

Analysis of Sexual Orientation among Adolescents in Tasikmalaya Regency

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Abstract

Background: The age range of these high school students is 13-16 years, which is the initial age of showing homosexual behavior and same-sex attraction. To prevent deviant sexual behavior from occurring in adolescents, it is necessary to identify sexual orientation in the early stages.

Objective: To determine the sexual orientation of adolescents at SMPN 1 Sariwangi and SMP Islam Jayaratu. Determining the influence of personality, environment, trauma, sexual behavior, intensity of access to pornography, social support, parenting style, religiosity, attitudes, and perceptions of LGBT towards sexual orientation. Determining the differences of adolescent sexual orientation at SMPN 1 Sariwangi and SMP Islam Jayaratu.

Methodology: This research is a descriptive research with a cross-sectional approach with the PLS-SEM test and the difference test. The sample in this research was 227 teenagers. The research instrument used a questionnaire.

Results: Based on the research conducted, it was found that the sexual orientation of 95% of adolescents was heterosexual and the remaining 5% had a deviant sexual orientation, homosexual or bisexual. Factors significantly influenced the sexual orientation are the intensity of access to pornography, environment and trauma.

Conclusion: Most of the adolescents at SMPN 1 Sariwangi and SMP Islam Jayaratu are heterosexual. Access intensity of pornography, environment and trauma had a significant effect on the formation of sexual orientation.

Keywords: Heterosexual, Homosexual, Sexual Orientation, Adolescent.

Introduction

One aspect of human life that continues to show development and is of concern in the last few decades is the aspect of sexual orientation. Sexual orientation is divided into three; heterosexual, homosexual and bisexual. Heterosexual refers to attraction to a different gender, meanwhile, homosexual refers to attraction to one gender and bisexual refer to attraction to both sexes.¹

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LGBT is an acronym for "lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender". Currently, the United States has legalized same-sex marriage in 50 states of the United States on the basis of human rights.² A survey conducted of 19,069 respondents worldwide in 27 countries showed that seven out of 10 people or 70% of respondents stated that they were heterosexual and only attracted to the opposite sex. Then 21% of respondents preferred not to say their sexual orientation. However, 5% of respondents said they were homosexual and 4% bisexual. This means that 9 out of 100 people have a deviant sexual orientation and that includes LGBT. This number can increase if the other 21% of respondents can tell the truth about their sexual orientation.³

According to a CIA (Central Intelligence Agency) survey, Indonesia is the country with the 5th largest LGBT population in the world after China, India, Europe and America. This is a consequence of the large and dense population of Indonesia.⁴ Then, according to various independent domestic and foreign survey institutions, it is stated that in Indonesia there are 3% of the total population of LGBT people. The rise of the LGBT phenomenon in Indonesia is closely related to the trend of liberal countries that provide recognition and a place for the LGBT community in society. LGBT is considered as part of the lifestyle of modern society which considers the view of heterosexuality as conservative and does not apply to everyone.⁵

Apart from trends, what is causing the LGBT phenomenon to become more widespread today is the support from various parties. Until now, there are 31 countries in the world that have legalized LGBT and most of these countries come from the European and American continents.⁶ Then the development of the enforcement of Human Rights (HAM) which is currently used as the basis for freedom of life and opinion, for many people is the main factor why LGBT people have the right to receive equal support.⁷

LGBT has many negative impacts, especially in terms of health. The health impacts caused include 78% of homosexual offenders being infected with sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS.⁷

Tasikmalaya Regency is one of the largest areas in West Java. According to the findings of the Tasikmalaya Regency Regional Indonesian Child Protection Commission (KPAID) in 2018 it detected 1,200 minors in Tasikmalaya Regency who were included in LGBT, children who were indicated to be LGBT, were children aged 15-16 years.⁸

Most sexual minorities (Lesbian, Gay and transgender) begin to realize that they have different tendencies at a young age. Studies show that homosexual behavior and same-

sex attraction are common from the age of 15, the prevalence is in men, in America was 20.8%, UK was 16.3%, and America was 18.5%. While in the women's group was respectively 17.8%, 18.6%, and 18.5%. This situation shows that the school age group is a vulnerable age to start engaging in same-sex relationships. While the decision to become homosexual most occur in young adults or at the age when they were mostly college students⁹.

Jayaratu Islamic Middle School and Sariwangi 1 Public Middle School are junior high schools in the Sariwangi sub-district, Tasikmalaya Regency. The two secondary schools have quite large student capacities, 134 students at Jayaratu Islamic Middle School and 394 students at Sariwangi 1 Middle School. The age range of these high school students is ranged 13-16 years. Is an initial age of the stage of showing homosexual behavior and same-sex attraction be questioned. To prevent the occurrence of deviant sexual behavior in adolescents, it is necessary to identify sexual orientation in early adolescence. So that the necessary guidance can be carried out to change sexual orientation in accordance with applicable norms and customs. Based on the description above, a study will be carried out with the title Analysis of Sexual Orientation in Adolescents in Tasikmalaya Regency.

