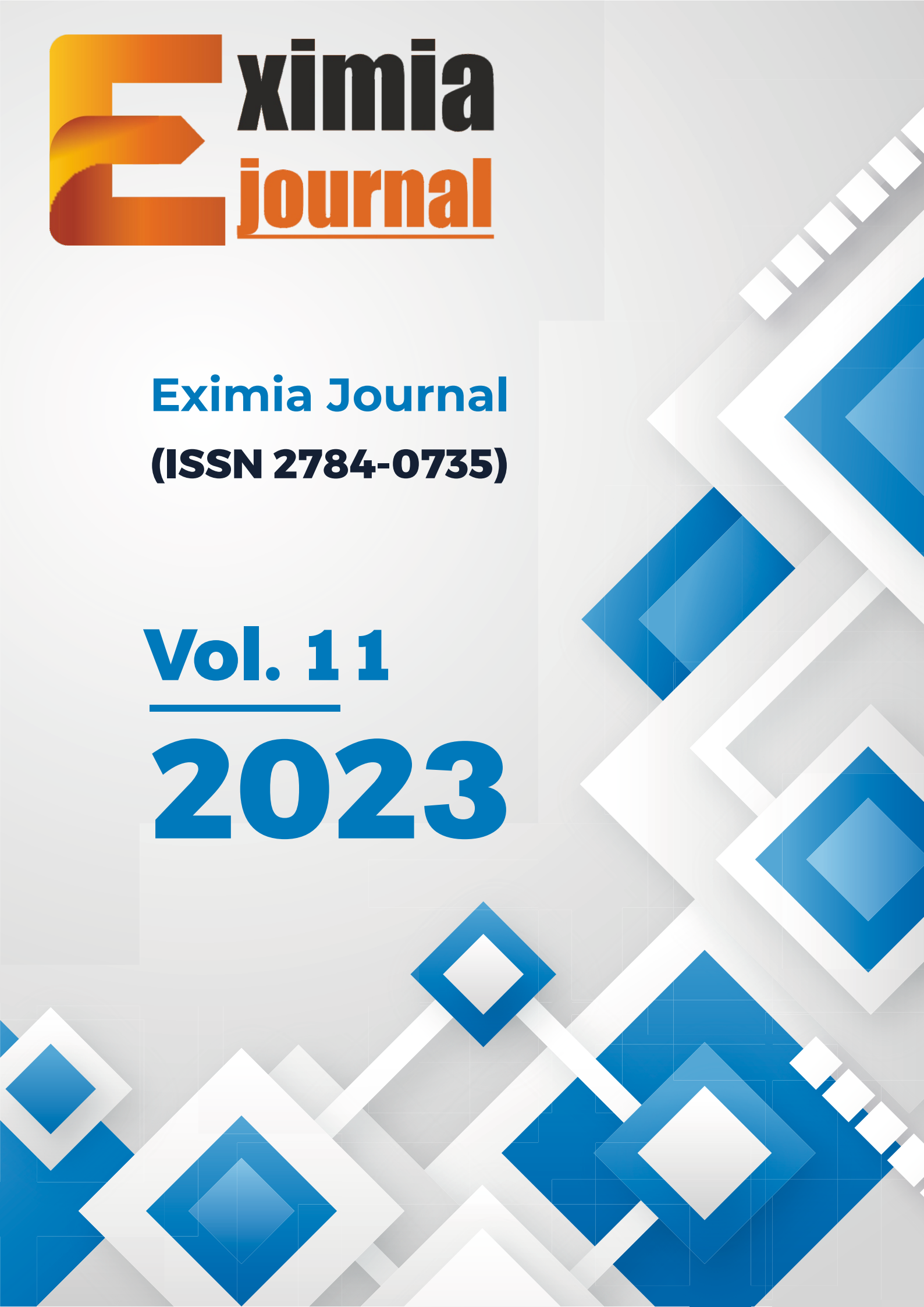




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Lesbian convict in women's prison: a description of rational choice

