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**PUBLIC AWARENESS ON LGBT AMONG THE KUCHING
RESIDENT**

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THE ABSTRACT

Abstract

Public awareness are important nowadays due to security and sensitivity issues. There is a low interest in studies which link several issues regarding LGBT with public awareness. Given the sensitive issues regarding LGBT, how the public tolerate with them and several other issues, this study investigates the impact of internal and external issues on public awareness on LGBT. The sample size for this studies is 200 will be conducted in Kuching cities area in order to obtain public feedback which then will answer the relationship between internal and external issues towards public awareness on LGBT. This study also wanted to examine the influence of demographic/gender on public awareness. The study used random sampling technique. In order to investigate all of the objectives of this studies, the researcher used descriptive statistics, correlation and t-test. The final chapter includes a discussion of findings, and limitations and recommendations for future research. From the study there is a weak relationship between internal and external issues on public awareness on LGBT which turns out that the public still has a low awareness on LGBT. However, for the demographic/gender, the study find out that women is more aware towards LGBT.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

This chapter will provide the background related to this study entitled “Public Awareness on LGBT among the Kuching Resident” which covers the Kuching city area only.

1.1 Background of the Study

The terms lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) describe distinct groups within the gay culture. People who are bisexual or transgender are considered along with gay men and lesbians. In Malaysia, LGBT rights are largely unrecognized because the government retains the colonial era penal code criminalising sodomy. The official religion in Malaysia, Islam, plays big role in shaping social attitudes towards LGBT community. This is difference with other countries like the Netherlands, who granted legal recognition to same-sex marriage in 2001 therefore becoming the first nation to do so.

The government of Malaysia banned anyone who involved with homosexual, bisexual or transsexual from appearing in the state-controlled media in the 1994. Cross-dressing is not technically a crime, however transgender are arrested under civil laws governing public indecency.

Malaysia does not have a national organization committed to LGBT rights. Therefore, the LGBT remain the minority in the country and does not have enough power to voice out their voices and perception on how normal people made perception towards them. The LGBT somehow own their own advocated for the rights of them such as the SUARAM and KRYSS. These groups focus on dealing with sexual orientation issues within their public health advocacy.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW & CONCEPTUAL FRAMWORK

2.0 Literature Review

This chapter focuses on the review of the literature pertain the research that is the perception of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) among the public.

2.1 Introduction: The Perception of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender

(Harper and Schneider, 2003) stated that the cities such as New York and San Francisco have become known as ‘hotbeds’ for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) political action and as a place where LGBT people can live and interact with less of immediate threat persecution and discrimination.

According to Stonewall (2011), certainly the number of organization participating in ‘best practice’ initiatives such as the Corporate Equality Index and the Workplace Equality Index suggests a willingness to develop a more ‘inclusive’ environment for LGBT employees, customers and service users. Organizations frequently claim that they are making these changes primarily on legislative or business case grounds.

During the late 1990s public, private and voluntary sector organizations in the UK began to include sexual orientation within their equality and diversity policies. Increasingly they have seen it as a key part of their remit to develop a diverse workforce in order to develop and provide services and products appropriate to a diverse community including LGBT service users and customers. (Government Employer’s Organization, 2003; Colgan and Wright, 2011)