

Causal Factors and Decision-Making Processes of Individuals as Waria in X Village, Jember Regency

Andini Shinta¹, Balqis Nabila², Nabila Humairoh³, Zakia Ryani⁴

¹ State University of Jember ; sintanuria837@gmail.com

² State University of Jember ; balqisnabila541@gmail.com

³ State University of Jember ; nabilahumairoh27@gmail.com

⁴ State University of Jember ; zakiaryanifakhirasalsabilazaki@gmail.com

Abstract: The concept of sex and the concept of gender have differences that need to be understood by society. In this life, there is a phenomenon of gender identity deviation. One of the deviations of gender identity in society is in the form of the existence of transvestites. Waria is not only a change in gender expression and sexual orientation in the form of homosexuality. Of course transvestites are opposed in society socially, culturally and religiously. However, there are still individuals who choose and decide to become transgender. The act of deciding and choosing to become a transvestite is not easy. There are many risks, challenges, pressures, and conflicts within the self, family, and environment. It is interesting to study from various challenges and views on transgender, there are individuals who decide to become transgender related to the causal factors and decision-making process as transgender. the aim is to find out the causal factors and decision process as transgender. This research design applies descriptive qualitative phenomenology. The research location was conducted in X Village, Jember Regency. The research sample was collected through snowball sampling technique. The results show that individuals who decide to become transgender have

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*Correspondence: Andini Shinta

Email: sintanuria837@gmail.com

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contributing factors ranging from psychological conditions, parenting, and trauma from sexual violence. Furthermore, individuals go through stages that shape themselves as transgender, starting from assessing challenges, surveying alternatives, considering alternatives, commitment, and surviving through negative responses related to their decision to become transgender.



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Keywords: *Causal Factors; Decision Making; Waria*

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gender expression and sexual orientation in the form of homosexuality. Of course transvestites are opposed in society socially, culturally and religiously. However, there are still individuals who choose and decide to become transgender. The act of deciding and choosing to become a transvestite is not easy. There are many risks, challenges, pressures, and conflicts within the self, family, and environment. It is interesting to study from various challenges and views on transgender, there are individuals who decide to become transgender related to the causal factors and decision-making process as transgender. the aim is to find out the causal factors and decision process as transgender. This research design applies descriptive qualitative phenomenology. The research location was conducted in X Village, Jember Regency. The research sample was collected through snowball sampling technique. The results show that individuals who decide to become transgender have contributing factors ranging from psychological conditions, parenting, and trauma from sexual violence. Furthermore, individuals go through stages that shape themselves as transgender, starting from assessing challenges, surveying alternatives, considering alternatives, commitment, and surviving through negative responses related to their decision to become transgender.

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Introduction

The general public still cannot distinguish between sex and gender (Wibawa et al., 2021). The concept of sex and the concept of gender have differences that need to be understood by the community. The concept of sex is a form of gender related to biology from birth with genetic, hormone, and anatomical differentiators of men and women. These formers are XX chromosomes forming humans as women and XY chromosomes forming humans as men (Baron & Byrne, (2004) in Wibawa et al., (2021)). Meanwhile, the concept of gender is more detailed and complex, which includes differentiating men and women's roles, functions, rights, responsibilities, and behavior in the social values and cultural processes of a community or group (Santrock, (2007) in Tandayu et al., (2015)).

However, in this life there is a phenomenon of gender identity deviation (Dewi, 2009). One of the deviations of gender identity in society is in the form of the existence of waria. Waria is not only a change in gender expression and sexual orientation in the form of homosexuality. Of course waria are opposed in society socially, culturally and religiously (Gelarina, 2016). This opinion is also supported by the opinion of Mulyadi & Oktavianisya (2017) who explained that transgender people are individuals who have a deviant gender identity and behavior in the eyes of society so that transgender people often receive negative stigma and discrimination around them. With this gender identity, waria are different from biological sex, they feel comfortable and decide that their sexual self becomes a woman. Waria are individuals who have the physical form of a male body, while their soul and feelings are female, so they behave like women. This condition is considered a deviation both socially, culturally, and psychologically (Arfanda & Sakaria, 2015) (Tanjung, 2020).

Waria express themselves and show their existence through their feminine appearance, behavior, and way of speaking. This includes using women's clothing and accessories, wearing cosmetics, and modeling hairstyles like women (Ashari, 2021). This identification process is how they express themselves in public, so the challenges faced are not only the acceptance of transgender self-identity but in their daily lives they face discriminatory treatment in society (Tanjung, 2020).

