuals identifying as bisexual (constituting 40% of the participants) and transgender adults, while the general public survey concentrated on the viewpoints of gay men and lesbians. Despite distinct focus areas, these surveys collectively unveil shared threads such as levels of acceptance, experiences in disclosing identities, the significance of personal connections, and intersections with religious beliefs. It's evident that within the larger societal context, those identifying as nihilists or belonging to the LGBTQIA+ community have witnessed a reduction in discrimination over time, reflecting evolving inclusivity. This shift, however, is most prominent in regions with protective legislation. Conversely, other societies evaluate acceptance through the lens of moral values, societal norms, and concerns about upbringing. This research rigorously examines survey data to offer a nuanced understanding of evolving perceptions regarding Nihilism and LGBTQIA+ viewpoints in contemporary society. In present day, researchers conducted a survey based on Nihilism and LGBTQIA, in Nigeria. Although there are no laws binding on the rights and protection of Nihilists and LGBTQIA people in Nigeria.

Results from the survey (see Fig 3.) show that 80% identify as Straight, 7.7% identify as transgender, 10% identify as either lesbian, bisexual and Nihilists. 34.6% believed that LGBTQ people should have equal rights as others, while 19.2% suggest they should be ostracized from the society. About 65.4% of people feel that they face discrimination in the society than expected.

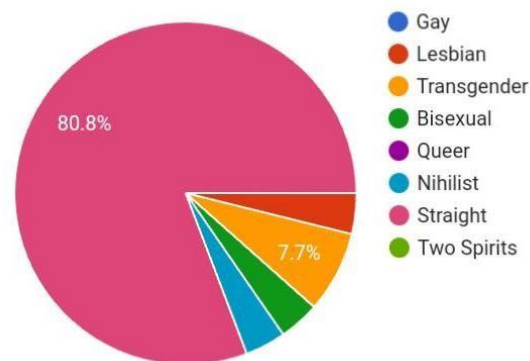


Figure 3. Survey Results Showing the Distribution of Respondents Self-Identified Gender

From the pie chart below, the question lies on how one would feel as a parent, if his or her son or daughter opens up to reveal their identity, what reaction soothes best. 20% is obviously going to be displeased with such information, 53.3% prefers to take their child for deliverance, on the thoughts of it being a psychological problem or mental problem (see Figure 4). In ensuring equality, most people think that they should be equal as human beings but the Acts in that community should not be endorsed as it goes against the word and will of God. It's like asking for rights for adulterers and kleptomaniacs. Some others say that they are not normal people and they should be taken to a psychiatric hospital. On the other hand, a few number of people support that their rights should be protected and equal as to every other person's right.

It can obviously be seen that majority of people in the Nigerian society don't really accept Nihilists or LGBTQ, but in many countries where the laws protecting these people have been made, there's a wide range of acceptance, thereby leading to more discovery of many more identities. There would be a detailed statistics in the following section and also an overview on the moral, religious, Scientific and Health perspective of Nihilism and LGBTQIA.

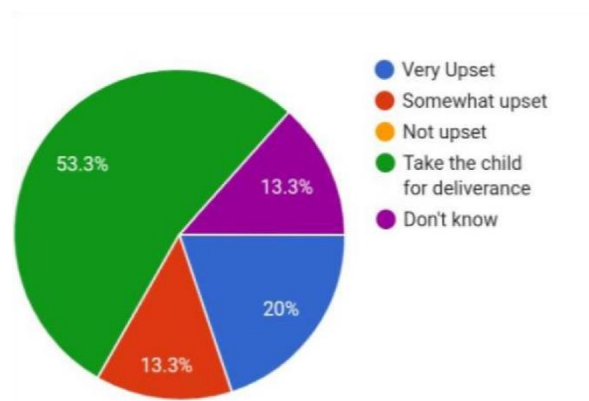


Figure 4. Survey Results on Parents Potential Reactions to Their Child Revealing Their Gender or Sexual Identity

