LGBTIQ Community Activism at the Gotagogama Protest of 2022 in Sri Lanka: A Study on Dynamics and Implications

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This qualitative study focused on exploring the political activism of the LGBTIQ community within the context of the 'Gotagogama' Protest in Sri Lanka. Data was gathered through interviews and analysed thematically, with content analysis of YouTube videos and other relevant secondary data sources supplemented. The study's goal was to explore into the experiences, contributions, and issues faced by many identities within the LGBTIQ community throughout the protest movement, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, and queer individuals. The findings provide light on the community's tenacity, determination, and achievements in the pursuit of recognition and social change. Drawing upon sociological theories such as Social Movement theory, the study provided a framework to understand the impact of the LGBTIQ community's activism on Sri Lanka's political landscape, encompassing policy changes, shifts in societal attitudes, and alterations in public discourse. The research acknowledged both the accomplishments and limitations of the LGBTIQ community's activism within the protest, while also shedding light on the various barriers and discrimination they encountered. By offering comprehensive insights into the unique context of the Gotagogama Protest in Sri Lanka, this study made a substantial contribution to the existing body of knowledge on LGBTIQ activism. It underscored the importance of inclusive and diverse movements in the pursuit of social justice and equal rights. The study not only illuminated the experiences, difficulties, and triumphs of the LGBTIQ community during the demonstration but also examined how their activism influenced the political environment, including changes to laws, social norms, and improvements in public discourse. The study's conclusions included recommendations for promoting a more accepting society and continuing to support the activism of the LGBTIQ community.

Keywords: Gotagogama, LGBTIQ community, Political activism, Social movements