

Abstract

This thesis " Gay : Identity Development and Sexual Lifestyle " has three main purposes. There are :

1. To study what continuous stages of the process as homosexual passes before he comes to identify homosexual identity and gives definitions to it.
2. To study what social conditions and important experiences in each stage of the process has influence upon the acceptance and development of homosexual identity.
3. To study what linkages between homosexual identity sexual lifestyle in homosexual world.

Qualitative methodologies , participant observation and in – depth interview , are used with 8 homosexual samples who involve with gay sexual lifestyle at least 1 year in order to obtain useful data which are collected by means of tape recording and note – taking.

For the analysis of the obtain data , the theory of symbolic interaction and deviance perspective are mainly used because this study emphasized that the process of interpreting , giving definition and associating them to sexual orientation that lead to the development of homosexual identity as a social deviance.

The research point out that the process of homosexual identity development consisting of 3 continuous stages. The three stages are as follows :

1. At the first stage a homosexual feels that he is differ from other men and begins to accept the definition of homosexuality by negative sanction of social audiences in process of interaction. Including with differently treated or classified as a homosexual according to any definitions.

2. The process of " thinking about possibly being homosexual " is a process while a person begin to wonder that he may be a homosexual but can not accept the definition of homosexuality to his identity because being a homosexual has been considered as an abnormal or deviant behavior by the public. Whenever he able to linked sexual activity and sexual orientation , he may be accept his identity as homosexual.
3. The stage of acceptance of gay identity. At this stage , he has accepted that he is gay and willing to go inti the gay world. Beside that gay men may be expose to be gay to significant others and gay communities which is an important place to socialized gay men to gay subculture especially in sexual lifestyle.