

Why are you heterosexual?

Sexuality is not homosexuality, not bisexuality or heterosexuality.... it is colorful, beautiful, and diverse.

We believe that, putting sexuality in 3 boxes actually does not give a definition to sexuality because sexuality, we believe, is very fluid. It could change with people over periods of time, and you do not have to be stuck with one particular sexuality because as your preference in life for various things in life keeps changing, so your preference for sexuality could also change.

So, that is our belief.

Okay, that is why we say that sexuality is not just these three things, but it is beyond these three things. Okay, it can be different for each person, it can be different at each point in your life, it can be beautiful, it can be very enjoyable, it is so diverse and colorful. It is beautiful, and if you look at it in this diversity, if you look at it in these 3 boxes, it becomes very boring, it becomes very monotonous, and it becomes a restriction on our lives.

You can prefer to change your sexuality depending upon situations, depending upon the period in your life, depending upon the opportunities that are available, so it can be different deciding factors at different points of your life, it could actually make you think sexually in different ways.

My name is Reginald Watts and most people, at least who know me well, call me Rex

I am 55 years old, I am an homosexual and at the moment, I am working in an organization called Sangama which is based in Bangalore. It is an organization which basically tries to address human rights violations that happen against people whose sexuality and gender is considered different from the normal societal norms.

I joined this association directly as an employee just 3 years before and I was thus associated with this association for many years before that as a board member and my friends were all in the association.

Before this, I used to do interior decoration, fashion designing. I used to work in a regular garment manufacturing unit as a factory manager.

I identify with people like myself and because I see that many of my people are facing a lot of harassment in their lives, face a lot of violence in their lives, and though I have always been associated with these people.

I was not working directly for their betterment because I was working for my own selfish purpose because I wanted to earn a lot of money, so I was working, but at some point of time, I felt that earning a lot of money is not actually sufficient, we need to go beyond this.

So, I stopped doing that kind of a work, and I started getting into this community empowerment process.

I feel myself in Sangama as a family, I feel very passionately.

I feel very committed towards bringing about some kind of a change in people's lives, for their betterment and for them to live their lives with more understanding about themselves, for there to be more acceptance, for there to be more knowledge and awareness about different people's sexuality and gender expression in the larger society.

So, I feel that, you know, because we are all bonded and because of this stigma and discrimination that is attached to our sexuality or gender expression that we start to create this family.

I do not know why people are homosexual. Have people tried to find out why people are heterosexual? They have not tried to. The people are trying to find out why people are homosexual. Is it necessary? It is not necessary. I mean, if people can be heterosexual, people could also be homosexual.

The minority status is given to people for various reasons, not just sexuality. There could be minority communities. Because of your cast, you could be a minority.

Because you are a migrant, you could be a minority. So, those are minorities, and the same way, we are looking at sexuality as people whose sexuality is different that they become a minority because the larger society thinks of them as a minority, and because they are a minority, the larger society tries to stigmatize them and discriminate them, and force them to live on the margins of society.

The purpose of saying minority is not because we are small in numbers, but because we are less empowered because the society does not give us the power that the heterosexuals enjoy.

Why do not we ask people "why are you a heterosexual?" That is where the discrimination starts. If we start asking people why are you this, then we are saying that you are not like me, you are different, why are you like that.

So for me, a heterosexual is different.

Nobody knows why.

So, why do not we accept it as a normal human being. It is something that is normal. If you accept heterosexuality just because the majority or the larger number of people are heterosexual as normal, then you should not accept even other things, like a smaller religion, a religion that has a small population, a small following, then you do not accept it.

See, I think, at some stage, personally, if you ask me in my life, I accept it that this was my normal behavior, this is normal to me, and therefore, it is part of my

life and I do not feel very much different from anybody else. I did not actually feel that, you know, it was something that needed to be stigmatized or something that needed to be marginalized. It was normal, and I accepted that fact. I think the problem does not lie with me. The problem lies with the heterosexuals who are not able to understand and who are not able to accept. The lack of knowledge and the lack of awareness is what is the problem I think.

The issue of the human rights not being accepted is basically because there is some amount of fear within people, if you accept people who are different, people who are not confirming to the societal gender or sexuality norms, there is a fear that you know, the whole society would become this. Therefore, you try to suppress them. What happened when men started suppressing women, the same situation. Because of this fear that, you know...

I do not understand basically what is it, why are people like this, and therefore, instead of trying to get knowledge, instead of trying to understand, I start discriminating which is a natural human behavior, but I think we have come to a stage where we need to start thinking that, you know, all human beings are born with different colors, different hair colors, different eye colors, different heights, different sizes, fat, thin, tall, short and we accept it.

Why are not we accepting people whose sexuality or gender expression is different? That is where the problem arises. When you do not accept people, people get harassed through their life. Therefore, it becomes a struggle for their existence. For me to survive becomes a struggle. Therefore, I have to fight. I have to do campaigns. I have to create a situation where I start advocating for my rights.

I work hard in Sangama because it is basically my inner desire to see a better society, my inner desire to see adjusted, equal society in which people are allowed to exist. It is that kind of a passion that I want to see people who are discriminated, not only people who are discriminated because of their sexuality, but even, anybody who is discriminated for any reason, be it your cast, be it your class, be it your, whatever reason, if you are discriminated, if you are facing violence in your life, if your basic human right is being violated, I think that kind of a passion is what drives me to do it, to see that this unjust society ceases to exist as some point of time.

My wish will be to see sexuality, gender becoming a debatable, a non discriminated situation in this world.