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# TRANSGENDER ADAPTATION STRATEGIES TO COMMUNITY SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION IN PADANG CITY

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#### **ABSTRACT**

This research is a study of transgender people who carry out adaptation strategies to the social construction of society in Padang City, by taking a case study in the West Padang location. This study describes a transgender adaptation strategy that aims to 1) analyze the meaning of transgender people on their gender identity; 2) analyze the social construction of the community towards transgender and 3) analyze the transgender strategy in adapting to the social construction of the community. Withdrawal of informants is done by purposive sampling. The method used by the author is descriptive qualitative. Data collection techniques used are observation, interviews, and documentation. The results showed that 1) the meaning of transgender women for their gender identity: a) as a woman; b) wanting to look beautiful in the eyes of the community; and c) not hiding as a transvestite. So the meaning for transgender is as a choice because they want to be recognized for their existence, there is a sexual desire if they become a woman, inner satisfaction, and pleasure in themselves; 2) gender social construction of transgender people is seen from: a) as people who have deviant behavior; b) violating values and norms; c) amused, uncomfortable, uncomfortable with transgender; d) fear of the impact of transgender on normal children, e) labeling transgender. This point concludes that the existence of transgender in the community initially received social pressures that made their mental patience tested, but over time slowly they (transgender) could be accepted well in society; 3) transgender strategies in adapting to the community environment: a) interact well; b) adjust the appearance; c) maintain attitudes and behavior. The strategy of transgender is to be able to interact in the environment by associating and interacting with the community, besides that transgender also respect and uphold the values of maintaining ethics, mutual respect, both among teenagers, children and parents, so that later good relationships will be created.

Keywords: transgender, society, social construction, padang



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### INTRODUCTION

Society is a group of individuals who interact with each other, live together, need each other, and have social values and norms in it, this will later organize life and order in society (Krupiy, 2020). Social values and norms are obtained from the process of various interests and differences between individuals. If the values and norms do not work by the applicable rules, there will be confusion in society.

Like the transgender phenomenon, this phenomenon is not new among people. The term transgender is intended for individuals who are born male but behave like women. Transgender have a strong desire and continue to be the opposite sex, having an appearance that is not by their gender. When there is discrimination received by transgender, they still dare to present themselves according to their wishes. Currently, transvestites dare to "show themselves" to the public during the day or even at night. Transgender can be said to be adjusted, namely, individuals who consciously and sincerely

accept their status, also accept their role, and define themselves. On the other hand, selfdefinition as a transgender is a deviation in the eyes of the community, until now, even though it is actually in themselves and in the eyes of others who think they feel strange about transvestites, where a person who is male but physically resembles the characteristics of the opposite sex, a small part from transgender people in the community there is already a real acceptance, in the field transvestites can already be found as buskers, wedding services, salons, makeup artists, dishwashers at weddings and so on, although people still choose to use transgender services if there is an interest. . Most people are still not able to accept transgender, if someone decides to declare his identity as a transgender then he must be prepared with all the consequences that circulate, for example in the form of gossip or ridicule from others. The negative views of society will have an impact on the daily lives of transgender people. It is this context that gives birth to the label for transgender people by calling them bencong, sissy, and other names in their respective areas, but in essence, they have the same meaning. Everything a transgender does, wears, expresses, thinks, and feels follows a woman. Not only that, everything that is veiled by women including taking care of the body, changing shapes, and operations will all be done for perfection like a complete woman.

These phenomena will later aim to find out the general figure 1) Analyzing the meaning of transgender women regarding their gender identity; 2) Analyzing the social construction of the community towards transgender and; 3) Analyzing transgender strategies in adapting to the social construction of the community. Based on this description, the author is very interested in researching with the title "Transgender Adaptation Strategies for the Social Construction of Society in Padang City".

#### **METHODS**

This chapter describes the important points used in research methods when in the field. Qualitative research is an approach that explains social reality in depth by using qualitative data in the form of words and reality. In this qualitative research, the data and informants were traced in accordance with the existing variations, so that in this way researchers could describe the phenomena that occurred as a whole (Burhan, 2012). Research informants were determined by purposive sampling technique. In this study, the informants of related research are 10 transgender people who are members of the transgender community, 8 residents who know and understand the related issues. Then 3 people involved the authorities, the village head and the local Satpol PP to find out the extent of public acceptance of the existence of transgender. Data was collected by means of observation, interviews and document studies. So that the data obtained is more valid, this study uses data triangulation techniques. Analysis of the data using the interactive analysis model of Miles and Huberman. Activities are carried out interactively and last until they are finished (Usman & Setiady, 2009).

