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# Problems Faced by LGBTQIA+ Community in Coimbatore District

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## ABSTRACT

*In India, the LGBTQ community has been legally recognized and acceptable even though the LGBTQ community faces problems. This research has discussed the major problems of the LGBTQ community and the main reasons and factors for the problem. Discrimination in society and lack of family support are the main reasons for the problems faced by the LGBTQ community. Lack of family support leads to LGBTQ young adults being more likely to attempt suicide, use illegal drugs, and engage in unprotected sexual intercourse. This research study has collected the primary data in the questionnaire through Google Forms. This study was conducted on 50 LGBTQ respondents among all age groups from Coimbatore District. The results are analyzed and some suggestions are given at the end of this study.*

**Keywords:** *Lesbian, Gay, Transgender, Bisexual, Asexual, Queer, Sexual Orientation, and Gender identity.*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Homosexuality is part of the natural variation in our human sexuality. Science proves that homosexuality is a natural habit of life and cannot be changed in individuals, it is essential for people in different communities to evolve their understanding of homosexuality. For heterosexual people, their fundamental and essential survival is reproduction. This is how our evolutionary theory builds up for human life. According to Darwin's theory, individuals with characteristics best suited to their environment are more likely to reproduce and pass genes to their children. LGBTQ+ people cannot reproduce the child, it doesn't matter. Although LGBTQ people know this fact, they are attracted to same-sex people. Human beings' attraction toward other human beings, whether same-sex or opposite sex is purely based on natural human instincts. These instincts are not created by themselves. They are instilled through a person's natural sexuality. The misconception about the LGBTQ+ Community leads to non-acceptance in society. As a result, people from LGBTQ+ Communities suffer from emotional issues also

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mental issues and may be forced to come out from home. This could also deal with losses in relationships with parents, peers, and relatives. Myth has threads to fix us that same-sex relationships are deviant behavior of social norms. Also, people thought the institution of marriage extended only to male-female relationships but not to same-sex relationships. Hence LGBTQ+ do not enjoy their social, political, economic, and cultural rights even though they are legally accepted in society.

#### **(A) Concept of LGBTQ+:**

LGBTQ+ is an umbrella term referring to people of non-binary gender. LGBTQ+ stand for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, or sometimes questioning, and others. The first four letters of the acronym have been used since the 1990s, but there has been an increased awareness of the need to be inclusive of other sexual identities to offer better representation. + is used to signify the other gender identities and sexual orientations that are not specifically covered by the term.

## **II. PROBLEMS OF THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY**

#### **(A) Homelessness**

LGBTQ+ people come out of their homes or have parents kicked out of their homes after identifying their own sexual identity. Parents are not encouraging and supporting LGBT people. Parents are not accepting changes in the attitude, behavior, and activities of their children. Some parents are consulting with psychologists to change away their child's attraction. Parents are only taking the steps to change the child to normal. Parents often fear that others hurt and bully their children. So, fear motivates many parents are try to protect their LGBT children by reacting negatively to their gender. Parents feel afraid about society's discrimination toward their children. These are the reasons even in the adolescent age itself LGBT children are deciding to come out of the home. After coming out of home LGBTQ+ people lead a life without having a permanent home. House owners are not willing to provide rental homes for LGBTQ+ people. Because owners thought they were incapable of paying rent every month. Also, owners thought they would disturb others, curse others easily, and avoid fights with neighbors. So, LGBT persons live on roadsides, in public places, on streets, etc. LGBTQ+ youths drop out of school and miss out on social support during the formation stage.

#### **(B) Discrimination in Society:**

Discrimination in society is the major and significant factor for all other problems faced by the LGBTQ+ community. Today even after the landmark judgment, homosexuals may be legally recognized but more LGBTQ+ youths than ever before within the boundaries of family, home,

and school freedom of openly revealing their identity is the biggest struggle. In public places, people are staring and avoiding the LGBTQ community. In public places such as bus stands, railway stations, shopping malls, hospitals, municipal offices, department stores, etc., people are treated like untouchables, and they leave a long space gap and stand among them. In clothing shops, LGBTQ+ persons feel uncomfortable because people laugh behind their backs while looking for clothes. Even in airports, travel agencies had a policy that they did not include same-sex couples. In hotels, LGBTQ+ persons are being abused even though they are sitting quietly and enjoying themselves with their couple, people are harassed with verbal abuse and shouting by using bad words. Even close circles like neighbors, relatives, and parents shout at them. Many parents are used to hitting their sons/daughters or stalking them.

