

<b>BANGLADESH</b>
<p>What are the current efforts by States to increase their knowledge of the LGBT population? Specifically, are questions about sexual orientation and gender identity included in government surveys (e.g. the census, national health surveys, income and living condition surveys, or other surveys funded or mandated by the State), administrative records (e.g. birth certificates/birth registries, identity Cards, school records, professional licenses, social security and public benefit records, and other government documents)?</p>
<p>As per the ministry of social welfare, the government is only recognizing transgender and not lesbian, gay, bisexuals and queers. The ministry has done some census on transgender community only and as per the result, there are around 10000 transgender people are there. To increase the level of this community's living standard the Bangladeshi government has acknowledged and giving them a "third gender" status. Besides, the government has been giving around USD 4 to primary school going transgender students, USD 6 to high college going transgender students, USD 8 to college going transgender students and USD 12 to university going transgender students, per month, to increase their education level. Transgender person aged 50 or above are also getting USD 7 per month, upon application to ensure their healthy life. Apart of these, transgender community members are being offered to get vocational training to get themselves into trading professions. Starting from 2012 to 2015, there are around 6740 beneficiaries of these social security scheme, according to the ministry.</p> <p>On the other hand, the policy of the government regarding LGB community is still the same and it seems the government feels embarrassed to make any comment on this issue. Though the government approved some NGOs with foreign help to increase the sexual and reproductive health of young and adult LGB members, however, there is no visible scope by the government.</p>
<p>2. What kinds of data can be collected by government to understand the nature and extent of violence (e.g. through statistics on LGBT-phobic hate crimes and hate speech), discrimination, and disparities in health, education, labor, civic participation, and other important areas?</p>
<p>The government can collect several data from the LBGT community by establishing a data collection authority or recruiting 3<sup>rd</sup> party organizations on the followings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bullying &amp; harassment faced in various fields (family, friends, neighbors, educational institutions, work field, goods &amp; services providers, fellow passengers, health professionals, govt. Service providing agencies)</li> <li>2. Education enrollment status, level &amp; employment rate.</li> <li>3. Level of social acceptance (family, friends, neighbors, relatives, participation in religious activities)</li> <li>4. Sectors of discrimination (educational institution, workplace, transports, social activities)</li> <li>5. Level of self-respect &amp; self-dependency</li> </ol>
<p>3. What safeguards are in place, and what safeguards are needed, to protect the human rights of individuals providing personal data as well as individuals collecting such data? This question includes the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Safeguards to protect the privacy of individuals who provide data about their sexual orientation/gender identity, and the confidentiality of the data provided by these individuals.</li> <li>b. Broader statutory rules or administrative policies to insure transparency and accountability of government institutions such as statistical bodies.</li> </ol>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Some of the laws of the land can partially protect the individual data privacy and which are excluded sexual orientation/gender identities. So, in these two cases, there is no safeguard at all.</li> <li>2. As there are no such laws to prevent date breach and ensure a person's privacy, a sanction to protect an individual's privacy is needed. Also, the purpose of collecting the data should be legitimate. For example, if the government has no recognition of the LGB community and has no social security policy, the intention of collecting data will be questionable and even if the data are there, it will be unused and or misused.</li> </ol>

<p>4. What are the risks associated with the collection and management of data on sexual orientation and gender identity and initiatives to overcome those?</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The orthodox community creates obstacle showing religious causes. Some of the religious sanctions often encourage others to be violent on LGB community, hence an individual doesn't feel safe providing information.</li> <li>2. The term "sex" is still a taboo in many places of the country. So people usually don't feel comfortable about it.</li> <li>3. People feel their identity &amp; other privacy concerns related information may get leaked. Therefore, they hesitate to provide all authentic information.</li> <li>4. Since LGBTIQ community is not recognized by the government, it's hard to reach the LGB community, rather than the transgender people.</li> <li>5. Since one of the leading Bangladeshi gay rights activists got killed by extremists, people feel very scared to talk about LGBTIQ experiences &amp; exposures even when the assurance of privacy is given.</li> <li>6. Since section 377 makes homosexuality a criminal act, asking people about homosexual is regarded as an offending behavior.</li> <li>7. Moreover, the LGB community feels bothered to give information on their sexuality, health, education or other information as they find it "no benefit" at all, and without any valid reason they are never interested to share their personal information.</li> </ol>
<p>5. Are there circumstances where data collection is ill-advised, such as in countries that criminalize same-sex behavior or where particular government agencies have demonstrated a cause for concern regarding their treatment of issues related to sexual orientation and gender identity?</p>
<p>Since homosexuality is a criminal act under Bangladesh penal code 377, no government or non-government agencies can freely work on projects or surveys that exclusively deal with LGBTIQ communities. But if it is shown that the survey mainly deals with transgender community then the LGBTIQ community can be covered as a shadow project. On the other hand, people who identifies themselves as homosexual or gay, often might not feel interested to share information as there is a belief that trans community is getting favor by the government and through them the government wants to get information on LGB community.</p>
<p>6. When States engage in data gathering activity, to what extent is civil society able to meaningfully participate in the design and implementation of these programs? This question includes the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Do states have policies that guide the process of civil society participation national statistical programs and other State efforts to increase knowledge about LGBT populations?</li> <li>b. Does civil society have the capacity, in terms of expertise and technical knowledge, to meaningfully participate in State efforts to gather data?</li> <li>c. What constitutes meaningful participation in this area?</li> </ol>
<p>Currently there is no data collection policy for collection of data on LGBTI community as it is not recognized by the government.</p> <p>As the government doesn't recognize LGBQ community, the civil society also do not get encouraged to take part in the data collection process. Though we have observed several non-government organizations to take initiative on this process, however it has been diminished after the brutal killing of one of the LGBTIQ activist, by terrorist groups.</p> <p>To engage the civil society members in this process, the government will have to ensure the safety and security of the participants and those who will be engaged in this process. There should be credible evidence and promise from the government that the work will be protected by the government and any attempted harm will be prevented immediately.</p>
<p>7. Does the lack of a global classification scheme carry risks that data will not be useful for international comparisons or will not accurately reflect the identities and lived realities of local populations?</p>
<p>To my opinion, I think the lack of global classification scheme is not required now as there are not much sample data available. At first, the data mobilization process from different local populations should be collected and the based</p>

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on them, the classification scheme can be formed and by then we can expect the reflection of accuracy in different data.