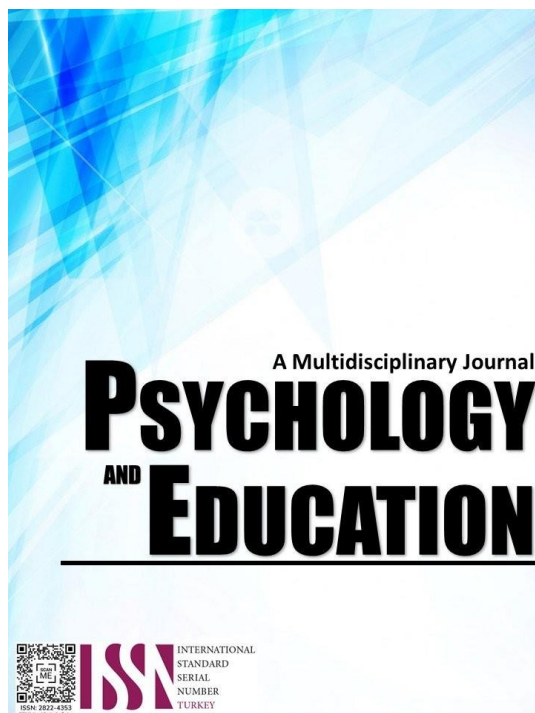


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“Swipe Right Lang Nang Swipe Right, Beh!”: Exploring Dating App Experiences of Gay Community Members

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Abstract

In the present era of time and technology, individuals around the globe have observed an increased activity among the acknowledgment of LGBTQIA+ members. However, society does not treat them the same way as individuals who are deemed “normal” in the context of online dating. This paper will unveil the struggles that these individuals face. Knowing the experiences and nuances of the LGBTQIA+ community through this setting would remarkably help not only the researchers but also to the viewers who will stumble by it. A narrative research design was utilized in order to incorporate their perspectives. Along with this, semi-structured interviews will be the method of this research in order for the authors to gain sufficient insight into their ventures and introspections. The information amassed through said interviews has supported homosexual men's right to self-expression, validation of their uneasiness, and demonstrating to society how the “conventional” image of their sexuality can be used against them. It can be concluded that this information has also led researchers to recognize that despite the cultural differences between the LGBTQIA+ community and what is considered normal, they share quite the similarities, albeit more severe.

Keywords: *online dating, dating apps, LGBTQIA+*

Introduction

Dating apps have become both the blessing and the curse of modern romance in a world where finding love may, at times, feel like swiping right into an unending ocean of profile pictures and creative accounts. However, for the lively and diverse members of the LGBTQIA+ community, these apps frequently come with a side of obstacles and surprises that are not precisely the charming type. They have made finding possible mates as simple as ordering takeout on a Saturday night to watch BL dramas like *KinnPorsche*. The doctrine of online dating is “Swipe right lang nang swipe right, beh!” where a single action on your smartphone screen may alter the trajectory of one's romantic life. Nonetheless, in this study, the researchers reveal the issues behind the shiny surface of the dating app experience. The researchers will see how these rainbow friends, especially gays, deal with the difficulties they encounter in the world of online dating.

Despite the amount of hate, discrimination, and formidable hindrances the obstacles, LGBTQIA+ community encounters, the queer group still stands to assert their rights, individuality, and sexuality. Yet, in the context of relationships, problems arise from one another because of preferences and sexual attitudes. While communities are known for being particularly unique in their ability to express themselves, this strength itself can be a setback for individuals, who may face threats, danger, and even exploitation. Additionally, people often overlook the risks of using dating apps to find new relationships. Disclosing personal information to a stranger will provide them access to fabricate an identity based on the details provided and can be used to deceive people. For example, one of the articles from *The New York Times* mentioned a story about “A gay man named Matthew Hendrick, who was stalked and harassed by his ex on the geosocial app Grindr. His intimate images were disseminated without his consent, and over 1,000 men were sent to his home and place of business looking for sex” (Waldman, 2019). The article highlights the potential harms of using dating apps, including harassment and stalking, which can negatively impact an individual's well-being. By paying attention to the difficulties mentioned, we can pinpoint how these occur and identify the basis of the problem.

