



RESEARCH ARTICLE

## Analysis on LGBTQ+ Bullying Experiences and Terminology Perceptions in Philippines: Bases for Institutional and Educational Program or Policy

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### ABSTRACT

Bullying within the LGBTQ+ community remains a pervasive issue, with significant impacts on the well-being and social inclusion of its members. This study aims to analyze bullying experiences and terminology perceptions among LGBTQ+ individuals in the Philippines. Through a mixed-method approach, including quantitative surveys and qualitative thematic analysis, data from 135 respondents were collected. Key findings reveal a high prevalence of personal and cyberbullying, with significant emotional and mental health consequences such as anxiety, depression, and diminished self-esteem. The study also explores the perceived offensiveness of various LGBTQ+ terms, highlighting the need for respectful and inclusive language. Relationships between demographic profiles and bullying experiences were analyzed, showing significant differences based on sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity. The findings underscore the urgent need for tailored interventions and policies to foster supportive environments for LGBTQ+ individuals, mitigating the adverse effects of bullying and promoting overall well-being. Future research should explore long-term interventions and their effectiveness in reducing bullying and improving mental health outcomes in LGBTQ+ populations.

## INTRODUCTION

Bullying within the LGBTQ+ community is a pervasive issue that significantly impacts the well-being and social inclusion of its members. Despite increased visibility and acceptance of LGBTQ+ individuals in many societies, they continue to face substantial challenges, including personal and cyberbullying. These negative experiences can lead to severe emotional and mental health consequences, such as anxiety, depression, and diminished self-esteem. Furthermore, derogatory language and misgendering exacerbate these issues, contributing to a sense of exclusion and social isolation. Understanding the prevalence, nature, and impact of bullying on LGBTQ+ individuals is crucial for developing effective interventions and fostering supportive environments (New CDC Data Shows LGBTQ Youth are More Likely to be Bullied Than Straight Cisgender Youth, 2023).

In the Philippine context, the situation for LGBTQ+ individuals is similarly troubling. A study by Human Rights Watch (2017) reported that many LGBTQ+ students in the Philippines experience bullying and discrimination in schools, leading to high dropout rates and significant mental health issues. Moreover, a survey conducted by the Rainbow Rights Project in 2019 highlighted that 78% of LGBTQ+ youth in the Philippines have encountered some form of bullying, both offline and online. The Philippine LGBT Chamber of Commerce (2021) also noted that workplace discrimination against LGBTQ+ individuals remains prevalent, affecting their professional and personal lives.

These findings underscore the urgent need for further analysis of bullying experiences and perceptions among LGBTQ+ individuals in the Philippines. This study aims to analyze the experiences and perceptions of bullying among LGBTQ+ individuals, focusing on the demographic profile of

respondents, the prevalence of personal and cyberbullying, the impact of derogatory language, and the perceived offensiveness of various LGBTQ+ terms. By doing so, it seeks to highlight the critical need for respectful and inclusive practices to mitigate the adverse effects of bullying and promote well-being within the LGBTQ+ community.

### **Objectives of the Study**

While there is existing research on the bullying experiences of LGBTQ+ individuals, there is a need to explore specific demographic factors and their relationship to both personal and cyberbullying in the Philippine context. This study addresses the following questions:

What are the demographic profiles of LGBTQ+ individuals in the Philippines?

What is the prevalence and impact of personal and cyberbullying among LGBTQ+ individuals?

How offensive are various LGBTQ+ terminologies perceived to be by the community?

What is the relationship between the demographic profile of LGBTQ+ individuals and their experiences of personal and cyberbullying?

What is the relationship between the demographic profile of LGBTQ+ individuals and their perceptions of offensive terminologies?

This study aims to analyze bullying experiences among LGBTQ+ individuals, focusing on demographics, personal and cyberbullying prevalence, the impact of derogatory language, and perceived offensiveness of various LGBTQ+ terms. It highlights the need for respectful and inclusive practices to mitigate the adverse effects of bullying and promote well-being within the LGBTQ+ community.

## **METHODOLOGY**

### **Research Method**

This study employs both quantitative and qualitative methodologies to explore the LGBTQ+ profile, bullying experiences, and perceptions of identified terminologies. A sample of 135 respondents, selected through purposive sampling, ensures diverse representation of sexual orientations and gender identities. Data were collected via an online survey.

### **Population**

The population for this study consisted of LGBTQ+ individuals aged 18 and above residing in the Philippines. This age criterion was chosen because individuals in this age group are typically more aware of their gender identity and sexual orientation. The respondents were selected through purposive sampling to ensure a diverse representation of sexual orientations and gender identities. The sample size was 135 respondents. This study was conducted in accordance with the ethical standards and ethical review. All participants provided informed consent before participating in the study.

### **Instrument**

The survey included sections on demographic profile information, personal and cyberbullying experiences, the impact of derogatory language on well-being, and perceptions of the offensiveness of various LGBTQ+ terms. The quantitative data were analyzed using descriptive statistics such as frequency, percentage, and ranking to summarize demographic information and the prevalence of bullying. The validity of the survey questionnaire was ensured through expert review and pilot testing.

## Data Analysis

The study utilized quantitative methodologies such as frequency and percentage distribution, ranking, and the use of tests of association for the relationships of variables. Qualitative methodologies, such as thematic analysis of open-ended questions, provided insights into respondents' detailed bullying experiences and their feelings about derogatory terminologies. Thematic analysis helped identify recurring themes in respondents' descriptions, aiding in the objectives of the study.

## RESULTS

**Table 1. Respondents Demographic profile**

Variable	Category	Frequency	Percentage
Sex	Male	67	50.4%
	Female	68	49.6%
	Total	135	100%
Age	18 - 24	118	87.4%
	25 - 34	17	12.6%
	Total	135	100%
Sexual orientation	Asexual "no sexual attractions"	22	16.3%
	Bisexual	62	45.9%
	Homosexual	51	37.8%
	Total	135	100%
Gender identity	Agender "Neutral"	20	14.8%
	Gay	28	20.7%
	Lesbian	8	5.9%
	Non-binary "Combination"	19	14.1%
	None	55	40.7%
	Transgender	5	3.7%
	Total	135	100%

The demographic profile of LGBTQ+ respondents reveals a balanced gender distribution with 50.4% male and 49.6% female participants, indicating a diverse sample. The age distribution shows that the majority (87.4%) of respondents are between 18-24 years old, with a smaller proportion (12.6%) aged 25-34. This age range highlights the experiences of younger LGBTQ+ individuals who are likely navigating significant life transitions, such as higher education or early career stages, where identity formation and social interactions are crucial.