Waria will be isolated or shunned in daily life or socialization. Waria are considered to have violated the provisions of the creator. Changing or behaving in a way that is not in accordance with the predestined gender. The surrounding community looks down on and talks badly about waria. Even the closest people, such as family, will not support the choice to be transgender (Solehah & An'amta, 2023).

However, research results show that even though many oppose transvestites, transvestites have self-satisfaction in life. Transvestites actually form a strong and creative self in living their lives. Many transvestites are involved in the world of art and entertainment (Solehah & An'amta, 2023). Transvestites prefer to express themselves as a form of entertainment (Sasmita, 2022).

The act of deciding and choosing to become transgender is not an easy one. There are many risks, challenges, pressures, and conflicts within the self, family, and environment. Many are able to control themselves well, but there are also those who cannot control themselves. There are those who open themselves up to being transgender, but there are also those who close themselves off as transgender.

The decision to become a waria goes through a long process. There are waria who without change the genitals, there are also those who perform genital surgery. If an individual chooses to be a transvestite, it means that the individual is ready to accept all the consequences. Waria must think about the future. Whether looking for work, practicing worship, fulfilling sexual needs, and others.

The existence of waria has begun to grow in various regions. Such is the life of waria in the village. In the village there are individuals who change themselves as transvestites. Research by Mulyadi & Oktavianisya (2017), shows that individuals who change themselves as transvestites are caused by parenting, sexual violence trauma, and mental disorders.

Another study of individual decisions as transvestites in Malang City. Research by Alfari (2018), with the title Waria Self-Existence in Social Life in Urban Society (Phenomenology of Urbanized Waria Self-Existence in Malang City). The research shows that a person not only decides to become a transvestite but maintains an existence in social life, especially in big cities.

Meanwhile, this journal discusses the process of forming an individual into a transvestite, emphasizing the various factors that drive this change. Factors such as genetics, family, and environment play an important role in shaping an individual's experience towards a transgender identity. Genetics can influence one's predisposition towards a particular gender identity, while support from family can determine how comfortable individuals are in expressing themselves. In addition, environments such as peers and communities also provide significant influence, both in the form of acceptance and stigma. This study formulates the problem with what are the factors that cause a person to become a transvestite? How is the decision-making process of a person as a transvestite? So that the purpose of this study is to find out the factors that cause a person as a transvestite and analyze the decision-making process of a person as a transvestite.

Theory

This study is a qualitative study using Queer theory. According to Queer theory studying gays and lesbians, which positions homosexuals (gays and lesbians) as subjects that are considered as the basic points of Queer theory (Rokhmansyah, 2016). In understanding how sexual identity is formed and perceived in society, and how homosexuality can be a starting point for further exploration. In this context, Queer theory plays an important role in various issues related to gender and sexuality. According to (Rokhmansyah, 2016), Queer theory studies the different ways people express their gender. It emphasizes that gender identity transcends traditional norms and includes various forms of expression, relationships, and desires. As such, Queer theory seeks to understand and celebrate differences in the way people present themselves in society. The theory is relevant to this research as it helps to understand the various factors that influence a person's gender identity and life choices. Queer theory suggests that gender identity is dynamic and influenced by social context, culture and individual experiences. Therefore, it provides an understanding of how transgender people deal with the decision-making process regarding stigma, acceptance, and societal expectations, as well as how they express themselves authentically.

Methods

This research design applies descriptive qualitative phenomenology with the aim of obtaining a detailed understanding of the factors that cause changes in self-identity as a woman. waria accompanied by the stages of the decision to become a waria. According to Bogdan and Taylor in Moleong (2018), the qualitative method is a research procedure that presents descriptive data in the form of written or oral words from research subjects.

The research was conducted in X Village, Jember Regency, East Java Province. This study focused on knowing the causal factors and stages of the process of changing self-identity in transgender women in X Village, Jember Regency. The research sample was collected through snowball sampling technique. The population of this study was one of the waria in X Village, Jember Regency. The determination of informants in this study focused on one main informant, namely a transgender woman in X Village, Jember Regency. This informant is relevant to the research conducted on this topic. With the insights gained from this key informant, the research was able to find out the causal factors and decision-making process experienced by waria in the village.