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Abstract. Same sex behavior does not only occur in society, this behavior also occurs in prisons, include all women's prisons in Indonesia. Conditions in prison for a long time made them interact very often and it was exacerbated by the number of inmates exceeding the occupancy capacity. Previous research, mentioning this theme is still very rarely raised considering that lesbian behavior is considered a taboo behavior to be discussed. Focus this research how the process and dynamics of lesbians in Women's prison. With qualitative methods, and Rational Choice Theory. Data collection techniques through triangulation namely interviews with 8 informants, field observations, and literature studies. This research was conducted in two women's prisons with overcapacity conditions. The results of the study show that the process in prisons is influenced by culture in prisons which greatly influences the occurrence of lesbian behavior. For convicts who before they entered prison were heterosexual and being homosexual in prison was rational choice. There are 2 large groupings of lesbi convicts in prison with their respective processes and dynamics as well as several factors that push them to become lesbi based on profit and loss or rational considerations.

Keywords. Lesbian, behavior, sexual, convict, women's prison.

1. Introduction

Being placed in the Correctional Institutions (Prison) raises a number of suffering. referring opinion from Ref. [1,2] that being placed in a prison is a process of giving punishment with certain of time as consequence of their action that being done. So that person will feel regret and temporarily removed their rights of most other people have in public outside of prison, so it caused them having extreme anguish. One of their suffer is felt because of the consequence in loss opportunity for distributing the sexual desire to their mates, which of course can raises many various type disease of infectious to inhabitant fellow. Other opinion as stated in [3] that they will suffer of lost in sexual relation with opponent type (*loss of heterosexuals*) that will occur various kind of same sex sexual intercourse among prisoners. The sexual deviation had also become current problem that needs to be noticed by head of prison. The prison that should give balance in manage the biological needs for people during their serving sentence in prison, so the inmates will not feel stressed or having deviate behavior.

According to opinion from [4] the deviation condition sexual for woman could occur because considering the condition that they living in one room cell in prison together and without separation in condition in certain. Therefore that sexual deviation behavior for woman could not be avoided and become reason of many case deployment infection disease that difficult to overcome even really difficult for the treatment. Research conducted as stated in [5] said that there are cases through his research about sexual deviation in prison/detention center in homosexual behavior (*same sex relationship*) in the prison which is logically understandable because of the circumstances as it become a satisfaction object in sexual needs for them which is difficult to get as they are placed in one cell room with many occupants day and night, triggers development of homosexual or same sex relationship behavior.

Living together in Prison often obscures sexual orientation the prisoners. Intimacy among them emerged as the needs of sexual expression. Which one of the is having sexual intercourse with same sex gender (homosexual). Some prisoners are still able to control their desires and impulses on sexual fantasy for example like masturbation, oral, and others. Whereas some of the other inmates had homosexual relations either voluntarily or by force. Based on some studies as stated in Ref. [6] which researching problem of homosexual behavior/same-sex sexual relations in Indonesia prisoners in jail, the estimation could be around 30-40% prisoners have experience homosexual behavior with various variations related to the intensity of surveillance from guards, characteristics of the prison population and the average length of sentences served in prison. The data that he shows also stated that 1/3 of the inmates in prison are involved in homosexual practices.

At the beginning of 2020 in February, media return proclaims about sexual deviation in prison Bandung women. One media wrote the *headline* "Same-sex relations are going crazy in the cell prisoner at night, the Chronology and Confession of prison Officer" [7]. The Problems surely makes prison becomes the place for arousing the improper attitude and behavior and can causes huge chaos if it is not overcome well. So that many negative impact of sexual deviation cases is deployment HIV/AIDS (*see figure 1*) which is deadly disease [8]. the consequence of sick inmates can cause other problems include isolation of inmates in prison, discrimination, persecution even victimization to perpetrators by others inhabitant.

Figure 1. Examination HIV/AIDS in Prisons



Even from study as stated in Ref. [9] mention the negative impact from sex deviation behavior that they could have pressure permanently which is psychically happened in their life and even after they could have bad image from the society and the environment, so it would be

not possible for them to have a normal life. In the context of the article This can be said that the behavior of same-sex sexual relations is certainly contradictory with the aim of Corrections and the prison could contribute to increasing the same-sex population. In fact, prisons are not allowed to make someone worse than before the person placed the prison. Deviation behavior in prison is a phenomenal and necessary case that needs to be solved by all parties in the Correctional Institutions, Regional Offices (*Kantor Wilayah*), and Directorate General of Corrections, Ministry of Law and Human Rights of Republic of Indonesia (Directorate General of Corrections, Ministry of Law and Human Rights of Republic of Indonesia).

