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## Digital Mass Media in Framing LGBT News in Indonesia

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### ABSTRACT

Received: 13 August 2024 Revised: 16 August 2024 Accepted: 25 August 2024 Available online: 29 August 2024 The development of mass media has a vital role in spreading understanding about something. Framing done by the media can influence how the public views reality. This can happen because of technological developments that facilitate the dissemination of information written by the media to the public, such as the news about LGBT. News about LGBT can cause problems because LGBT involves two sensitive sides, namely the basis of humanity and the basis of religion. This research aims to determine how the VICE Indonesia news portal frames LGBT news in Indonesia. The research method used is descriptive qualitative research, where researchers want to know and describe the news about LGBT written by VICE Indonesia. The data analysis used in this research is Robert N Entman's framing analysis model. The subject of this research is VICE Indonesia, while the object of this research is the news about LGBT in Indonesia. The data collection technique in this research is a documentation study, which is used to select news coverage following the research objectives. The results of this study show that VICE Indonesia supports the existence of LGBT in Indonesia on humanitarian grounds because differences in sexual orientation are not something that should be questioned. VICE Indonesia also considers the criminalization of LGBT people in Indonesia to be a violation of human rights.

Keywords: social construction of reality, LGBT, framing, media

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Various polemics have arisen related to LGBT discussions in Indonesia. Some parties accept the presence of LGBT in Indonesia, but multiple parties reject the existence of sexual deviation in Indonesia. Those who accept LGBT argue that the choice of sexual orientation is a human right of every human being. Humans are given the freedom to choose their sexual views, whether they are heterosexuals or homosexuals. Meanwhile, those who refuse argue that LGBT is not part of human rights. Opponents think that LGBT is contrary to religious and moral values and will endanger the young generation of Indonesia in the future (SANTOSO, 2016). Various media report events related to LGBT from a certain point of view. Several media oppose the presence of LGBT in Indonesia, but not a few media accept it. Indonesian people are provided information about LGBT in Indonesia through print and electronic media. Each portal and news agency has a particular perspective on LGBT news in Indonesia (Syam et al., 2021).

Various polemics have arisen related to LGBT discussions in Indonesia. News about LGBT is still one of the topics that is often reported until 2023. Reporting to the 'tribunnews.com' site, when searching for news with the keyword "LGBT", 166,000 news about LGBT have been

uploaded by the 'tribunnews.com' site as of November 26, 2023. From the 'detik.com' website, when searching for news with the keyword "LGBT", 426 news stories appeared from January 1, 2023, to November 26, 2023. It shows that in 11 months, there are around 38 news about LGBT published by the 'detik.com' website every month. Then, when searching for news about LGBT using the same keyword on the 'kompas.com' site, until November 26, 2023, at 20:58, 12900 news stories that contained LGBT appeared. The 3 news sites, namely 'tribunnews.com', 'detik.com', and 'kompas.com', are the 3 news sites that occupy the top 3 rankings as of November 2023, according to the 'similarweb.com' site.

VICE Indonesia itself, as the media focused on in this study, also often reports on LGBT in Indonesia. If you search using the keyword "LGBT" on the 'vice.com/id' website, 102 articles and 8 videos will appear discussing and reporting on LGBT in Indonesia until November 26, 2023. This shows that there is still a lot of news about LGBT in Indonesia. The problem that the author wants to discuss in this study is how VICE Indonesia frames news about LGBT in Indonesia.

Meanwhile, this study aims to find out how VICE Indonesia carried out the framing in reporting LGBT people in Indonesia. VICE is one of the most networked media outlets in the world. VICE is a media based on the network (online/online) in the form of text and video (YouTube). VICE was born in 1996 as a media focused on print magazines and news portals. VICE focuses on news about art and culture and then on becoming an online-based media targeting youth. Initially, the press was called Montreal Magazine in 1990 before changing to VICE in 1996. VICE is based in New York, United States. This media was initially founded by Suroosh Alvi, Shane Smith and Gavin McInnes (Aini, 2019).