This research collects objective data by applying data collection techniques by means of observation, interviews, and documentation. The first collection by observation or observation is a systematic activity of symptoms that are physical or mental in nature. The reason researchers make an observation or observation is to present a realistic picture of an event. Researchers immediately went to review the research location and had made observations of the objects under study, then from observations in the field researchers collected data records based on conditions and reality during the research (Sugiyono, 2017). This research looks directly at the field related to the causal factors and decision process of individuals in choosing to be transgender.

The second data collection through interviews is a process of interaction between the interviewer and the interviewee through direct communication. This interview was conducted in order to obtain as much data or information as possible and as clearly as possible to the research subject. Interview is a process of interaction between the interviewer and the interviewee through direct communication. This interview was conducted in order to obtain as much data or information as possible and as clear as possible to the research subject regarding the causal factors and decision process of individuals in choosing to be transgender.

The third data collection is documentation to reveal events, objects, and actions that add to the researcher's understanding of the problem being studied. Documentation is used as stored data and accurate evidence of recording information sources. Data collection with documentation is very necessary and is a complementary method for qualitative research such as documenting with photos, as well as the data that researchers need. The results of this research with documentation further check the data that has been collected related to the causal factors and decision process of individuals in choosing to be transgender.

Research Results

Based on the research conducted, the decision-making process of one of the waria in Desa X began when she was 17 years old. At that age, the waria felt the need to leave her comfort zone and migrate to find a job. Since childhood, the waria often interacted and played with female friends, both at home and school, which had a big impact on the way she dressed and spoke. This intense social experience also gave her a sense of identity, comfort and freedom to express themselves. Despite facing various challenges and stigma, The waria began to feel the urge to live a more comfortable life. At the age of 17, after deep reflection and careful consideration, the subject finally decided to live as a full-fledged transvestite. This decision did not come out of nowhere, there were several factors that encouraged him to take this step.

Discussion

Causal factors

Factors causing the decision to become a waria according to Faidah & Abdullah (2013), include:

a. Mental disorder factor.

The interview results show that no one has conducted psychiatric tests on professionals. However, from the interviews, it is known that the main informants have fear and anxiety if they are in a new environment. In the old environment there was less anxiety, the main informants were more comfortable and enjoyed. However, there is still a sense of discomfort if they get stares from other people.

According to the informants, before deciding to become a transgender woman, there was a sense of feminism in their behavior and speech. But still reluctant to show it. There is a sense of conflict within. On the one hand, they wanted to express their feminism but on the other hand, they were afraid of being scolded or ridiculed. So there is a sense of anxiety and restlessness. The informants agreed that the psychological form is disturbed to refrain or show identity.

The informants were in the identity crisis phase. Because being a transgender woman, it is feared that they will not have a mate, will not have offspring, will not have a family, will find it difficult to find a job and so on. However, there is a sense of torment within oneself if one does not express oneself more femininely.

This is supported by statements from key informants and additional informants. The key informant, who lived in the village for a long time, said that the transvestites initially had a normal life. Gradually, they began to show different attitudes. They rarely socialized and did not gather. Some of them did not even live in the village. But gradually they showed themselves as men with feminist attitudes. The families also said that the initial change in attitude was not visible. At home he appeared to be a man in general. But it turns out that outside has its own world. Having come to the house with a transvestite identity, of course, caused a big fight. Meanwhile, there are relatives who say that some waria do not live with the family because they are still not accepted by the family.

There are some people who clearly recognize the deviation. There are those who provoke us to show feminism. So that we gradually show this. Because the informants consider their deviation as a man becoming a transvestite to be acceptable. Although in reality it is a form of indirect bullying. The informants' psyches were shaken but admittedly chose to be selfish by deciding to become transvestites. Increasingly entering the world of transvestites. Looking for work that transgender people usually do. For sexual needs, the main informants said they were more excited or lustful by seeing men than women. Need to strengthen mentally to not have a legal marriage partner and offspring. Because this deviation certainly cannot marry the same sex and cannot produce offspring.

This research is supported by research by Ashari (2021) which explains that individuals who have a tendency to act feminist and have an attraction to men. This form of feeling and psychology is further strengthened by the need for love, taste, and biology. Human behavior is initially controlled by the lowest motives, namely psychological motives such as hunger, thirst, sex and so on. Only after these motives are fulfilled (their needs) do the motives above them begin to dominate, and so on until the highest motive, namely the motive for self-actualization. This is what the research subject felt. Starting from the need for a mental condition that considers oneself to have the soul of a woman, thus forming self-actualization as a transvestite.

