**Data Collection Instrument**

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| **Section** | **Details** | |
| Field of Study/Topic of Interest/ Problem in Practice | Discrimination and harassment towards LGBTQ students occur at disproportionately higher rates compared with their heterosexual peers. This type of discrimination is prevalent in schools, particularly in rural and southern parts of the United States. Surprisingly, many school counselors do not believe they are fully trained to handle this unique population's requirements. As a result, their power to advocate is often inadequate and restricted. | |
| Research Design | The study involves qualitative research designed to measure the levels of comfort and perceived competency of school counselors in counseling and discussing topics concerning LGBT youth. | |
| Population & Sample -. | Target Population | The target population is high school students who attend school in Texas, grades 10-12th who identify as LGBT. |
| Sampling Strategy | A criterion sampling strategy is used to ensure study participants will be those individuals or groups of individuals who have knowledge or experience identifying as part of the LGBT community. This is also referred to as purposeful sampling. |
| Recruitment | The recruitment for the survey will involve social media and fliers to advertise for the study. There will be an initial screening process, and participants who qualify and complete the study will be eligible for prize incentives. |
| Demographics & Location | Participants will be located in high schools across Texas in cities with a population size of at minimum 50,000.  The participants must be between the ages of 14-18 years old. |

**Instrument Title: The Pittmana Assessment**

**Appendix**

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| **Instrument Description:**  **Qualitative survey of the experiences of discrimination and harassment of LGBTQ students in school settings**  Because the topic at hand is considered a sensitive one, the consent of the student will be gained prior to their involvement in the study. Consent for participation will also be sought from a parent/legal guardian for each participant.  The survey is a mixed of a few quantitative questions and more open qualitative questions aiming to understand the experiences of discrimination and harassment faced by students who identify as LGBTQ. The following details the survey, it is split up into several parts (e.g., descriptive, questions about harassment and discrimination, and school-based questions about the participants’ experiences and the policies and programs the school has in place).  **Survey**  **This bit to be read to each participant**  We have found that LGBTQ students face higher levels of discrimination and harassment compared with their heterosexual peers. The current study is seeking to understand the experience of harassment and discrimination among LGBTQ students within the school setting. We will begin by asking you to describe yourself (for example, your age, race and ethnicity and how you describe your sexual orientation) then we will move on to your experiences of school as a student who is a member of the LGBTQ community.  We received both your consent form and the one from your parent/legal guardian – so if you are happy to participate let’s begin. And please let me know if at any point you want to stop taking part in the survey. You are free to withdraw your consent at any time.  **Descriptive questions**  Please could you tell me your age? Instead of age ask for date of birth or year of birth  What gender do you identify with? Make it selectable from list and an option for “other” in end  What racial ethnic group do you identify with? It will make more sense if you mention something like white or non-white, because we are taking a small sample. However, it is up to you here.  Ask for some background, like from where they come and all. Like home state (idk about the population if this question make sense on it, add it)  Prior to this interview, you indicated that you were a member of the LGBTQ community, how would you describe your sexual orientation?  **Questions related to harassment and discrimination**  **This bit to be read to the participant**  Now that I have collected information that describes you, I would like to hear about your experiences of harassment and discrimination. Before we begin, I just want to make sure that you are happy to continue with this section (if yes, then continue with the questions. If no, move on to the ‘School policies and programs’ questions).  Research that took place before this study suggests that LGBTQ students can face higher rates of discrimination and harassment compared with students who are not LGBTQ.  In your opinion, do you think this is true [Yes/No]?  Do you have personal experience of harassment and discrimination because of your sexual orientation in a location outside of school? (if yes, ask the next question. If no, move on to the school-based questions).  Would you like to give me an example of either harassment or discrimination you have faced?  For example, who was the person that you felt was harassing or discriminating against you?  Which setting did the harassment or discrimination take place?  Did you feel able to protect/defend yourself against them [Yes/No]?  Did you receive any support from those around you [Yes/No]? Ask if school has any provision to help and one has used it  Did any adults or authority figures offer you assistance [Yes/No]?  Did you report the perpetrator [Yes/No]? (If yes, who did you report them to? If no, why didn’t you report them?)  If yes, did they face any consequences? If no, why didn’t you report them?  Asking if after complaining action of person or authority one complained to was satisfactory or not should be here.  **School-based questions**  **This bit to be read to the participant**  Now thinking about your experiences at school, have you ever experienced harassment or discrimination at school? (If yes, ask the following questions. If no, move on to the latter questions about ‘School policies and programs’)  Would you like to give me an example of either harassment or discrimination you have faced at school? (If yes, ask the following questions. If no, move on to the questions about ‘School policies and programs’)  Did you feel able to protect/defend yourself against them [Yes/No]? I feel this question is vague as no one can tell if they were “able to defend themselves”.  Did you receive any support from those around you [Yes/No]?  Did any adults or authority figures offer you assistance [Yes/No]?  Did you report the perpetrator [Yes/No]? (If yes, who did you report them to? If no, why didn’t you report them?)  If yes, did they face any consequences? If no, why didn’t you report them? Ask free or open text question here on how ones complaint was addressed.    **School policies and programs**  Does your school have any policies or programs in place to protect LGBTQ students from harassment or discrimination? (If yes, could you describe them? If no, move on to the latter questions)  Could you describe the policies that your school has in place? For example, some schools have specific LGBTQ policies and programs while others have anti-bullying guidelines.  If your school does not have any policies in place, do you think that it should? (If yes, please could you describe the types of policies/programs you would like to see put in place. If no, interviewer ends the interview).  Does your school have a counselor? If yes, ask the following questions. If no, end the interview).  Have you ever visited your school counselor?  Did you visit the counselor because of something related to harassment and discrimination because you identify as LGBTQ?  (If yes, did you feel that your concerns were addressed? If no, end the interview).  Why do you feel that your concerns were addressed/not addressed?  What more could they have done?  Do you feel that the school counselor needs more training in LGBTQ issues? (If yes, what type of training do you think they need? If no, end the interview).  Ask if school had resources to help them with or they lack thing.  That is the end of the interview, many thanks for sharing your experiences with me today. Do you have any questions for me or any information you would like about the study?  End of interview. |

General suggestions:

- Set survey logic appropriately that people don’t see those questions which they don’t need to answer. If it is a paper survey, then mention things clearly when one need to answer particular questions

- Don’t focus too much on problems, structure wording of survey in a manner that it looks rational. Means, if you mention too much about problems then it can motivate the answer.

- Do ask for email or contact information (this is usually important)