### **(C) Bullying in Schools and Workplaces:**

In primary and secondary schools, name-calling, ridicule, and bullying seem to be the most common forms of harassment. LGBTQ+ students once they entered the school all students stared at them. Classmates make fun of them during break times. Colleagues tease about the walking, dressing, and different attitudes of LGBTQ+ students. Classmates are not talking to them, if anyone talks to LGBTQ+ students others will also tease them and think that they will also be like LGBTQ+. Even the teacher also doesn't intervene to stop bullying. So, they started insisting LGBTQ wear shirts that they did not want to wear. After a long struggle of finishing their education, at the workplace, they have faced discrimination in the form of inappropriate jokes, homophobic language, and derogatory calling. Colleagues in workplaces who are directly discriminated against escalate to the level of slander, threats, and intimidation. LGBTQ+ persons felt uncomfortable living in this discriminated society.

### **(D) Denial of Public Service:**

Lack of awareness and knowledge gave rise to different treatments such as access to housing schemes, electricity, police stations, and employment benefits. In the unemployment scheme, the presence of same-sex relationships is questioned before the Navtej Singh Johar landmark judgment. If LGBTQ+ people are filing complaints at a police station they are being shouted at by police officers who pass comments about their appearance and sexual orientation. Police an officer who protects people but even police also because of their gender identity discriminate against LGBTQ+ people. When a trans woman files a complaint of being harassed by a stranger, the comments by the police about the trans victim were disrespectful. So, LGBTQ+ people feel to hide their gender identity and sexual orientation.

### **(E) Lack of Family Support:**

Lack of family support is the major cause of all other problems faced by the LGBTQ+ community. Families respond to LGBTQ+ children based on what they know, what they see, and what they hear from family, relatives, clergy, news, and other sources who also have misconceptions about sexual orientation and gender identity. As a result, parents, and families believe that homosexuality is wrong or harmful for LGBTQ children and take a lot of steps to prevent a child from becoming a gay or any non-binary gender. During adolescence, LGBTQ young adults who reported high family rejection were more likely to have attempted suicide, use illegal drugs, and engage in unprotected sexual intercourse. It is keenly observed that family behavior of rejection of LGBTQ children occurs in a cultural context. We are having a hetero-normal society so they aim at socializing their child in a normal way. LGBTQ youths with highly rejecting families are often forced to leave home, leading to the over-representation of LGBTQ teens in the homeless youth population. It is important to note that those LGBTQ children who perceive parental support tend to have mental support, lower risk of substance use, and sexual behaviors, and have an enlightened future.

These are the reasons transgenders have often resorted to begging in public places, on trains, at traffic signals, and on the streets for a living and to satisfy their basic needs. Society's discrimination is also one of the major and foremost factors of LGBT are not making a decent living in society. Also, many transgenders are in good professions. They also faced disparities in society to reach a good position in society.

**(F) Review of literature:**

In the article "How Are LGBT Youths Affected by Discrimination and What Can Schools Do to Help?" by Gaell Jocelyn-Blackman, publisher of York College, the paper elaborates on the severe impacts on LGBT youths not only caused by discrimination but also due to lack of support and guidance. The importance of the role of parents and schools in reducing discrimination towards LGBT youths was also covered by the author. This study has focused on the major harmful effects that cause to drop out of school, bullying, etc. The author has shown various reports that involve the percentage of LGBT youth dropping out of school, committing suicide, and interviews.

In the research, "LGBT Discrimination Research Report" by Ms. Gabi Calleja, et.al, published by the NCPE National Commission for the Promotion of Equality. This research study has focused on discrimination experienced by LGBT persons and was commissioned by the National Commission for the promotion of equality as part of the project "Think equal" The main objectives are as follows: To stimulate debate on equality, diversity, and multiple

discrimination within sections of society that offer multiple effects. To disseminate good practices. This study incorporated 25 interviews with LGBT individuals between the ages of 16 and 65. The main findings include that 60% of 15 of the interviewees reported incidents of discrimination in the field of employment.