Methodology

1. Design

This research is a quantitative study with a cross sectional design.

2. Setting and Samples

This research was conducted at Jayaratu Islamic Middle School and Sariwangi 1 Public Middle School in Sariwangi District, Tasikmalaya Regency from March to June 2022. The research samples were grade 1 and 2 students at Jayaratu Islamic Middle School and Sariwangi 1 Public Middle School. The inclusion criteria are willing to be research subjects. While the exclusion criteria were 3rd grade junior high school students.

3. Measurements and Instruments

The sampling technique used was accidental sampling method, using the Slovin formula, 227 samples were obtained. The research instrument in this study was a questionnaire that had been tested for validity and reliability. There are 11 questionnaire categories including sexual orientation, personality, perceptions of LGBT, attitudes about LGBT, religiosity, parenting style, social support, intensity of access to pornography, sexual activity, trauma and environment.

4. Data Analysis

Data analysis in this study was univariate and bivariate analysis. The software used was the SPSS application, for different test analysis and the Smart PLS application for regression (correlation) analysis.

Results

Univariate Analysis

Table 1.
Respondents' characteristic

Characteristic	Category	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Gender	Male	89	39
	Female	138	61
Age	13 years old	183	77
	14 years old	33	18
	15 years old	11	5
Grade	7 Junior high school	106	47
	8 Junior high school	121	53

Table 1 shows that the majority of the research respondents were female students are 138 students (61%) and male students are 89 (39%). The majority respondents are 13-year-old students which are 183 (77%), 14-year-old students which are 33 (18%) and 15-year-old students which are 11 (5%). Majority of them are grade 8 students with a total of 121 students (53%), and grade students 7 with a total of 106 students (53%).

Table 2.

Variable	Category	1 Siliwangi JHS	Islam Jayaratu JHS	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Sexual orientation	Heterosexual	160	55	215	95
	Homosexual	8	4	12	5
Personality	Introvert	99	49	148	65
	Extrovert	69	10	79	35
Environment	Positive	158	55	213	94
	Negative	10	4	14	6
Trauma	Trauma	147	45	35	15.5
	No Trauma	21	14	192	84.5
Sexual behaviour	High	19	54	24	10.5
	Low	149	5	203	89.5
Access to Pornography	Low intensity	125	50	52	23
	High intensity	43	9	175	77
Social support	High	114	28	85	37.5
	Low	54	31	142	62.5
Parenting	Positive	86	37	123	54

	Negative	82	22	104	46
Religiosity	Low	12	3	15	6.7
	Moderate	28	18	46	20.2
	High	128	38	166	73.1
Attitude toward LGBT	Negative	164	58	222	98
	Positive	4	1	5	2
Perception toward LGBT	Negative	162	56	218	96
	Positive	6	3	9	4

Table 2 shows that the majority of the youth who were sampled in this study were predicted to have a heterosexual sexual orientation (95%). The majority have introverted personalities (65%), the majority of adolescents have a positive environment (94%), 84.5% of the adolescents who did not have trauma, 89.5% of adolescents have sexual behavior with low activity, 77% have low intensity in accessing pornography, 62.5% of adolescents have high social support, 54% have positive parenting, 73.1% have high religiosity, 98% of students have negative perceptions who think that LGBT is a deviant act, and 96% of teenagers have a negative attitude who think that LGBT is a deviant and bad act.

Bivariate Analysis

In this study, two analyzes were carried out including regression analysis using the structural equation-partial least squares (SEM-PLS) model using SmartPLS software and two-group different test analysis using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) software.

