

COMMUNITY PERCEPTION ON LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER IN SOUTH BENGKULU

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ABSTRACT

Background: LGBT stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender, and along with heterosexual are terms used to describe people's sexual orientation or gender identity. LGBT people in Indonesia face legal challenge and prejudice not experienced by non-LGBT residents. This study aimed to investigate the community perception on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender community in South Bengkulu, Indonesia.

Subjects and Method: This was a qualitative study conducted in South Bengkulu, Indonesia. A total of 4 informants was selected for this study, including transgender group, community leader, and religious leader. The triangulation of data was taken from community and religious leaders. The data were collected by in-depth interview using a tape recorder. The data were analyzed descriptively.

Results: Community perception on LGBT covered 3 aspects: (1) Social-cultural: LGBT were unacceptable by the society because it was considered as a deviation from the normal community; (2) Religious: LGBT was prohibited for development; (3) Reproductive health: LGBT behavior might cause damage or dysfunction of reproductive organs.

Conclusion: Community shows similar negative perceptions on LGBT community covering three aspects: social-cultural, religious, and reproductive health.

Keywords: perception, society, LGBT

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