Deviation sex behavior problems is prohibited in Indonesia and still is considered as a crime and will get punishment refers to Indonesian Penal Law (KUHP) conduct sex deviation could be categorized as a rape crime as it in the article of 479 paragraph 1 with punishment of 12-year sentences. The punishment the will aggravated if the victim has severe injuries the punishment of perpetrator could be 15 years in prison, if the victim dies then perpetrator could be punished for 20-year sentences.

Therefore, because of the case about lesbians in female prison very urgent because sexual deviation problem is becoming the subject in this study, so the contribution in this academic's study could give possible picture and becomes consideration input to interested agencies. The aim of this study i.e. will analyze about Lesbian cases in Female Prisons in Indonesia by using the rational theory choice that exposure deeper matters. The new approach of this study will be seen from this article, including the use of rational choice theory in the problem of deviant sex in prisons and the specifics of its location in women's prisons in Indonesia which are known to be minimal for other researchers who do the same. In addition, in this article, the emphasis and in-depth analysis of how the process and dynamics of similar sexual relations in women's prisons are the focus of this study.

2. Literature review

This study using Rational Choise for analysis and answer research question, in this below about explain that :

2.1.1. Rational choise theory. Describe of Rational choice theory was first found as stated in Ref. [10] many related with social theory. Basically the theory of rational choice is one of branch from science of psychology related with people's choice in aware manner and without coercion to choose accordingly with his beliefs that what is being chosen is the right one. Rational theory choice is also gaping human as creature that can think in a manner critical with sense and logic so that capable to choose which one is right and which one is profitable for himself so that sometimes this theory is also influenced by various factor including from environment. The significant influence is that in environment naturally influence somebody, this method he thought so that the influence of rational choice theory could prevent somebody to do right action that could harm himself regardless the rules that bind them.

3. Method

Describe this study using qualitative research methods. Qualitative research study is an exploratory research with a small sample, scope study which wide as well as use interpretation which characteristic subjective [11,12]. This research will focus on the causes of same-sex sexual relations in prisons, and their sexual deviation behavior that occurred in the prison related with theory of rational choice. Attempts to minimize research barriers and challenges, a qualitative approach provides a review of the literature that can justify the need to study a research problem, the literature provides no guidance key to the research question [13]. In line

with this, a number of studies earlier will enough help to explain and acknowledge lesbian convicts in prison. As for being respondent in this study are 8 convicts with range age of between 25-40 years and has identified have same sex intercourse. Location on this research will focused on the Jakarta female Prison and the Tangerang prison. Therefore, through these respondents could obtain valid data and could be discussed in formulation of the topic. Data collection techniques performed is interview respondent informants and by using the references studies in the form of research results. Processing of data on this articles naturally already being set through a number of stages so that presentation of the data carried out has understandable academic features by all readers [13].

4. Data, discussion and result

A reason factor occurrence of lesbian in prison. The lesbian cases that occurred in the Tangerang and Jakarta Female Prisons are aligned with results study as well as combined with a number of articles as supporters from argument results study of researcher, as following :

First, results study from respondent found the reason factors that make their lesbians encouragement has no desire fulfilled or not given or facilitated by the prison. Therefore, they would do their desire with deviate behavior to their fellow friend in his cell room which no other also has same desire. This is also confirmed as stated in [14] which states that case of excessive indulgence because they feel constrained of being place in certain of time and feeling not respected by closest colleagues and their families. In addition to these reasons, it further explains that this is one of the platforms for self-proof and also not a few reasoned as a form of prostitution with economic motives to meet the needs of her life while in prison.