Sexual orientation data indicates that a significant portion of respondents identify as bisexual (45.9%), followed by homosexual (37.8%) and asexual (16.3%). This aligns with research suggesting a growing visibility and acceptance of bisexual identities within the LGBTQ+ community, as highlighted in a study by Callis (2013), which emphasizes the fluidity and complexity of sexual orientation.

Regarding gender identity, the data showcases a broad spectrum of identities. While 40.7% of respondents did not specify their gender identity, those who did identified as gay (20.7%), agender (14.8%), non-binary (14.1%), lesbian (5.9%), and transgender (3.7%). This diversity underscores the need for inclusive policies and practices that recognize and respect the varied identities within the LGBTQ+ community. According to research by James et al. (2016), the inclusion of non-binary and other gender-diverse identities is critical in understanding the full scope of challenges faced by LGBTQ+ individuals.

**Table 2. Respondents' Experience of Bullying in Personal and Cyber Spaces**

Question	Answer	Frequency	Percentage
Have you experienced bullying in personal (face-to-face) interactions?	Yes	60	44.4%
	No	20	14.8%
	No answer	55	40.7%
Have you experienced bullying in cyber spaces?	Yes	43	31.9%
	No	37	27.4%
	No answer	55	44.4%

The data on respondents' experiences of bullying in personal and cyber spaces reveals a significant prevalence of bullying among LGBTQ+ individuals. Notably, 44.4% of respondents reported experiencing personal (face-to-face) bullying, while 31.9% experienced bullying in cyber spaces. The high percentages of non-responses (40.7% for personal bullying and 44.4% for cyberbullying) suggest a potential reluctance to disclose such experiences, which may be attributed to fear of stigma, privacy concerns, or the traumatic nature of the experiences themselves.

It is important to note that some respondents who answered "no" to experiencing face-to-face bullying reported experiencing cyberbullying, and vice versa. These responses were included in the presentation to provide a comprehensive view of the bullying experiences among the respondents. This inclusion highlights the different forms and contexts in which bullying can occur, emphasizing that the absence of face-to-face bullying does not preclude the presence of cyberbullying, and both forms of bullying can independently impact individuals.

This data aligns with existing research highlighting the widespread nature of bullying faced by LGBTQ+ individuals. For instance, a study by Kosciw et al. (2015) found that a substantial proportion of LGBTQ+ youth in the United States experience both in-person and online harassment, leading to adverse mental health outcomes. Similarly, a report by the Human Rights Campaign (2018) indicated that LGBTQ+ youth are disproportionately affected by cyberbullying compared to their heterosexual peers, with significant implications for their psychological well-being.

**Table 3. Themes produced based from the respondents answer to the question regarding the impact of derogatory language on the well-being and sense of belonging of LGBTQ+ individuals**

Themes produced	Frequency	Percentage
Affects mental health	18	15.13%
Lower self-confidence	18	15.13%
Affects self-esteem and confidence	15	12.61%
Causes hurt/sadness	13	10.92%
Feelings of exclusion/not belonging	10	8.40%
Not affected	8	6.72%
Causes fear	6	5.04%
Causes anxiety/depression	6	5.04%
Loss of self-worth	5	4.20%
Causes emotional distress	4	3.36%
Trauma	3	2.52%
Causes anger	2	1.68%
Makes me feel disrespected	2	1.68%
Causes social isolation	2	1.68%

Causes doubt about oneself	2	1.68%
Causes embarrassment	1	0.84%
Frustration	1	0.84%
Humiliation	1	0.84%
Causes stress	1	0.84%
Makes it hard to accept oneself	1	0.84%
Total	119	100%

The data indicates that derogatory language significantly affects mental health (15.13%), self-confidence (15.13%), and self-esteem and confidence (12.61%), and causes hurt and sadness (10.92%). For instance, one participant noted, "It somehow affected my self-esteem and confidence and made me question my self-worth," while another shared, "It loses my confidence and positivity in life." These responses illustrate the profound negative impact of derogatory language on self-perception and emotional well-being.

Mental health is a critical theme, with 15.13% of respondents indicating that derogatory language affects their mental well-being. Comments like "It affects my mental health" and "Hearing and reading those kinds of words affect my mental health and self-esteem" underscore the psychological toll of such language. This finding aligns with Meyer's (2003) minority stress theory, which suggests that stigma, prejudice, and discrimination create a hostile social environment that leads to mental health problems for LGBTQ+ individuals.

Lower self-confidence, reported by 15.13% of respondents, underscores how derogatory language undermines personal confidence. Examples include "It loses my confidence and positivity in life" and "Nakakawala ng confidence. Di ko mashow yung totoong ako." These themes collectively highlight the profound and multifaceted impact of derogatory language on the well-being and sense of belonging of LGBTQ+ individuals. Research by Herek (2009) supports that exposure to stigmatizing and discriminatory language can erode self-esteem and confidence, leading to long-term psychological effects.

The theme of self-esteem and confidence, reported by 12.61% of respondents, further emphasizes how derogatory language can damage an individual's overall sense of self-worth. This is supported by Herek (2009), who illustrates how stigma and discrimination erode self-worth and confidence. Such impacts on self-esteem can lead to a variety of long-term psychological issues.

Feelings of hurt and sadness are significant, reported by 10.92% of respondents. Expressions such as "Nakakasakit po sa damdamin" and "Minsan nakakasakit ng damdamin pero in other way I think that as their impression about me since they didn't exactly know who I really am" highlight the emotional pain caused by derogatory language. Consistent exposure to derogatory language can lead to chronic stress and psychological trauma, as noted by the American Psychological Association (APA).

Feelings of exclusion and not belonging were reported by 8.40% of respondents, with comments such as "For me sometimes it affects the well-being and sense of belonging because sometimes it causes you to have anxiety and you feel like you don't have the right to socialize and be one of the straight people" and "I felt like an outcast and being different" indicating the social isolation felt by many. This aligns with findings from Herek (2009), who emphasizes that social exclusion and marginalization are common experiences for LGBTQ+ individuals facing stigma. The sense of exclusion can be particularly damaging during formative years, as noted by GLAAD (2020), which highlights the significant impact on the well-being of LGBTQ+ youth.

