

Hip hop culture is worldwide. The videos are usually very sexual in their content and women are often objectified. Hip hop music videos portray women as promiscuous, easy and/or desperate for a man's attention. Particularly in my selected video clip "Candy Shop" by 50 Cent, these behaviours are emphasised. The women in this video clip are wearing little clothing, revealing a great deal of their bodies. They are dancing seductively, trying to gain the male's attention. The candy shop actually meaning a brothel – the males selecting what females he wants, making females look powerless and existing only to pleasure men.

Regularly seeing this sort of video clip would definitely influence people's ideas on what it means to be female, as well as male [1]. It would be seen as normal for women to use their sexuality to attract males, who are interested only in women for sex. For a female, you should wear little clothing, dance provocatively to gain a male's attention, be slim but curvy and be completely satisfied when you gain interest from the male.

Social justice is definitely not being encouraged. These videos are unfair and discriminatory, giving a limited and unrealistic view of what women and men are like.

Harry is and has known he is attracted to males for as long as he can remember. He believes that the aspects of being gay have to relate to fashion and beauty; he is generally confused about this stereotypical image of a gay male, as he doesn't have these attributes himself and therefore can't be gay. He is socially seen as a typical NZ male, popular, a good sportsman and interested in girls. He feels a lot of shame that he is attracted to the same sex and feels as though he should change as he doesn't believe he is normal. People's attitudes and beliefs about homosexuality influence teenagers like Harry [2] to hide their true sexual identity and to be reluctant to come out as gay.

It is unfair that he feels he should hide who he really is, and that he is likely to be rejected if he were to come out to his friends and family because their attitudes and beliefs are that homosexuality is different from the norm.

Harry's English teacher is probably more accepting of homosexuality as he has chosen a novel about a homosexual male. As an interpersonal strategy, this is a great opportunity for Harry to have an honest conversation with someone who is accepting and trustworthy. Keeping this secret is not good for Harry's well-being, and being able to confide in and get advice from his teacher will be helpful for him as he figures out who he is and how he can go about telling others.

As a wider community we could help people such as Harry to start a support group to advocate and ensure that all members of our society are supported and have access to information and services in relation to sexuality and sexual health. This could be school-based or in a local community, or it could be a nationwide support service. This sort of support group could help homosexual, bisexual and transgender youth, but also help heterosexual people to understand and help people like Harry to come out and assist them through their difficulties.

An individual person, in this case Harry, could self-talk and encourage himself to go and talk to his teacher or a counsellor, or research support services that exist for him to understand more about sexual orientation (eg on the internet). This could provide Harry with the added confidence he needs to confide in others and gain support for his transition.