FLUIDITY OF THAI QUEER SEXUALITIES
AND THEIR EXPERIENCES
OF ACCESSING SEXUAL HEALTH CARE

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ABSTRACT
This study focuses on the group of peoples who live with gender diversities and sexual fluidity, thus their identities and sexual life styles fit in the term “queer.” This group of peoples should have rights to access sexual health services just as others citizens of the welfare stage. Thus, health services and appropriate sexual health care are things that government should provide for peoples regardless of their sexual orientation. And if we consider more, in term of holistic health, the terms discrimination, homo-phobia, and trans-phobia all can be considered a barrier for queer peoples to gain a healthy sexual life. This is the reason we still do not have a sexual health policy, programs and services for Thai homosexual groups.

Next, the situation of stigmatization and discrimination causes queer peoples to faces difficulty when utilizing sexual health services as well. Thai society still does not understand “gay queing.” Thais still are not familiar with women who love women. And also, Thais still have little understanding about “Sao Seap” (penetrating girl.)

This study investigated what problems queer peoples face when utilizing sexual health services. How do the health providers give meanings to sexualities of queer peoples, how do their notions of queer sexualities exist and whether it has any influence on their sexual service provision. How do the queer peoples give meanings, or define their sexual fluidity. How do queers own views on their sexual fluidity or sexualities affect their access to sexual health care?

This study employed qualitative research utilizing narrative to describe the researcher as one who looked queer. And then, it was illustrates how that queer identity contributed to the perspective of the researcher of this study today. The recruitment of informants was done through posting messages on websites of organizations which work with the homosexual population. Then peoples who classified themselves as queer were added to a online messenger. The data was collected through chatting with informants on internet and following up with telephone calls. This study also utilized in-depth interviews as the research method of data collection. The snowball technique was used to recruit other queer people to be informants. Observations at two sexual health clinics in Bangkok were conducted in order to gain data from health providers.

The findings of this study are that, the more queer peoples try to hide their sexual identities the more they avoid sexual health care. Some trans people have to face discrimination when utilizing sexual health care because their image not fit with their pronoun. Sexual health providers still did not have positive idea about queer sexualities, even some health providers who had friendly personalities could not guarantee that they could provide good sexual health care.

KEY WORDS: QUEER / SEXUAL FLUIDITY/ EXPERIENCING OPPRESSION/ DISCRIMINATION/ SEXUAL HEALTH CARE

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