Also, online dating sites offer higher success rates than social media dating, indicating that individuals often expect positive reactions when requesting dates online. However, the adverse effects of dating apps on gays include privacy risks due to sharing personal information, especially for underestimated populations, and the potential for complete disclosure. Waldman stated that this is not because we do not care about our privacy; we care a great deal. People share personal information using sophisticated privacy navigation techniques to build organic trust within communities (Waldman, 2018). Additionally, there are potential dangers to app developers, as well as potential dangers to app users. For example, Wang et al. (2019) stated that Chinese authorities shut down most dating platforms because these platforms provide MSM services.

The LGBTQIA+ community, especially gay people, uses online dating apps to build trust and maintain privacy. They use complex, safe self-navigation to maintain trust and confidence. However, regulating these spaces requires endogenous planning and exogenous regulation to ensure self-navigation and maintain confidence. This highlights the need to strike a balance between protecting privacy and promoting inclusivity in online social spaces. Social media applications' exaggeration is becoming more and more prevalent in everyday life. It has given rise to a desire for the ongoing development of additional applications by bringing new opportunities for people to connect. Because of this, dating apps came into being and continue to expand. For this generation, the use of social media

and technology has clearly marked a turning point in the way people meet and talk to maintain friendships and romantic or sexual relationships (Whitty, 2008). This research study focuses on the gay community's engagement in dating settings, recognizing the sociotechnical context of this practice, which entices everyone, regardless of sexual orientation and preferences. Given that there are studies that show users of gay dating apps frequently experience tension with the intention of trying to present themselves favorably and convey their purpose while trying to figure out the intentions of others (Labor et al., 2022). As expected, since the point of inception started not too long ago, there are still a lot of holes to fill in. Most often, only the technical properties of dating apps are emphasized. In this study, researchers will attempt to uncover the broader and specific responses of gay members who use dating apps

This study explores the challenges faced by the gay community in using dating apps, including discrimination, homophobia, and algorithmic biases. It aims to shed light on these experiences and promote a more accepting online dating community. Since the above-mentioned apps are popular in the Philippines, where the gay community seeks romance and meets like-minded people. However, using dating apps is considered a desire for love, which further complicates their experience. In addition, LGBTQIA+ individuals face privacy, harassment, discrimination, and content regulations on dating apps. They face racism, homophobia, and bigotry. Religious communities often misinterpret the Bible, spread misinformation, and fear exposure.

Dating apps provide comfort to these people, allowing them to express their sexual identity and meet accepting strangers. However, relatively large shares of lesbian, gay, or bisexual online daters – that is, those who have ever used an online dating site or app – report that they have experienced at least one of the forms of harassment measured in this survey on those sites and apps 69%, compared with 52% of their straight counterparts (Brown, 2020). Individuals described above are not comfortable with disclosing their sexual identity.

They may experience psychological effects that may prevent them from opening and alienating others. Roughly half of the general population supposes that dating applications and websites are very (3%) or moderately (50%) secure for meeting new people. Despite this, online dating is generally considered a risky way to meet people. 46% of Americans believe it is dangerous to meet someone through online dating, and 1 in 10 believe it is unsafe. There is a broader consensus among respondents that they believe dating sites and apps have had a primarily negative impact. By far, the most common response (given by 37% of respondents) mentioned that these platforms are a venue for various forms of dishonesty – from people whitewashing the truth to outright scams. (Anderson et al., 2020) Despite the threats dating apps pose to LGBTQIA+ people, there is always a bright side. Some members of the community have found their lifelong partners through the platform, and those who hear these stories hope for the same opportunity.

