

## **THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PARENTS AND ADOLESCENT HOMOSEXUALS**

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**ABSTRACT:** *This article presented the the relationship between parents and adolescent homosexuals. Specifically, this relationship is expressed through the parental role for adolescent homosexuals; the reason publicly adolescent homosexuals or not publicly available to parents about homosexual tendencies.*

**KEYWORDS:** Relationship, homosexual.

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### **INTRODUCTION**

When a youth determined in love with same- sex person, the majority often posed the question: “Have to let parents know about?” Though the answer is “yes” or “no” or “not yet able to answer” the question that always in their subconscious. The vast majority of gay youths often concealed homosexual tendencies because of fear. They fear will cause their parents hurt and worry about themselves. How about their parents? Most parents do not accept their children’s homosexual lover. So the relationship between parents and adolescent homosexual will like? The nature of this relationship will be clarified through parental role for adolescent homosexuals; the reason publicly or not publicly available to parents about homosexual tendencies.

### **The relationship between parents and adolescent homosexuals**

Most of the documents in Vietnam as well as in the world when studying about the relationship between adolescent homosexuals and their parents usually focus on the difficulties that these youths will encounter when publicly with parents of homosexual tendency. The youths have to decide whether public or not, and if they would openly publicize when and how to reveal tendency of their homosexuality with their parents.

Can see behind the perception of sexual orientation of themselves is the most difficult task of adolescent homosexuals are openly homosexual tendency for parents. This is considered the difficulties and complicated. By it as a manifest against the expectations of the parents. Most of the parents don't believe that children disclose. However, the fashion sense and behavioral manifestations partly caused their parents believe that they are homosexuals. Many youths do not dare reveal homosexual tendencies because they are afraid of being insulted, humiliated and evicted from the house, they could not overcome prejudice, stigma of loved ones and this

can lead to emotional disorders or physical. Most of the parents after being aware of the homosexual tendencies of their children often have the emotion and the action that causes the fear for their children. However, there are also progressive parents, they must go through a series of stages before it can accept their child's sexual orientation:

The first phase they were shocked, caused by the social prejudices and fears of their children are at risk of abandonment, isolation. Parents tend to refuse to acknowledge anything different in their child. They would expect, praying for the change in their children by bringing them to a specialist doctor or assume it's just the anomaly of adolescence.

After that the anger and feelings of guilt. There are parents who feel angry, disappointed with them self, they feel guilty when that their children had "revolted" "revolted due to their lack of interest.

Next, after the anger and feeling guilt, parents acknowledge the feelings and concerns of youths, which does not necessarily have to accept conditions such as ethics, the "normal", how long...

The last phase, the acceptance of the parents can be reached step by step through the silent acceptance, along with increasing the level of understanding of the causes of the gay and lesbian, parents will become more understanding of and familiarity with the child over. At least, at this point, sexual orientation and identity of youths are rarely as the focus of attention and conflict in the family.

However, some parents never reached the latter stages. In such circumstances, some young adults may feel regret for having revealed to the parents; relations with parents become tense and maybe that relationships hardly can restore as before. Meanwhile, a youth can become "superfluous man" in his own family. This makes youths feel scared, they tend to be shunned, even sympathetic, afraid to communicate and lack of sense of trust for the members of the family. These negative emotions exist in a latent and long term lead to tensions and contradictions to those who disagree and their families. The tension, contradiction comes from the lack of mutual understanding, and empathy. Despite the fears of youngsters when publicity is real or just those assumptions and the negative reaction of the parents is similar to that at this stage it is difficult to determine because there are now relatively few empirical studies to examine the nature of the relationships of adolescent homosexuals with parents. A number of documents for that of the youth and parental reaction almost the same for most of the youngsters with their parents, but this hypothesis has not been proven. Many educators, doctors, home health care and other professionals almost no doubt about this point of view, this may affect the approach for adolescent homosexuals and their parents.

