



# **INTERVENTION & EMPOWERMENT SUPPORT TO STUDENTS FROM LGBTQIA+ COMMUNITY**

## **PROJECT DIRECTOR**

**Amity University, Lucknow Campus**      Prof. S.Z.H. Zaidi  
Director, AIBAS

**Suramya Life Foundation, Lucknow**      Ms. Anshoo Srivastava  
Founder Director

## **PROJECT TEAM**

**Suramya Life Foundation, Lucknow**      Ms. Anshoo Srivastava  
Founder Director

**Amity University, Lucknow Campus**      Prof. S.Z.H. Zaidi  
Director, AIBAS

Ms. Nandini Sharma  
Assistant Professor-I

Ms. Akanksha Singh  
Senior Research Fellow

Any Student Volunteer from the community

**CONTACT US:** Counselling and Empowerment Cell, AB6, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Amity University,  
Lucknow Campus

**HELPLINE NUMBER:** +918090009868 (Active every Saturday and Sunday from 10:00  
am to 6:00 pm)

## INTRODUCTION

The LGBTQIA+ (Lesbian, Gays, Bisexuals, Transgenders, Queer, Intersex, Asexual, and others) are the group of people differentiated on sexual orientation and gender identity. The sexual and gender diversity extend beyond the binary bifurcation to a continuum of identities. The expression of sexuality and behavior are diversified within these group, making their social acceptance and accommodation a difficult construct. The underlying degrees and modes of discrimination also vary among these groups. Recent direction of Honorable Supreme Court of India and legislation have decriminalized the above status and advocated the equal rights and integration of LGBTQIA+ community with mainstream society. Recently, National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 also provides the inclusion of diverse populations which also include LGBTQIA+ in higher education by higher education institutes.

Amity Institute of Behavioral and Allied Sciences (AIBAS), Amity University Lucknow Campus in collaboration with Suramya Life Foundation, Lucknow (an NGO working for the empowerment of LGBTQIA+ community) has extended the services of its counselling cell to the students who identify with LGBTQIA+ community studying in Amity University, Lucknow Campus or in any other campuses. This endeavor for the intervention and empowerment of LGBTQIA+ individuals in university campus is proposed to cater to the needs and requirements of their emotional and mental concerns. LGBTQIA+ individuals are overwhelmed with stressors relating to their compromised gender and sexual status that is non-conforming the heteronormative structure of society. These stressors are projected in forms of discrimination, violence, stigma, hate, and prejudice, leading to various mental and psychological distresses. Social ostracization and constant deprivation for their recognition predisposes the community people for indulging in various life-threatening activities such as suicidal ideation, self-harm, drug abuse, alcohol addiction, depressive symptomatology etc. a wide array of research has posited increased suicidal behaviors among the LGBTQIA+ individuals.

Thus, it gets crucial to identify such precursors and help the individuals for having safe and welcoming inclusion in campus spaces. This project would be an avenue towards the Psychological Well-being and Inclusion of LGBTQIA+ students in the campus. It would be step towards the fulfilment of the lacuna that persists in complete Inclusion measures for diverse populations, fostering the empowerment and sensitization for the LGBTQIA+ mental, social, and emotional concerns.

## **AIM OF THE PROJECT**

This Project is directed at achieving the aim of extending the Intervention and Empowerment Support for the students who identify with LGBTQIA+ identity and orientation.

## **OBJECTIVES**

Following objectives would be fulfilled through this project-

- Sensitization of Teaching and Non-Teaching staff on LGBTQIA+ issues, concepts, and challenges.
- Creation of Safe Space for LGBTQIA+ students to facilitate their interaction, empowerment, and support for their identity.
- Provision for Mental Health Services that would cater to their needs of emotional and other psychological issues, in line with Queer affirmative Practices.
- Sensitization of Parents towards the acceptance of their queer children.
- Creation of Diverse spaces where the allies could interact and foster their empathy towards LGBTQIA+ peers.

## **INITIATIVES OF THE PROJECT**

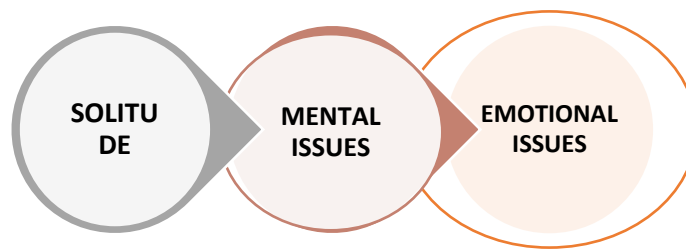
The project outlines the following endeavours-

### **1. Empowerment of Teaching faculty**

Monthly sensitization programs for teaching staff on LGBTQIA+ issues and challenges.

### **2. Formation of LGBTQIA+ Support Cell**

A safe space for the community members, where they feel that they are visible and heard.



### **3. Creating interactive Diversity Spaces**

Regular interaction tends to create empathy amid divergent groups. Dedicated measures would be implemented including-

- Book clubs on queer literature
- Theatre and plays
- Queer Films Screening
- Art competitions

### **4. Organizing Ally training Workshop**

Monthly programs for awareness & sensitization across different departments, to stress upon- *Historical & Legal Issues, Societal Privileges & Oppression, Correct Terminology, Coming Out Process, Bullying Victimization, Using Right Pronouns & Language.*

### **5. Hosting of LGBTQIA+ Panel Discussions**

Inviting a panel of writers, activists, speakers, youth leaders & celebrities from the LGBT community that would spark discussions on lived experiences.

### **6. #WEEKLYPRIDEDAY dedicated to LGBTQIA+ persons**

This would provide regular support to students struggling with their identity. To provide them a day wherein, they would gather to share struggles, laughter, grief & everything that the mainstream world denies.

## 7. Forming Parent Support Groups

This would be a step towards helping the parents of queer individuals to accept their children by understanding them better. This could be achieved by forming a dedicated space for sensitizing the parents of queer individuals.

