

# Youth Perceptions of Shemale; Celebrated TV Idols and Inglorious Public Ignominy

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## ABSTRACT

Shemale is a condition for a person who is medically male but behaves and acts like a woman. In general, religious and socio-cultural views, the position of shemale is considered as part of a social deviation, which implies limited access to socio-economy, education, and other public spaces. The social marginalization of shemale, in turn, exacerbates the quality of life for shemale themselves. This condition is different from someone who identifies as shemale in the entertainment industry. In the world of entertainment, identity as shemale tends to get better reception and get a special space. This study uses a quantitative approach with descriptive-analytical methods on several data obtained from a data collection instrument in the form of a questionnaire and interview. The questionnaire was used to assess adolescents' views on the rise of celebrities who use shemale identity as a breaker in the world of entertainment as well as to assess the views of adolescents in accepting shemale groups in various social aspects, such as educational opportunities, work, and also family life which are calculated in numbers spread through an online form. The results of the data show that both in social and entertainment in general, adolescents tend not to reject the existence of a shemale, feel that their behavior is funny, and there are high doubts about whether this is appropriate.

**Keywords:** Shemale, Entertainment World, Social Environment, Adolescent

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Shemale is a condition for a person who is medically male but behaves and acts like a woman. This is different from *banci* (*khuntsu*), which by nature has its biological uniqueness, such as being born with two sexes at once. In general, religious and socio-cultural views, the position of shemale is considered as part of a social deviation, which implies limited access to socio-economy, education, and other public spaces. The social marginalization of shemale, in turn, exacerbates the quality of life for shemale themselves.

This condition is different from someone who identifies as shemale in the entertainment industry. In the world of entertainment, identity as shemale tends to get better reception and get a special space. In Indonesia, we know Kabul Basuki by the famous name Tessy, an actor who is a member of the Srimulat group who always plays a female figure. Likewise, in Hollywood films, we know Patrick Swayze as a shemale named Miss Vida Boheme, who was awarded a Golden Globe award for Best Actor in 1995, and John Travolta for playing a woman named Edna Turnblad in the 2007 film *Hairspray*.

In this position, it is realized that shemale in the real world, compared to the identity of shemale in entertainment, are treated diametrically. Compared to the real world, there is a tendency for the shemale identity in the entertainment world to be more accepted and loved by adolescents, as some of the entertainment facts above have been accepted. This knowledge will be the basis for seeing the mindset and world view of shemale as part of the millennial generation, which in certain aspects has the potential to have implications for the limits of reasonableness in current and future social life. Likewise, understanding shemale among adolescents will be an essential instrument in understanding the social phenomenon of adolescents in placing human and social values at the same time.

This study uses the theory of intrapersonal perception proposed by Joseph A. DeVito. According to DeVito (2016), the interpersonal perception process takes place in five stages: stimulation, organization, interpretation and evaluation, memory, and remembrance. Researchers also use the theory of perception-forming factors proposed by Rhenald Kasali (2007). This theory explains that the factors that shape perception include cultural background, adopted values, past experiences, and developing news.

## **2. LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **2.1 Sustainable Energy Technologies in Mechanical Engineering**

Mechanical engineering has played a significant role in the development of sustainable energy technologies in the 21st century. Engineers and researchers in this field have focused on creating renewable energy systems that are both economical and efficient. Some of the key renewable energy sources include hydropower, wind turbines, and solar photovoltaics, which have the potential to lower greenhouse gas emissions and reduce reliance on fossil fuels [1]–[6].

A crucial aspect of sustainable energy technology is energy efficiency. Mechanical engineers have concentrated on improving mechanical systems and procedures to utilize less energy. This field of study encompasses the development of enhanced insulation materials, efficient transport methods, and energy-saving HVAC systems [1], [7], [8]. In recent years, there has been a growing awareness of the potential of renewable energy sources to contribute to the sustainable development of the economy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The implementation of renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power, in combination with energy storage systems, has been shown to lead to a significant reduction in harmful CO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> emissions [9]–[11].

As the world continues to face the challenges of climate change and limited fossil fuel resources, the importance of mechanical engineering in the development of sustainable energy technologies will only increase. By focusing on renewable energy sources and improving energy efficiency, mechanical engineers can help pave the way for a greener, more sustainable future.

## **3. METHODS**

### **3.1 Objectives**

The results of this study are expected to be able to:

- a) Understanding the bias of public acceptance, especially among youth groups, to the shemale phenomenon in social life and entertainment.
- b) The emergence of self-awareness to behave by human nature and not supporting anything that encourages sexual deviance.

### **3.2 Research Question**

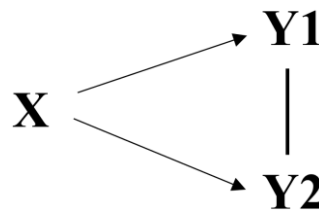
This research is intended to answer a problem formulation, namely: How do adolescents perceive shemale as an identity in the entertainment world and shemale in their daily life?

