



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

**UNFOLDING THE LESBIANISM ORIENTATION DEVELOPMENT
AMONGST SELECTED PENGKID MALAYS**

NORA HENDON FAEIZAH BT. RUSDIE ALI FAEIDZ

IPSS 2011 8

**UNFOLDING THE LESBIANISM ORIENTATION DEVELOPMENT
AMONGST SELECTED PENGKID MALAYS**



By

NORA HENDON FAEIZAH BT. RUSDIE ALI FAEIDZ

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia, in
Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy**

June 2011

Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment of
the requirement for the degree of
Doctor of Philosophy

**UNFOLDING THE LESBIANISM ORIENTATION DEVELOPMENT
AMONGST SELECTED PENGKID MALAYS**

By

NORA HENDON FAEIZAH BT. RUSDIE ALI FAEIDZ

June 2011

Chairperson: Prof. Rahim Md. Sail, PhD

Faculty: Institute of Social Science

‘Pengkid’, a Malaysian slang to describe women who have the appearance, mannerism and sexual orientation similar to men has been seen as a social ill and has raised many issues. This phenomenon challenges Malaysian’s stand as a Muslim country as it deviates from the traditional human orientation. The main purpose of this study was to unfold the contributing elements that may have contributed toward the lesbianism orientation development amongst the selected Malay ‘Pengkids’ in Malaysia in order to provide a new body of knowledge toward community education and development. The qualitative research methodology was selected since it was deemed the most appropriate for the study of this nature of phenomenon.

The findings suggested that the lesbianism orientation of the Malay ‘Pengkids’ were developed throughout the different stage of their lives, childhood, adolescence and young adulthood and were contributed by two distinctive elements: the biological

characteristics which were mainly based on the body built/structure, facial appearances and features of the Malay ‘Pengkids’; the social psychological and psychosocial process of the Malay ‘Pengkids’ life developments. The study mainly concluded that the early stage of childhood development is deemed to be very important in the formation of one’s gender/sexual identity development and parents are the most important agent to nurture children on healthy gender/sexual orientation development.



Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk Ijazah Doktor Falsafah

**MENYINGKAP PEMBENTUKAN ORIENTASI LESBIANISME DI
KALANGAN SEBILANGAN PENGGID MELAYU**

Oleh

NORA HENDON FAEIZAH BT. RUSDIE ALI FAEIDZ

Jun 2011

Pengerusi: Prof. Rahim Md. Sail, PhD

Fakulti: Institut Sains Sosial

‘Penggid’, istilah atau slanga yang digunakan di Malaysia untuk menerangkan tentang perempuan yang mempunyai penampilan, perlakuan dan orientasi seksual yang menyerupai lelaki normal telah dianggap sebagai satu gejala sosial yang telah membangkitkan pelbagai isu. Fenomena ini telah mencabar kedudukan Malaysia sebagai negara Islam kerana ianya bertentangan dengan fitrah atau orientasi tradisional manusia. Tujuan utama kajian ini ialah untuk menyingkap elemen-elemen yang telah mempengaruhi pembentukan orientasi lesbianisme dalam sebilangan ‘Penggid’ Melayu sebagai satu bidang pengetahuan baru kepada pendidikan dan pembangunan komuniti. Kaedah kajian kualitatif dipilih kerana ia merupakan pendekatan yang paling sesuai untuk diguna pakai bagi mengkaji fenomena ini.

Hasil penemuan kajian telah mendapati bahawa pembentukan orientasi lesbianisme di kalangan sebilangan ‘Penggid’ Melayu tersebut telah terbentuk sepanjang tahap pemsaraan mereka secara berperingkat dari zaman kanak-kanak, remaja sehinggalah

ke peringkat pra-dewasa menerusi pengaruh dua elemen yang ketara: ciri-ciri biologi yang berdasarkan kepada struktur tubuh badan dan penampilan struktur/ciri-ciri wajah; proses psikologi sosial dan juga psikososial semasa pembesaran. Hasil utama kajian merumuskan bahawa fasa awal dalam perkembangan dan tumbesaran kanak-kanak memainkan peranan yang sangat penting dalam pembentukan identiti seksual/jantina individu dan ibu bapa merupakan ejen yang paling utama dalam memupuk pembentukan identiti seksual/jantina yang sihat di kalangan anak-anak mereka.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I thank Allah S.W.T. for making it possible for me to complete this study. There are so many individuals I want to thank who in different ways have contributed to this work. First of all, I express my deepest gratitude to the Chairperson and members of the supervisory committee for their invaluable guidance and support throughout the course of the study.

My special gratitude and appreciation dedicated to Prof. Dr. Rahim Md. Sail for his encouragement and support on a sensitive study such as this. I thank him also for his selfless advice during the entire course of study irrespective of time or day.

In addition I am indebted to the nine women who entrusted me with their biography and personal stories of lesbianism. Thank you for your honesty and vulnerability. Your generous sharing has provided meaning to this study and hopefully would provide better insights for the nation. Special recognition is accorded to each person whose names unfortunately cannot be disclosed for the purpose of anonymity.

To the Director, lecturers and staff of the Institute of Social Science, Universiti Putra Malaysia, my sincere thank for the support, knowledge, assistance and advice. My gratitude also to the administrators, the Dean and staff of the School of Graduate Studies for the assistance provided throughout the duration of my study at UPM.

Finally, I am extremely grateful for the love and support of my family especially my precious children, Alif Ridhwan, Fatihah Ridhwani, Hawa Ridhwani, Adam Ridhwan and Maria Qistina, not only for their understanding during this course but also for their much tested patience for the entire duration of my previous studies that have led to the successful completion of this graduate studies. Your sacrifice and stress during those long days without me is truly appreciated. My special gratitude to my beloved husband, Syareel Izam Ali, for being another true believer on the importance of research and how contribution towards that can change the world.

