

Family Communication Patterns, Agreeableness Personality Trait and Homosexual Behavior Tendency

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ABSTRACT

The objective of this research was to investigate the relationship between family communication patterns, agreeableness personality trait and the tendency of homosexual behaviour. The Quantitative method was used to examine the relationships between family communication patterns and agreeableness personality toward homosexual behaviour tendency. Three hundred and fifty students (Senior High School students) were recruited from three areas, namely: Surakarta, Boyolali, and Klaten, Central Java. Multivariate analysis of variance was used for hypothesis testing. The results obtained shows that there is a significant relationship between the agreeableness personality trait and the tendency of homosexual behaviour. There was no relationship between patterns of communication in the family and the tendency of homosexual behaviour. Conclusion: The personality traits of agreeableness was a positive character, mainly related to interpersonal relationships, and prosocial behaviour. However, there is a probability for homosexual behaviour tendency when an individual could not control his or her principles in life.

Keywords: *Agreeableness personality tendency, homosexual behavior tendency, students*

1. INTRODUCTION

Homosexuality is a term which describes the tendency to be interested in the same-sex relationships. A woman who is attracted to other females is called as the lesbian. If a man is attracted to a man, he is called a gay (Lehrman, 2005; Cavico et al., 2012). Homosexual behaviour in the boarding school has a distinctive designation, including: mairil (Syarifuddin, 2005), dumok (Khaerina & Abraham, 2014), alaq dalaq (Zuhri, 2006; Dzulkarnain, 2009), sempet (Rosidin, 2015), and muyak latang (Ibrahim, 2013). The difference in the name is dependent on the location; this means that in different places have specific names for homosexuality (Khaerina & Abraham, 2014).

Homosexual behaviour in boarding school is quite different character from that of the general (public). It is more persistent boarding schools. Sometimes “the feeling” appears and disappears. When students meet at the boarding, the desire arises, but when they separate each other, the desire disappears. However, there are some people that have desire more intensive (fixed) desires, even though they separate from each other, the drive for homosexual practices remains (see Dzulkarnain, 2006; Zuhri, 2006). Usually, students who express the homosexual desire will get severe punishment which involves them dropping out from the school.

Quantitatively the number of homosexual cases in the boarding school is not significant with the total number of students, however qualitatively it is high. The cases

are a paradoxical phenomenon and are against the values of the boarding school itself (based on religious values). According to research on homosexual behaviour at a boarding school, some shocking facts were discovered. In some cases, the senior students (who “infected” homosexual viruses) try to find the victim which are the handsome junior students with white skin, and soft characters (Zuhri, 2006). Another significant observation is that students who practiced homosexual behaviour do not see it as deviant and dangerous. Also, the parents are not aware of the condition of their children. They have failed in the provision of sufficient information to their children on healthy sexual orientation.

Furthermore, According to Dzulkarnain (2009), the pattern of sexual orientation disorder in boarding school is divided into three parts: relation without status, relation with status, and relation by just having fun or to pleasure. Asfriyati & Sanusi (2006) elaborated the characteristics of students’ deviant sexual actors and their family characteristics, the research revealed that many students who not have good sexual orientation disorder do not understand that their behaviour is deviant, and their family, in this case, parents, do not provide enough information to their children on healthy sexual orientation.

Many homosexual studies in boarding schools are still descriptive. As an information, on the one hand, the research observations are significant because they will help the boarding school leaders understand the potential

of several sexual intercourses in their institution. On the other hand, instead of helping to solve the problem of sexual orientation, observation could be a tool for socializing sexual behaviour deviations in the boarding school. Therefore, it can discourage parents from engaging their children in boarding schools.

A debate was held about the source of homosexuality with the topic "is homosexuality nature or nurture" (Edwards, 1994; Dailey & Sprigg, 2004; Owoyemi & Sabri, 2014). Some scholars argued that homosexuality was a being predisposition (nature), while others were of the opinion that homosexuality is influenced by social relationships or environmental factors (nurture). Both sides of the arguments gave strong points. (Savin-Williams & Vrangalova, 2013).

According to long discussions from ancient times to the modern era, generally there are generally three theoretical groups of homosexuality, and they include pathology theory, immaturity theory, and normal variation theory (Drescher, 2015).