Now, if this problem with dating apps is not rectified, what do people think would happen? Well, the possibility exists that the public won't know. Without this information, people wouldn't understand why it's so challenging for homosexual LGBTQIA+ people to find love on these applications. If this situation is not addressed, the sexual harassment, abuse, and insecurity experienced by others in the organization can also escalate to dangerous levels. Therefore, by conducting this study, researchers will gain insight into what is happening behind the scenes when using these dating apps. Meeting someone through a dating app always comes with risks if this issue with the dating app isn't predetermined. However, such risks are higher for LGBTQIA+ people in countries where homosexuality is criminalized or stigmatized. Catfishing is another crime in which anyone can become a victim. This is when someone pretends to be someone else online, and the LGBTQIA+ community is particularly vulnerable because of their desire to connect with other people who share their views and their concerns over discrimination.

Research Questions

This study aimed to explore the dating app experiences of gay community members. Specifically, this study sought to answer the following questions:

1. How do gay community members navigate their identities and negotiate their desires while using dating apps, and what strategies do they employ to manage potential conflicts or challenges?
2. What are the emotional and psychological impacts of dating app interactions on gay individuals, including experiences of rejection, discrimination, or stigmatization, and how do they cope with the effects?
3. How do the designs, features, and algorithms of dating apps shape the experiences and interactions of gay community members, and what recommendations can be made to improve the user experience and enhance inclusivity within these platforms?

Literature Review

A considerable amount of literature has been conducted on the experiences of the LGBTQIA+ community who use dating applications, concentrating on the aspect of frequency of usage, psychological wellness, forms of intimacy, and challenges related to general stigma such as social alienation and sexual-orientation-specific discrimination. The foundation of the studies is the firsthand experiences of gay men, which elaborate on their different perspectives on using dating apps.

Considering the dilemmas encountered by the gay community in various dating applications, some have managed to build rapport and find different ways to settle into a profound relationship. This leads to the assumption that the gay community has a successful rate of finding their lifetime partners. As mentioned, Kelleher (2019) indicated that eighty percent (80%) of the LGBT+ community has benefited from dating apps. In addition, forty-six percent (46%) of the mentioned community conveyed that they have established

diversity in some individuals they wish to date. Moreover, thirty-six percent (36%) shared that dating apps extended an opportunity for the community to go out with other ethnicities and cultures. However, these studies have failed to recognize the misfortunes and challenges, such as the countless acts of harassment encountered by the gay community. In addition to this issue, some who engaged in the world of dating applications experienced hardship in finding a long-term relationship rather than a temporary one.

A recent study done by Steinberg (2023) suggests that dating apps might not always be beneficial for those seeking love. The study revealed that individuals often become more selective on dating apps, possibly due to the plethora of choices, leading them to raise their standards in partner selection. The rise of online dating has not just disrupted traditional methods of finding love; it has also emerged during a time of notable shifts in societal norms related to marriage and living situations. Increasingly, individuals are either postponing marriage or choosing to remain single. A comprehensive study conducted by Anderson, M., Vogels, E., and Turner, E. in 2020 shed light on the less favorable aspects of online dating, as seen from the perspectives of various people. These concerns range from worries about deception and harassment to the perception that these platforms tend to foster shallow connections rather than serious and meaningful relationships.

This research covers an adequate amount of relevant literature, providing an apparent gap between previous studies and the present investigation. The researchers have found that there are a significant number of studies that have been done in relation to the experiences of gay people with dating apps. However, the researchers have found that there were notably fewer studies on the mental health aspects in correlation to the former. Because of this, the researchers are hoping to fill in the gap on the aspect of mental health and how these things affect the dating app experience for the gay community.

With the increasing popularity of gay dating apps in today's digital era, there's a notable research gap concerning the mental health and experiences of LGBTQ+ users on these platforms. There have been studies like Smith and Johnson (2022) that provide useful insights on the functionality and patterns of usage of gay dating apps. In addition to this, research done by Garcia and Patel (2021) explored the app's impact on social interaction. Nonetheless, it has been found that there is a limited amount of research addressing the mental health, self-esteem, and overall experience of LGBTQ+ members. In conclusion, this research gap focuses on the more in-depth examination of the psychological effects, challenges, and positive aspects of these apps through the lives of the LGBTQ+ community, which ultimately helps us to gain a better understanding of their well-being in the technological world. A study by Yeo and Fung (2018), expounds on the experience of one of their participants, claiming that the fast formation of relationships on dating apps deviates from the norm, resulting in a loss of intimacy because of the ephemeral nature of relationships on dating apps. Another study conducted by Zervoulis et al. (2019) have found that the intensive use of GDA's (Gay Dating App) influences their mental health. The study has a table that shows that people who have a higher use of GDA's have a lower sense of community, and vice versa. It is also stated that gay people who are in a normal relationship may find GDA's frustrating. Although, they have also found out that this may be a factor that affects people differently from one another