## **RESULTS**

#### The meaning of self-identity for a person transgender

From this explanation, it can be concluded that the meaning of identity for a transgender is 1) As a woman; 2) Wants to look beautiful in the eyes of the community with change appearance, and doing operation; 3) not hiding themselves as transgender, this is an option

for them, this choice symbolizes the search for identity for transgender, because they want to be recognized for their existence, there is a feeling and sexual desire if they become women, there is inner satisfaction and pleasure in themselves. in transvestites, they feel inner satisfaction, pleasure, sexual feeling that is in them, this is also evidenced by the daily life of the informants, who always wear women's clothes, they are proud, enjoy, feel happy and happy, and they feel the sexiest creatures when they are seen as women, because they want to be recognized.

# Community social construction gender against transgender

Based on the information that the researcher obtained through interviews and field observations, it can be concluded that the gender construction of society towards transgender women is, 1) Transgender as people have deviant behavior; 2) Violating Values and Norms; 3) Amused, uncomfortable, uncomfortable with transgender; 4) Fear of the impact of transgender on normal children, and 5) Labeling transgender.

### Transgender strategy in adapting with community environment

An adaptation strategy can be said to be away or an action taken by a person, so the strategy for transgender people here can be concluded as the ability of a transgender to apply a set of methods, to overcome various problems that surround his life. There are several strategies for transgender in adapting to the community, including interacting well, adjusting their appearance, and maintaining their attitudes and behavior. So a strategy is an action or activity carried out by someone to achieve the goals or objectives that have been set so that they can be accepted in their environment.

## DISCUSSION

The problem of transgender adaptation strategies to the social construction of society in Padang City can also be analyzed with AGIL from Talcott Parsons. The concept of AGIL in Talcott Parson's theory seeks to develop and refine a general analysis model that is very suitable for analyzing all forms of collectivities or organizations. This is why Parson exploits why society can be stable and functioning. His model AGIL (Adaptation, Goal Attainment, Integration, Latern Patten Maintenance) represents the four basic functions that all social systems or social organizations must accomplish if they are to survive. 1) Adaptation: a) system must cope with a critical external situation. The system must adapt to the environment and adapt the environment to its needs; and b) Goal attainment: a system must define and achieve its main objectives; 2) Integration (Integration): a system must regulate the relationship between the parts that are components. The system must also manage the relationships between the three other important functions (A, G, L). d. Latency (Latency or pattern maintenance); and 3) system must complement, maintain, and repair both individual motivation and the cultural patterns that create and sustain motivation (Ritzer). In simple terms, this theory talks about how a system can survive in society. Society is considered a living organism consisting of an institutionalized system of roles called structures and tends to work closely with one another.

Thus, the three current research objectives can be analyzed in AGIL theory according to the researcher regarding the problem of identity for a transgender, the social construction of society towards transgender, and transgender strategies in interacting. Because this theory with three research objectives with these four schemes is interrelated with the concept of AGIL in Talcott Parson's theory, 1) Adaptation: a system must cope with a

critical external situation, where the system must adapt to the environment and adapt to that environment. with his needs; 2) Goal attainment (Achieving a goal): a system must define and achieve its main goals; 3) Integration: a system must regulate the relationship between the parts that are its components. The system must also manage the relationships between the three other important functions (A, G, L). d) Latency (latency or pattern maintenance): the system must equip, maintain, and improve, both individual motivation and cultural patterns that create and sustain motivation so that the goal, the system can be achieved and run well. Transgender are seen as a system that lives in an environment in which some patterns govern their actions. In its application, this theory will explore how the system in society can continue to function. The persistence of existing systems is one proof of the transgender adaptation strategy to the social construction of society in the Padang City. To maintain the existing system, the AGIL concept proposed by Talcott Parson can be used to analyze it. This is reinforced by the researcher's observations, for transgender to live in a society that considers them unclear of identity, deviant behavior, to survive, transgender must participate in a system that exists in society. Starting from following the values and norms that have been set by society, interacting well, adjusting appearance, maintaining attitudes and behavior. This is reinforced in the daily life of transgender in West Padang who can interact and blend in with their environment, conform to appearances with polite dress codes like men or women, maintain their attitudes and behavior when joking with fellow transgender or other normal people, keep her curves from being conspicuous in public.

#### CONCLUSION

From the three objectives of the problem, it can be concluded from the first, the meaning of transgender identity is a woman, where there is a sense of satisfaction, their own sexual desire when they look like women. Second, the social construction of society by gender towards transgender is the presence of deviant behavior that violates religious values and norms and society does not care about the existence of transgender people. Third, the strategy of transgender in interacting with the community, can be seen when they interact, adjust their appearance and maintain attitudes in the community.

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