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PROJECT PAPER (PAD340)

TITLE: GENDER IDENTITY DISORDER

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1.1 INTRODUCTION

There are billions of people, men and women, throughout this entire world having the difficulty in coping with their real biological gender which often being referred as gender identity disorder or identity problem. This group of individuals is interested to become a person of the opposite gender. According to the Free Dictionary by Farlex, "Gender Identity Disorder is the psychological diagnosis gender identity disorder (GID) is used to describe a male or female that feels a strong identification with the opposite sex and experiences considerable distress because of their actual sex". This problem is often regarded as an abnormality that is hard to be accepted by the society and should never happen in civilized and developed nation like Malaysia.

With the balanced and rapid progress in the areas of social, economy and politic, it is believed that the problem of gender identity disorder should not arise as the society are provided with the sufficient knowledge on every aspects of life. However, it cannot be denied that gender confusion is still one of the main social problems that are being discussed frequently by the society, academicians, and political leaders all over the world.

As a full time student of UiTM Sarawak, we notice that this phenomenon is also happening here in our campus. Based on our daily observation, we see not only the "soft male" students imitate the female but also the female students who possess the personality of male or in the other familiar term, they are called as "tomboy".

Besides that, "Gender identity disorder can affect children, adolescents, and adults. Individuals with gender identity disorder have strong cross-gender identification. Even though this issue is a sensitive matter to be discussed, we have decided to study on it academically. Thus, the main purpose of this study is to fulfill the requirement of our course, Research Paper (PAD340).

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

Gender can be defined as the behavior and cognitive processes that are more and less distinctive for women and men in a particular society which is sum of the observable differences between women and men that can be seem persist in at least five areas, which is namely as a personality traits, family, roles, occupational roles, personal style, leisure activities and appearance (Deaux,1999). While FAO define gender as the relations between men and women, both perceptual and material. Gender is not determined biologically, as a result of sexual characteristics of either women or men, but is constructed socially. It is a central organizing principle of societies, and often governs the processes of production and reproduction, consumption and distribution' (FAO,1997).Gender identity is a person's sense of identification with either the male or female sex, as manifested in appearance, behavior, and other aspects of a person's life. A person's with gender identity disorder refuse to dress and act in sex-stereotypical ways.

Identity problem may arise when the person is not sure about his or her own real characteristics. The problem occurs when the individuals who do not fit in both sex and gender characterizations and face conflicting situation. (Noraini Mohd. Nor, Jamil Farooqui, Ahmad Abd. Al-Rahim Nasr, Hazizan bin Md. Noon & Shukran Abdul Rahman, 2005).

A person with identity problem may act and present themselves as members of the opposite sex and may express a desire to alter their bodies. The identity problem or this disorder affects an individual's self image, and can impact the person's mannerisms, behavior and dress. Individuals who are committed to altering their physical appearance through cosmetics, hormones and in some cases, surgery are known as transsexuals. Transsexualism is an individual's identification with a gender inconsistent or not culturally associated with their biological sex. A medical diagnosis can be made if a person experiences discomfort as a result of a desire to be a member of the opposite sex, or if a person experiences impaired functioning or distress as a result of that gender identification.

'A cross dresser is a person who has an apparent gender identification with one sex, and who has certainly has been birth-designated as belonging to one sex, but who wears the

CHAPTER 3

3.0 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 SAMPLE SIZE

The students of UiTM Sarawak that selected on 5 categories faculties and it is from part 4 to part 6. All students who have been selected are full-time students who are required to give feedback about their perceptions regarding the Gender Identity Disorder (GID) in UiTM Sarawak. The questionnaires had been distributed randomly to the students of UiTM Sarawak.