Further research that supports this study is Palupi & Tobing (2017) who explained the existence of internal conflicts in the individual's psyche. The waria agreed to describe the individual waria assessing and feeling that they should be a woman but were born as a man. There is a strong urge with a woman's soul to behave as a woman. In addition, there is the formation of an empty soul lacking affection, the problem that occurs is that the search for affection is sought in a male figure. This is also felt by the research subject that the form of lack of affection is not oriented towards seeking attention from women but fellow men. The reason is that there is a soul and ego as a woman in a man. Another research is Mulyadi & Oktavianisya (2017) a form of psychiatric disorder not only arises from the soul side of feminism, but there is a haunting sense of anxiety when suppressing the feelings and soul of the woman to be raised. There are hallucinations that begin with self-imagination. The stronger the hallucinations, the more depressive the pattern becomes. No psychiatric tests were conducted in this study, but the interviews revealed strong forms of anxiety and depression in the individuals.

b. Parenting Factors

The results of the interviews said that the three main informants explained that their family upbringing was actually very religious, old-fashioned, and prohibited deviations. However, there are behaviors that are less pleasing and miss the father figure at home and want more affection. The three main informants have the same story. Parents who don't care, so they think they don't give love. So that informants seek that affection outside the home and get it from adult men. This forms a different comfort and form of affection. Gradually, the feeling of feminism appeared more often..

Meanwhile, one main informant said that his parents treated him like a girl. Starting from treats, interactions, and others. This is because parents want girls. Even as a child it was not forbidden to dress up and dance like a girl. So there is a sense as if there is a female soul trapped in a male body.

According to the key informant, the parents of the waria actually rejected the deviation. Even transgender women do not wear women's clothing at home. Men's clothing is certainly used at home. Only for work use women's clothes or women's jewelry.

Meanwhile, additional informants explained that the parents' parenting patterns were not wrong and did not teach deviations. However, there are differences in parenting, because parents are busy working and earning money so that children's mentality and friendships are rarely monitored. Not seeing the child's habits. Even reluctant to leave time to vent. This research is supported by research by Ashari (2021) which explains that individuals are influenced by self-image, family and parents, friends and the surrounding community.

One of the factors that influence the development of self-concept is family and parents, where family and parents are the formers of self-concept in individuals. The individual's relationship with family and parents is good but because parents are too busy, coupled with quite a lot of siblings, it lacks attention. This was also experienced by the research subject. Parenting that ignores children and even forms of child deviation that are not addressed from the start actually form bigger things. Parents should help direct understanding related to deviation and provide affection.

Further research that supports this research is Palupi & Tobing (2017) who explained that parenting that tends to be too strict but there is no guidance is increasingly provoking selfishness that feels itself as a form of rebellion. It starts with stealth to blatant. Especially when outside, parenting is inferior to the form of the outside environment where there is a form of support for the individual.

Another study is Mulyadi & Oktavianisya (2017) there is a form of omission from their parents letting them become free children without supervision from parents. Children who become free children without supervision from their parents perceive that their children can live independently, can choose the best for themselves, they hope that their children will become strong individuals. This shapes the research subjects whose life choices are in their own hands.

The Decision Process of Becoming Waria

The decision process as a transgender according to Janis in Nugroho (2010), includes:

a. Assessing the challenge S

The interview results show the initial stage of decision-making by assessing the challenges. When individuals want to change as waria, they consider all the challenges. Starting from the point of view of religion, social, culture, customs, habits, and work. Subjects or informants actually do not rule out religion, because Allah is the Most Forgiving. This basic thought forms the belief to change and repent. While social, cultural, and customary challenges are related to mindset, human judgment. The assumption that waria will not disturb and hurt others is still better than other criminals. Particularly for employment challenges, many waria choose to work in the entertainment and arts sector, some in salons, some as buskers. The point is in fields that accept transgender people. This formed the research subject's belief that turning into a transvestite was the right path. Instead of tormenting their mind and soul and not being themselves. Being a transvestite must be ready and able to face life.

