

ABSTRACT

Homosexuality is a term that refers to a sexual orientation in which an individual is emotionally, romantically, or sexually attracted to people of the same sex. In today's modern era, the phenomenon of same-sex attraction—particularly homosexuality among gay individuals—has become a subject of public debate. Indonesia, as the country with the largest Muslim population in the world, holds a unique perspective on the issue of gay homosexuality. This global trend does not align with Indonesian norms, particularly with the first principle of Pancasila, "Belief in the One and Only God," which reflects the religious values embraced in the country, consequently homosexual individuals continue to experience discrimination in their social interactions. This study aims to examine how homosexual individuals, particularly gay men, and the general public in the city of XYZ construct and interpret homosexual identity through the process of symbolic interaction, as well as to explore various perspectives from both gay individuals and the broader community. This research uses a qualitative method with a constructivist paradigm, applying the symbolic interaction theory of mind, self, and society proposed by George Herbert Mead. The subjects of this study consist of homosexual (gay) individuals and non-homosexual community members residing in the city of XYZ.

Keywords: *homosexuality, gay, social identity, city of XYZ, symbolic interaction*