The first VICE Indonesia came in November 2016. VICE Indonesia will focus on art, culture and hidden stories about the country. The target market of VICE Indonesia is young people, which, according to BPS (Central Statistics Agency) in 2022, amounts to around 44.652 million (age range 15-24 years). This excites VICE Indonesia to provide content that smells of young people seeing many young people in Indonesia. In its news, VICE often reports phenomenal, even controversial things, which can divide its readers into pros and cons camps regarding the news. Although it can cause pros and cons, this type of news is quite popular and attractive in the eyes of the public (Aini, 2019). Previously, it was necessary to first elaborate on the meaning of LGBT to have the same perception or thinking. This needs to be done because there are so many terms used for LGBT. LGBT itself is an abbreviation or acronym for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender, where the letter "LGB" refers to a person's sexual orientation. In contrast, "T" refers to a person's gender identity. Sexual orientation is described as emotions and sexual attraction between the opposite sex (heterosexual), the same sex (homosexual) and both sexes (bisexual) (Association, 2008).

Meanwhile, gender identity is a person's definition of self-awareness as a man or woman (Anugerah et al., 2019). Some people do not like the use of the term LGBT because they think transgender people have different struggles than lesbians, gays and bisexuals. However, some agree with the use of the term LGBT because it indicates that the issues and interests of the groups represented are given equal attention (Ismail, 2022).

Lesbian is a term used for women who have sexual relations with fellow women. In comparison, gay is almost the same term as lesbian. The difference is that gay is a term used for a man to have sexual relations with a man or men who tend to love fellow men physically and emotionally. Bisexual is a term used for people who have an attraction to both genders, both male and female. Whereas transgender are individuals who feel, think or do something different from their gender at birth. Transgender is not defined as sexual orientation. A transgender person can even identify themselves as heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual or even asexual (Ismail, 2022).

LGBT is considered incompatible with Indonesia, which is a country that upholds religious and moral values. According to saturated.kemenag.go.id, in 2022, there are 277,632,261 people who embrace 6 major religions recognized in Indonesia (Islam et al.) where Islam is the religion embraced by a majority of Indonesian people (241,699,189 people). This number is around 99.61 per cent of the approximately 278,696,200 population in Indonesia (data from the Indonesian Central Statistics Agency as of June 2023). The data shows that the Indonesian people highly uphold religious values. Various religious deviations are considered taboo by the community, one of which is LGBT. LGBT stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender. Where these things are strictly prohibited by religion in Indonesia because they are considered to deviate from human nature, which is created in pairs between men and women.

Indonesian people who uphold religious values consider LGBT to be a deviation from religious teachings. In addition, the framing carried out by the media has made people's thinking to reject the presence of LGBT in Indonesia even stronger. Framing is organizing facts from the existing reality and arranging them according to the desired view. Framing helps frame and change the audience's understanding of the facts conveyed (Entman, 2007). Framing is needed to observe how media describes an existing fact and reality. When a fact is reported, there will always be a conversation about reporting the fact, whether by the reality on the ground or the media frames the fact to fit a particular supporting purpose. Therefore, framing is needed to determine how journalists view facts in conveying facts to readers (Syam et al., 2021). With the function of journalists as gatekeepers, journalists must be good at sorting, organizing and writing news according to their perspective in framing news (Wahl-Jorgensen & Hanitzsch, 2019).

### 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The researcher uses the theory of Social Reality Construction developed by Peter Berger and Thomas Luckman. They mentioned that humans can interpret something because of communication with other individuals. Even in communication, there is a social reality, where this reality is just an attempt to construct a social situation. This theory has several basic thoughts, namely the reality or reality that occurs through the ability to construct that exists in humans, the relationship between human thought and the social reality that occurs, the state of society that will be constructed continuously and the social reality that occurs is determined by the quality of the society. So, the relationship with news about LGBT on VICE Indonesia is news about LGBT on VICE Indonesia, which is VICE Indonesia's effort to construct the social reality of LGBT in Indonesia to its readers through the understanding and interests of the media itself.