So when, how, and why young men openly for their parents and the parents ' reaction when they publicly? Explains the issues, the nature of the relationship between the parents and the youth will be clarified, including the parental role for gay youth; the reason publicly or not publicly available to parents about homosexual tendencies.

## **THE ROLE OF THE PARENTS**

The relationship with their parents is clearly a top concern of many adolescent homosexuals. One of the common problem of adolescent homosexuals in New York when seeking assistance from social agencies and primary education is family relationships. They encountered psychological difficulties such as feelings of isolation and alienation. They fear their parents would discover his sexual inclinations, they fear violence and driven from the house. The difference between the gender expectations of parents with homosexual tendencies present led many gay youth feel “paying, contradictions and sense of failure” and this can lead to “feelings of guilt, shame, anger, and fear no grounds that right themselves they also can't resist being” [8].

The Institute for Social, Economic and Environment (ISEE) when the research on “the relations with the parents” -living in a heterosexual society, stories from women who love women 40 in Hanoi showed that those women love women, families have a huge impact on their lives. Revolves around a female lover, the problems posed to them in relation to parents is: Yes to my parents know I love women or not? If the parents have accepted or not? And finally, I get to live with your real feelings? The questions above are their worries are always standing in the minds of women who love women [7].

Currently, the experimental studies in the world was conducted usually focus on the homosexual tendencies of youth with their parents, because the parents have an important role in the lives of youth. In New York, in 1991, with 93% of young gays feel concerned when openly with their parents about their sexual orientation. This rate decreased to 69% in 1993. Although recently there to nearly 1/4 of the youth groups involved in experimental feel “concerned” when sexual orientation publicly, though it still stands behind the “concerned” about HIV/AIDS. In it, half of the guests probably gay students to disclose to parents as “extremely worrying” because this is the main concern in their lives [8].

Also in the study of the Institute for Social, Economic and Environment (ISEE) when the research on “the relations with the parents” from 40 guests to the parents already know almost half of object relationships love females. Most of the parents felt that homosexuality was a disease, is “bad” and they feel disappointed, day end and worry [7].

From the perspective of the parents to the current aspect of the self-assessment of adolescents, the role of the parents seem to be inferior and less affect the lives of youth in University. Among gay men in University, only 15% of the parents review the most important person in their lives, much less than those of gay men are living with their parents is 54% [10].

In a study aimed at assessing the twelve values yourself, the object is mostly University students. Research results showed that the object was the lesbians lined up his relationship with his parents in fifth place, while the solo is the gay left charted the relationship with their parents in the eighth position in the scale of twelve values (what is important with their lives, before the elements property, sex life, having children, and religion. These factors are rating is more important than the relationship with their parents for

both sexes are: homosexual friends, career, success in studies, romantic relationship; gay also identifies the appearance and the social life is more important than parental role) [9].

With the results from the research are analyzed above can see the role of the parents for the life of gay youth. However, with these adolescent homosexuals live away from their parents, the parents have less influence than the youths living with their parents. On the other hand there are also gender differences in assessing the role of Parenthood: lesbian parental role rating higher than gay.

### **REASONS NOT TO DISCLOSE TO PARENTS**

Parents have great influence on the lives of adolescent homosexuals. Indeed, many adolescent homosexuals still hide their parents about homosexual tendencies themselves. So why do they conceal? There are two main reasons: because themselves and because the injured parents.

Most of the adolescent homosexuals cannot to the parental reaction is positive or negative so they fear will be rejected, punishment, beatings or being expelled from the house when they are openly homosexual. This may worries are ongoing risk or merely the thought of homosexual people is also very difficult to identify except for a case-specific research in each family. Growing social network, many of these confidences, personal diary page has described the response of the parents that young people encounter when in public. Experimental research was carried out with the youngsters of the Hetrick-Martin Institute to support the report on the consequences that some young people experience after openly sexual. The results showed that parents are often not able to overcome the initial shock, they were angry and might have aggravated verbally or physically for her children.