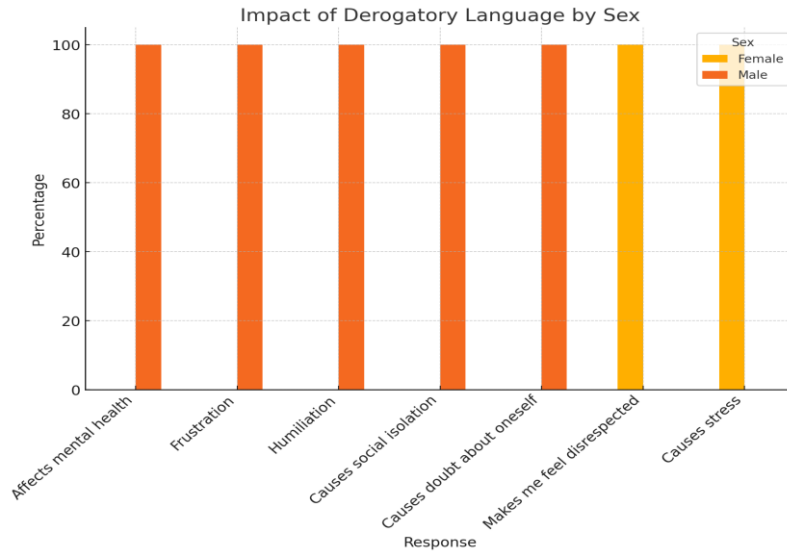
These themes collectively highlight the profound and multifaceted impact of derogatory language on the well-being and sense of belonging of LGBTQ+ individuals. The data reinforces the need for more supportive and inclusive environments to mitigate these adverse effects. Research by Russell and Fish (2016) supports the finding that creating inclusive environments can significantly improve the mental health and well-being of LGBTQ+ individuals. Understanding and addressing the impact of derogatory language is crucial in creating a supportive environment for LGBTQ+ individuals.

**Table 4. Tabular percentage breakdown of the responses across the profiles of the respondents to the question regarding the impact of derogatory language on the well-being and sense of belonging of LGBTQ+ individuals**

Responses	Percentage												
	Sex		Age		Sexual Orientation			Gender Identity					
	Female	Male	18-24	25-34	ASexual	Bisexual	Homosexual	Agender	Gay	Lesbian	Combination	None	Transgender
Affects mental health	0.0	10.0	66.7	33.3	0.0	33.3	66.7	0.0	100	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Affects self-esteem and confidence	44.4	55.6	71.4	28.6	11.1	50	38.9	15.4	46.2	0.0	30.8	0.0	7.7
Causes hurt/sadness	50.0	50.0	90.0	10.0	10.5	42.1	47.4	25.0	41.7	12.5	16.7	0.0	4.2
Causes anxiety/depression	50.0	50.0	71.4	28.6	15.8	26.3	57.9	25.0	41.7	8.3	16.7	0.0	8.3
Feelings of exclusion/ not belonging	37.5	62.5	80.0	20.0	25.0	16.7	58.3	33.3	33.3	0.0	11.1	0.0	22.2
Causes emotional distress	50.0	50.0	100.0	0.0	14.3	42.9	42.9	30.0	30.0	0.0	30.0	0.0	10.0
Trauma	50.0	50.0	66.7	33.3	12.5	50.0	37.5	16.7	33.3	33.3	16.7	0.0	0.0
Loss of self-worth	25.0	75.0	60.0	40.0	14.3	28.6	57.1	0.0	80.0	0.0	20.0	0.0	0.0
Frustration	0.0	10.0	0.0	10.0	0.0	50.0	50.0	50.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Humiliation	0.0	10.0	0.0	10.0	0.0	0.0	100	0.0	100	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Causes social isolation	0.0	10.0	100	0.0	50.0	0.0	50.0	0.0	100	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Indifference to derogatory language	31.3	68.8	76.5	23.5	5.9	47.1	47.1	31.3	31.3	0.0	31.3	0.0	6.3
Makes me feel disrespected	10.0	0.0	100	0.0	0.0	66.7	33.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	10.0	0.0	0.0
Causes embarrassment	66.7	33.3	75.0	25.0	0.0	66.7	33.3		50.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Not affected	31.3	68.8	75.0	25.0	6.3	50.0	43.8	31.3	31.3	0.0	31.3	0.0	6.3
Causes stress	10.0	0.0	100	0.0	0.0	50.0	50.0			10.0			
Lower self-confidence	42.9	57.1	90.9	9.1	15.0	55.0	30.0	22.2	38.9	0.0	38.9	0.0	0.0

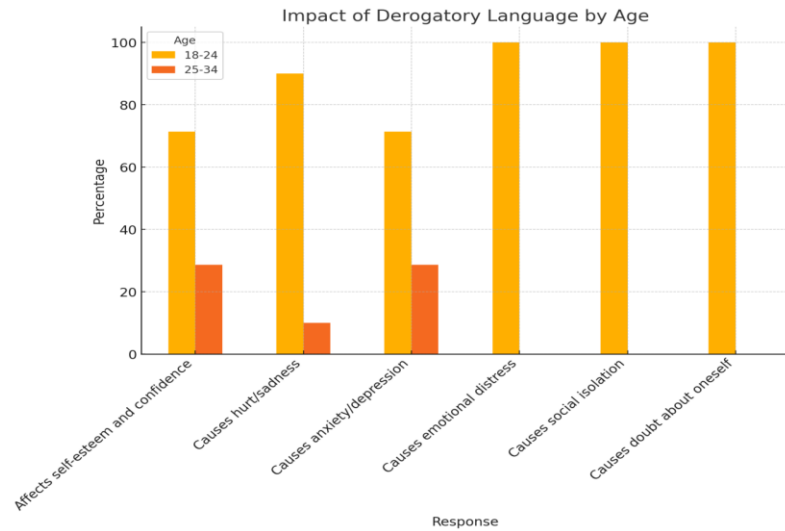
Makes it hard to accept oneself	0	100	100	0.0	0.0	0.0	100	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Causes anger	0	100	100	0.0	50.0	0.0	50.0	33.3	66.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Causes fear	75.0	25.0	100	0.0	28.6	14.3	57.1	42.9	28.6	28.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
Causes doubt about oneself	0	100	100	0.0	0.0	33.3	66.7	50	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	50

Table 4 shows the findings on the impact of derogatory language across the respondents different demographic groups reveal significant trends based on sex, age, sexual orientation, and gender identity.