The Common Ground Between Nihilism and Lgbtqia+

The common ground between nihilism and the LGBTQIA+ community lies in their shared experiences of challenging and questioning societal norms, beliefs, and identities. Nihilism, as a philosophical perspective, rejects inherent meaning and value in life, leading to a critical examination of traditional moral and social structures that is, nihilism challenges established norms and seeks to understand life's purpose and the nature of truth. Similarly, the LGBTQIA+ community which is an abbreviation for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, intersex, asexual, and more which are terms used to describe a person's sexual orientation or gender identity, challenges societal norms about gender and sexuality, advocating for equal rights and acceptance for people with diverse identities. They stand against discrimination and social biases. Both nihilism and the LGBTQIA+ movement involve questioning traditional beliefs, seeking to promote individuality and self-expression. They share a common goal of understanding and accepting personal identity while opposing oppressive systems that limit human potential.

In this document, as seen in the abstract, the concepts of nihilism and LGBTQIA+ perspectives will be explored, focusing on their respective viewpoints on moral, religious, scientific, and health related matters and in relations to the Law of Identity. Both nihilism and LGBTQIA+ perspectives offer unique insights into these areas, and so we will examine how they intersect and diverge in their understanding. Furthermore, we will shed light on how these ideologies address LGBTQIA+ issues and their implications on societal perceptions and attitudes. By delving into the evidence from moral, religious, scientific, and health perspectives, we can gain a comprehensive understanding of the complexities surrounding these topics and the broader implications they hold.

Figure 5. Separate Diagrams Illustrating the Concepts of LGBTQ Identity and Nihilism*Moral Evidence*

The LGBTQIA+ community and nihilism share a moral standpoint rejection that is centered on their skepticism of traditional or absolute moral ideals. The term “nihilism” is often used as an invective to blame a person or a way of thinking. If used in this way there would be a simple opposition between “nihilism and morality”. That opposition could point to a practical problem, but certainly not to a theoretical one. Nihilism challenges traditional notions of objective moral truths by suggesting that if life lacks inherent meaning, then moral values might also lack an objective basis. If nothing possesses inherent significance, some argue, then moral principles might be human constructs without any ultimate grounding. Many nihilists believe that moral standards and ethical precepts lack a solid foundation and have no external support? Moral principles are viewed as human inventions from a nihilistic angle; there is no ultimate reality or universal morality. Moral relativism, which holds that morality is subjective and differs from person to person or culture to culture, may be embraced by nihilists while on the other hand, the LGBTQIA+ community includes people who hold a variety of views regarding moral principles, just like any other diverse group. Due to the fact that it primarily concerns one's sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. Belonging to the LGBTQIA+ community does not indicate any particular moral position. Based on their upbringing, cultural background, or personal convictions, some LGBTQIA+ people may uphold conventional moral standards. Some people could disagree with standard moral standards, particularly if they have been subjected to prejudice or criticism because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. Some people's experiences cause them to reject conventional moral principles and look for new ethical systems.

Thus, conventional moral standards in society may be questioned by both LGBTQIA+ members and nihilists. Their motives, though, are different. While nihilists doubt the underlying value or purpose of anything, including morals, LGBTQIA+ members frequently challenge standards to promote inclusivity and acceptance. It must be noted that not all members of the LGBTQIA+ community share this philosophical stance, as beliefs within the community are diverse and varied.

Religious Evidence

Nihilism is the philosophical belief that life has no inherent meaning or purpose. Nihilists believe that traditional values and beliefs are baseless and that all human efforts are futile. Ultimately rejecting religious beliefs. Nihilism rejects religion because it challenges the fundamental principles of faith and spirituality. While ultimately, LGBTQIA+ members' perspectives on religion vary widely, with some finding acceptance and affirmation within religious communities, others may experience challenges due to differing interpretations of religious teachings on matters of sexual orientation and gender identity. For the purpose of this paper, the perspectives on religions like Islam and Christianity (see fig 6) will be examined.



