

Abstract

The study on Mothers' Anxiety in Raising Sons in Primary-school Age while Avoiding the Tendency toward Homosexuality has the objectives to study the mother's anxiety toward the trend of homosexuality in raising their sons, the effects of mothers' beliefs and attitudes on homosexuality upon the way they raise their sons according to the appropriate gender roles, as well as how to bring up children while avoiding the trend towards homosexuality. The study uses the theoretical frameworks on anxiety, assignment of gender roles in children and power relations, the effects of social beliefs on gender roles, power relationship between men and women, as well as theories on family, homosexuality and feminism. Data are collected from 10 mothers who are raising their sons in primary school-age, both in families with father and mother and single-mother families.

The study reveals that most mothers have anxiety towards the trend of homosexuality. The factors causing anxiety are the son's figure, the mother's roles, the society and relatives, social corrections and the media. The most influential factor is the society and relatives of both the sons and mothers' sides. The outcome of study reflects the social belief that there are only 2 sexes: male and female. People with difference i.e. homosexuality is thus viewed as perverted. Moreover, the beliefs and attitudes towards raising their children according to appropriate gender role potentially affect mothers in raising their sons, which can be observed from the ways masculinity is strongly emphasized i.e. in bringing up the children, finding role model, and promoting masculinity in daily life. As to avoid the trend of homosexuality in primary-school age, mothers pay special attention in taking care of their sons, especially by promoting the fathers' roles in raising children, so that the sons see differences between men and women and understand their own gender. The participants of this study also suggest that it is important for mothers to have enough time for their children. Additionally, the mothers and the sons should exchange opinions on homosexuality as to promote understanding of different genders in the society and of masculinity. Nevertheless, all

mothers participated in this study can accept if their sons choose to be homosexual, for their role as a mother is to take care of their sons throughout this critical period.

To decrease the mothers' anxiety in raising sons while avoiding the trend towards homosexuality, the knowledge and understanding of homosexuality as a normal issue need to be promoted. Furthermore, the mother's roles are to love and understand their children, as well as to promote understanding among family members, friends and relatives if their children are homosexual.

The suggestions from this study are that it is important to promote the body of knowledge and correct attitudes on homosexuality. As for the society, the campaign in both the public and private sector will help in promoting more understanding on homosexuality. Lastly, the family's role in promoting love and understanding among family members, between parents and children, and between the family and the society will help the sons to live in the society with harmony.