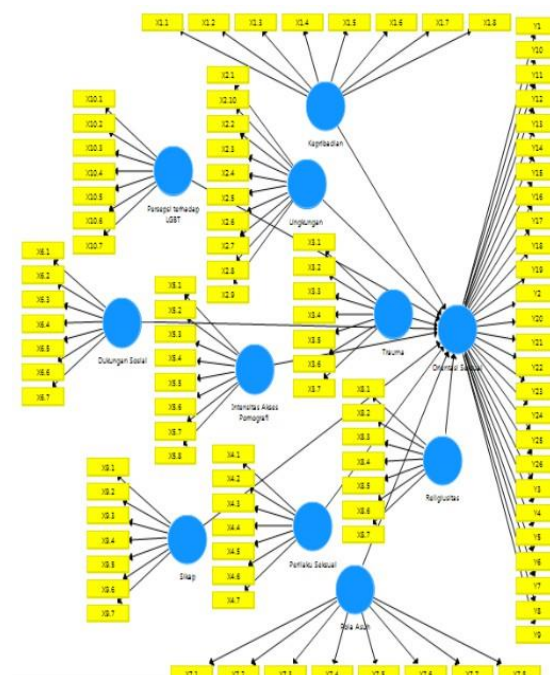


Figure 1 shows that there are 10 independent variables that affect 1 dependent variable. Each variable has a different number of indicators according to the number of statements on the questionnaire used in this study. Each question is assigned a code number such as X1.1 for statement number one's personality variable and so on. Then all the independent variables are linked to the dependent variable. After creating the path model, bootstrap is performed to find out the relationship between variables.

Table 3
Bootstrapping Results of SmartPLS

	Original Sample (O)	Sample Mean (M)	Standard Deviation (STDEV)	T Statistics (O/STDEV)	P Values
Dukungan Sosial -> Orientasi Seksual	0.479	0.461	0.299	1.603	0.11
Intensitas Akses Pornografi -> Orientasi Seksual	0.376	0.298	0.187	2.007	0.045
Kepribadian -> Orientasi Seksual	-0.037	-0.067	0.164	0.227	0.821
Lingkungan -> Orientasi Seksual	0.103	0.157	0.241	0.427	0.022
Perilaku Seksual -> Orientasi Seksual	-0.034	-0.064	0.069	0.489	0.625
Persepsi terhadap LGBT -> Orientasi Seksual	0.352	0.238	0.31	1.136	0.256
Pola Asuh -> Orientasi Seksual	-0.066	-0.095	0.261	0.254	0.4
Religiusitas -> Orientasi Seksual	0.135	0.107	0.254	0.531	0.596
Sikap -> Orientasi Seksual	-0.522	-0.505	0.31	1.684	0.093
Trauma -> Orientasi Seksual	-0.145	-0.064	0.24	0.603	0.037

Based on table 3, the relationship between variables explained as follows:

1. Personality has no significant effect on sexual orientation due to P Value is 0.821 > 0.05.
2. Environment has a significant effect on sexual orientation because P Value is 0.02 < 0.05.
3. Trauma has a significant effect on sexual orientation because P Value is 0.037 < 0.05.
4. Sexual behavior has no significant effect on sexual orientation because P Value is 0.625 > 0.05.
5. The intensity of access to pornography has a significant effect on sexual orientation because P Value is 0.037 < 0.045.
6. Social support has no significant effect on sexual orientation because P Value is 0.11 > 0.05
7. Parenting style has no significant effect on sexual orientation because P Value is 0.4 > 0.05

8. Religiosity has no significant effect on sexual orientation due to P Value is $0.596 > 0.05$
9. Attitude has no significant effect on sexual orientation because P Value is $0.093 > 0.05$
10. Perceptions of LGBT have no significant effect on sexual orientation because P Value is $0.256 > 0.05$

It can be concluded that the independent variables which have a significant effect on the dependent variable are sexual orientation (Y), access intensity pornography (X5), environment (X2) and trauma (X3).

Discussion

Based on the research conducted, personality has no significant effect on sexual orientation because $P=0.821$, greater than 0.05. This is not in accordance with research conducted in 2017 which states that someone who has a deviant sexual orientation has a special personality. Someone who has a deviant sexual orientation that is not in accordance with the orientation that can be accepted by society has a personality of self-closure, melancholy and does not care about the surrounding environment, to hide his identity in society and he only feels comfortable with associations that suit his personality.¹⁰

The personality of adolescents at SMPN 1 Sariwangi and SMP Islam Jayaratu are mostly categorized as introverts which are synonymous with self-closing. But in reality, most teenagers shut themselves down because of an environment where there is little interaction between friends during the Covid 19 pandemic, not because they are hiding deviant things.

Research conducted by Setia, hawati & Febriyanto suggests that the environment influences a person in determining sexual orientation. The environment and humans are two factors that continue to interact and continue to influence each other, the choice of sexual orientation can be influenced by the environment, for example an environment that is not harmonious in the household between parents and children, usually because parents are busy or do not give attention and affection to the growth and development of their children and allowing their children to choose their own perceptions of life, the influence of one's peers is easily influenced or tends to follow the invitation of close friends or friends who are just known because of curiosity and the nature of wanting to try new things is very influential on someone, for example if someone gets along with the

environment who are homosexually oriented, of course, can influence the formation of their sexual orientation.¹¹

In line with this research, research conducted by researchers shows that the environmental variables on sexual orientation have a significant effect because the P values of SmartPLS bootstrapping show numbers 0.022 which is smaller than 0.055. According to the researchers, this shows the importance of a good environment for adolescents for the development of their mindset. Based on research, there are 6% of teenagers who have a negative environment. This is also motivated by various things, one of which is the low level of education in the community where teenagers live.