Despite the early findings, it is still unclear, however, whether the usage of gay dating apps can be adjusted to enhance the mental health outcomes of LGBTQ+ individuals. Are there any interventions or app adjustments that can address this concern? Are there any methods or strategies that can be employed to close the current research gap in this field? This can also lead to the question of whether there are any differences between heterosexual users of mainstream dating apps and LGBTQ users' experiences using gay dating apps. In accordance with Berger (2022), social media in connection with gay dating apps may benefit LGBTQ youth's mental health and wellbeing by fostering peer connections, identity management, and social support, but findings were constrained by the lack of supporting data or evidence.

Every gay person who finds a relationship by using dating apps has a different experience. Difficulties have frequently made it hard to find real people who have good intentions towards them, and because of that, there is frustration that causes their terrible experience and affects their mental health. According to the study done by Cao and Smith (2021), the association between gay dating app usage intensity and loneliness is sequentially mediated by perceived sexuality stigma and internalized sexuality stigma. That is, increased intensity of gay dating app usage strengthens perceived sexuality stigma, which in turn reinforces internalized sexuality stigma, further exacerbating loneliness.

The birth of gay dating applications has undeniably made a huge impression on the romantic aspect of the LGBTQ+ world. It is also more likely to continue widespread and intensively accumulate a vast percentage of engagement from different generations in this technology-dominant century. Given the foregoing information, the association between gay dating apps and mental health aspects of life, such as psychological, emotional, and social well-being, must require further data analysis. There is an uncertain effectuation of dating apps on the variety of intentions of the gay community. Some users of gay dating apps are looking for a long-term relationship to build, and others only want to find hookups to offer them temporary pleasure. In a research article, they argue that gay dating apps are an abundance of options for gays that promote ambivalence in users' attitudes toward establishing relationships (Chan, 2018) For that reason, even those few who support homonegativity still go beyond their curiosity and make time to participate.

According to Chan (2019) and Dugay (2019), many dating and hook-up app researchers have noted, dating apps are not exclusively used to form sexual and romantic connections, but are also used by LGBTQ+ people to meet new friends and establish social networks. The study also seeks to provide evidence of the undefined positive and negative consequences of dating apps, in addition to revealing factors that can represent the connection between geo-social dating and physicality. The relationship between gay dating apps and

aspects of mental health should be investigated through surveys and interviews, as this data can shed light on the potential negative effects of these apps on social, psychological, and emotional health. Its diverse motives have yet to be determined for why individuals seek romantic companions through online channels. Using data analysis, we may be able to gain a deeper understanding of the underlying causes of mental health issues, identify trends, and create therapies or support networks that will ultimately result in improved mental health outcomes.

Methodology

Research Design

A narrative research design was employed in this study. This method was utilized to execute the purpose of an interview properly. The essential aspect of a narrative research design is to scrutinize the participants based on their individuality and timeline of perspectives. Both factors mentioned are needed to provide critical elements of personal narrative, which the researchers will interpret to understand how certain occurrences have affected the current as well as potential experiences of gay men.

Participants

The study focused on a specific demographic: young adult gay men residing in Mandaluyong City. The research aimed to delve into the dating experiences of these individuals, seeking insights into their personal journeys, challenges, and perspectives. The researchers interviewed five (5) participants, which is excellent for a qualitative study as it gives room for improvement. Nielsen and Landauer (2021) can support such a number, as it helps to determine the study's shortcomings. Purposive sampling was used to select participants based on their accessibility and proximity, possibly reaching out to potential interviewees within their network or community venues. While this approach can be efficient, it is necessary to note that the results might be influenced by the non-random nature of participant selection, perhaps limiting the generalizability of the findings to the broader young adult gay men community.

