
The Influence of Social Norms in Handling LGBT Among Muslim Families

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Abstract

This study investigates the influence of social norms on the handling of LGBT issues among Muslim families. The research aims to understand how social norms in Islamic society influence the way Muslim families handle LGBT members and to identify challenges and opportunities in this context. The literature review method is used to collect and analyze relevant literature from various sources. Data were collected through academic databases between February 2024 and June 2024, using keywords such as "social norms," "LGBT," and "Muslim families." Qualitative analysis was conducted on the literature findings to identify factors influencing family attitudes and behaviors towards LGBT individuals. The results show that social norms, cultural values, religious beliefs, and traditions significantly impact acceptance or rejection of LGBT family members. Despite challenges such as resistance to change, opportunities for positive change exist through education, deeper understanding of religious teachings, and community advocacy. In conclusion, inclusive and holistic change in handling LGBT issues among Muslim families requires a comprehensive approach involving a deep understanding of factors influencing family attitudes and behaviors.

Keywords

Social norms; LGBT; Muslim families

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INTRODUCTION

The growing awareness of gender and sexual diversity has raised the important issue of how social norms influence how Muslim families handle LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender) members. In a society still deeply rooted in religious traditions and values, family dynamics are often at the center of conflict and adjustment related to LGBT identities. Previous research has shown that strong social norms within society and religion can result in diverse attitudes and behaviors toward LGBT individuals within Muslim families.

The influence of social norms on handling LGBT individuals among Muslim families is a fascinating subject of study within the context of social and religious dynamics. This phenomenon is increasingly important given the complex relationship between traditional values and the need to accommodate diverse gender identities and sexual orientations. As an issue involving elements of religion, culture, and human rights, research into how social norms influence how Muslim families handle LGBT members is highly relevant.

The strong social context within Muslim families often provides guidance in handling LGBT cases. Norms based on religious teachings and cultural traditions often serve as the primary basis for assessing and responding to the presence of LGBT individuals within the family environment. However, it is important to understand that attitudes and responses toward LGBT individuals within Muslim families are not homogeneous. Various factors such as religiosity, education, and exposure to diverse information and views can influence individual and family attitudes and actions regarding LGBT individuals.

Research on this phenomenon aims primarily to understand emerging patterns in handling LGBT issues within Muslim families. With a deeper understanding, it is hoped that more effective strategies can be identified to support the sustainability of family relationships and the well-being of LGBT individuals. Furthermore, this research aims to contribute new insights into the interplay between religion, social norms, and the realities of LGBT life in Muslim communities.

Various theories and opinions from previous research have provided a strong framework. Several social psychological theories, such as social identity theory, can provide insight into how individuals and groups respond to differences, including differences in gender identity and sexual orientation. Furthermore, a study by Hamdi & Ulumiddin (2021), which examined family and religious dynamics in the LGBT context, also provided an important foundation for developing this research's analytical framework.

Given the complexity of this issue and the importance of a deep understanding, research on the influence of social norms in handling LGBT among Muslim families is an important contribution in broadening the scientific horizons in religious studies, social psychology, and gender studies.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study used a literature review method to collect relevant data from various published literature sources. The literature review approach was chosen because it allowed the researcher to reconstruct ideas and findings from previous

studies related to the influence of social norms on handling LGBT issues among Muslim families. (Sutisna, 2020) .

The subject of this research is literature, including academic writings, scientific journals, books, and research reports relevant to the research topic. The literature sample was carefully selected based on its relevance to the research objectives and predetermined inclusion criteria.

Data collection techniques were carried out by searching for and identifying relevant literature through academic databases such as PubMed, Google Scholar, and ProQuest. Data collection took place between March 2024 and June 2024.

Qualitative data analysis techniques were conducted by reorganizing findings from relevant literature, identifying common patterns, and extracting information that supported the research objectives (Rijali, 2019) . This analysis was conducted systematically to gain a deeper understanding of the influence of social norms on handling LGBT issues among Muslim families.

