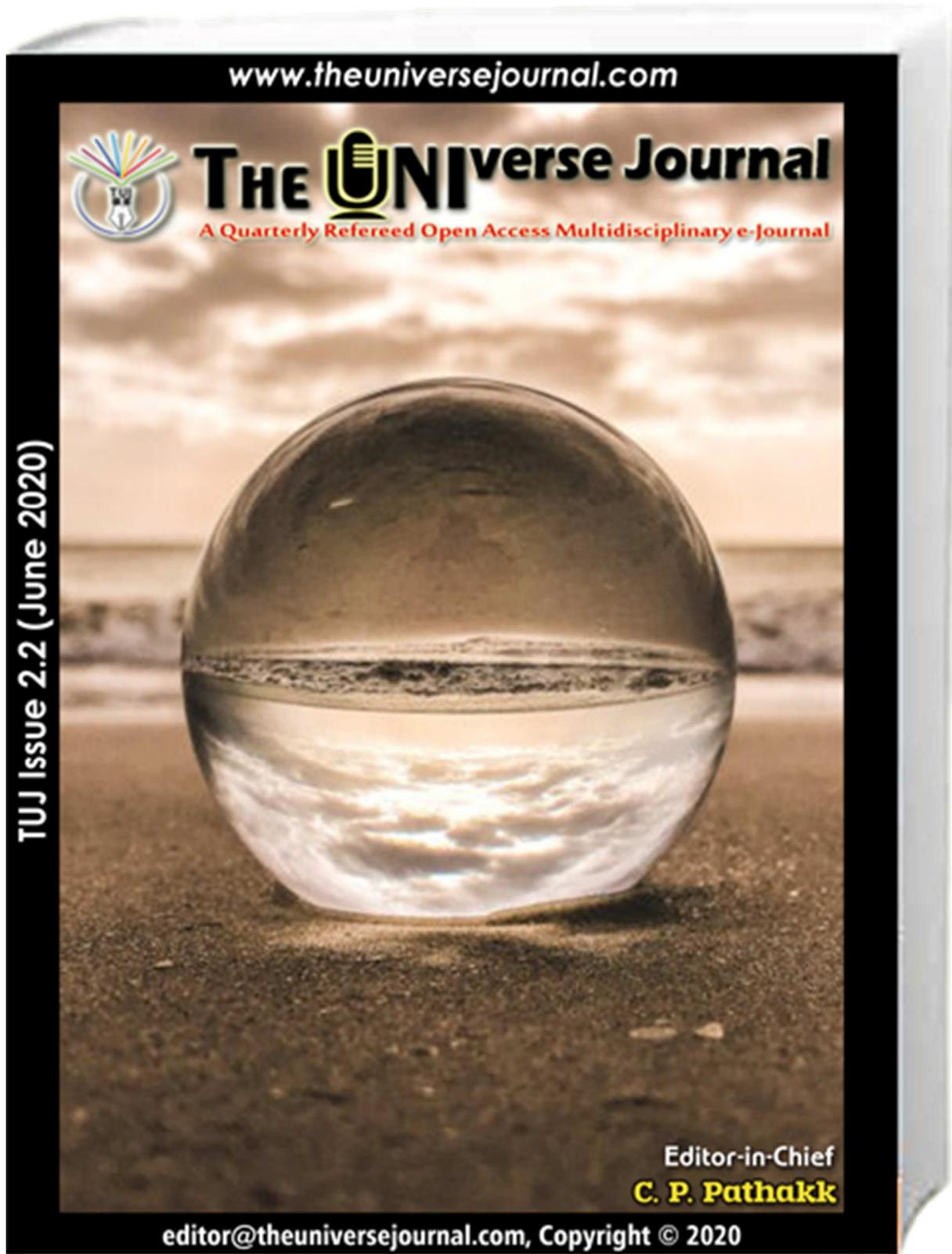


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“INTERVIEW”

Interviewee: Ankit Bhuptani (India)

Interviewer: Dr Morve Roshan K. (College of International Studies, Southwest University, China and Bangor University, United Kingdom).

Acknowledgement: I heartily thank to dear **Ankit Bhuptani** for his valuable time for this interview. I appreciated for his telephonic interview about minority voice. I also thank to **Southwest University, China** and **Bangor University, United Kingdom** for their infrastructure.

Bio:



Ankit Bhuptani, a gay activist from Mumbai wears many hats. He is the Chairman and Founder of Queer Hindu Alliance in Mumbai, advisor to corporates on inclusivity and diversity, the editor of Gujarati literature magazine Patrasetu and has been a part of the Mumbai pride parade since 2010. Ankit travelled across the country for six months to campaign for Supreme Court's judgement of IPC 377. He is awarded as ‘Top Global Youth Leader’ by World HRD Congress.