The researchers used a semi-structured interview format to gather detailed and in-depth information. This approach integrates predetermined questions with the flexibility for participants to express themselves and for interviewers to probe further based on the responses. This technique balanced structure and freedom, capturing rich, nuanced data about the participants' dating experiences in Mandaluyong City.

Instrument

A semi-structured interview questionnaire was utilized among the participants. The researchers personally made all the materials to be used during the interview. The interview questionnaire was composed of open-ended questions regarding the experiences of gay men with dating apps. The tool includes questions that are interconnected to one's mental health such as the emotional, psychological, and social well-being of gay men. Due to the sensitive nature of the research target population, interviews were arranged via the purposive sampling method. A purposive sample is defined as a purpose that is relevant to the study (Andrade, 2021).

Procedure

The researchers conducted an interview in which the participants answered the questions about any form of harm, sexual preferences, views, and other sensitive information while being video or voice recorded. A consent form was given first before the facilitation of the said interview to guarantee the safety of the participants. Then, participants were free to choose between the two modalities they are comfortable with. This served as an official measurement to gauge the study's objective.

Ethical Considerations

The researchers humbly requested the permission to conduct the interview in accordance with the objective of the study to determine and understand the dilemmas encountered by the gay community in various dating applications. Participants were instructed to review the consent and were informed that they may ask any questions about the survey questionnaire and how to respond to it. The researchers guaranteed that the data that were acquired will be kept with utmost confidentiality. Likewise, the time that have been spent were respected and valued by the researchers. Participants were also informed that they may choose not to respond to any or all inquiries and may withdraw the participation at any time. They have been notified that their participation in this study was entirely voluntary.

Results and Discussion

It has been revealed that the analysis contains three superordinate themes that encapsulates the diverse and nuanced experiences that each gay individual has gone through in online dating. With each superordinate theme compromising of sub-themes that contribute to an exhaustive understanding of their dating interactions. The table below shows these themes along with the subcategories that have emanated from the analysis.

The findings of the study illuminate the multifaceted challenges encountered by the gay community in the Philippines when engaging with dating apps. The issues span a spectrum from discrimination and homophobia to algorithmic biases, reflecting a complex interplay of social, technological, and cultural factors.



Table 1. *Emerging Themes*

<i>Superordinate Themes</i>	<i>Subordinate Themes</i>
Navigating the identities and negotiating desires	- Identity formation of users - Intimacy and desire of users - Varying norms and attitudes - Observed community-building
Emotional and psychological impacts	- Emotional responses on rejection - Discrimination and effects on mental health - Stigmatization and self-esteem concerns - Resilience and coping mechanisms - Internalized homophobia experiences - Concerns on relationship expectations
Designs, features and algorithms of dating apps	- User interface and accessibility - Algorithmic matching and recommendations - Profile customization and expressions of gay individuals - Filtering and preferences - Safety and privacy measures