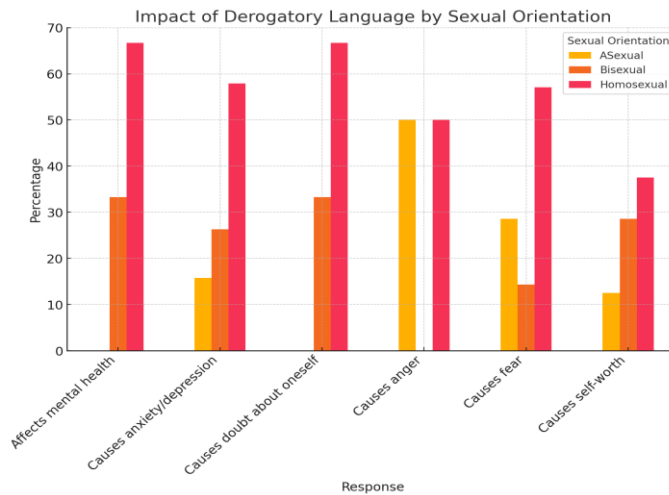
**Figure 1. Impact of Derogatory Language by Sex**

Male respondents consistently report high impacts in several categories, including mental health, frustration, humiliation, social isolation, and self-doubt, all at 100%. This uniformity suggests that derogatory language has a profound and pervasive effect on men, leading to severe psychological and social consequences. Female respondents report significant impacts in areas such as feeling disrespected (100%), stress (100%), fear (75%), and embarrassment (66.7%). Although the percentages are high, they are less uniform compared to male respondents, indicating a varied but still substantial impact. Studies have shown that gender differences in response to stress and mental health challenges can vary significantly. According to Oliffe et al. (2010), men often experience and express mental health issues differently than women, potentially explaining the uniform high impact reported by males. Additionally, research by Kuehner (2017) highlights that women may report higher levels of stress and fear due to societal expectations and experiences of discrimination, aligning with the findings in the female respondents.



**Figure 2. Impact of Derogatory Language by Age**

Respondents in the 18-24 age group show the highest percentages in most categories, such as self-esteem, confidence, sadness, anxiety, depression, emotional distress, social isolation, and self-doubt, with several responses at 100%. This suggests that younger individuals are more vulnerable to the negative effects of derogatory language. The 25-34 age group shows lower percentages overall, except for frustration and humiliation, both at 100%, indicating that while the impact is still significant, it may be more focused on specific emotional responses rather than a broad spectrum of issues. Arnett (2000) describes emerging adulthood (ages 18-25) as a period marked by identity exploration and high emotional vulnerability, which could explain the higher impact reported by the 18-24 age group. Similarly, research by Twenge et al. (2019) suggests that younger adults are experiencing higher levels of anxiety and depression, exacerbated by social media and other societal pressures.

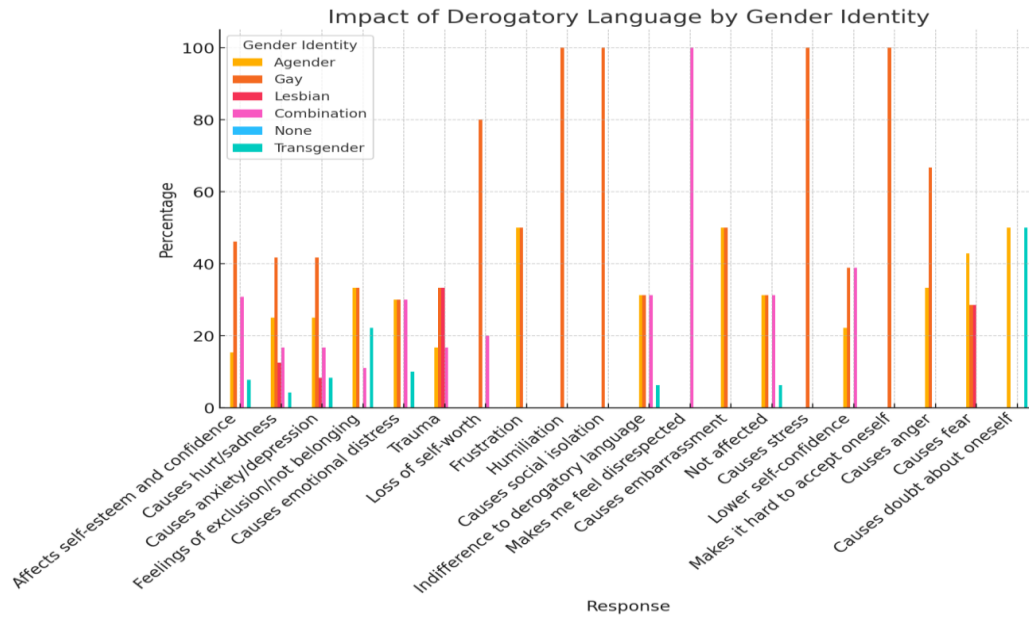


**Figure 3: Impact of Derogatory Language by Sexual Orientation**

Homosexual respondents report significant impacts, particularly on mental health (66.7%), anxiety/depression (57.9%), self-doubt (66.7%), anger (50%), and fear (57.1%). This indicates that derogatory language heavily affects their psychological well-being. Bisexual respondents also show significant impacts, though generally lower than homosexual respondents, in areas such as self-esteem (50%), sadness (42.1%), and emotional distress (42.9%). Research by Meyer (2003) on minority stress



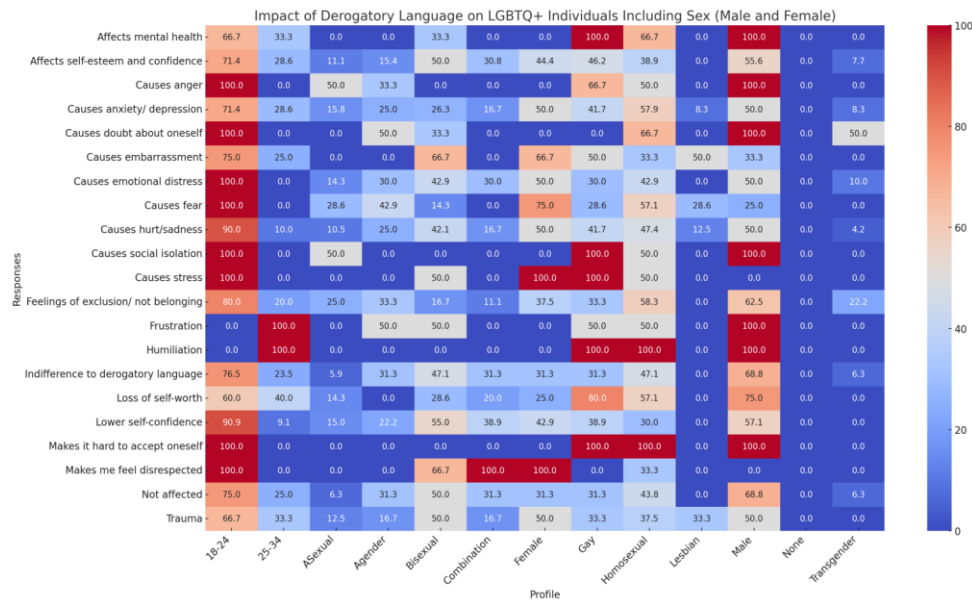
theory highlights that LGBTQ+ individuals face unique stressors related to their sexual orientation, contributing to higher rates of mental health issues. Moreover, studies by Herek and Garnets (2007) emphasize that discrimination and derogatory language significantly impact the mental health of LGBTQ+ individuals, supporting the findings for homosexual and bisexual respondents.