### **3.3 Research Method**

This study aims to examine two types of variables that are symmetrical, namely:

- a) Independent variable (X), in the form of adolescent views on shemale groups.

- b) Dependent Variable (Y), in the form of shemale identity as celebrities in the entertainment world (Y1), as well as the identity of shemale in their daily interactions (Y2).



**Figure 1.** The Relationship Between Variables

Notes:

**X:** Adolescent views on shemale groups

**Y1:** Shemale identity as celebrities in the entertainment world

**Y2:** Shemale identity in their daily interactions

This study uses a quantitative approach with descriptive-analytical methods on several data obtained from a data collection instrument in the form of a questionnaire and interview. The questionnaire was used to assess adolescents' views on the rise of celebrities who use shemale identity as a breaker in the world of entertainment as well as to assess the views of adolescents in accepting shemale groups in various social aspects, such as educational opportunities, work, and also family life which are calculated in numbers spread through an online form.

### 3.4 Time and Place

This research was conducted by distributing an online questionnaire containing a series of questions from October 13, 2020, at 05.30 until closing on October 17, 2020, at 15.00. Whereas the place is not limited and adjusted to the respondents obtained.

### 3.5 Experimental Design

The data collection techniques used are as follows:

- a) Field research (Field Work Research), through distributing questionnaires.
- b) Library Research, by exploring sources including books, internet, reports, and other writings.

This research consisted of three stages:

- a) Preparation. Consists of selecting a theme or topic, preliminary studies, forming a research design, and compiling a questionnaire.
- b) Implementation. Consists of distributing questionnaires and analyzing data.
- c) Report writing. Consists of writing the research results in a structured manner and also writing conclusions.

## 4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

We obtained this data from 261 respondents spread across 23 provinces throughout Indonesia with the largest data contributor from West Java as much as 24.3%. Based on gender, respondents were dominated by young women as much as 61.5%. The educational backgrounds of the respondents varied, some from SMP, MTs, SMA, SMK, and MA. Most respondents were MA students, as much as 49.2%.

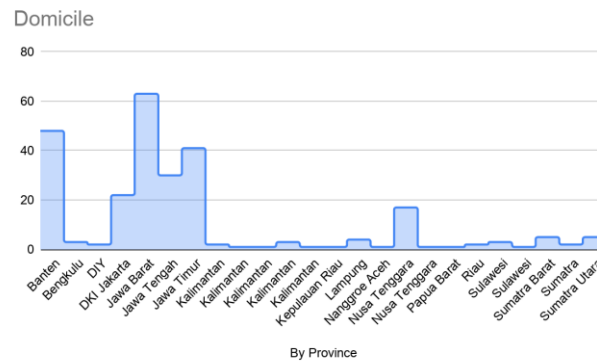


Figure 2. Respondent's Domicile

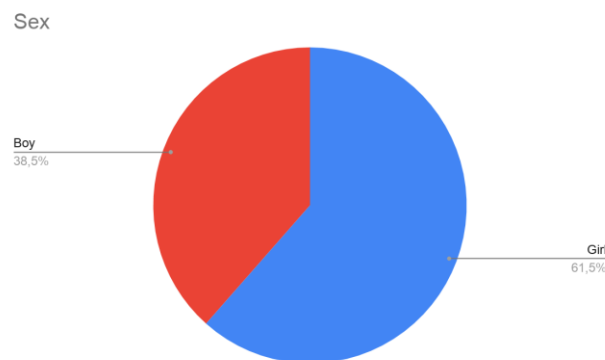


Figure 3. Respondent's Sex

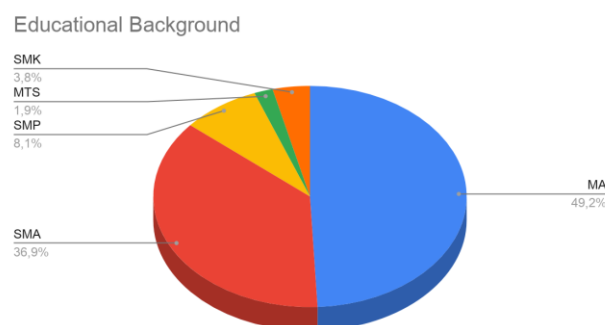


Figure 4. Respondent's Educational Background

#### 4.1 Shemale in Social Interaction

From the data we have collected, 79.6% answered that they were familiar with the term shemale before, even though most of them did not have shemale acquaintances in the scope of their interactions, whether it was friends, family, relatives, or simply acquaintances with shemale. However, their answers varied when asked about their attitude toward war. 42.5% answered disagree, 16% answered agree, 34.9% were doubtful, and 6.6% did not answer when asked whether they would stay away from their acquaintances if they were shemale oriented. 42.1% reject the orientation of their shemale acquaintances, 43.9% still have doubts about this, and 7.5% support it. When presented with a statement that they felt that shemale were neither male nor female, 24.6% agreed with this statement, 41.5% answered disagree, and 33.8% answered doubtfully.