Superordinate Theme 1: Navigating Identity and Desires delves into the intricate ways individuals manage their sense of self and yearnings within the context of modern dating. **Intimacy and Desires** reveal how participants express their intimate desires and navigate the over-sexualization within the LGBTQ+ community. One participant reflected on their evolving experience with intimacy, noting a shift from deep connections to more casual encounters influenced by the prevalent sexualization on dating apps: *"So go with the flow lang ako, ayun very intimate siya dati, pero ngayon na lumalaki ako, tas nagiging adult nako. Parang yung ngayon nag da-dating app pa rin ako, nag fofocus talaga ang community ng gay sa, sige sabihin natin siyang stigma, kase nangyayari talaga siya, which is na o-oversexualized yung mga uhm, Iba't-ibang tao, so kahit anong gender like, kung manly ka man or like feminine ka, nasesexualize parin sila."* Additionally, participants often face direct questions about their sexual orientation, as exemplified by one individual's experience: *"Tatanungin ka din na 'ay bakla ka ba din ba?' ganyan. Teh wala namang issue sa 'kin yon kung tatanungin ako kasi ayon nga gusto lang nila maclear kung ano talaga ako, yung identity ko."* Meanwhile, **Norms and Attitudes Observed** highlights the diverse experiences and cultural dynamics on dating platforms. Many participants struggle with the transient nature of interactions, as one participant shared, *"nahihirapan kumausap ng iba kasi walang tumatagal sa mga dating app ko kasi like gusto nila fling lang ganon."* The preference for masculinity over femininity within the gay community also emerged as a recurring theme, with one participant emphasizing the need for acceptance and challenging shaming behaviors: *"hindi nila prefer yung mga yung mga, karamihan sa mga bading hindi nila prefer yung feminine na gagalaw kasi masyadong halata masyadong ganyan at ayon yung naeen-ilang beses ko na din siyang naexperience sa dating app at kung pano ko siya kung sila hinandle pinaano ko sila like parang sasablayan ko lang sila ng medyo tas matutunan nila na ay mali pala yung ginawa ko ganyan na mali pala magshame kung pano pinipresent, yung isang tao ang sarili nila kasi di dapat sila shinashame kasi that's part of who they are so part din yun ng identity nila ayon."* These narratives underscore the ongoing challenges and complexities individuals face in navigating their identities and desires in a digital dating landscape.

The **Superordinate Theme 2: Emotional and Psychological Impacts** explores the profound effects of societal attitudes and personal experiences have on participants. In **Stigmatization and Self-Esteem Concerns**, participants express how societal rejection and ghosting severely impact their self-esteem, causing them to question their self-worth and fit within societal preferences. For instance, one participant reflects on the direct hit to their self-esteem when faced with rejection, highlighting the internal dialogue questioning personal flaws and societal acceptance. A respondent stated: *"Andyan yung mga nang goghost or yung irereject ka ng tao agad agad eh syempre sa self-esteem mo bababa talaga yung self-esteem mo di na natin yun isusugar coat talagang bababa self-esteem mo once nareject ka kasi tatanungin mo yung sarili mo 'hala anong mali sakin? Bakit hindi nila ako gusto?' or uh ah 'hindi lang ba nila ako-hindi ba ako pasok sa preference nila' ganon so maki-question mo talaga sarili mo pagka na experience mo yung mga ganon so sakin."* Additionally, **Internalized Homophobic Experience** delves into the internal conflicts within the LGBTQ+ community, where participants face stigma not only from society but also from within their community. They discuss how specific orientations, like feminine traits, are often less preferred, leading to internalized homophobia and a need to conform to certain norms. One participant cited: *"Feminine kasi ako so yung mga naeencounter ko like sa dating app hindi, karamihan sa kanila hi-hindi nila tawag dito, hindi nila prefer yung mga yung mga, karamihan sa mga bading hindi nila prefer yung feminine na gagalaw kasi masyadong halata masyadong ganyan at ayon yung naeen-ilang beses ko na din siyang naexperience sa dating app at kung pano ko siya kung sila hinandle pinaano ko sila like parang sasablayan ko lang sila ng medyo tas matutunan nila na ay mali pala yung ginawa ko ganyan na mali pala magshame kung pano pinipresent, yung isang tao ang sarili nila kasi di dapat sila shinashame kasi that's part of who they are so part din yun ng identity nila ayon."* Lastly, the **Impact on Relationship Expectations** examines the dual nature of relationship experiences within the community. While some participants find value in platonic connections that expand the community's understanding beyond romantic or sexual relationships, others struggle with the transient and superficial nature of relationships formed through dating apps, highlighting a dichotomy in relationship expectations and experiences. One participant mentioned: *"Para sakin hindi siya okay at mahirap makahanap ng romantic relationship na totoo ha sa dating app kasi alam naman natin na ang dating app*

ay instant ka makakahapan na potential mong partner ganyan at alam naman natin na kung mabilis at 'di mo siya pinaglaanan ng oras mabilis siya mawawala."