Being a transvestite does not have offspring, but must have property, if you rely too much on the salon, especially if it is still under contract, it is still not enough to fulfill your next life, especially in an era like this and martin expressed the difficulty if transvestites do not have a house for their future old age. Compared to those of you who are still in college who have no offspring, but the assets can still be fulfilled because they are still financed by parents, martin revealed to me that it is difficult to survive in this day and age, especially for generations like mine who will later support their offspring, therefore their assets must be fulfilled, especially for men, they must really work because they live to support their families one day.

b. Alternative Survey

The interview results show that research subjects always seek information related to the scope of waria. Both from transgender groups, transgender friends, and other colleagues who know the world of transgender. Some waria also consulted professionals related to the world of work that accepts waria. Some ask for advice from family or elders about their choice to be transgender. This has shaped the research subject's understanding that there are things and solutions to his transformation as a transvestite. There is a principle of living with people so I have to be good too, because if I am good, I will get good in return. transvestites are one of a number of sexual deviations that exist. If there is abnormal sexual behavior, then of course there is also normal or non-deviant sexual behavior. Normal sexual behavior is that which can adjust, not only to the guidance of society, but also to individual needs for happiness and growth. That is, self-realization or an increase in the individual's ability to develop their personality better. It can also be interpreted, that normal sexuality is if a person can have a strong sexual relationship with the opposite sex that is not harmful, both others and themselves and is responsible for everything that is done, and does not violate social norms and applicable laws.

c. Considering alternatives

The interview results show a post search for alternatives. Many considerations were made. Such as moving to another place and developing as a waria away from family. Some have a pattern at home as a man and outside as a waria. Especially if outside, waria have better jobs or professions and make more money, gradually the family accepts even though it is hard. It is diverted back to help the family finances. In addition, the research subjects agreed that in matters of worship, there is still a corridor according to Islamic law. The research subjects agreed to worship according to the gender they were born. For life partners, the research subject considers that no one can accept him as a partner. Many women and their extended families certainly do not accept and are worried about returning to being a transvestite after marriage. Children or offspring are not a top priority for waria. If they want to take care of children, there are still relatives who are considered children. This strengthens the research subject's choice to maintain her decision and continue her choice as a transgender woman.

d. Commitment

The results of the interviews show that commitment is obtained from oneself and is more or less based on selfishness. No matter how much advice forbids, one's own desire is still stronger. Moreover, as a waria, you have a job and more income. And transgender groups are more comfortable than other friendships. Because there is a sense of fate and togetherness. Furthermore, the family considers it normal and is tired of advising, it becomes a moment to further shape the development as a transvestite.

This formed the research subject's commitment as a transvestite not only for self-satisfaction, but to work and have the same friends as transvestites. As for the context of waria in society, we can see society's acceptance of waria in two contexts, namely individually and in the community. This individual context depends on the daily social behavior of a waria. It is rather difficult to find the starting point of when and where the history of waria culture began to emerge. History has never recorded it for sure. It seems that they have not yet entered the normal human civilization. Because whatever they do cannot be seen as a phenomenon of the history of culture and civilization.

e. Negative responses

The interview results show that negative responses from friends, neighbors, and the environment are still often received. Moreover, many gave sentences of sin and many diseases. The research subject began to not care. In fact, they are happier and more comfortable being known as transvestites. The research subject will cover his identity if needed, but there is a sense of no longer responding to the perceptions of many people. This makes the research subject have gone through many stages and entered the scope of waria. The phenomenon of transsexuality, which has been considered a symptom of sexual abnormality, certainly cannot be separated from the components of a person's life, which seem increasingly complicated and difficult to find a clear line. In addition, as a human being with gender ambiguity, a waria is certainly also faced with laws, both written and unwritten, that place a waria in their rights and obligations as a social and individual being as well as a religious being.

Conclusion

Individuals who decide to become transgender have contributing factors ranging from psychological conditions, parenting, and trauma from sexual violence. These three factors are interrelated and form the impetus for individuals to decide to become transgender. Individuals who already have strong causal factors, will go through stages that shape themselves as transgender. The first stage is assessing the challenges faced as a transgender. The second stage is a survey of alternatives related to receiving information in the transgender environment. The third stage is considering alternatives, which is a consideration of solutions to strengthen the decision to become transgender. The fourth stage is commitment in carrying out life as a transgender woman. The fifth stage is surviving through negative responses with appropriate actions in carrying out life as a transsexual.

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