Figure 6. Diagram of the Christian Cross, Symbolizing Faith and Christianity

Nihilism rejects Christianity because it fundamentally challenges the central beliefs and teachings of the Christian faith. From the perspective of nihilism, concepts like God, the Holy Spirit, and the afterlife are considered as human constructs with no objective reality. And at the core of Christianity lies the belief in the divine authority and truth of the Bible, the creation story, marriage and Sabbath. Christians view the Bible as the inspired word of God, serving as a guide for life and providing insights into the nature of existence and moral living. The Bible offers a comprehensive narrative of creation, the human condition, and God's purpose for humanity.

One of the main reasons nihilism rejects Christianity is its denial of the biblical claim that life has inherent worth and meaning. Christianity teaches that God purposely created humans to be like Him, which contrasts with nihilism's view. In Genesis 1:27, it says:

"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God, he created him; male and female he created them."

This verse emphasizes that human life has a divine origin and value, not just a random accident. Nihilism also opposes Christianity's belief in the supernatural and the existence of God. Nihilists often consider religious ideas, especially those in the Bible, as wishful thinking or made-up stories without any evidence to support them. Also, nihilism's rejection of universal moral values contradicts Christianity's ethical foundation, which is firmly grounded in the teachings of the Bible. While nihilism promotes a view that ethics are subjective and relative, Christians adhere to the idea of objective universal moral principles presented in the Bible. A prime example of these guidelines is the Ten Commandments which demonstrate God's moral expectations for human behaviour, emphasizing virtues like love, honesty, and respect for others.

As for Christians, the Bible offers the basis of their faith, a thorough grasp of life's purpose, worth, and hope. Christians reject nihilism in its entirety. The teachings of the Bible declare that each person plays a significant part in God's plan and that, in the context of faith, life is full of significance, love, and community meaning. In Christians' view, an opportunity to engage in meaningful conversation and share the hope and purpose inherent in their beliefs rather than dismissing nihilists out of hand.

Christianity also rejects LGBTQIA+ members and relationships because it is rooted in interpretations of specific Bible verses which are used to criticize same-sex acts and describe them as sinful or unnatural. For example: "Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination." Also, Apostle Paul states that homosexuality is contrary to God's natural order and results from rejecting God. These scriptures and more showcase the fact that LGBTQIA+ is contrary to the Christian belief.

However, essential to acknowledge that interpretations of these verses vary, and some Christians embrace more inclusive and loving attitudes toward the LGBTQIA+ community, seeking to find a balance between their faith and acceptance of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities.

The rejection of homosexuality is not only limited to the Christian community Islam and Ekpeye African religion also does. As for Islam, Nihilism and LGBTQIA+ are rejected in Islam because they conflict with the Quran's teachings, which form the basis of the Islamic faith. The Islamic conviction that humanity is part of Allah's divine design and purpose might clash with nihilism's denial of the inherent meaning and purpose in life. On the other hand, traditional Islamic views on sexuality and human relationships may be called into question by LGBTQIA+ issues.

For nihilism, according to Islamic teaching, Allah created humans with a purpose, and life's journey offers an opportunity to worship Allah and submit to His supreme will. Surah Adh-Dhariyat states that: "And I did not create the jinn and mankind except to worship Me." The Quran provides a comprehensive framework of guidance and understanding about life's purpose and the nature of reality. Nihilism's rejection of these teachings may arise from its view that life lacks objective meaning and that religious beliefs are human constructs.

Islam adheres to conventional beliefs regarding human sexuality, emphasizing heterosexual relationships within the context of marriage, with regard to LGBTQIA+ problems. This viewpoint might not support the rights and acceptance of LGBTQIA+ people. Although the Quran does not directly address contemporary ideas of sexual orientation and gender identity, Islamic scholars often give traditional interpretations to the verses of the Quran that deal with marriage and sexual behaviour. In Islam, regarding improper sexual conduct the men of Sodom and Gomorrah in Lots' story is frequently quoted. It reads, "And [We had sent] Lot when he said to his people, "Do you commit such immorality as no one has preceded you with from among the worlds? It's true that you approach men with desire rather than women. You are a transgressing people, instead" . The Quran also states that "is two men among you are guilty of lewdness, punish them both. If they repent and amend, leave them alone; for Allah is oft-returning, most Merciful"