Other research was also conducted in the country of Malawi, Africa which produces fact that conditions in prisons are full crowded become one of the reason lesbians in female prison. Data issued by the Directorate General Correctional (*Direktorat Jenderal Pemasyarakatan Hukum dan HAM RI*) for female prison of Tangerang in 2021 there are 352 inmates with capacity only 250 inmates in the prison, meanwhile the data of female prison in Jakarta amounted to 365 people meanwhile the capacity for occupancy only 208 people (*See table 1*). this naturally support from previous statement mentioned by researchers, besides that there. Which yielded an essay where lesbian cases in prisons is one of current issue that already considered as problems and the result of his research mentions that there is about 1882 inmates of 100,000 inmates had identified as Lesbian, gay, and bisexual, through the data classified return that 42.1% women identified as lesbians and 35.7% were lesbians and bisexuals.

Table 1. Condition in jakarta dan tanggerang women prison

No	Prison	Inmates	Capacity	(%) Over Capacity
1	Jakarta Women Prison	365	208	75
2	Tangerang Women Prison	352	250	41

In as far as the fact that in order to fulfill the needs if the biology desire of the inmates the authority prison give explanation that, there is mandatory criteria that should be fulfilled if they want to do the desire, one of the criteria is if the family concerned to come for a visit into the prison. However researcher find fact that at the moment, only there are 3 prisons already

give special room in prisons for convenience for inmates to distribute their such biological desire, from article as stated in [15] at this moment, there are 3 prisons already apply it i.e. Kendal Open Prison in Central Java, Ciangir Prison in Banten Province, and the Nusa Kambangan Prison which is also in the Province of Central Java. Which where third prison the including in category prison *minimum security* (see figure 2). Then there are special requirements for inmates i.e. they must well is must well behave, increase their work performance, and as well supervision strict from prison if there is family visit.

The biological needs of the inmates in prison could not be limited and very influential on mental and health from inmates, so that could be possibility for inmates to do improper extreme action and of course could harm herself when the limitation is enforced. The same statement was made as stated in Ref. [16,17] the existence of privacy room provided by prisons, becomes a balance and connection with aspect human basic right to every inmate. because lesbian behavior in female prisons in Jakarta and Tangerang could be prevented by the authorities of the prison.

The second criteria the prison that become the focus of this study that the minimum-security prison is possibly to enforce a room privacy to be given and provided to inmate especially when family currently come to visit so that tension emotions and patterns of inmates' mind will permanent secured, while at the moment currently occurred is the inmates will use all of any type methods for distribute sexual desire, including with lesbians when they are in female prison [18].

From explanation, it could be taken the conclusion plot that that exists sexual desire drive women, so in rational choice theory that the woman has desire rights that acquired by woman and become her nature to undergo her life, sexual desire will drive woman and become the value to be aimed that every man and woman to get their offspring however it is limited because other reason.

However with limited the conditions because currently should serving sentences and with the capacity in prisons that make them become the object in satisfying sexual desire of other inmates in the room cell, as well as other reasons for instance in the searching of their own identity in prison as well as trap from activity categorized prostitution as sex deviation behavior. Moreover, the authority of prison, must be able to provide access in a place for inmate when family to come for visit, this given as effort to control emotion and even give encouragement for inmates so not doing the negative things including lesbians. However, the emphasis permanent given for example with mandatory requirements filled by inmates and supervision rule of the prison so that will create an alignment mechanism of basic human right in prison.

Second, through a number of interviews with a number of respondents identified had become lesbian before they were in prison becoming the reason factors that cause lesbians in prisons. The respondent mention that, at least she has suffered this disease only in a manner instinct and desire not yet accomplished, after placed in the prison this disease behavior turns out that they suffered sex deviation as they have a manner of physical contact meet with inmates in the same cell room, and they will suffered sex deviation, because their fellow cell suffered of sex deviation, Therefore, from research conducted as stated in [19], her research was conducted in 1971 which resulted in the finding that female inmates are very vulnerable to lesbians, especially for those who have suffered from the beginning as lesbians.

Research conducted Ref. [20] had done survey on 245 inmates in female prison, with result mention that correlation Among lesbians were and will be keep going carried away until

she enter into the prison and no one will be able to avoid the reality especially when they are in prison with other inmates. Besides that, other studies mention as stated in Ref. [21–23] these lesbians in general manner undetected so that notes about behavior of the lesbians only will can obtained when done examination by an experienced psychiatrist.