**Figure 4: Impact of Derogatory Language by Gender Identity**

Further analysis of the data by gender identity reveals that gay respondents experience high impacts across multiple areas, particularly in self-acceptance (100%) and self-worth (80%), with notable percentages for self-esteem (46.2%), hurt/sadness (41.7%), anxiety/depression (41.7%), and anger (66.7%). This aligns with the findings of Herek (2009), which highlight that internalized stigma and experiences of discrimination significantly affect the mental health and self-perception of gay individuals. Agender respondents report significant impacts on emotional distress (30%), exclusion (33.3%), fear (42.9%), and embarrassment (50%), which is consistent with research by Bradford et al. (2013) that identifies non-binary individuals facing unique challenges and higher rates of psychological distress due to societal non-recognition and exclusion.

Transgender respondents show a significant impact in areas of fear (50%) and hurt/sadness (4.2%), but lower percentages in most other responses. These findings are supported by the National Center for Transgender Equality (2015), which reports high levels of anxiety and fear among transgender individuals due to discrimination and societal marginalization. Combination identity respondents feel notably disrespected (100%) but less impacted in other areas, while lesbian respondents report lower impacts overall, with slight increases in anxiety (8.3%) and embarrassment (12.5%). This resonates with Meyer’s (2003) minority stress model, which indicates that while all LGBTQ+ individuals face stress due to discrimination, the specific impacts can vary widely based on individual and subgroup identities. These detailed percentages highlight the varied and profound impacts derogatory language has on different gender identities, with gay individuals and agender respondents reporting the most significant emotional distress and feelings of exclusion.



**Figure 5: Heat map of the percentage impact across all responses and profiles**

As shown from the heat-map, overall findings reveal that younger individuals (18-24 years) and males are the most impacted by derogatory language, particularly in terms of mental health and social isolation. Homosexual individuals, especially those identifying as gay, report high impacts across multiple areas, aligning with existing research on minority stress and mental health disparities. Transgender respondents, while reporting impacts, show lower percentages, which may reflect diverse experiences or a need for more targeted research. These findings highlight the pervasive and severe effects of derogatory language on mental health across various demographic groups, emphasizing the need for targeted interventions and supportive measures to address and mitigate these impacts.

**Table 5: Frequency, Ranking, and Mean distribution of Perceived Offensiveness of Terms**

Word/Phrase	Frequency				Mean	Descriptive Meaning
	Offensive	Neutral	Not offensive	Unfamiliar		
Fag	74	5	9	2	3.68	Offensive
Faggot	74	5	8	3	3.66	Offensive
Rice queen	69	5	4	2	3.77	Offensive
Lesbian	65	10	3	2	3.56	Offensive
Cocksuckers	63	4	10	3	3.52	Offensive
Bakla	62	24	29	1	2.48	Not offensive
Bading	61	8	11	0	3.35	Offensive
Beki	57	11	11	1	3.00	Neutral
Beks	49	16	14	1	2.83	Neutral
Bayot	51	14	14	1	2.88	Neutral
Boses palaka	48	11	17	4	2.73	Neutral
Abnormal	47	13	16	4	2.76	Neutral
Parlorista	44	18	16	2	2.60	Neutral

Binalaki	44	14	20	2	2.67	Neutral
Non-binary	43	17	14	6	2.61	Neutral
Binabae	40	16	23	1	2.83	Neutral
Alien	37	19	18	6	2.61	Neutral
Babae kapag gabi	36	18	21	5	2.60	Neutral
Babae ang puso	34	16	24	6	2.57	Neutral
He-She	34	20	22	4	2.55	Neutral
Dyke	32	16	22	4	2.50	Not offensive
Palaka	23	31	19	7	2.20	Not offensive
Petrang Kabayo	23	21	23	13	2.24	Not offensive
Paminta/ Spicy	21	24	33	2	2.18	Not offensive
Swarspeak	21	30	23	6	2.36	Not offensive
Tibo or T-bird	19	33	25	3	2.16	Not offensive
Sissy	12	22	18	28	2.06	Not offensive
Queer	14	25	22	19	2.16	Not offensive
Gaylinggo	13	21	36	20	2.46	Not offensive
Transwoman	13	25	21	21	2.43	Not offensive
Silahis	13	32	34	1	2.30	Not offensive
Salot	13	32	31	4	2.31	Not offensive
She-male	12	41	25	2	2.55	Neutral
Lalaki ang puso	12	31	36	1	2.30	Not offensive
Tranny	11	39	28	2	2.64	Neutral
Ladlad	11	39	28	2	2.64	Neutral
Gay	8	13	59	0	1.85	Not offensive
Tomboy	10	29	37	4	2.27	Not offensive
Transman	10	27	39	4	2.31	Not offensive
Potato queen	9	21	41	9	2.15	Not offensive
Agi	8	14	10	25	2.38	Not offensive
Ading	4	17	45	14	2.68	Neutral
Malas	4	22	53	1	2.55	Neutral

Sireyna	5	20	53	2	2.50	Not offensive
Mare	2	30	45	3	2.76	Neutral
Dyosa	1	12	61	6	1.98	Not offensive
Bungot	1	11	50	8	2.15	Not offensive
Charing	1	4	68	7	2.85	Neutral
Charot	0	16	63	1	2.88	Neutral
Gender Fluid	0	4	19	57	1.45	Neutral
Overall Mean					2.41	Not Offensive

Legend: 1 to 1.75 = Unfamiliar, 1.76 to 2.50 = Not offensive, 2.51 to 3.25 = Neutral, and 3.26 to 4.00 = Offensive

The table presents the frequency, ranking, and mean distribution of perceived offensiveness for various terms as rated by respondents. Several terms are deemed offensive based on their mean scores.

The terms "Fag" (mean = 3.68), "Faggot" (mean = 3.66), "Rice queen" (mean = 3.77), "Lesbian" (mean = 3.56), "Cocksuckers" (mean = 3.52), and "Bading" (mean = 3.35) are categorized as offensive. These high mean scores indicate that a significant portion of respondents find these terms highly offensive, reflecting deep-seated negative connotations and historical use as slurs against LGBTQ+ individuals.

Research supports these findings by highlighting the impact of derogatory language on mental health and social inclusion. Meyer (2003) discusses how minority stress, including exposure to slurs and derogatory terms, can lead to negative mental health outcomes for LGBTQ+ individuals. Similarly, Herek (2009) emphasizes that language-based stigma contributes to the marginalization and psychological distress experienced by LGBTQ+ communities. These findings are further supported by Russell and Fish (2016), who note that derogatory language exacerbates the vulnerabilities and mental health challenges faced by LGBTQ+ youth.

