

May 2025 Deaf Bee Vlog Transcript:

This vlog will be explaining about the struggles that LGBTQIA+ people face in today's society. I will be focusing on three areas: **Healthcare, Education, and Employment**. Those three are indeed very important and the most common issues being discussed by the LGBTQIA+ community.

First one is **healthcare** – most LGBTQIA+ individuals have negative perspectives on healthcare. Most often recognized is their discriminatory practices, not through doctors but also insurance companies who oversee all billing information pertaining to services that doctors provided. They would check every bill, services, medications and whatever they would be paying for, whether it is a surgery, medications/treatments, therapy, etc and then would decline payment. Oftentimes, that is a burden on the LGBTQIA+ community for having to pay out-of-pocket themselves, or even worse, don't have the money to cover the costs thus making it a huge barrier – of which is considered discriminatory.

Many barriers such as these do affect LGBTQIA+ people to develop a negative stigma and distrust. Also, many doctors may not be culturally competent or familiar with, which is the utmost importance that doctors have empathy and compassion to be able to provide top-notch care.

Another barrier within the healthcare system is the rising costs of some insurance companies. Many LGBTQIA+ individuals feel the effect of being unable to afford insurance premiums or don't even have the money to pay for them. Unfortunately, some insurance to this day lacks coverage for some or most certain medical needs, such as gender-affirming care, or GAC for short, which is another obvious example.

Another unfortunate example is that all 50 states in the US aren't on the same page in terms of healthcare and their coverage. Some people in certain states may opt to receive GAC, only to be denied multiple times by their insurance and/or doctors. That, in turn, was influenced by many lawmakers in conservative states to block and/or create bans in providing necessary medical care, especially towards trans people receiving GAC among others.

Second category is **education**, ranging from elementary/primary school to college-level, but I will be focusing on elementary school age towards high school. It has been well documented that bullying and harassment has a huge impact on their mental health/wellness, thus leading students to underperform academically. Discrimination is also apparent in many schools in part of bullying and harassment, which often occurs within schools because the students come from many varieties of places, familial backgrounds, cultures and so forth.

Students may feel conflicted going to school, which is understandable because many schools to this day lack things such as support from school faculty and the curriculum, are not fully and/or culturally conscious, thus leading to them feeling neglected, invisible, and sadly, marginalized.

Teachers may also feel that it's not their responsibility nor in their job description to deal with students' personal issues, often referring back to their parent/s and/or

professionals. Some also may think that parents would notice and act, which may not always be the case at home – their home lives may be even more chaotic. Some teachers have expressed that their actions are unintentional, or lacked experience/competency in dealing with them to ensure they are set for success. Another concern among teachers are parent/s – while teachers are bound by duty to inform parents of any incident(s) that may have happened to the student at school, they are worried how parent/s would react, thus making the whole responsibility on the parent or parents.

Another unfortunate thing frequently noticed in common with students in elementary/middle schools is suicide. Why, you may ask – it is because maybe their home/living situation probably isn't ideal with the family's own struggles, and going to school dealing with all the barriers would only double up. That often leads to students feeling fed up dealing with all of that to commit suicide. That is truly heartbreaking.

Now, the last category is **employment**. I will be sharing some statistics and numbers for this part. 47% of LGBTQ+ people experienced discrimination, harassment and maltreatment at their place of employment, and 57% of those reported mentioned that it was heavily influenced by religious beliefs and/or culture.

Some employees or employers may either not realize it or might have implied it unintentionally, and those reported make up 36% by BIPOC LGBTQ+ staff who also reported being verbally harassed, while 25% LGBTQ staff reported similar.

34% have left their employment for reasons of maltreatment, feeling like they aren't equally respected.

Discrimination, of course, is everywhere, including in the workplace. Teasing, joking, making unflattering remarks/comments often is influenced by upper management making a domino effect downwards, whether it be minor or obvious – the point being is that there is implicit discrimination.

One thing that is heart-wrenching is when an employee gets the job, they may realize if they're not fully "out", they would go to great lengths to modify their appearances, clothing and behavior (usually coined as "passing") in order to protect their identity in fear of being identified by someone, or even worse, be forced to inconveniently come out.

REMARKS

Finally, yes, it is really unfortunate that these struggles still persist to this day. The most common impacts often recognized are those three categories mentioned above. Thank you for watching!