Finally, the **Superordinate Theme 3: The Design, Features, and Algorithms of Dating Apps**, particularly those tailored for gay individuals, play a significant role in shaping user experiences. The **ability to filter preferences**, such as on Grindr, allows users to search for specific characteristics like sexual role or height, providing a more personalized and efficient matching process. As one participant noted, this feature helps them find matches that meet their specific criteria, enhancing the app's usability and satisfaction. However, this personalization also presents challenges. As per a participant: *"Sa Grindr kase, ang maganda dun is like, pwede ka mag search kung anong preference mo, so kunwari bottom ka so pindutin mo lang don na ano, naghahanap ka ng top, tapos lahat ng makikita mo, puro top na. And kunwari gusto mo ng height na ganito, kunwari 5'9, makikita mo talaga."* For instance, another participant highlighted the issue of mismatched age preferences, where users outside the specified range still attempt to initiate contact, creating a friction point. As a participant stated: *"Sa Grindr kasi, there's this feature na parang you can filter people na gusto mo makita. But they can also set filters na gusto nilang makita. Parang palit-palitan, ako personally, nakalagay sa filter sa akin is 18 to 22 years old. Tapos, syempre parang naging problem ko dun. What if, kunwari, 26 years old na other people, other person pala, naghahanap naman sya ng 18 to 22 rin? So, parang mangyari, chachat niya ako. Chachat niya ako, like, 26 sya. Which is, parang sa akin naman, ang nangyari ko nga is 18 to 22, diba? So, like, parang, ayun, yun yung problem ko regarding sa Grindr."* Additionally, **privacy and safety measures** are critical in fostering a secure environment. Participants expressed the need for stricter reporting systems to handle discriminatory behavior and ensure a safe space for all users. A participant revealed: *"Sana magkaroon ng reporting system na very strict talaga, kase meron mga discriminatory na sinasabi tapos, sige ano. Yung iba kase binablock na lang, kase nga wala naman magagawa ang report and wala masyadong nareceive ang mga tao na, na may nareceive na ganitong report."* Effective privacy considerations are essential, as they allow users to engage with the app confidently, knowing their personal preferences and safety are prioritized. These aspects underscore the importance of thoughtful design and robust algorithms in enhancing user experience and ensuring safety within dating apps for the gay community.

The study brings attention to the substantial hurdles faced by LGBTQIA+ individuals on dating apps, encompassing privacy concerns, harassment, discrimination, and the impact of content regulations. The experiences of racism, homophobia, and bigotry are particularly pronounced, indicating a pressing need for a more inclusive and tolerant online dating environment.

As the research investigated the experiences of gay men in dating apps. The table above shows it mainly caused emotional discrepancies; this inconsistency further became an emotional response pertaining to rejection, stigmatization, and homophobic experiences. The three superordinate themes are connected in relation to the usage of apps, users' identity, and presumptions. The point given is users oftentimes balance their personality to an individual they find interesting. To seek compatibility, a strategy such as psychological coherence was used by the participants to see whether they fit in their standard specifically in the relation of aspects of behavioral, cognitive, and motivational such as being understanding, rational, and appreciative. Since the challenges are evident in our society where the LGBTQIA+ community are sometimes seen as minority. They created positive boundaries to identify who have notable qualities to connect with to ensure satisfaction in both ends.

Conclusions

In this most revolutionized era of the century, the advent of dating apps provided everyone with new means of finding and developing relationships. Along with this is a more stretched-out society that concedes with a diverse and inclusive world of human nature. In this study, it became apparent that the effects of dating apps have been neither healthy nor ill to the participants. It is indisputable that the LGBTQIA+ community fights for its rights and uniqueness in the face of unconscious prejudices that might have detrimental effects including discrimination, rejection, and stereotypes.

With a knowledge of the complexities of the LGBTQIA+ community through online dating, this study should be able to renounce myths and encourage acceptance. The researchers classified their experiences as an engagement to promote acceptance and connection using the dating app modality to highlight the difficulties identified. Therefore, the entirety of this research is a solid supporting backbone for the LGBTQIA+ community, stressing the primary concern of societal and gender acceptance. Lastly, the results of this study are useful for the creators behind the production of these dating apps to develop a more appropriate and safer platform for everybody.

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