Overall, the table highlights the significant offensive impact of certain terms on LGBTQ+ individuals, underscoring the need for continued efforts to address and mitigate the use of harmful language in both personal and public discourse.

**Table 6: Tabular frequency and percentage breakdown of the responses to the question regarding any other words or phrases perceived as derogatory towards members of the LGBTQ+ community**

Response	Frequency
Salot/Salot sa lipunan	4
HIV Source / "Sa LGBT nakukuha ang HIV	3
Wampipte / 150	5
Pomplyang	1
Myla (may lawit?)	1
Chaka	1
Baklang ulikba	1
Dalawang ari	1
Nakiki-uso	1
Shibs/shibuli	1

Cunt	1
"Pekeng babae/lalaki"	1
Kampon daw ni Satanas at hindi gawa ng Diyos	1
"Babae ka ngayon ah"	1
"Sir"/misgendering terms for transgender individuals	1
RAUL	1
Pabigat and Android	1
Baliko'	1

The table above shows the LGBTQ+ community members insights into the other language used in referring themselves. The survey results, based on open-ended questions, indicate that not all respondents answered, so the frequencies presented may not represent the entire sample's views.

Firstly, the phrase "salot/salot sa lipunan," meaning "plague to society," stands out with a frequency of 4 and a percentage of 14.81%. This term is particularly harmful as it labels LGBTQ+ individuals as societal pests, contributing to their marginalization and dehumanization. One respondent expressed, "Wala kayong lugar sa mundong ito," illustrating the exclusionary nature of such language. The use of this phrase underscores the stigma and rejection faced by LGBTQ+ individuals, aligning with findings by Herek (2009) that emphasize the role of societal prejudice in perpetuating social exclusion and psychological distress among LGBTQ+ populations.

The term "wampipte" or "150," mentioned by 5 respondents (18.52%), highlights another prevalent theme. These colloquial insults are versatile and widely used to mock LGBTQ+ individuals, undermining their identity and self-esteem. Originally, "wampipte" or "150" referred to the amount of payment that gay individuals would give for sexual pleasures, adding a layer of sexual objectification and commodification to the insult. Respondents noted hearing these terms frequently, with one stating, "The most popular one and the most flexible. I could hear it anytime, anywhere. It's '150.' The funniest of them all." Such language not only belittles but also normalizes disrespect and discrimination, as supported by Meyer's (2003) minority stress theory, which discusses how chronic exposure to stigmatizing language exacerbates mental health issues within marginalized communities.

Additionally, the term "Pompyang," although mentioned less frequently (3.70%), carries significant negative connotations. It is used to insult and degrade LGBTQ+ individuals, further highlighting the varied and nuanced ways in which harmful language targets this community. This aligns with Pluta et al. (2023), who discuss how exposure to hate speech, including derogatory language based on sexual prejudice, deteriorates mental well-being and social cohesion.

The overall findings reveal a range of recognized insults, misgendering expressions, and dehumanizing phrases. These responses underscore the harmful impact of such language on the well-being and sense of belonging of LGBTQ+ individuals. The data confirms that derogatory language causes profound emotional distress, social isolation, and diminished self-esteem, reinforcing the need for ongoing education and advocacy to foster a more inclusive and respectful society. By highlighting these specific derogatory terms and their impacts, this research emphasizes the importance of creating supportive environments that mitigate the adverse effects of harmful language on LGBTQ+ individuals. Advocacy for respectful language and increased awareness of the detrimental effects of derogatory terms are crucial steps toward promoting mental health and social inclusion for all members of the LGBTQ+ community.

**Table 7. Relationship between the LGBTQ+ Profile and their assessed personal and cyber bullying experiences Chi-Square Results**

Profile	Personal Bullying Experiences (p-value)	Interpretation	Cyber Bullying Experiences (p-value)	Interpretation
Sex	0.0469	Significant	0.1455	Not Significant
Age	0.1066	Not Significant	0.9553	Not Significant
Sexual Orientation	0.9631	Not Significant	0.0029	Significant
Gender Identity	0.0839	Not Significant	0.01377	Significant

Significant at alpha level = 0.05

The table presents chi-square results analyzing the relationship between various aspects of the LGBTQ+ profile and their experiences with personal and cyberbullying.

Significant relationships were found between sex and personal bullying experiences ( $p=0.0469$ ), sexual orientation and cyberbullying experiences ( $p=0.0029$ ), and gender identity and cyberbullying experiences ( $p=0.01377$ ). This indicates that personal bullying experiences significantly differ based on sex, while cyberbullying experiences vary significantly based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

No significant relationships were found between sex and cyberbullying experiences, age and both forms of bullying experiences, sexual orientation and personal bullying experiences, and gender identity and personal bullying experiences.

These findings suggest that different identities within the LGBTQ+ community face distinct bullying challenges, underscoring the need for tailored interventions. Supporting research by Toomey et al. (2010), Kosciw et al. (2015), and McConnell et al. (2017) highlights the varied forms of victimization faced by LGBTQ+ individuals based on their gender, sexual orientation, and gender identity, reinforcing the necessity for targeted policies and support systems.

**Table 8. Relationship between the LGBTQ+ profile and the perceived offensiveness of terminologies Chi-Square Results**

Terminologies	Profile (p-value)				Interpretation
	Sex	Age	Sexual Orientation	Gender Identity	
Abnormal	0.0185	0.6483	0.9540	0.5731	Has significant to the profile: Sex
Ading	0.1901	0.9868	0.2043	0.0001	Has significant to the profile: Gender Identity
Agi	0.5629	0.9354	0.1007	0.0094	Has significant to the profile: Gender Identity
Alien	0.3718	0.9467	0.9575	0.3259	Not significant.
Babae ang puso	0.1633	0.5576	0.1055	0.7063	Not significant.
Babae kapag gabi	0.5674	0.6876	0.8254	0.0384	Has significant to the profile: Gender Identity