First, the theory of pathology. According to this theory, homosexuality is categorized as a mental illness. Hence, it regards homosexuals as abnormal people. It postulates that Various efforts need to be made to make homosexual people can return to their senses as human beings, namely heterosexual (Yarhouse & Jones, 2007; Diamond, 2007; Jones & Yarhouse, 2011).

Secondly, theory of immaturity. This theory is widely adopted by psychoanalytic. They are of the opinion that homosexual behaviour is a normal stage of teenager sexuality development and when they enter adulthood, they will return to normal condition (heterosexual) (Wurtele & Kennym, 2011). When they approach adulthood stage, and they are still show interest in the same sexual orientation, they are categorized as sexual immaturity. The adherents of this theory assume that homosexuality is only part of the development process, so theorists are more flexible in understanding homosexual people. *Third*, theories of normal variation. These theories regard homosexuality as a natural phenomenon. The shape of homosexuals is not due to environmental reasons, but they has borned as homosexual (Bailey, Hoskins, Green, & Ritchie, 2013). According to this theory their sexual orientation is normal, not deviation.

Thirdly, the theory of normal variation. This theory regards homosexuality as a natural phenomenon. The homosexuals are not influenced by environmental factors, but they are born as homosexual (Bailey, Hoskins, Green, & Ritchie, 2013). According to this theory, their sexual orientation is normal, and there is no deviation.

2. METHODS

This research uses three variables which are: the homosexuality tendency, communication patterns in the family, and the big five personality traits. Therefore, in

this study there are three instruments: 1) homosexual tendency scale; 2) communication patterns in the family-scale; and 3) big five personality traits scale.

Homosexual Tendency Scale is adapted from the Multidimensional Scale of Sexuality from Berkey, Kurdek, & Perelman-Hall (1990). It is an extension of the Sexual Orientation Grid Scale made by Klein. It consists of 45 items that are favourable and unfavourable. According to Berkey et al. (1990), sexual identity can change over time. The scale was published in 1990 in the *Journal of Homosexuality*.

The scale of Communication Patterns in the Family is adapted from Ritchie & Fitzpatrick (1990). It measures the level of agreement and disagreement of communication patterns in the family. The scale consists of two components, namely conversation orientation (15 items) and conformity orientation (11 items), with a total of 26 items. High scores on this scale show that the respondents have a higher conversation and conformity orientation to their families. The analysis of the reliability uses Cronbach's alpha and repeat test methods showing the reliability of the instrument. Cronbach's alpha was obtained at 0.87 for the scale of the conversation orientation, and equal to 0.81 for the scale of the conformity orientation.

The Big Five Personality Scale was developed by John & Srivastava (1999). It has 36 items from five components, namely: extraversion (8 items), openness (9 items), conscientiousness (9 items), neuroticism (8 items), and agreeableness (10 items). This scale is obtained referring to John & Srivastava (1999).

The informants were 319 Senior High School Students who live in the boarding school in three districts in Central Java: Klaten, Boyolali, and Sukoharjo. At first time, there were 350 students, but only 319 students completed their scale. The collecting data collection was done representative random sampling, that is the samples were taken randomly based on regions.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

There are various opinion among experts about whether homosexuality whether it comes from heredity or environment. In Regards to this discussion, there are at least three groups. The first group is of the opinion that homosexuality is a hereditary factor, this belief is upheld by homosexual actors and their supporters. The second opinion is that homosexuality is an environmental factor. This opinion is widely believed by both Muslim and Christian religious leaders. A third opinion attempts to compromise that homosexuality is influenced by both heredity and the environment (see Dawood et al., 2009; Bailey et al. 2000). In this paper, researchers are more interested to see homosexuality as under the influence of the environmental factors that shape individual behavior.

3.1 Agreeableness and Homosexual Tendency

There is a negative correlation between agreeableness and homosexual tendency with the beta coefficient of -0.127 with Sig .05. It shows that the lower the agreeableness, the higher the homosexual tendency, and vice versa. While the components of extraversion, conscientiousness, neuroticism, and openness are not correlated.