**Table 1.** Social Sphere Familiarity

Questions	Yes/Agree	No/Disagree	Doubtful
Are you familiar with the term waria/shemale?	79,6%	5,8%	14,6%
Do you have shemale relatives?	0,4%	96,5%	3,1%
Do you have shemale neighbors?	5,4%	85,8%	8,8%
Do you have shemale acquaintances?	11,9%	71,9%	16,2%
Do you have shemale friends?	6,5%	78,8%	14,6%
Have you ever met any shemale for the last one month?	19,6%	66,9%	13,5%

**Table 2.** Social Sphere Attitude

Statements	Agree	Disagree	Doubtful	No Answer
I avoid meeting with neighbors/acquaintances/friends/family who are shemale	16%	42,5%	34,9%	6,6%
I support the orientation of neighbors/acquaintances/friends/family who is shemale	7,5%	42,1%	43,9%	6,5%
I feel that the orientation of neighbors/acquaintances/friends/family who is shemale is just ordinary	27,1%	21,5%	45,8%	5,6%
I feel that shemale are not men nor women	24,6%	41,5%	33,8%	0%
I always smile/laugh when I see shemale because I think they are funny	22,3%	41,2%	36,5%	0%
Shemale also have the right to be the head of a region/government	16,2%	45%	38,8%	0%
I feel that the behavior of shemale figures in my community is funny	42,1%	25,2%	32,7%	0%
I felt that the shemale figure's behavior in my community was inappropriate	25,9%	27,8%	46,3%	0%
I find the way of dressing and dressing up for shemale glamorous and attractive	11,9%	51,5%	36,5%	0%
I feel the way shemale dress and groom is inappropriate	63,1%	10,8%	26,2%	0%

#### 4.2 Shemale in The World of Entertainment

From the data we have collected, 71.9% answered that they are familiar with shemale-oriented figures in the entertainment industry, only 1.6% have met directly with transgender celebrity figures, and 1.1% have taken pictures with transgender celebrities. As many as 39% of them agreed when given the statement that they felt the behavior of transgender women on television was funny, followed by 32.1% disagreed, and 27.3% were doubtful. Meanwhile, regarding their attitude towards the behavior, they stated that it was inappropriate; 46.5% expressed doubt, 29.4% agreed, and 23% disagreed. The significant distance between doubting and agreeing, also taking into account their opinion of the previous statement, can be seen that most of them feel spontaneously amused when they see shemale figures on television but are still unsure about their views.

What is interesting is that 37.4% thought that the behavior of transgender figures on TV reflected their daily activities, followed by 25.7% who disagreed, and 35.8% were doubtful. This means that most adolescents consciously like transgender figures not only as a "character" but also as an identity. Their opinion on how they dress was clear, with the majority arguing that their clothes were not attractive but inappropriate.

**Table 3.** The World of Entertainment Familiarity

Questions	Yes/Agree	No/Disagree
Have you ever witnessed a figure in the entertainment industry with a shemale-oriented?	71,9%	28,1%

**Table 4.** The World of Entertainment Attitude

Statements	Agree	Disagree	Doubtful	No Answer
I feel the behavior of the shemale characters on TV is funny	39%	32,1%	27,3%	1,6%
I feel the behavior of the shemale figures on TV is inappropriate	29,4%	23%	46,5%	1,1%
I believe that their behavior reflects their daily life	37,4%	25,7%	35,8%	1,1%
I have personally met a shemale celebrity	1,6%	96,8%	0,5%	1,1%
I had a photo with a shemale celebrity	1,1%	97,9%	0%	1,1%
I admire celebrity shemale figures	2,7% <sup>0</sup>	82,9%	12,8%	1,6%
I feel the way of dressing and dressing up by shemale celebrities is inappropriate	46%	20,3%	32,6%	1,1%
I find the way of dressing and dressing up by shemale glamorous and attractive	15,5%	61,5%	21,9%	1,1%






## 5. CONCLUSION

The responses from adolescents show that they feel that shemale behavior on television is a funny thing, but they are not sure whether their response is appropriate, indicated by the highly doubtful options in the statement stating that shemale behavior on television is inappropriate. Interestingly, they show a high number of the belief that the behavior of shemale on television reflects their behavior in the everyday world. This means they realize they are responding to something more than just a "character" but an identity. Nevertheless, a significant difference was seen when asked about their response to their admiration for the transgender figures, where the majority answered no, in line with the small percentage who had met and photographed directly with shemale celebrities. The opinion of teenagers on the way of dressing for transgender women is that they feel that the way to dress is not attractive, but they are not so sure about its appropriateness.

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	<p><b>Muhammad Fawwaz Farhan Farabi.</b>    A law student at the University of Indonesia, embodies the characteristics of passion and ambition in his pursuit of various goals, particularly those that bring about substantial benefits for the broader community. He possesses a wealth of experience in engaging in community service initiatives, conducting research, and fostering the growth of human resources.</p>
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