Bading	0.4211	0.4845	0.1517	0.0031	Has significant to the profile: Gender Identity
Bakla	0.4846	0.9073	0.8940	0.0147	Has significant to the profile: Gender Identity
Bayot	0.6383	0.7802	0.9352	0.2278	Not significant
Beki	0.5006	0.9463	0.8975	0.3200	Not significant
Beks	0.2127	0.9612	0.5035	0.1032	Not significant
Binabae	0.4439	0.7873	0.8811	0.9370	Not significant
Binalaki	0.5749	0.3937	0.4203	0.2566	Not significant
Boses palaka	0.8264	0.4201	0.5761	0.6839	Not significant
Bungot	0.7373	0.8775	0.9291	0.1770	Not significant
Charing	0.6275	0.5735	0.9597	0.1894	Not significant
Charot	0.5932	0.4282	0.8469	0.1283	Not significant
Cocksuckers	0.4751	0.6978	0.1933	0.1832	Not significant
Dyosa	0.2032	0.7511	0.2223	0.1117	Not significant
Dyke	0.1167	0.6623	0.5730	0.3200	Not significant
Fag	0.0278	0.2314	0.3576	0.6921	Has significant to the profile: Sex
Faggot	0.0287	0.5470	0.4845	0.5460	Has significant to the profile: Sex
Gay	0.4328	0.7276	0.7475	0.2965	Not significant.
Gaylinggo	0.3068	0.3991	0.7684	0.0344	Has significant to the profile: Gender Identity
Gender Fluid	0.2459	0.1416	0.3540	0.7237	Not significant.
He-She	0.8174	0.5999	0.4792	0.9869	Not significant.
Ladlad	0.0680	0.1266	0.0162	0.3657	Has significant to the profile: Sexual Orientation
Lalaki ang puso	0.2478	0.6105	0.3160	0.4072	Not significant.
Lesbian	0.6041	0.9292	0.9432	0.8606	Not significant.
Malas	0.5613	0.6698	0.3615	0.8626	Not significant.
Mare	0.2435	0.9282	0.6978	0.1966	Not significant.
Non-binary	0.0169	0.135	0.8469	0.0874	Has significant to the profile: Sex

		4			
Palaka	0.9424	0.3265	0.9951	0.6229	Not significant.
Paminta/Spicy	0.6085	0.8679	0.0287	0.7578	Has significant to the profile: Sexual Orientation
Parlorista	0.9280	0.8568	0.6325	0.4066	Not significant.
Petrang Kabayo	0.1702	0.8301	0.3986	0.0145	Has significant to the profile: Gender Identity
Potato queen	0.5884	0.6804	0.6127	0.3324	Not significant.
Queer	0.2355	0.6032	0.0645	0.0688	Not significant.
Rice queen	0.2709	0.8257	0.7722	0.2129	Not significant.
Salot	0.2382	0.5997	0.7614	0.0304	Has significant to the profile: Gender Identity
She-male	0.2142	0.5120	0.1812	0.0396	Has significant to the profile: Gender Identity
Silahis	0.1038	0.8777	0.7567	0.0385	Has significant to the profile: Gender Identity
Sireyna	0.1724	0.9187	0.7580	0.1802	Not significant.
Sissy	0.1937	0.8363	0.6232	0.3075	Not significant.
Swarspeak	0.6360	0.9559	0.7571	0.0443	Has significant to the profile: Gender Identity
Tibo or T-bird	0.7629	0.8680	0.4003	0.9841	Not significant
Tomboy	0.3676	0.8346	0.6806	0.9924	Not significant
Transman	0.5321	0.6947	0.5293	0.9326	Not significant
Transwoman	0.7869	0.9911	0.3711	0.8376	Not significant
Tranny	0.5597	0.8572	0.4451	0.4973	Not significant

Significant at alpha level = 0.05

The table presents chi-square results analyzing the relationship between various aspects of the LGBTQ+ profile and the perceived offensiveness of different terminologies. Significant relationships were found in several areas, providing insights into how specific demographic profiles within the LGBTQ+ community perceive derogatory terms.

#### Significant Relationships by Sex

Sex was significantly related to the perceived offensiveness of the terms "Abnormal" ( $p=0.0185$ ), "Fag" ( $p=0.0278$ ), "Faggot" ( $p=0.0287$ ), and "Non-binary" ( $p=0.0169$ ). These findings suggest that gender plays a crucial role in how certain terms are perceived. The terms "Fag" and "Faggot" are historically used to demean and belittle gay men, which likely explains why males might perceive these terms as particularly offensive. Research by Herek (2009) supports this, indicating that gay men are often



targeted with homophobic slurs, which significantly impacts their mental health and self-esteem. The term "Non-binary," although related to gender identity, also showed a significant relationship with sex, possibly due to varying levels of awareness and acceptance of non-binary identities among different genders.

#### Significant Relationships by Gender Identity

Gender identity was significantly related to the perceived offensiveness of several terms, including "Ading" ( $p=0.0001$ ), "Agi" ( $p=0.0094$ ), "Babae kapag gabi" ( $p=0.0384$ ), "Bading" ( $p=0.0031$ ), "Bakla" ( $p=0.0147$ ), "Gaylinggo" ( $p=0.0344$ ), "Petrang Kabayo" ( $p=0.0145$ ), "Salot" ( $p=0.0304$ ), "She-male" ( $p=0.0396$ ), "Silahis" ( $p=0.0385$ ), and "Swarspeak" ( $p=0.0443$ ). The significant relationships with these terms highlight the unique experiences of transgender and non-binary individuals regarding derogatory language. For example, terms like "She-male" and "Bakla" are derogatory terms that specifically target transgender women and effeminate gay men, respectively. The impact of these terms on gender identity is profound, as indicated by the work of Grant et al. (2011), which discusses the severe psychological distress caused by transphobic language.

#### Significant Relationships by Sexual Orientation

Sexual orientation was significantly related to the perceived offensiveness of the terms "Ladlad" ( $p=0.0162$ ) and "Paminta/Spicy" ( $p=0.0287$ ). These terms reflect cultural nuances in how sexual orientation is perceived and labeled. "Ladlad," a Filipino term for someone who is openly gay, and "Paminta/Spicy," referring to masculine-presenting gay men, illustrate the culturally specific derogatory language that can impact self-perception and community belonging. Meyer's (2003) minority stress model underscores how such culturally specific terms contribute to minority stress, leading to adverse mental health outcomes.

These findings underscore the complexity of how different LGBTQ+ identities perceive derogatory terminologies, emphasizing the need for nuanced and targeted anti-bullying interventions. The significant relationships observed in the data align with studies by Meyer (2003), Herek (2009), and Russell and Fish (2016), which highlight that specific subgroups within the LGBTQ+ community face distinct challenges and forms of discrimination.

For instance, Meyer (2003) explains that minority stress, resulting from stigma, prejudice, and discrimination, creates a hostile social environment that significantly affects the mental health of LGBTQ+ individuals. Herek (2009) further discusses how gay men, in particular, are vulnerable to verbal abuse and derogatory language, which impacts their self-esteem and overall well-being. Russell and Fish (2016) emphasize the importance of inclusive environments and targeted interventions to support the mental health of LGBTQ+ youth, suggesting that policies and support systems must be tailored to address the unique experiences of each subgroup within the LGBTQ+ community.