Most of the violent attacks of 500 young gay or bisexual in New York City, mostly African American and Latino and happening in their own family. The adolescent homosexuals was violence both physically and mentally, such as ridicule, beatings, sexual assault, and as a result a number of attempted suicide. A recent review of the literature about the spiritual and physical violence for youth groups tend to be minority sexuality, especially female prostitution, male prostitution, who left home for homeless youth, acknowledge that they suffered violence mainly from family. The result of the tendency to homosexuality with his family has also been noted by research of Pilkington and D'Augelli (1995). Research results show that there are nearly 60% had ever been violent mentally or physically from a family member, in which verbal insults constitute 36% of the beaten, accounted for 10%. About the object causing the violence, mothers are the most frequent violence accounted for 22%, followed by the brothers with 15%, 14% and is father's sisters is 9%. Up to 1/4 of the gay youth feel fear when suffer violence of spirit and body. The violence of the ones in the family reduced the ability to openly about homosexual tendencies of the gay youth [11].

A study was done recently by the Center for Health Initiatives and Population (CCIHP) about "Violence on the basis of sexual orientation and a form of sex in Vietnam" shows homosexual, bisexual and transgender in Vietnam suffer violence both physically and mentally from the ones in the family. The forms of physical violence were: beaten, tied up,

chained, starved, forced to do hard work; the form of spiritual violence are: scolding, abusive, humiliation, isolation, surveillance, loss of privacy, pressed about spirituality, forcibly took the opposite sex, parents threatening suicide, forcibly sent to mental hospital treatment. The forms of violence has a negative influence on psychology and health of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender in Vietnam [1].

One of the motives prompting the gay youth are not publicly available to parents of homosexual tendencies themselves from love for parents. The youth do not want to make their parents being hurt or disappointed they won't want to put parents on dilemmas with relatives and neighbors. They fear the stigma, prejudice of society will affect relationships in their family. However, many young homosexuals back to that if not public, right in themselves they feel isolated, alienated from their family and in the main they are scared about what parents would do if discovered their sexual orientation before they reveal. As a result, some youths tried to create "gaps" in the relationship with their parents because they just want but just fear the publicity with family members. To maintain a "gap" with the family members of gay youths often restrict physical contact or verbal; they avoid any talks related to personal issues. Meanwhile, parents are able to respect the boundaries by if that boundary too, they may have to know a truth which they themselves did not expect. However, to maintain "distance" that many gay people just choose to disclose to the people they trusted and loved, someone will probably assist them in concealed homosexual tendencies.

Currently, in Vietnam and in the world there is little research about the relationship between gay youngsters with their parents, especially the reasons that gay youths are not openly at least be studied systematically. Can see that the biggest barrier to gay youth don't openly with parents is fear, fear of abandonment, suffer violence on the body and the spirit.

In the study of D'Augelli (1991) with guests able to be 61 students of gays, the results showed that fears being rejected is the main cause of gays not yet disclosed to the parents. On the other hand, these young lives with his parents and was openly homosexual tendencies are more likely to become victims of violence. In a sample of other support groups, including the youth living in the city, the having to 1/4 said they worried would suffer verbal violence from parents. However the number of people fear that they will suffer physical violence from their parents if they reveal homosexual tendencies are comparatively less than 7%. In a similar pattern to that of students in Chicago, seven captured 3% said that they were driven out of the House and are living off friends house, some suffered physical violence when openly sexual with his parents [9].

Although young adults are aware of themselves have the attractiveness for same-sex person before puberty and has revealed homosexual tendencies for some of his trusted friend. However, many young men conceal their sexual orientation until late adolescence or early adulthood, when they may be independent of the financial and emotional. With some youngsters, parents are the ones who finally knows who they are that the main cause is they want to avoid violence, verbally or physically. On the other hand a majority of gay youths are being rejected is not the greatest fears cause them to not publicly that it makes them paying, the main fear is that a parent frustrated and hurt. As such, the desire to avoid parents

disappointed and hurt that the main engine led to the gay youth don't openly homosexual tendencies for his parents.