According to Peter Berger and Thomas Luckman, constructing social reality occurs in three stages. The first stage is externalization, where, at this stage, humans try to adjust either physically or mentally to the world. In this process, humans use self-expression to strengthen the existence or presence of humans in a social community. The second is objectification, which results from the externalization that humans have done before. At this stage, reality appears objectively in natural form. The third is internalization, where at this stage, humans try to absorb the objective world created from the previous stage, which is then influenced by the thoughts or subjectivity of a human being and produces a subjective reality that is influenced from within the individual (Postgraduate et al., 2018).

Everything or events in human life are objective social realities and facts that have indeed happened. This objective social reality is then interpreted and becomes a subjective social reality in media workers who witness events or things that happen. The media worker then defines and constructs the subjective social reality within him according to personal understanding and preferences into an objective reality, which is then displayed through the media. The social reality written in the media is accepted and trusted by readers as an objective social reality because the media is considered to have given rise to the objective reality (Syaifudin, 2019).

Based on this, the researcher wants to explain relevant previous research. Among them is a thesis entitled "Analysis of VICE Indonesia's Media Framing in the Polemic Discourse of Polygamy in Indonesia", written by Dimas Ayu Nur Aini from the Islamic Communication and Broadcasting Study Program, Faculty of Da'wah and Communication, Sunan Ampel State Islamic University, Surabaya. The result of the study is that VICE Indonesia seeks to build and frame the community's view to reject polygamy using the validation of feminist theory in the selection of resource persons. VICE Indonesia would like to emphasize that Islam directs its adherents not to engage in polygamy, while in Islam, it is allowed to practice polygamy as long as it can be fair, as stated in Surah An-Nisa verse 4 (Aini, 2019).

Next is the journal "Framing Analysis of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) News in Republika.co.id and Tempo.co Online Media" written by Murti Ali Lingga and Hamdani M. Syam from the Communication Science Study Program, FISIP, Syiah Kuala University. The results of the research from the journal are that the media Republika.co. is more likely to report on the rejection of the presence of LGBT groups in Indonesia and consider them as a threat because they are considered to deviate from the religious values, laws and social norms that apply in Indonesia, while the Tempo.co media emphasizes that the existence of LGBT groups is not a problem and considers LGBT group activities to be part of citizenship and human rights, so the two media outlets report on LGBT opposites (Syam et al., 2021).

The third is a research journal entitled "Analysis of Framing LGBT News on the COOL Media Website January 2019 Edition", written by Septia Winduwati Valentika from the Faculty of Communication Sciences, Tarumanegara University. The result of the study is that from the analysis of the framing of COOL media news, it is concluded that COOL media frames that LGBT people have the right to be given support both from the church and the media. COOL Media also frames that the discrimination experienced by LGBT groups comes from the media itself. COOL Media also tries to show its side that LGBT groups are citizens who have the right to get rights as citizens and human rights, as well as the right to live safely in society (Valentina & Winduwati, 2019).

#### 2.1. Literature review

The researcher wanted to try to take a gap from previous research, where no research discussed the framing of LGBT news in general in VICE Indonesia's media. This study aims to find out how the framing of LGBT news, in general, is written by VICE Indonesia media. It is also hoped that this research will provide theoretical and practical benefits. Theoretically, this research is expected to become a theoretical literature and a source of reference regarding the concept of framing and LGBT in the future and contribute to developing the concept of social reality construction from mass media. Meanwhile, practically, it is hoped that this research can provide an understanding of framing in mass media, especially about LGBT, from an academic perspective and can be the basis for the development of future research.