RESEARCH RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The influence of social norms refers to the impact that unwritten rules or expectations accepted in society have on the behavior, norms, and values that influence social interactions. LGBT handling refers to how Muslim families handle or respond to family members who are part of the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender) community, including the attitudes, behaviors, and policies implemented related to their identity and sexual orientation. Among Muslim families, research focuses on the dynamics and interactions that occur within a family environment that practices Islamic teachings (Hamdan, Daulay; Dina, Nakita; Muammar, 2018) .

This study will examine how social norms within Muslim communities influence how Muslim families handle family members who identify as LGBT. It is hoped that a better understanding of these dynamics will aid in developing strategies to increase support and acceptance of LGBT members within Muslim families, as well as promote greater harmony and understanding within a family environment characterized by religious and cultural values.

- **Social norms in Muslim society**

Social norms in Muslim societies are an integral part of the identity and daily lives of Muslims. These norms often reflect deeply held Islamic teachings and values, as well as cultural traditions within Muslim communities. In the context of LGBT issues, social norms can be a key determinant in shaping the attitudes and behaviors of Muslim families toward LGBT family members. For example, in a society that bases its behavior on conservative interpretations of religion, social norms that oppose or punish non-heterosexual sexual orientations can influence how Muslim families respond to LGBT family members. (Saleh & Arif, 2017) .

However, social norms within Muslim societies have also undergone significant evolution and variation. There are diverse approaches to understanding and interpreting religious teachings, so social norms are not always homogeneous. Some Muslim families may be more open to sexual and gender diversity, while others may adhere more to traditional and

conservative social norms. Social change, globalization, and interaction with other cultures can also influence social norms within Muslim societies, broadening the range of responses and attitudes toward LGBTIQ within Muslim families (Ubaidillah Canu, 2023) .

Furthermore, it is important to note that social norms in Muslim societies are not always static. These norms can evolve over time in response to social, political, and cultural changes occurring within and outside Muslim societies. For example, reform movements in Islamic thought may introduce more inclusive interpretations of religious teachings, which in turn may influence social norms related to LGBT within Muslim families. Therefore, a thorough understanding of the dynamics of the evolution of social norms in Muslim societies is key to designing an effective approach to addressing LGBT issues within Muslim families.

- **Family perceptions and attitudes towards LGBT**

Families' perceptions and attitudes toward LGBT people reflect how they understand and respond to family members who identify as part of the LGBT community. These perceptions are shaped by a variety of factors, including social norms, cultural values, religious beliefs, personal experiences, and exposure to information and education.

First, a family's perception of LGBT people can be influenced by prevailing social norms and their religion. In conservative societies, where social norms emphasize heteronormativity and rejection of non-heterosexual sexual orientations, families tend to have negative perceptions of LGBT people. Conversely, in more inclusive and progressive environments, families may have more open and accepting perceptions of LGBT family members (Sihotang, 2022) .

Family attitudes toward LGBT people are also influenced by factors such as religious beliefs and cultural values. Some families may find a conflict between their religious teachings and the presence of an LGBT family member, resulting in a more rejecting attitude. However, other families may interpret their religious teachings in a more inclusive and tolerant manner, leading to a more supportive attitude toward LGBT family members.

Furthermore, a family's personal experiences can also influence their perceptions and attitudes toward LGBT people. For example, if a family has an LGBT member or has had positive experiences interacting with LGBT individuals outside the family, they may be more likely to have a more positive and accepting attitude toward LGBT family members.

Families' perceptions and attitudes toward LGBT people are complex and influenced by a variety of factors. A thorough understanding of the factors that shape these perceptions and attitudes is essential for designing a supportive and inclusive approach to addressing LGBT issues within families.

The impact of religion and tradition

The impact of religion and tradition on handling LGBT within Muslim families significantly shapes attitudes, behaviors, and responses toward family members who identify as LGBT. Islam plays a significant role in shaping the social norms and values held dear by the Muslim community. Conservative interpretations of religion can influence families to reject LGBT family members, viewing non-heterosexual sexual orientation as a violation of religious teachings. Conversely, an inclusive and tolerant understanding of religion can encourage families to accept and support LGBT family members, emphasizing values such as compassion, forgiveness, and diversity within religious perspectives (Putra et al., 2023).