Interim decision not yet openly homosexual tendencies can help youth to temporarily escape from the mob, fear of negative reactions from parents but invisible it can create a “gap” in the relationship between them and their parents. Gay youth must always keep a “distance” for fear their parents discovered to be homosexual tendencies while they prepared a public interest. As such, no publicity for the parents have created a “gap” in the lives of gay youth.

### **Disclosure to parents**

In a recent survey from more than 5.000 readers of The Advocate-the international magazine for gay men and lesbians, 2/3 of adult bisexual, lesbian and gay men answered that they were openly sexual orientation for parents and nearly 1/2 came with his father. The women gay or bisexual (aged between 30 to 40 years) publicity for the average age of parents is 24-25 years old; While homosexual and bisexual males with an average age of 30 to 38 years old with his parents at the age of 25. Many in the survey were not publicly available directly to parents that their parent is self inference and discovery of the homosexual tendencies of your child. The results of this research line with research in the 1970s that was the proportion of homosexuals openly for the mother than the father [8]. In Vietnam, according to the research results of the Institute of social studies, economics and the environment (Isee) on “socio-economic characteristics of the males have homosexual relations in Vietnam” shows: 44.7% object has never openly with parents; 55.3% of openly with parents about homosexual tendencies [6].

Why more and more young gays openly homosexual tendencies for their parents? As seen in recent years an increasing occurrence of gay characters on other media and cultural events also gradually accepted community who tend to sexual minorities. The gay characters almost regularly in the newspapers as well as television. Add to that the participants of the gay community have increased the understanding of society about this group of people. So no surprise that the gay youth groups, though at a very young age but have publicly recognized from his family and the people around.

A recent study with solo may be youngsters tend to be homosexual and team living in the city and a group of college students showed that there is a change to the rate of youth has publicly for his parents. Research has shown these factors affecting the results of that research are: skin color, race, age, gender, and other characteristics such as physical, cognitive abilities, personality traits, social classes and political ideas also influenced the process openly homosexual tendencies of gay youth [9].

The study also explains the percentages of people openly homosexual tendencies with their parents in both groups is low because of the differences in the circumstances of the team lived in urban areas and the object is a college student. Join the youth team could tell his parents because they need the support, including housing, medical services ... or they are encouraged to “escape” from the cover to live true to your self. On the other hand, the college

students feel that they live away from their parents and independence should not necessarily publicly with his parents.

Through the analysis of the studies described in this section could not accurately estimate the percentage of the number of gay youth has disclosed to the parents about their sex appeal, the relevant information when they openly and publicly they like? Parents can be the first or last to know the homosexual tendencies of their child by directly or indirectly, officially or unofficially, or just feel suspicious behavior and gender roles of their son or their daughter. In fact, parents are rarely the first to which youth reveal that they have same-sex attractions, and the mother of gay youths often also revealed earlier than her father. In a recent survey by the Institute of social studies, economics and Isee environment on “socio-economic characteristics of the males have homosexual relations in Vietnam”, the youth disclosed to the mother takes up 7.55 percent; for Dad: 0.94%; Sisters: 4.46% and brothers: 2.23%, men best friend: 43.45%; you girls best friend: 26.62% [6].

## CONCLUSION

My parents are one of the important elements in the forming, developing sexual identity and consciousness of youth. It can be said a relationship no "gap" with their parents can encourage youngsters' openly homosexual tendencies themselves. Or reverse the relationship between parents and young adults will become closer, comfortable when young have publicly and are parents to accept. But the youngsters have healthy psychological life is easy with my parents because they are raised in a family that really relaxed and open minded, including the self-disclosure of sexual orientation of the parents themselves and the acceptance of the members of the family.

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