The latest news about LGBT is still attracting much attention from the public in Indonesia. The issue arises with an LGBT element in the admission of new students at the Bandung Institute of Technology (ITB) through the Student Family Study Orientation (OSKM), held from August 16 to 19, 2023. The issue circulating mentions that there are choices in the questionnaire that are suspected to be LGBT, namely in the choice of gender that adds nonbinary choices other than men and women. However, the issue was rejected by ITB through the Secretary of ITB, Prof. Widjaja Martokusumo. He said the questionnaire had been removed, and new students had been given a new one.

In the global realm, there is news about Uganda passing the Anti-LGBT Law. On Monday, May 29, 2023, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni officially signed the Anti-LGBT Law which mentions the death penalty for homosexuals. The law also mentions a 20-year sentence for anyone deemed to be "promoting" homosexuality in Uganda. This drew criticism, including from US President Joe Biden. The US president has threatened to cut aid and investment provided by the United States. The above news shows that LGBT is still one of the exciting topics to be raised in the news. There is nothing wrong with the rules and policies of the media when reporting an event. However, news from a media that is different from the social reality will cause turmoil in society, especially when it comes to LGBT news in Indonesia. Therefore, the researcher wants to research LGBT news on the VICE Indonesia portal using a framing analysis approach.

### 3. METHODOLOGY

The research entitled "Analysis of Framing Portal Vice Indonesia as a Media in Reporting LGBT in Indonesia" is qualitative. Qualitative research aims to analyze and explain an event or phenomenon in more depth using the data obtained, in this case, the framing of a medium being researched. Through this qualitative research, researchers want to find out how VICE Indonesia frames news about LGBT in general in Indonesia.

This research also uses the constructivist paradigm, which sees and views the reality in social life as not a natural reality but as something that has been formed from the construction results. Therefore, the core analysis of the constructivism paradigm is to know how a reality or event is formed or constructed and how the construction is generated (Putra & Nasionalita, 2018).

In this study, researchers use research tools to find problems, observe research objects, and test the data that has been collected using framing analysis. Framing analysis is used because this study focuses on how a media frames news. Framing or framing a news story in the media can undeniably affect how the audience who reads the news views it. Framing analysis is also used to determine how a media views a reported event (Entman, 2007).

There are two media stages in the framing or framing process of news. The first is to select and sort out the existing facts. This, of course, has an impact on the way a media views a news or fact. Parts or aspects will always be discarded, chosen or highlighted. These aspects give rise to different views on a fact from each media outlet. The media will have a particular point of view, making the media choose and sort out events by their point of view. The second is to write down events. After selecting and sorting out facts that suit their point of view, the media will start writing news. In writing news, the media will display supporting information such as pictures, illustrations or other graphics so that there will be highlighted or omitted parts in news writing. This makes the information that will be highlighted easier for the public to remember so that the media more easily influences the public's understanding of an event written by the media. Media framing is characterized by attention to certain aspects of a reality that appear in society.

The media clearly and consciously tries to be directed and led in specific directions so that many aspects of news reporting and writing are not heeded and considered. The most substantial ability in media framing is to direct and move the masses in a particular direction, so news writers use this to try to direct the public's gaze in the same direction. One can obtain reality and information about an event through the media. Therefore, the media can influence how individuals frame and interpret an event (Syam et al., 2021). The framing analysis model used is the Robert N. Entman model, which explains the process of selecting and highlighting certain aspects of events by the media. Information is written in a particular context so that the issues raised get more spotlight than others. Robert N. Entman's framing analysis model can also determine the journalist's point of view in writing the events he wants to report and its relationship with the prevailing moral values in society.

Robert N. Entman divides the framing analysis process into four parts (Eriyanto, 2002). The first is defining problems or explaining problems. This section focuses on how the media see an event or occurrence. In this section, it will be known that each media outlet has its views and frame of a problem. The second is diagnosing causes or estimating the cause of a problem. In this section, it will be known who is the person who is the center of an event or problem. This section can have the elements of who and what. It can also be interpreted in this section that a problem understood differently will give rise to different causes.