In summary, the significant relationships between LGBTQ+ profiles and the perceived offensiveness of terminologies highlight the varied and profound impacts of derogatory language. These insights reinforce the necessity for comprehensive and tailored anti-bullying strategies that consider the unique vulnerabilities of different LGBTQ+ subgroups. Understanding these relationships is crucial in developing effective interventions that promote mental health and well-being within the LGBTQ+ community.

## DISCUSSION

The findings of this research provide a comprehensive understanding of the bullying experiences and perceptions of terminology among LGBTQ+ individuals in the Philippines, effectively addressing the

study's key objectives.

The demographic analysis highlights a balanced representation of male and female participants, predominantly aged 18-24, a group likely navigating critical stages of identity formation, higher education, and early career development. The high percentage of bisexual individuals and the diversity in gender identities, including agender, non-binary, and transgender, underscore the importance of recognizing and accommodating the diverse identities within the LGBTQ+ community in designing inclusive interventions and policies. The study reveals a troubling prevalence of both personal and cyberbullying among LGBTQ+ individuals, with a significant portion of respondents experiencing face-to-face and online bullying. The reluctance to disclose these experiences, as indicated by high non-response rates, suggests fears of stigma, privacy concerns, or the traumatic nature of these events. The psychological toll of bullying is evident, with many respondents reporting severe emotional consequences such as anxiety, depression, and lowered self-esteem. These findings align with existing literature on the detrimental effects of bullying on mental health and social inclusion, highlighting the urgent need for comprehensive anti-bullying policies that address both personal and cyberbullying, with specific provisions for the unique challenges faced by LGBTQ+ individuals in digital spaces.

The study also explores perceptions of various LGBTQ+ terminologies, revealing that terms like "fag," "faggot," and "rice queen" are perceived as highly offensive by many respondents, reflecting their deep-seated negative connotations and the marginalization they perpetuate. The complexity of language use within the community is also evident, with terms like "bakla" and "bading" eliciting more varied responses, emphasizing the need for education and awareness campaigns that promote respectful and inclusive language while understanding the cultural and historical contexts of these terms. The analysis of relationships between demographic profiles and bullying experiences indicates that gender and sexual orientation play significant roles in the types of bullying experienced, with males and individuals with certain sexual orientations or gender identities being more vulnerable to different forms of harassment. These findings emphasize the need for targeted interventions that address the specific vulnerabilities of different subgroups within the LGBTQ+ community.

The study also identifies significant correlations between demographic profiles and the perceived offensiveness of certain LGBTQ+ terminologies, suggesting that experiences of discrimination and stigma are influenced by specific identities and contexts, underscoring the importance of intersectional approaches in research and policy-making.

The implications for institutional and educational programs are significant, with the findings highlighting the need for comprehensive anti-bullying policies that are inclusive of LGBTQ+ experiences and tailored to address the specific vulnerabilities of different subgroups within the community. Educational institutions, in particular, have a vital role in creating safe and supportive environments for LGBTQ+ students, which includes implementing training programs on LGBTQ+ issues, promoting inclusive language, and providing accessible mental health resources. In conclusion, this research provides valuable insights into the bullying experiences and terminology perceptions of LGBTQ+ individuals in the Philippines, underscoring the urgent need for targeted interventions and policies that address the specific challenges faced by this community, particularly in the areas of mental health, social inclusion, and language use. Future research should focus on long-term interventions and their effectiveness in reducing bullying and improving mental health outcomes for LGBTQ+ populations, helping to foster more inclusive and supportive environments both in educational settings and beyond.

### **Limitations and future directions**

While this study offers valuable insights into the experiences of LGBTQ+ individuals in the Philippines, it is important to acknowledge its limitations. The sample size of 135 respondents, although purposive, may not fully represent the diversity within the LGBTQ+ community, particularly regarding regional

representation, socioeconomic status, and intersectional identities. Additionally, the reliance on self-reported data introduces the possibility of bias, as respondents may underreport or overreport their experiences due to social desirability or recall bias. To improve the generalizability of future findings, research should aim to include larger and more diverse samples. Longitudinal studies would be particularly useful for examining the long-term effects of bullying and the effectiveness of interventions over time. Furthermore, there is a need to explore the experiences of LGBTQ+ individuals in various contexts, such as rural versus urban settings, to better understand how environmental factors influence bullying experiences. Finally, future research should consider incorporating more in-depth qualitative methods, such as interviews or focus groups, to gain a deeper understanding of the nuanced experiences of LGBTQ+ individuals and the impact of language and societal attitudes on their mental health and well-being.

## CONCLUSION

This research investigates the bullying experiences and perceptions of derogatory terminology among LGBTQ+ individuals in the Philippines, using a mixed-methods approach to gather comprehensive data from 135 respondents. The findings indicate a significant prevalence of bullying, with 44.4% of respondents experiencing face-to-face bullying and 31.9% encountering cyberbullying. These experiences have severe mental health consequences, including anxiety, depression, and reduced self-esteem. Additionally, the study identifies the offensive nature of certain terms such as "fag," "faggot," and "lesbian," which exacerbate feelings of exclusion and social isolation. The analysis reveals significant relationships between demographic profiles (sex, sexual orientation, gender identity) and the experiences and perceptions of bullying and offensive terminology.

The study concludes that bullying, both personal and cyber, is a pervasive issue for the LGBTQ+ community in the Philippines, leading to serious emotional and psychological distress. Derogatory language significantly contributes to these negative experiences, highlighting a pressing need for greater awareness and sensitivity around LGBTQ+ terminology. The significant correlations between demographic profiles and bullying experiences underscore the necessity for tailored interventions that address the unique needs of different subgroups within the LGBTQ+ community.

To effectively address the findings of this study, it is recommended that educational institutions and workplaces implement comprehensive anti-bullying policies that explicitly protect LGBTQ+ individuals, including clear definitions of bullying and harassment, reporting procedures, and protections against retaliation. Training and awareness programs should be conducted for students, employees, educators, and managers to promote the respectful use of LGBTQ+ terminology and raise awareness about the harmful impacts of derogatory language, fostering an inclusive and supportive environment. Accessible mental health support services should be ensured for LGBTQ+ individuals who have experienced bullying, including counseling, support groups, and hotlines to alleviate psychological impacts.

Further longitudinal research is encouraged to explore the long-term effects of bullying on LGBTQ+ individuals and the effectiveness of various intervention strategies, considering cultural contexts to develop evidence-based practices for reducing bullying and improving mental health outcomes. Additionally, community-based support systems should be strengthened, including peer networks, advocacy groups, and safe spaces to provide crucial emotional and social support, helping individuals cope with bullying and fostering a sense of belonging. Implementing these recommendations will create a more inclusive and supportive environment for LGBTQ+ individuals, mitigating the adverse effects of bullying and promoting their overall well-being.

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