In line with Irawan's research which states that someone who sees violence that happens to loved ones such as a father who commits violence against a mother in front of the child, makes a child hate the father figure and this is one of the reasons someone commits sexual orientation deviation.¹²

Based on the research results, sexual behavior has no significant effect on sexual orientation because $P=0.625$ is greater than 0.05. This research is not in line with research in 2013 where sexual behavior influences the formation of sexual orientation. Sexual behavior arises because of a sexual urge where a person feels attracted to the opposite sex or the same sex which can cause comfort even just by holding his hand or imagining it.¹³ Most of the sexual behavior of adolescents at SMPN 1 Sariwangi and SMP Islam Jayaratu is not of high intensity, due to the strong tradition and religiosity in their environment. Therefore, teenagers consider sexual behavior that is not in accordance with the norm very taboo and should not be done before marriage.

In accordance with the research conducted on the SmartPLS bootstrapping results, the P Values of the intensity of access to pornography on sexual orientation is 0.045, which is less than 0.05, so the intensity of access to pornography has a significant effect on sexual orientation. In line with Harper's research, that some youths find the internet useful in helping to manifest same-sex sexual attraction by engaging in internet-based pornography or erotica websites.¹⁴

Based on the research conducted, social support has no significant effect on sexual orientation because $P = 0.11$ which is greater than 0.05. Someone who has low social support tends to have negative thoughts, someone feels unappreciated, no one loves them so that it will lead to bad behavior. Someone who has high social support can improve one's quality of life and will form positive thoughts so as to avoid negative behavior. In the

environment of SMPN 1 Sariwangi and Jayaratu Islamic Middle School, most of the social support is high and many support the youth around them to grow with good support, although there are a few of them who have low social support.

Based on the research conducted, parenting style did not have a significant effect on sexual orientation because $P = 0.4$ which is greater than 0.05. Parenting style in educating children greatly influences the formation of sexual orientation. The loss of the role of parents or an imbalance in the parenting style given to children will cause a child to look for a substitute for someone who makes someone comfortable, be it a man or a woman.¹⁵

Based on the results, religiosity has no significant effect on sexual orientation because $P=0.596$ which is greater than 0.05. The researchers found that the effect of Jewish background on sexual attraction was not significantly smaller than the effect on sexual identity or sexual behavior. Perhaps the reason is that answers to questions about attraction reflect judgments based on memories of past behavior. Individuals decide whether they are attracted to others of the same person based partly on whether or not they have engaged in sexual activities with persons of the same sex. For this reason, researchers cannot assume that reported sexual attraction measures the violent aspects of sexual orientation with great precision.¹⁶

Based on the research conducted, attitude has no significant effect on sexual orientation because $P=0.093$ which is greater than 0.05. This is inappropriate with research conducted in 2018 which suggested that a person's attitude influences the formation of a person's identity where someone who has a negative attitude who thinks that LGBT is normal behavior will shape a person's identity in a negative direction as well. Someone who has an attitude that thinks that LGBT is a normal thing will believe and believe in himself that it is normal so that changes in one's identity change in a negative direction and it will be difficult to change it.¹⁷

According to the researchers, this can happen because there is still a lack of sexual education from teenagers, so that in fact teenagers just don't support LGBT because of the environment or little knowledge about LGBT itself. Because it could be, teenagers have a deviant sexual orientation, but are not aware of it because of a lack of knowledge about sexual education.

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environment or little knowledge about LGBT itself. Because it could be, teenagers have a deviant sexual orientation, but are not aware of it because of a lack of knowledge about sexual education.¹⁸ One of the factors that influence perception is the level of emotion.^{19,20}

According to researchers, this goes back to the problem of lack of knowledge about sexual education among adolescents. It could be that teenagers already have negative perceptions of LGBT, but are committing deviations without realizing it.

Limitation of Research

This research does not examine other variables such as hormones and genes that can affect a person's sexual orientation.

Conclusions

There is a significant relationship between the intensity of access to pornography, environment, and trauma to sexual orientation. It is recommended that schools be able to provide education regarding reproductive health and carry out treatment or prevention of students who have indications of deviant sexual orientation. So that if early handling and prevention of this deviant sexual orientation is carried out, it can reduce sexual deviations in society in the future.

Ethical Clearance

This study has gained the ethical clearance from The Ethical Committee.

Acknowledgement

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Conflict of Interest

There is no conflict of interest in this study

Authors Contribution

UAS compiles and designs the research, performs analysis and interprets the data and drafts the manuscript. UAS, PA, and VS were involved in the analysis, interpretation of data. PA and VS critically reviewed the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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