Furthermore, the third is to make a moral judgment or decision from a problem. This section explains what moral values are used to describe a situation. Whether these ethical values are used to justify or blame the problem. The fourth is recommending treatment or recommending solutions. This section explains what a media chooses and offers in solving the problem. The solution provided depends on how a press perceives and constructs a problem. That way, if it is associated with LGBT news on the VICE Indonesia portal, framing analysis helps researchers discover the framing carried out by VICE Indonesia regarding LGBT. Robert N. Entman's framing analysis model was used in this study, with the subject being the VICE Indonesia news portal and the object of research being news about LGBT in general on the VICE Indonesia news portal. The data collection technique used for this study is a documentation study. A documentation study is a qualitative data collection technique that looks at and collects documents produced by the research subject (Sandewi, 2018), in this case, news about LGBT that the VICE Indonesia media portal has written.

Meanwhile, the data analysis technique used is content analysis. *Content analysis* is a data analysis technique that discusses information written in media in detail and depth. The relevance of this study is that the researcher analyzes the content of documents or news content about LGBT published on the VICE Indonesia portal and then interprets it to find out how VICE Indonesia frames news about LGBT in Indonesia.

The research began by collecting data in the form of news about LGBT published on the VICE Indonesia news portal. The data selection technique uses purposive sampling, where the data is selected using predetermined criteria, in this case, news about rejection or adverse actions against LGBT. The data collected is in the form of news written on the VICE Indonesia news portal, with one news article every year from 2019 to 2023. Data collection in this way helps produce the results of framing or framing analysis different from each year. The 2019-2023 time frame was chosen because the data that has been feared for too long is no longer very relevant. This is also supported by the VICE Indonesia news portal, which displays "FYI: This story is over 5 years old" on news written before 2019. The data that has been obtained is then analyzed using Robert N. Entman's framing method. The results of the analysis are then described in the form of the results of the study of each news report per year. Using the four elements or parts of Robert N. Entman's framing analysis model will clarify how VICE Indonesia frames and reports on LGBT in general in Indonesia.

#### 4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The data collected and used in this study are news about LGBT written by the VICE Indonesia news portal in 2019-2023 by selecting one news each year.

### News: Banyak Remaja Gay di Tulungagung, Ortu Batasi Bocah Pacaran Dituding Pemicunya

**Defining problems:** The Tulungagung Regency Government was worried when the Tulungagung Regency Health Office released a statement that there were 498 gay people in 7 sub-districts in Tulungagung Regency. More than half of the gay population in Tuulungagung are children in the age range of 11 to 20 years old. This data was confirmed by the Head of the Infectious Disease Eradication (P2M) Section of the Tulungagung Health Office, Didik Eka. In this case, VICE Indonesia presents data from sources in the form of government agencies regarding the number of gays in Tulungagung Regency.

Diagnosing **causes:** The Tulungagung Regency Government alleges that the number of gays appearing in Tulungagung is caused by the parenting style of parents who prohibit their children from dating the opposite sex. Parents scare their children with the threat of pregnancy if they date the opposite sex. This is considered that, in the end, many children channel their desires to the same sex. "Because they are restrained, they are not allowed to associate with the opposite sex during puberty, same-sex sexual behavior occurs," said Didik Eka, Head of P2M of the Tulungagung Health Office. This was also strengthened by the statement of Ifada Nur Imaniar, the Executive of the Tulungagung AIDS Control Program, who also blamed and considered the contribution of parents with the emergence of many gays in Tulungagung. Ifada believes that a child with an irresponsible father, or even a father who commits violence against his wife or the mother of the child, will cause the child to become a hater of men. "For example, a mother advises, 'Don't get close to men because it's dangerous', or 'Men are monsters'. Then the child can become a lesbian," said Ifada.