In this research paper, “The Influence of Families on LGBTQ Youth Health: A Call to Action for Innovation in Research”, Author has concentrated on LGBTQ and other gender minority youth who face health disparities in comparison to their heterosexual peers. This study aims to point out scientific data already in existence and set priority areas for future research on the influence of family factors on LGBTQ youth health. The author has shown up comparative study of each factor and examines the health variations between heterosexual and LGBT youth. Finally, the research has found that family influences effectively on the sexual health of a child less compared to mental health.

In the research paper “Problems Faced by LGBT People in the Mainstream Society: Some Recommendations” by Chatterjee Subhrajit published by the International Journal of Interdisciplinary and Multidisciplinary Studies, (2014), This study discussed various major problems faced by the LGBTQ community in society and made some recommendations to solve these problems. It has been analyzed by using secondary data as a whole. This study has pointed out that LGBTQ's ability to exercise their fundamental right as a citizen is impacted by the lack of social acceptance. The author has figured out that rural LGBTQ people are mostly left out because of a lack of awareness relatively compared to urban areas.

The research paper “Exploring challenges and problems faced by LGBT students in the Philippines: A Qualitative Study” was written by John P. Breinholt, (2018), This research study has been conducted in the gay-friendly country of the Philippines. Even, particularly LGBT students, face prejudice and bullying from their families, communities, and educational institutions. This study examines the activities carried out by UP Babaylan, the first LGBT student organization in the Philippines, the main obstacles the group faced, and the difficulties and issues LGBT students in the country confront. The study's conclusions indicate that the group has carried out a variety of initiatives, including raising awareness and working with HIV clinics and other groups to support LGBTQ students.

### **(G)Research Gap:**

The above research papers have concentrated on the discrimination of LGBT youths, and the influence of the family on LGBTQ Youth's health. Although 1 research paper has discussed the problems faced by the LGBTQ community only focused on mainstream society. However, this

research has concentrated on the problems faced by the LGBTQ+ community in Coimbatore District by LGBTQ+. In addition, this research has importantly mentioned the main reason and cause for the problems of the LGBTQ+ community.

**(H) Statement of problem:**

Lack of family support and discrimination in society cause mental stress and health issues which leads to the more homeless LGBT population using illegal drugs, being victims of crimes, engaging in unprotected sexual intercourse, attempting suicide, and begging in public places. Through this study, we can understand the what are the main problems of LGBT and how to overcome them through effective implementations in society.

**(I) Objectives:**

1. To create awareness among the people about the LGBT community
2. To analyze the problems of the LGBTQ+ community.
3. To change the human minds to accept the LGBTQ as normal
4. To force the government to make homosexual marriage legal.

**(J) Methodology:**

Data for this study is gathered from primary and secondary sources, with the main data in this study collected from the questionnaires through Google Forms sent to 50 respondents of the LGBTQ+ community across the Coimbatore District in Tamil Nadu. For a more accurate study, secondary data is gathered from sources including books, newspaper articles, research papers, and the internet. This research paper has used primary data collection by giving questionnaires and it was given in a Google form link and their preference was asked.

### III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table - 1

Socio-Economic Variables

Table -1.1 Gender

Particulars	No of Respondents	Percentage
Agender (Lesbian)	9	18
Bigender (Gay)	10	20

Transgender	14	28
Genderqueer (Bisexual)	8	16
Transsexual (Asexual)	8	16
Queer	1	2
Total	50	100

Source: Primary data

The respondents are more transgender participants than other genders. About 28% constitute transgender persons. There are fewer Queer gender participants. Both Genderqueer (Bisexual) and Transsexual (Asexual) constitute the same 16% of the respondents.

Table -1.2 Age

Source: Primary data

Particulars	No of Respondents	Percentage
18- 25	26	52
25-35	12	24
35-40	10	20
Above 40	2	4
Total	50	100

From this table, we find that the majority of the respondents are from the age of 18-25. 4% of the respondents are above the age of 40. 24% of the respondents are from the age of 25-35.