In reality, nihilism and LGBTQIA+ concerns causes many to reject Islam because they may conflict with the principles of the Quran. Islam's belief in Allah's divine plan may be at odds with nihilism's rejection of life's meaning, and LGBTQIA+ concerns may put conventional Islamic views on romantic relationships and sexuality in jeopardy. The junction of these viewpoints draws attention to the ongoing arguments and disagreements concerning these significant issues within the Muslim community.

Science, Health Nihilism and Lgbtqia+

Science and health, while not endorsing nihilism, concentrate on empirical evidence, understanding the natural world, and promoting well-being, and they may explore existential aspects, yet they generally do not engage with or embrace nihilistic perspectives; on the other hand, from a nihilistic standpoint, scientific knowledge is perceived as a human construct, offering only temporary and subjective understanding of the world, devoid of inherent meaning or purpose, and the pursuit of scientific truth may be seen as a mere reflection of human consciousness, lacking ultimate significance in an indifferent universe

although, some nihilistic thinkers might still value science for its practical applications, but they assert that it does not address the larger existential questions concerning the purpose or meaning of human existence.

Figure 7.

As for the LG BTQIA+ community, Science and health view LGBTQIA+ individuals and issues in a way that aligns with evidence-based research, medical understanding, and the promotion of health and well-being for all individuals, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. They recognize that sexual orientation and gender identity are diverse and natural aspects of human variation, not considered mental disorders. Research has shown that LGBTQIA+ individuals may face unique health disparities and challenges due to their activities, societal stigma, discrimination, high cost treatment of diseases, and lack of access to inclusive healthcare. Science aims to address these disparities and advocate for equal health care rights for all individuals. Additionally, science acknowledges that LGBTQIA+ individuals may be more vulnerable to mental health concerns, such as depression and anxiety, due to minority stress and societal stigma. Efforts are made to promote mental health support and create inclusive and affirming environments.

For Example, Science has been instrumental in understanding and combating the HIV/AIDS epidemic, which has disproportionately affected LGBTQIA+ communities because of illicit unprotected anus or oral sex and drug abuse. Research continues to focus on prevention, treatment, and ending the epidemic. In healthcare, there is a growing recognition of the importance of gender-affirming care for transgender individuals. This involves respecting and supporting an individual's gender identity and providing medical interventions, when appropriate, to align their bodies with their gender identity. Science and health organizations often advocate for policies and laws that protect LGBTQIA+ individuals from discrimination in healthcare settings and other areas of life. They also play a role in educating healthcare providers, the public, and policymakers about LGBTQIA+ health issues and promoting awareness and sensitivity to the unique needs of this community. In Africa, it will not be a wise health decision to be LGBTQIA+ as the health system is basically at its nursery stage and largely unable to take care simple health challenges plaguing the public and largely unprepared to tackle self-inflicted complications resulting directly from life style excesses.

It's important to note that societal views and scientific understanding continue to evolve. As new research emerges and societal attitudes change, science and health perspectives on LGBTQIA+ issues are likely to continue change to ensure the well-being and inclusivity of all individuals.

The Ekpeye traditional religion views nihilism and LGBTQIA+ as a taboo, an abomination and adherent are labeled and shamed as morally bankrupt. There is no middle ground for such community in our custom. In Ekpeye custom, truth is absolute and there are only two sexes or gender orientation, being male and female and only consenting matured adults of these sexes that can engage in sexual activities or marry to raise a family. Sexual relationship is therefore heterosexual and any variant is labeled and punished by the moral community.

Lgbtqia+ In Relation to the Law of Identity

The Law of Identity, expressed as "whatever is A is A," is a fundamental principle in logic. It states that any entity or proposition is identical to itself and different from anything else. When examining this logical law in the context of LGBTQIA+ identities, there is a potential tension as some aspects of LGBTQIA+ experiences seem to challenge the strict binary framework implied by the Law of Identity.