Dr Morve Roshan K. (MPhil; PhD) has been working as Lecturer, Teacher, Tutor, Volunteer, Poetess, Editor, Writer, and Translator for the past **8** years. She is prestigious to receive an “Honorary Research Associate” award at the Bangor University (United Kingdom). She is a Postdoctoral Fellow of Southwest University (Peoples Republic of China); she has been awarded a two-year China Gov. Fellowship. On 26th November 2018, she obtained PhD degree from the Central University of Gujarat (India). She has also received M. Phil degree from the same university in 2014. For M. Phil and PhD, she got awarded UGC Fellowships (India). Her research work published, total **18** research papers, **3** chapters, **2** short stories, **1** interview, **2** newspaper articles, and **6** poems. Her **3** books (1 as co-author, 1 as co-editor and 1 is an anthology) are also published. Her **74** Translated Children’s Literature books have published by Emesco Press. Dr Morve Roshan K. has presented **28** papers in national and international conferences, seminars and symposiums. She has received 9 travel grants from national and international governments as well as other institutions. She welcomes to discuss about any project/book to work in the collaboration.

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1. How do identify yourself as LGBTQIA? And when? (From which age, you were/is clear about your identity).

Ankit: I identify myself as a Gay. I clearly understood my gender identity, when I was 15 years old.

2. How did/do your parents response/react before, and after knowing about your identity? (mention about your gender, and behavior).

Ankit: I had not coming out officially as such. But now, I come out, and identify myself as Gay. There is no pressure for marriage from my parents. Now, my parents also acknowledge my orientation.

3. How is/were your society's response, if they come to know about your identity?

Ankit: Before 377, in the starting, it was negative due to unawareness. I have found that slowly, and steadily things are changing.

4. How do you define your gender? What is your understanding about LGBTQIA identity?

Ankit: I biologically male. I personally feel that we have right, and we have to respect of queer or non-queer.

5. What are issues you face? (write chronologically, issues like discrimination, domestic or public violence, caste, and any other....)

Ankit: Not as such. I am in full of 1. Confident. 2. Never play a gay card. 3. Because, I feel if he is poor gay...then, people will push you back. However, India is general we have revolted a lot as a caste system. If you talk you are a victim, then you feel discrimination. But, I have never played the card.

6. How do you see it with a religious perspective?

Ankit: Indian is very positive. On its code in Buddhism, Jainism and Hinduism. Hinduism is full of the show the subject as LGBTQIA. According to me, Human Rights in terms of Hinduism is quite acceptable.

7. What kind of violence you have experienced and how? Personal, public or political....so on...

Ankit: No violence. But with a political side, I am in admire of our current Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Within the own community, I feel politics, but largely, the dominate left and right. I think the religious identity and political preferences bring discrimination.

8. Do/Did you feel excluded or discriminatory experience? Where? (Write about your both encounters/experiences from childhood to adulthood and in public and private).

Ankit: During my childhood time, I never feel excluded by anybody. Nothing happened in my childhood.

9. If you had any traumatic experience, as a child how did you come out of this trauma?

Ankit: In my age, 16-17 after recognizing myself, I tried to commit suicide. When I got to know about the other place and people, then I started to get some support and confidence. But, in my teenage, I feel alone, nobody like and a disgrace to my parents. So, I tried for ending my life. Fortunately, I did not succeed.

10. At present, what do you feel as LGBTQIA?

Ankit: Future of India is obviously bright. A lot of changes are there. In the institutional, social, and family life getting more, and more support. Future of India is bright, we are not getting back. The current support from the Gov. is not getting as such they can. May be due to the voting support. But I believe that this bright future will come through judiciary, and judges not from parliament.

11. What kind of changes you have seen in the past and present (in the context of gender equality)?

Ankit: No acceptance was there. But today, we have many companies, those are coming out in the support, and acceptance by corporate, faith, and politicians which India has never seen in the past. But today, we can see many changes in India.

12. What kind of awareness or ways you will suggest for Gender Sensitization?

Ankit: I would like to suggest, as a curriculum Gender studies, and Sexual Orientation Studies may bring changes and awareness. I would like to suggest that the policymakers should aware, and the police must be trend on this law. Also, through the various channels of education, it can be done. The public awareness companions. Like Covid-19/Corona. The same way by media and story-telling also we can do. All of these steps are a very important role in it.

13. What kind of identity does come first in your mind about you? (As a religion/gender/region/class/caste/nation and so on....).

Ankit: First identity comes to my mind is human, and person as a planet. Followed by nation, followed by gender, then religion and then politics.

14. What kind of suggestions and message you would like to give to eevryone? (Regarding the changes, by saying politically amendments in laws, social revolution, family issues and parent's acceptance of their children as how they are, acceptability of third gender identity....)

Ankit: Message: My message to the people is expecting somebody's love is not a charity you do. But it is an act of right, which they deserve.

My Suggestions: Accept the people as they are.

Thank You for your precious time!!