The results of the research in this article also showed that from interviews with informants who had suffered from lesbians from the beginning before being in prison did not show significant symptoms and were reaffirmed by the family members concerned. In general, these lesbians secretly had deviant sex when in the past, it was possible to avoid suspicion from their husbands and family or abuse from their environment that thought it was taboo.

The families stated that they did not show symptoms of lesbians when they were in the house and acted normally like normal women in general, this was also revealed by one of the informants who stated that such a condition they experienced due to pressure in the past which resulted in them being more feminine women and the informant acted like a normal man but in fact they were women.

Who conducted lesbian research in several cities in Indonesia mentioned that these lesbians have a very closed community and only recently have begun to show their existence. Lesbians are not a few who dare to marry and also have families like normal families in general. So that families cannot detect and treat their family members who have lesbians. As for the husband himself in general does not have aggressive actions or a mindset to find out the identity of his wife's origin on the grounds of trust.

The treatment of the wife if the news spreads to the surrounding environment can certainly cause bullying and ridicule of the crowd and do not want to damage the self-esteem of the wife when she is married. However, on the other hand, there are actions that have a negative impact, one of which is that the wife has a history of being a lesbian, so it needs to be dug deeper when she is or is about to settle down.

Although these lesbian acts have taken place in both prisons, especially those experienced by informants who before in prison they already had been Lesbians. For further treatment, of course, it is very necessary to prevent other negative impacts, especially in health cases.

The informant who the researcher met in the prison mentioned that the handling of lesbians is still at the stage of assessing the attitude development of the inmates, so that when the assessment is good, it will be transferred to the prison with minimum security, then what is not found in the facts on the ground is still carried out spiritual coaching and strengthening the religious field as a preventive solution from the lesbian. Through these two suggestions, it is very important for the inmates even though what happens is still not optimal to be utilized, especially through the spiritual approach that has been carried out so far and needs to be considered to the inmates to emphasize the importance of emotional control so that there will be a balance obtained by the inmates.

The second research question. Lesbian dynamics in prison we see data from The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) in 2013 emit statement about homosexual especially on teenager and terminology which often used, i.e. as following : (1) Heterosexual is a term used for a person who experiences an emotional awakening that cannot be contained and sexual towards the opposite sex either towards women or towards men. (2) Homosexual is a term used for someone who experiences emotional and sexual awakening towards the same sex. The mention of Gay is a homosexual term that generally occurs against men, while for lesbians it is a term for homosexuals that generally occurs in women.

Citing several definitions of Lesbian, there are several points whose essence leads to the same explanation. For the term lesbian itself is associated with women who have sexual desires and emotions to other women or women who consciously and certainly in the absence of an element of coercion identify themselves as lesbians. A similar point was also the lesbian itself is to give labels to refer to homosexuals of women or women who have sexual desires and emotions to other women consciously.

The results of the study through interviews with informants stated that lesbian in prisons can be categorized into 2 large groups. The first is the group that had become lesbians before he entered the prison. In this first group, most of them played the role of *Buci*. The term *Buci* is given to those who play the role of men in homosexual relationships. This male role is implemented in many ways, such as looking after and protecting his partner, being a place where his partner complains, and in most partners they play the role of earning income to meet their needs. It also appears in appearances that are identical to a man's appearance such as always wearing pants, t-shirts or shirts, and short/short haircuts, but by nature he is still a woman.

As for the second group, it is the group that becomes lesbian when she enters the prison. Most of them, previously heterosexual, are not even a few who already have husbands or male partners. Some of them have also been blessed with children as a result of their marriage to their husbands. Being homosexual for most of them is new. On the role side, they are in the same role, namely as a female partner. Like heterosexual couples, women's roles are more in domestic matters ranging from taking care of clothes, preparing meals, making coffee or tea to managing finances. On the appearance side, they have long hair and most of them use skirts like women in general so it can be said that for this group it is known as *Femme*, meaning that they seek to cover up their true identity is heterosexual and women like this happens more with those who are closed to open with others.