In particular, the Law of Identity assumes a binary view of gender, classifying individuals strictly as either male or female. This limited perspective might not fully accommodate non-binary or gender-fluid identities, which fall outside the traditional binary understanding. Non-binary individuals may identify as neither exclusively male nor exclusively female, highlighting the need for a more inclusive understanding of gender. Also, the Law of Identity might be perceived as overly simplistic when applied to sexual orientation. It implies that individuals can only be either exclusively heterosexual or exclusively homosexual, overlooking the complexity and fluidity of sexual orientations within the LGBTQIA+ community. Bisexual individuals, for example, experience attraction to more than one gender, challenging the binary assumptions of the Law of Identity.

Furthermore, the idea might not fully encompass transgender people's realities. The Law of identification could be read absolutely to mean that a person's affirmed gender is invalid and that their gender identification should be consistent with the sex they were assigned at birth. This disregards the real experiences of transgender people who insist that their gender identification is a fundamental part of who they are. The Law of Identity, "A is A," in classical logic, may seem limited when applied to LGBTQIA+ identities. Its binary assumptions about gender and sexual orientation does not accommodate non-binary, gender-fluid identities, and diverse sexual orientations like bisexuality. The insistence of these people if for it to embrace the complexities of human identity and experiences as crucial in understanding and supporting the LGBTQIA+ community.

The Concept of Lgbtqia+ With the Phrase "Who is My Neighbour?"

To answer this question we have to delve into the origin of the word neighbor. This word can be divided into two old English words "neah" and "gabur". The word "neah" means near and the word "gabur" means dweller. Together this means someone who dwells near. This can be interpreted to mean people who live in the same community/ society as us. In law it means anyone our action foreseeably may affect that one to take step to protect. The question "who is my neighbour?" takes its root from the bible. Jesus answered the question of "who is my neighbor" and urged all to "love your neighbor as yourself". This basically means that we should treat others the same way we treat ourselves. The same love that we show ourselves we should also show others. As human beings most of us believe that we are worthy of being treated with respect, care and love. If we receive anything less than that we either become offended or hurt. This also means that our neighbors who are also human beings desire the same thing and we should treat them the way we want to be treated. The bottom line is that love is reciprocal.

There is a thinking that a person's sexuality or gender doesn't make them any less of a human being than we are. This means that if we have members of a the LGBTQIA+ living in the same community as us we are to treat them with love and respect because the fact that their actions clashes with our beliefs or principles does not mean that they are any less human. Jesus even goes further to make his stance on love clear by saying "A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another." This demands a higher level of love, a love that care and forgives despite the greatness of the transgressions. If Jesus was to take account of all our wrong doings and hold it against us none of us would go to heaven. Jesus displayed the highest level of love at His crucifixion after he had been brutally beaten and disgraced. As he was on the cross about to die he prayed to God saying" Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing". Despite his pain and hurt, he prayed for the forgiveness of those who had caused him so much anguish and pain. This clearly depicts that our desire as Christians should not be to want everyone who sins or hurts to be punished severely but rather we should

seek and pray for the salvation of their souls and be patient. The only fear of Christians is that the LGBTQIA+ community should not hunt them out via legal instrumentality and themselves discriminate Christians who may not support their orientation.

The bible says that the only sin that cannot be forgiven is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. This means that if a member of an LGBTQ community repents God is willing to forgive them “there is more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety nine just persons who need no repentance”. The story of Mary Magdalene shows us that showing love rather than condemning is the best way to draw them into repentance and to Christ.