Table 1: Regression

Model	Sum of Squares	Mean Squares	F	Sig.
Reg.	1116,625	223,325	1,595	,161 ^b
Residual	43815,268	139,985		
Total	44931,893			

a. Dependent Variable: Homosexual tendency

b. Predictors: Openness, Extroversion, Neuroticism, Conscientiousness, Agreeableness

Table 2: Coefficient

Model	Unstandardized		Coeff	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Err	Beta		
Cons	82,82	8,95		9,25	,000
Extro	,066	,047	,078	1,393	,165
Agree	-,337	,159	-,127	-2,117	0,35
Cons	,106	,161	,039	,657	,512
Neuro	-,057	,158	-,021	-,360	,719
Open	-,090	,115	-,045	-,785	,433

a. Dependent Variable: Homosexual Tendency

According to the data above, agreeableness is directly negatively correlated to homosexual tendencies, while openness to experience, extroversion, conscientiousness, and neuroticism are not correlated to the homosexual tendency. These results are supported by the findings of previous research. For example, Collins (2006) found that personality traits such as sexual behaviour affect a person's behaviour. Someone with a high agreeableness trait tends to obey other people, become more accommodating or trusting others, forgiving, easily deceived, and honest (Pervin & John, 2001). On the contrary, disobedience to regulations, routine violations

of regulations, are always suspicious of the behaviour of others, that are more likely to be under the influence of individual activities than social activities. People with low agreeableness scores tend to ignore conscience, pursue more goals, have more pleasure orientation, they are less responsible for both themselves and sometimes lack achievement (Robbins, 2001).

This socially different self-identification characterizes individual characters as different from those around them, including those who experience sexual deviation. People with sexual deviations at first will always cover their identity, using all means so that people will not discover their true identity. This manipulative behaviour will make many individuals make lies with the aim of covering their identity being covered.

Farooq, Khan, & Jibeen (2015) performed research findings in line with this study. The result revealed that there was a negative relationship between sensation-seeking behavior, agreeableness and neuroticism personality traits of homosexual males. The homosexual male tends to have agreeableness characters, such as being friendly, avoid conflict, permissive, helpful, forgiving, and loving. Lijun & Yong (2011) stated that there is a higher degree masculinity correlated to conscientiousness and extraversion, vice versa lower degree masculinity predicted agreeableness.

Meanwhile, research in personality traits has shown that personality traits can change over some time and continue to change as long as supporting factors remain constant (Terracciano et al., 2005; Roberts, Walton, & Viechtbauer, 2006; Lucas & Donnellan, 2011). According to the data above, we can say that same-sex attractiveness is not natural (Jones & Yarhouse, 2011; Diamond, 2007) because it was influenced by personality trait. Hence, it can be changed by treatment (Spitzer, 2003; Roberts et al., 2017).

3.2 Family Communication Patterns and Homosexual Tendency

The test of the relationship between communication patterns in families and homosexual tendency obtained the results of rxy 0.755, and Sig > .05. This means that the patterns of communication in the family is not correlated with homosexual tendency. Below the data analysis of the variables.

Table 3: Correlation between Communication Patterns in Families and Homosexual Tendency

		FCP	HBT
FCP	Correlation	1	-,018
	Sig.		,755
	N	319	319
HBT	Correlation	-,018	1
	Sig.	,755	
	N	319	319

There is no relationship between communication patterns in families and homosexual tendency. This is because the communication patterns that was built in this study was in the general context. The communication patterns scale should be arranged in the sexuality spectrum. Grossman, Jenkins, and Richer (2018) argued that sexual communication patterns influence children's sexual orientation.

The result of the research by Rehman, Lizdek, Fallis, Sutherland, and Goodnight (2017) shows that communication patterns about sex and ordinary communication patterns have different effects. Communication patterns, in general, helps to build relationships among family members which includes the children and parents. However, sexual communication pattern is required to educate children on sexuality giving it a positive meaning.

The absence of a relationship between communication patterns in families and homosexual tendency at the same time shows the weakness of this study. Then for future researchers who interested to study this same topic, it is recommended to use a variable pattern of sexual communication.

4. CONCLUSIONS

According to the description that has been proposed, it can be concluded that there is a negative correlation between agreeableness and homosexual tendency. This means that the lower agreeableness, the higher homosexual tendency. The Boarding school management should increase the agreeableness traits such as being friendly, cooperative, trustworthy, and warm through a variety of positive activities, and then these activities will in turn decrease homosexuality tendency.

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