

ABSTRACT

This research was conducted to understand the phenomenon of feminine males who are often misunderstood and experience discrimination due to gender stereotypes and toxic masculinity, by exploring causative factors such as genetics, parenting styles, and family communication. This study investigates the role of self-perception and family conversation orientation in the formation of feminine communication identity in Bandung's masculine-feminine males. Employing a qualitative descriptive approach and phenomenological methodology, this study involved five Generation Z male informants who exhibit feminine expressions, as well as an expert informant. Data analysis was based on Michael Hecht's Communication Accommodation Theory (covering personal, enacted, relational, and communal layers) and Koerner & Fitzpatrick's Family Communication Pattern Theory (conversation and conformity orientation dimensions). The research findings indicate that low conversation orientation within the family, particularly between fathers and their sons, as well as the dominance of female figures (mothers/sisters) in interactions, significantly influence the formation of a feminine identity. Feminine males often feel a lack of emotional support from their fathers and must adapt to social norms, although they find comfort and emotional support from female figures in their families. This study emphasizes the importance of open communication and balanced parental roles in fostering a holistic and healthy identity in boys.

Keywords: Self-perception, Family communication, Conversation orientation, Communication identity, Feminine males