Table 1.3 Income

Particulars	No of Respondents	Percentage
Below 10000	11	22
10000- 25000	13	26
25000-50000	8	16
No income	18	36



Total	50	100
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Source: Primary data

In this table, we find that most of the LGBTQ people have no monthly income out of these 50 respondents. 22% of the respondents are earning below 10000 income every month. 26% of the LGBTQ persons are earning 10000-25000 monthly income.

Table - 1.4 Education Qualification

Particulars	No of Respondents	Percentage
Primary	3	6
Secondary	11	22
Higher Secondary	6	12
UG	22	44
PG	8	16
Total	50	100

Source: Primary data

Most of the LGBTQ persons are UG graduates. 12% of respondents were completed higher secondary. 22% of the persons are completed secondary.

Table - 1.5 Occupation

Particulars	No of Responses	Percentage
Government job	4	8
Private job	6	12
Business	9	18
Others	31	62
Total	50	100

Source: Primary data

The majority of the LGBTQ+ persons were doing other work which includes other than the

options given above. 62% of the LGBTQ+ persons were doing other work. 8% of them were in a government job. 12% of the people were doing private jobs.

Table - 2

## Problems of LGBTQ+ Community

Statement	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Total
Will you start to make sense to think about sexual orientation	26 (52%)	21(42%)	3 (6%)	50 (100%)
Do you attract same-sex people	34 (68%)	12 (24%)	4 (8%)	50 (100%)
Are people refusing to rent homes to LGBTQ community	26 (52%)	17 (34%)	7 (14%)	50 (100%)
Are you feeling free to go shopping without discrimination in shops	11 (22%)	18 (36%)	21 (42%)	50 (100%)
Participated in any religious festivals	21 (42%)	21 (42%)	8 (16%)	50 (100%)
Do your parents accept you after identifying your sexual orientation	6 (12%)	17 (34%)	27 (24%)	50 (100%)
After coming out of your home will you miss your family	37 (74%)	7 (14%)	6 (12%)	50 (100%)
Respect to your sense of feeling	7 (14%)	20 (40%)	23 (46%)	50 (100%)
Have you felt afraid of others, picturizing your identity	18 (36%)	25 (50%)	7 (14%)	50 (100%)
Have you ever thought of having only LGBTQ friends after identifying your gender identity	23 (46%)	19 (38%)	8 (16%)	50 (100%)
Government makes laws to “the right to marriage legal for the LGBTQ community after 10 years	22 (44%)	18 (36%)	10 (20%)	50 (100%)

Source: Primary data

52% of the respondents started to make sense of thinking about their sexual orientation and 42% of the persons were in the neutral stage. 68% of the LGBTQ respondents are attracted to a same-sex person. 24% of LGBTQ persons are not attracted to same-sex people. Around 42% of the LGBTQ respondents are not feeling free to go shopping. About 30% of LGBTQ parents are not accepting their LGBTQ child and 24% of the persons are neutral. 52% of the LGBTQ respondents said that people refused to give rental homes to the LGBTQ community. 46% of the LGBTQ respondents agree to have only an LGBTQ community after identifying a gender identity. 44% of the respondents thought the government should make laws to the right to marriage legal for the LGBTQ community after 10 years.

Table – 3

## Discrimination in Society

Statement	Yes	Maybe	No	Total
Dropped out of school or college because of bullying about your gender identity	16 (32%)	5 (10%)	29 (58%)	50(100%)
Enjoying equal rights and dignity like all straight people	9 (18%)	7 (14%)	34 (68%)	50 (100%)
Do you feel free to reveal your identity to society	20 (40%)	16 (32%)	12 (24%)	50 (100%)
In your life has anyone bullied you in any place	32 (64%)	14 (28%)	4 (8%)	50 (100%)
If your parents allow you to stay at home, will you come out from home?	18 (36%)	12 (24%)	20 (40%)	50 (100%)
Have you felt proud of yourself	36 (72%)	9 (18%)	5 (10%)	50 (100%)
Will you marry a person of LGBTQ+	41 (82%)	Nil	9 (18%)	50 (100%)
Participated in the LGBTQ+ pride moment held in June every year	28 (56%)	6 (12%)	16 (32%)	50 (100%)