The results of the study also stated that the process of becoming a homosexual couple in prison is inseparable from their existence in one place with very intense interactions and over a long period of time, because they are serving their sentences and cannot choose the cell room as they wish. The results showed that there are several reasons that cause *Buci* and *Femme* to have homosexual relationships. The main reason is the existence of comfort for both, but behind the reason for comfort, it turns out that there are various fundamental arguments for the involvement of both in similar sexual behavior, namely the calculation of profit and loss.

Theory rational choice can explain about lesbian inmates inside prisons. The main assumption of rational choice theory is that the decisions made by the abusers "*have goals that they want to achieve*". That is, the decision is "*a planned action, carried out with the intention of obtaining benefits for the offender*". The offender is not entirely rational. Theory choice rational, yes explain about the inmate lesbians inside prison. The main assumption of rational choice theory is that decisions are made the perpetrator of the violation "*has the desired goal they achieve*". That is, the decision is "action which planned, done with intention for get profit for the culprit." Perpetrators of violations are not entirely rational.

However, their rationality is "bound" which means that the abuser makes decisions that may be based on limited information, not even a few of these lesbian victims are under pressure, poorly planned and/or only pay attention to short-term risks rather than the long-term consequences of their actions. On reflection, such a choice may be judged badly, or even stupidly.

In the context of the inmate's lesbian inside the Prison, this rational choice is more appropriately pinned on the *Femme*, considering that he is essentially a heterosexual. Being a

homosexual certainly has a fairly strong rationale for argumentation. From all the informants said that life inside the prison was harsh. When accepting *Buci* as a partner in his life in prison, it is influenced by rational considerations where the element of "*profit*" is more than the element of "*loss*". Some of the rational reasons for this are: First, the fulfillment of a sense of security. The sense of security provided by *Buci* is safe from various forms of intimidation carried out by prisoners, including impeachment, extortion, and various other types of violence. Second, there is a place to lean or tell stories and even exchange ideas about the problems they are facing. Like heterosexual relationships, women's positions tell more stories and always want to be heard. Before entering their respective room, they spent time telling each other stories, expressing many things that happened at that time. Third, Sexual desire can be expressed. It is undeniable that human biological needs are difficult to contain, and inmates who are inside prisons are no exception. The forms of activity they do together are holding hands, hugging, kissing (forehead, cheeks, and lips).

The same is also expressed as stated in [25] that with the goals that have been set, lesbians are not a little bit directly expressing their wishes in line with the conditions described earlier. These lesbians choose their partners very carefully and meticulously when inside the prison, so the trickery of the room members in their cells is very difficult to supervise. Moreover, they choose places that are not monitored and are not strictly guarded by the officers, for example in the toilet, or in places of worship that lack supervision but lesbians usually carry out their actions in these places and with certain times.

Thus the theory of rational choice explains about lesbians in women's prisons in Tangerang and Jakarta as a form of representation of lesbian indications in the prison, but it does not rule out the possibility of lesbian cases in other women's prisons in Indonesia, this study certainly provides answers to factors regarding the existence of lesbian indications and also the dynamics in the two research locations. It could be that the factors and dynamics of lesbians are different in other prisons so that it needs to be deepened and also analyzed more sharply when discussing Lesbian cases in Indonesia.

5. Conclusion

Based on the explanation above, the conclusion of this study states that the factors that cause lesbians in the two prisons are 2 points which make up the majority of which are sexual desires for women that cannot be facilitated by the prison with various factors and requirements for the inmates which of course cannot be fully met by the prison authorities. Meanwhile, the second is an indication of the woman who is already lesbian and when inside the prison becomes very high considering that in one room can be occupied by many people and makes the opportunity to behave lesbian.

The dynamics of same-sex sexual relations, especially lesbians for inmates in prisons, are partly carried out by *Buci* (male roles) and *Femme* (female roles). This explains that the involvement of the two in this relationship is more influenced by rational considerations based on gains and losses. For *Buci*, having a female partner has become his identity. Because before he entered the prison, he had behaved homosexually. Meanwhile, for *Femme*, having *Buci* means having peace and security inside the prison. The condition is safe from acts of intimidation by prisoners, safe from the temptations of other *Buci* and safe from various forms of violence arising from their interactions with other inmates.

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