

Nattapol Kaewkerd 2013: Gay Students as Masseurs in Gay Spa. Master of Arts (Social Development), Major Field: Social Development, Faculty of Social Sciences. Thesis Advisor: Associate Professor Jatuporn Banchuen, M.S.S. 136 pages.

The purpose of this qualitative research was to study the factors leading to the decision of gay students to work as masseurs in a gay spa, their lifestyle, as well as their attitude towards their occupation and the suggested resolutions. Study sample consisted of ten gay students working as masseurs in a gay spa in Krung Thep Maha Nakhon, selected by snowball technique. The data were gathered from direct observations together with in-depth interviews; synthesized and descriptively presented.

Research results indicated that the sample were between 19-25 years old, came from all regions in Thailand, studied in either state universities or private universities. Their sex status was bisexual and both while their sexual orientations were active, active both, and passive both. Most of their parents were responsible for their expenditures. Factors leading to their work as masseurs in a gay spa, who were also engaged in the sex trade, were economic factors: financial problem, the physical capital (good looks and good personality), and the decision to enter the gay spa as masseurs; and social factors: adolescent development, friends' influence, family, and communication and mass communication.

It could be argued that gay student working as a masseur who also offered sexual services was a social issue. To ameliorate such situation requires the cooperation from all concerned. The public sector ought to control the business, define social control measures, organize the social order, and specify fair working conditions and remittances. The civil sector should recognize the capabilities of gays, their equal rights and freedom to make their living. The family and educational institution should instruct, monitor, and enhance the student's extra-curriculum activities suitable for their ages. The gay students, the major factor in this issue, should conduct their lives morally and ethically and should be able to tell rights from wrongs in order not to fall into the materialistic traps or enter the spa business as masseur who also offer sexual services.

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Student's signature

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Thesis Advisor's signature