Source: Primary data

This study finds that 58% of the respondents have not dropped out of school or college after identifying a gender identity. Around 68% of the respondents agree that they are not enjoying

their equal rights in a society like binary genders. The majority of 40% of respondents felt free to reveal their identity. Around 64% of the LGBTQ respondents experienced being bullied by people in public places. Around 40% of the respondents agree with the statement if their parents allow them to stay at home, they wouldn't come out from home. 72% of the respondents felt proud of themselves as LGBTQ. 56% of the respondents participate in the LGBTQ pride moment held in June month every year and 32% of the respondents did not participate in the pride moment. 82% of the LGBTQ persons were married to an LGBTQ person.

Table - 4

Age of realizing sexual orientation

At which age did you realize you are not straight	10-18 age 29 (58%)	18-30 age 20 (40%)	30-40 age 1 (2%)	Total 50 (100%)
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Source: Primary data

At 10 -18 age most LGBTQ persons realize that they are not straight. 40% of the LGBTQ persons are realized at the age of 18-30.

Table - 5

Way of Realizing Sexual Orientation

Source: Primary Data

Particulars	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Observe attitude, behavior	26	52
Just knew	13	26
I felt different from my friends	10	20
You won't like opposite sex-people	1	2
Total	50	100

52% of LGBTQ persons by the way of observing their attitude, attraction, and behavior identified their gender identity. 26% of the people just knew about their gender identity.

Table - 6

Treatment of Society - After Identifying your Sexual Orientation

<b>Particulars</b>	<b>No. of Respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Badly criticized	17	34
Bullied	14	28
Gender discriminated	10	20
Positively encouraged	9	18
Total	50	100

Source: Primary data

34% of LGBTQ persons were badly criticized during their school days 28% of them were bullied by friends and teachers after identifying their sexual orientation

Table - 7

How does this Society act Toward the LGBT Community

<b>Particulars</b>	<b>No. of Respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Treated equally	2	4
Bullying and teasing	12	24
Discrimination in all places	22	44
Avoiding and starrng	14	28
Total	50	100

Source: primary data

44% of LGBTQ persons have felt that society is being discriminated them in all places. 28% of LGBTQ persons believe that society is being avoided and starrng them. 24% have agreed that society has been bullying them.

Table - 8

How do your relatives, neighbors, and friends see you after you realize your identity?

<b>Particulars</b>	<b>No. of Respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Akward	30	60

Weird	17	34
Normal	2	4
Graceful	1	2
Total	50	100

Source: Primary data

60% of the LGBTQ persons have said that their relatives, friends, and neighbors saw them as awkward after identifying their identity. 34% of persons have said that all saw them weirdly after realizing their identity.

Table - 9

Whom you would first reveal your gender identity and your feelings?

Particulars	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Friends	19	38
Parents	17	34
Relatives	2	4
LGBTQ community	12	24
Total	50	100

Source: primary data

38% of the respondents first reveal their gender identity and feelings to friends. 34% of the respondents reveal their identity to their parents. 24% of the persons revealed their identity to the LGBTQ community.

Table - 10

Which situation makes you come out from home?

Particulars	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Parents Non-acceptance	12	24
The compulsion to change as normal	18	36
Need for sexual contact	7	14

Discrimination	13	26
Total	50	100

Source: Primary data

In this table, 36% of the persons have said that the compulsion to change a normal situation only makes them come out from home. 26% of the respondents agree that because of discrimination they have left their homes 24% of the persons agree that they had come out from home because of their parents' non-acceptance.

Table - 11

Instead of going job what makes you to begging in public places?

Particulars	No. of respondents	Percentage
Discrimination in all public places	18	36
Homelessness	10	20
Mistreatment in society	24	48
Refused to give job	26	52
Total	50	100

Source: Primary data

24% of the respondents agree that mistreatment in society makes them to begging in all places. 20% of the respondents said that because of homelessness, refusal to get a job, discrimination in all public places, and mistreatment in society results in begging in public place.