Cultural traditions also play a significant role in shaping family attitudes toward LGBT people. Social norms within Muslim communities are often reflected in traditions and customs passed down from generation to generation. These traditions can either support or hinder acceptance of LGBT family members. In some communities, strong cultural traditions may emphasize maintaining family honor and adherence to social norms, leading to rejection of LGBT people. However, in other settings, traditions can provide a foundation for values such as family, respect, and justice, which support acceptance of diversity in identity and sexual orientation.

The implications of religion and tradition on handling LGBT issues in Muslim families can be quite diverse. On the one hand, conservative interpretations of religion and tradition can reinforce rejection of LGBT family members, creating internal and external conflict within the family, and increasing the risk of stigma and discrimination against LGBT individuals. However, on the other hand, a more inclusive and tolerant approach to religion and tradition can pave the way for greater acceptance and support of LGBT family members, creating a warm, supportive, and inclusive family environment. Therefore, it is important for Muslim families to deeply reflect on their religious values and traditions, and to be open to more inclusive interpretations and enriching understanding of human diversity. (Elvika & Tanjung, 2023).

Challenges and opportunities for change

The challenges and opportunities for change in handling LGBT issues among Muslim families reflect the complex social, cultural, and religious dynamics that influence family attitudes and behaviors toward LGBT family members. One key challenge is resistance to changes in views and practices deeply embedded in social norms and traditional values. Resistance to change often stems from fear of social and religious consequences, as well as concerns about losing identity or respect within society. Furthermore, social pressure from the surrounding environment, including from the religious community and the extended family, can also be a barrier to championing change toward acceptance and inclusion of LGBT family members (Firdaus, 2023).

However, there are opportunities for significant change in how LGBT individuals are addressed within Muslim families. One way is through education and a deeper understanding of religious teachings and cultural traditions, enabling families to interpret these values in a more inclusive and tolerant manner. Another opportunity is through advocacy and awareness-building at the community level, which can create space for open dialogue and the formation of more positive attitudes toward LGBT individuals. Support from non-governmental organizations, human rights activists, and progressive religious leaders can also be a driving force in championing acceptance and support for LGBT individuals within Muslim families (Nurjanah et al., 2023).

Furthermore, change in the way LGBT people are treated within Muslim families can be made possible by creating safe and supportive spaces for LGBT individuals to discuss their identities and experiences without fear of rejection or stigmatization. Families can play a crucial role in creating a supportive and inclusive environment for LGBT family members by building relationships based on compassion, understanding, and open communication. Thus, the opportunity for change lies not only with LGBT individuals themselves, but also with their families and the communities in which they live, which together can foster a broader culture of inclusion and diversity.

CONCLUSION

In the context of addressing LGBT issues in Muslim families, the previous discussion has highlighted the complexity of social, cultural, and religious dynamics that influence family attitudes and behaviors toward LGBT family members. Social norms, cultural values, religious beliefs, and traditions have been important factors shaping the acceptance or rejection of LGBT individuals within Muslim families. While significant challenges such as resistance to change and social pressure from the surrounding environment exist, there are also significant opportunities for positive change.

Challenges in changing family attitudes and behaviors toward LGBT people include resistance to change, which is deeply ingrained in social norms and traditional values. This resistance to change is often driven by fear of social and religious consequences, as well as pressure from the surrounding community. However, opportunities for significant change exist through education, a deeper understanding of religious teachings and cultural traditions, and through advocacy and awareness-building at the community level.

In conclusion, changing the way LGBT people are handled among Muslim families requires a holistic and inclusive approach that involves a deep understanding of the factors influencing family attitudes and behaviors. By championing inclusion, fostering open dialogue, and creating a supportive environment, Muslim families can play a vital role in shaping an inclusive culture and promoting respect for diversity within a society founded on values of compassion, understanding, and justice.

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