Nora Hendon Faeizah bt Rusdie Ali Faeidz
June 2011

I certify that a Thesis Examination Committee has met on 29th June 2011 to conduct the final examination of Nora Hendon Faeizah bt. Rusdie Ali Faeidz on her Doctor of Philosophy thesis entitled “Unfolding Lesbianism Orientation Development Amongst Selected Pengkid Malays ” in accordance with the Universities and University Colleges Act 1971 and the Constitution of the Universiti Putra Malaysia [P.U. (A) 106] 15 March 1998. The Committee recommends that the student be awarded the Doctor of Philosophy.

Members of the Thesis Examination Committee were as follows:

Nobaya binti Ahmad, PhD

Faculty of Human Ecology
Universiti Putra Malaysia
(Chairman)

Shamsuddin b. Ahmad, PhD

Senior Lecturer
Faculty of Educational Studies
Universiti Putra Malaysia
(Internal Examiner)

Azizan b. Asmuni, PhD

Associate Professor
Faculty of Educational Studies
Universiti Putra Malaysia
(Internal Examiner)

Karen E, Watkins, PhD

Professor
The University of Georgia
United States of America
(External Examiner)

SEOW HENG FONG, PhD

Professor and Deputy Dean
School of Graduate Studies
Universiti Putra Malaysia

Date: 20 December 2011

This thesis was submitted to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia and has been accepted as fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. The members of the Supervisory Committee were as follows:

Rahim Md. Sail, PhD

Professor
Faculty of Educational Studies
Universiti Putra Malaysia
(Chairman)

Azimi Hj. Hamzah, EdD

Professor
Faculty of Educational Studies
Universiti Putra Malaysia
(Member)

Rumaya Bt. Juhari, PhD

Associate Professor
Faculty of Human Ecology
Universiti Putra Malaysia
(Member)

BUJANG BIN KIM HUAT, PhD

Professor and Dean
School of Graduate Studies
Universiti Putra Malaysia

Date:

DECLARATION

I declare that the thesis is my original work except for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously, and is not concurrently, submitted for any other degree at Universiti Putra Malaysia or at any other institution.



**NORA HENDON FAEIZAH BT
RUSDIE ALI FAEIDZ**

Date: 29 June 2011

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | Page |
|--|-------------|
| ABSTRACT | ii |
| ABSTRAK | iv |
| ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS | vi |
| APPROVAL | viii |
| DECLARATION | x |
| LIST OF TABLES | xiv |
| LIST OF FIGURES | xv |
| LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS/NOTATIONS/GLOSSARY OF TERMS | xvi |
| | |
| CHAPTER | |
| | |
| I INTRODUCTION | 1 |
| Background of the Study | 1 |
| The Statement of the Problem | 14 |
| Purpose of the Study | 17 |
| Research Questions | 18 |
| Significance of the Study | 18 |
| Scope of the Study | 20 |
| Limitations of the Study | 22 |
| Operational Definition of Terms | 23 |
| Summary | 34 |
| | |
| II REVIEW OF LITERATURE | 35 |
| Lesbianism (Female Homosexuality – An Overview) | 36 |
| Transsexualism | 46 |
| Lesbianism and the Biological Theories | 52 |
| Lesbianism and Psychology | 54 |
| Lesbianism and Social Psychological Theories | 57 |
| Lesbianism and the Psychosexual Theories | 60 |
| Overview of Erik Erikson’s Psychosocial Theories | 63 |
| Overview of Ecological Theories | 75 |
| Cass Theory | 77 |
| Human and Adult Development | 82 |
| Homosexuality and Lesbianism Scenario in Malaysia | 87 |
| Lesbianism in the Islamic Perspectives | 91 |
| Conceptual Framework | 97 |
| Summary | 105 |

| | | |
|------------|---|-----|
| III | METHODOLOGY | 106 |
| | Research Design | 106 |
| | Qualitative Research | 111 |
| | Nature of Inquiry | 116 |
| | Case Study | 119 |
| | Selection of Participants | 120 |
| | Accessibility | 124 |
| | Data Gathering Process | 127 |
| | Data Management | 136 |
| | Validity and Reliability | 136 |
| | Ethical Issues | 140 |
| | Data Analysis | 143 |
| | Research Assumptions and Biases | 149 |
| | Summary | 151 |
| IV | FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS | 153 |
| | Introduction | 153 |
| | The Biographical Profile of the Participants | 155 |
| | Summary of Participants | 183 |
| | Findings of the Study | 185 |
| | The Social Psychological Perspectives | 186 |
| | Parent/Guardian – Child Relationship | 188 |
| | Peer/Partner Relationship | 193 |
| | Psychosocial Perspectives | 202 |
| | The Bio-physical Perspectives | 217 |
| | Level of Religiosity | 222 |
| | Discussion | 226 |
| | The Social Psychological Perspectives | 226 |
| | Parent/Guardian–ChildRelationship | 226 |
| | Peer/Partner Relationship | 229 |
| | Psychosocial Perspectives | 234 |
| | The Bio-physical Perspectives | 237 |
| | Level of Religiosity | 244 |
| | Eliminated Themes from Findings | 245 |
| | Summary | 252 |
| V | SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, IMPLICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS | 254 |
| | Summary | 254 |
| | Conclusions | 262 |
| | Implications | 276 |
| | Recommendations | 277 |
| | Recommendations for Further Research | 287 |

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| REFERENCES | 290 |
| APPENDICES | |
| A Research Consent Form | 305 |
| B Interview Guide | 307 |
| C Audit Trail | 312 |
| D Original Verbatim | 317 |
| BIODATA OF STUDENT | 329 |

