

## INFLUENCE OF GENDER-BASED DISCRIMINATION ON THE ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF LGBT STUDENTS

*by:*

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Gender-based discrimination is a term used to define a social phenomenon in which an individual or a group of individuals receive unfair treatment solely due to their gender. This is always associated with two concepts, specifically sex and gender, which frequently cause misconceptions among individuals. Newman (2023) stated that the word "sex" refers to the physical distinctions between males and females, such as their biological and physiological characteristics, and is determined at birth. On the contrary, the term "gender" is more commonly used to refer to socially, psychologically, and culturally developed roles, behaviors, and characteristics that may or may not be related to a woman's or a man's biological sex.

The Official Website of DepED Division of Bataan

According to Custodio (2019), discrimination is a widespread practice in educational institutions that leads to a disparity between caste and creed regarding students' potential to produce high-quality work. This has been linked to lower grade point averages (GPAs), poorer academic performance, and a higher likelihood of dropping out of high school. This stigma manifests through behaviors including bullying, mocking, name-calling, and, in some cases, physical or sexual assault. These infringements have the potential to seriously affect students' ability to pursue education, which is guaranteed by both Philippine and international law.

In line with this, Filipino students who are part of the LGBT community believe that the Philippines has never been a truly gender-inclusive country due to the prevalence of gender-based discrimination at educational institutions and the fact that this case invariably affects students' academic interest, social behavior, and academic capacity, all

of which harm their right to a decent education. Thus, LGBT students are still not completely safe in educational institutions in the Philippines which needs to be addressed as soon as possible.

### *References:*

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Custodio, I. (2019). The Situation of LGBTQ Children in the Philippines. Retrieved November 09, 2023 from <https://chr.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/2019.-THE-SITUATION-OF-LGBTQ-CHILDREN-IN-THE-PHILIPPINES-A-Report-by-the-Commission-on-Human-Rights-December-2019.pdf>.