

Diversity LGBTQ Policies and Resources on Campus and the Experiences and Psychological Well-Being of Sexual Minority College Students: Advancing Research on Structural Inclusion

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Description

This 13-page article describes the findings of a cross-sectional study that looks at the connection between certain institutional policies and resources on college campuses, and the experiences and psychological-well-being of LGBTQ+ college students. The results highlight the positive effect of the identified policies and resources in protecting LGBTQ+ learners from discrimination.

Salient Points

It is important to have institutional policies and resources in the school system that minimize the experience of rampant heterosexist discrimination and protect the psychological well-being of sexual minority students. The study reiterates the value of structural interventions in reducing discrimination, resulting in less distress and higher self-acceptance.

Significant findings of the study indicate that institutional policies that promote inclusion play a role in protecting the LGBTQ students from heterosexist discrimination. Statistical modeling indicates that having nondiscrimination policies that target both gender identity and sexual orientation, offering a credit LGBTQ course, and having a high ratio of LGBTQ student groups were directly associated with reports of lower levels of discrimination, less distress, and higher levels of self-acceptance. This validates the importance of initiatives that promote the inclusion of and protection of LGBTQ students.

Questions for Reflection

As you explore this study, consider the following questions:

- Does your institution have non-discrimination policies that explicitly address both gender identity and sexual orientation? If not, could you advocate for such a policy in your context?
- One of the suggestions from the study is on having formal educational resources related to LGBTQ inclusion. Do you think that your institution has sufficient and relevant resources accessible to both teachers and students?

- Having LGBTQ organizations on campuses is one of the suggestions from the study. Does your institution allow or facilitate the creation or presence of organizations that support LGBTQ students?

Keywords

Institutional policies, psychological well-being, LGBTQ organizations

Reference

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