Table - 12

What do you think of our culture regarding non-acceptance of LGBTQ?

Particulars	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Non-practical	19	38
Non-evolved	19	38
Thoughts are fixed in myths and misconceptions	24	48

Hiding the history of religion also	11	22
Total	50	100

Source: Primary data

28% of respondents believe that the non-acceptance of LGBTQ in our culture is because of thoughts fixed in myth and misconception. 22% of them believe that because of non-evolved. 18% of them believe that because of non-practical in our culture.

Table - 13

Why lgbtq people are involved in prostitution?

Particulars	No. Of respondents	Percentage
Religious and social views of seeing them	5	10
Denial of service	10	20
Discrimination in society	14	28
Above all	18	36
Others	3	6
Total	50	100

Source: Primary data

In this table, we find that 36% of the respondents believe that because of religious, and social views of seeing them, denial of service, and discrimination in society, LGBTQ persons are involved in prostitution. 28% of the respondents agree that because of discrimination in society, LGBT persons are involved in prostitution.

#### IV. FINDINGS

- The study finds that the respondents have more transgender participants than other genders and the majority of the respondents are from the age of 18-25.
- The research reveals that most of the parents are not accepting their LGBTQ child .52% of the LGBTQ respondents said that people refused to give rental homes to the LGBTQ community.



- The study found that “Most of the people have experienced being bullied by people in a public place”.
- The study reveals that 40% of the respondents agree with the statement “If their parents allow them to stay at home, they wouldn’t come out from home in the way of discriminating in public places”.
- The study reveals the important scenario “68% of the people are not enjoying their equal rights in society like binary genders”.
- The study found that the majority of the people come out of home because of their parent’s non-acceptance and to change as normal.
- The study determines the vital factor “most of the persons answered that refusing to give job makes the LGBTQ community beg in public place.
- The study reveals that 52% of respondents have said discrimination in society makes LGBTQ people involved in prostitution ,the study found that 48% believed that our culture regarding the non-acceptance of LGBTQ is because of thoughts that are fixed in, myths and misconceptions.

## **V. SUGGESTIONS**

- To conduct a public awareness program among the people about the LGBT community.
- The right to marriage should be legalized for the LGBTQ community.
- The government should take effective action to secure transgender rights & frame social welfare schemes for the community
- Stringent punishments should be given to those offenders who discriminate against the LGBTQ community.
- Make the people understand because of discrimination in society mostly transgender persons are involved in begging in public places.

## **VI. LIMITATIONS**

The primary data for this research has been collected particularly from the Coimbatore District which is located in the State of Tamil Nadu. So, this study hasn’t covered the entire population. In Educational institutions issues of LGBTQ remain untalkable. Acceptance of homosexuality or bisexuality among families becomes unacceptable. The discussion of sexuality and opening up about homosexuality between parents and children is considered taboo.

## VII. CONCLUSION

One of the biggest issues I found through this study is most of them are not aware of the LGBTQ community. Majority of the LGBTQ persons have decided to come out from home due to their lack of family support and family rejection. We can understand through this study that cultural factors influence the families of LGBTQ and also society. Finally, most parents want their children to be healthy and live with dignity in society, but they lack the skills to help, support, and give sense to the feelings of their children.

Most educated citizens have started to support alternative and gender identities. India is more rigid with cultural and social norms but we have examples in Hindu scriptures that mentioned several characters who defined this gender binary. In one of the Mahabharata versions, when Arjuna refused Urvashi, she cursed Arjuna following which he became a member of the third gender. Another South Indian legend about the demon Araka associating Mohini with Krishna. Krishna took the form of beautiful Mohini and married him. Transgender consider Krishna Mohini to be a transexual deity. So, people should realize that judging and disowning people based on homosexuality due to religious belief is wrong instead they should accept themselves as human beings (no matter being homosexual). Lack of family support proves to be a big blow to the mental and physical health of LGBTQ people. Educating and providing behavioral guidance for the families of LGBTQ youth should be implemented. Schools should also play a very important role in providing support to parents.

*“State has no business to get into controlling the private lives of LGBTQ community members”*

- CJI Chandrachud

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