One of the major problems with knowing how to treat our neighbour is that most people don't know what love is. People think that love is subjective to our feelings and emotions. That is fortunately the farthest from the truth one can ever get. The bible gives us the simplest and shortest definition of love, “God is love”. This means that God is the universal and absolute standard for love. There we do not measure the degree to which we show love to other based on our feelings or emotions but rather based on what God will do in every situation. The challenge in applying God is that both nihilism and LGBTQIA+ throw God and godliness away and deny its existence as human construct. This denial makes it difficult to apply this love to them as they view sam as meaningless and society forcing them to be accepted less than they aspire of their identity because the system has a pre-determined set of values to which they are either not willing or are not accustomed to comply with. God chasten us when we sin. “he who the father loves he chastens”. This means that part of love telling the truth and rebuking others when necessary but ensuring that it is done in love and not out of spite.

As Christians God demands that we show love to the LGBTQIA+ community because he himself loves them because they are his creation. This means that since God is the yardstick in which we measure our degree of love, we must also show love to them; this love includes speaking the truth to them in love with the hope of the salvation of their soul. The act of speaking the truth does not however involve degrading and demeaning them so as to make them feel less than human. It does not involve physically assaulting, lynching or mutilating them.

Recommendation

After collating the thoughts of our group, we firmly believe that approaching individuals from the nihilist and LGBTQ+ communities with empathy and understanding is of paramount importance. By refraining from judgment based on their beliefs, we can create a space that respects their right to hold differing perspectives and make choices aligned with their convictions. As believers in God's word, we also recognize the value in gently encouraging reflection on the significance of the genders assigned by God and the purpose He has bestowed upon life, as revealed in the Bible.

Furthermore, considering the remarkable strides made in the timeline of LGBTQ+ history to promote equality and freedom, it is incumbent to uphold the core principles of love, acceptance, and equal rights for all, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. To achieve this, supporting LGBTQ+ individuals, educating ourselves about LGBTQ+ issues, and actively fostering inclusivity are indispensable steps toward creating a just and equitable society. It is essential to acknowledge that both nihilistic viewpoints and LGBTQ+ concerns might challenge diverse belief systems. Approaching these conversations with sensitivity and a genuine willingness to learn from one another can help navigate these complex discussions. By promoting open dialogue, mutual respect, and compassion, we can engage with these intricate topics while upholding the teachings of God in our interactions. God's standards make sense, is the core of meaningful living and family wholeness and must be preserved

We also acknowledge the potential conflicts between nihilism, LGBTQ+ concerns, and various religious beliefs, such as Islam, Ekpeye traditional religion and Christianity. Handling these conflicts with respect for diverse perspectives and striving to create environments that encourage mental health support and inclusivity is pivotal. Ultimately, our goal as believers should be to foster an atmosphere of understanding and empathy, allowing individuals to explore their beliefs and choices with careful consideration of their

potential implications. By doing so, we contribute to a more compassionate world that values the dignity and rights of all individuals.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the exploration of nihilism and LGBTQIA+ perspectives reveals a complex interplay between these concepts, offering diverse insights into human existence and identity. Nihilism's skepticism challenges conventional meaning and purpose, potentially leading to disconnection and despair, while LGBTQIA+ perspectives advocate for inclusivity in the face of confronting mental health challenges and societal attitudes. Despite their distinct ideologies, these concepts intersect through their influence on human beliefs, identity, and societal norms. Nihilism's questioning of inherent significance can resonate with certain marginalized individuals within the LGBTQIA+ community, and both ideologies grapple with self-identity and personal authenticity. LGBTQIA+ perspectives encourage embracing diverse identities and confronting norms, while nihilism prompts introspection about one's true self and societal constructs' authenticity. In their differences and commonalities, both concepts underscore the significance of individual experiences, emphasizing the importance of understanding, empathy, and inclusivity in navigating the complexities of human existence. As individuals, we should prioritize empathy, avoid stereotypes so we can promote understanding for a more inclusive, compassionate and advising of society that will not only nurture its young right but where they deviate can tolerantly correct them to be more useful to themselves and well integrated into society and in fact pose low risk to society otherwise society will be headed for disruptive erosion of its values and standards and headed for self-destruction of marriage, procreation and humanity by destruction of law of nature. The very aim of this confused way of thinking.

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