

**HOMOPHOBIA AMONG FILIPINO  
GUIDANCE COUNSELORS**

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## ABSTRACT

This is a descriptive study which explored the extent of homophobia among the 100 Filipino guidance counselors employed in the colleges and universities in Metro Manila.

A researcher-made instrument consisting of two parts was utilized to gather the needed information. The first part of the instrument was used to measure the perception of Filipino guidance counselors towards gays and lesbians. The second part of the researcher-made instrument was used to measure the counselors' homophobia along the nine (9) homophobic attitudes namely Acceptance, Tolerance, Pity, Repulsion, Antilocution, Avoidance, Discrimination, Physical Attack, and Extermination. Purposive sampling was employed in this study. The data gathered were statistically treated using frequency count, percentage, rank, and mean. Mann-Whitney U and Kruskal-Wallis were used to compare the non-parametric data as it examined whether any relationships exist among variables.

Based from the findings, majority of the Filipino guidance counselors have viewed gays and lesbians positively along the area of social, emotional, mental, spiritual, attitudinal, and physical dimensions of personhood. However, gays were perceived more positively as compared to their lesbian counterpart.

This study also revealed that Filipino guidance counselors have displayed traces of homophobic attitudes in the nine (9) categories and levels of homophobia. The most common homophobic attitudes which were often manifested by the Filipino guidance counselors were expressed through the attitude of Acceptance, which looked at

homosexuals as somebody to be accepted since they inevitably exist in the society. Acceptance is the mildest level and form of homophobia.

Generally, findings showed that the more severe the homophobia is described, the lesser homophobic attitudes guidance counselors have expressed. While the milder the form of homophobia, the higher the homophobic attitudes guidance counselors have manifested.

Findings also revealed that there were no significant relationships between counselors' characteristics and homophobia. However, there were significant relationships found between counselors' sex and an attitude of Antilocution; counselors' years in the counseling profession and an attitude of Acceptance; and counselors' type of school (whether sectarian or non-sectarian) and an attitude of Acceptance.

This study also suggested that male guidance counselors tend to agree more compared with the female counselors that it is okay to joke around or insult, give foul and negative words towards homosexuals. Guidance counselors who had been in the profession for 18 to 23 years and those who belong to the sectarian schools regarded most homosexuals as somebody to be accepted because they exist in the society.

<sup>2</sup>Based from the findings, there were traces of homophobic attitudes manifested by the Filipino guidance counselors. However, further research studies on this particular topic are recommended to strengthen, broaden and substantiate the findings.<sup>2</sup>