In this case, VICE Indonesia tries to display and highlight the news that the large number of gay appearances in Tulungagung Regency is caused by parental upbringing and parenting, not abnormalities in sexual orientation.

**Make moral judgment:** The Governor of East Java, Khofifah Indar Parawansa, regrets the many appearances of gays in East Java. He ordered the health office to collaborate with all lines so that the public, especially children and adolescents who are indicated to be gay, are immediately assisted. To legitimize acts of discrimination against gays, Khofifah uses Article 1 of Law No. 1 of 1974, which reads, "Marriage is a bond between a man and a woman as husband and wife with the aim of forming a happy and eternal family (household) based on the One Godhead".Didik Eka also added that the need for gay screening in Indonesia needs to be facilitated by the state because it can be considered to transmit Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs), including HIV/AIDS. "That's why this LSL [male sex worker] is one of the handling parts of the Health Office and the AIDS Control Commission, because the potential for him to spread STDs [Sexually Transmitted Diseases] is very high," said Didik.

In this case, VICE Indonesia highlights that acts of discrimination against gay adolescents using the basis of Article 1 of Law No. 1 of 1974 are wrong, considering that children and adolescents who are indicated to be gay do not mention that they will get married at all. In addition, VICE Indonesia believes that the transmission of STDs (Sexually Transmitted Diseases) is caused by mistakes in carrying out sexual activities, not due to sexual orientation. Recommending treatment: VICE Indonesia wrote that referring to October 2018 data, the number of people with HIV/AIDS (ODHA) amounted to 2246 people with transmission dominated by unsafe sexual relations (97%) (Alamsyah, 2018). Unsafe sexual relations also make homemakers the number one group with the highest exposure to and who have HIV/AIDS, which is mainly caused by the husbands of those who like to have sexual relations with other than their legal partners without using safety (PKBI 2015).

Therefore, VICE Indonesia asks the government also to make efforts to rehabilitate and provide assistance to married couples, not only teenagers who are indicated to be gay.

### News: Polisi Grebek Pesta 56 Gay di Jaksel, Kembali Pakai Alasan Langgar UU Pornografi

Defining problems: On August 2, 2020, police officers named 9 suspects after raiding a party that was indicated to be a 'gay party' carried out by homosexual men and women at The Kuningan Suite apartment located in the South Jakarta area. The police confiscated evidence in the form of 8 boxes of condoms, 1 box of 'magic tissue', 1 registration book, 3 bottles of lubricant, 8 bottles of stimulant drugs, and proof of transfer of party admission tickets. After an investigation, it was found that the party had been routinely held since February 2018. The participants are members of a WhatsApp group called 'Hot Space' with 150 members. In this case, VICE Indonesia wrote about the efforts and criminalization of gays in Indonesia carried out by the police by conducting raids and arrests of participants of the 'gay party' that occurred at The Kuningan Suite apartment in the South Jakarta area.

**Diagnosing causes:** The suspects are considered to have violated Article 296 and Article 33 of the Criminal Code in conjunction with Article 7 of Law No. 44 of 2008 concerning Pornography. The suspect is considered guilty because he is deemed to have facilitated perverted acts that are shown in public. It is not clear what the police mean by "lewd acts performed in public", but the suspect is threatened with a sentence of 15 years in prison and a fine of 7.5 billion rupiahs. Previously, on April 30, 2017, the police raided rooms 314 and 303 of the Oval Hotel Surabaya. Police arrested 14 people suspected of being the masterminds of the 'gay party' held in both rooms of the Oval Hotel after receiving reports from the public. The police ensnared the suspects with Articles 32, 33, and 34 of Law No. 44 of 2008 concerning Pornography and Article

45 of Law No. 11 of 2008 concerning ITE. Here, VICE Indonesia writes and underlines how the police often use the Pornography Law or even the ITE Law when criminalizing homosexual acts in Indonesia.

**Make moral judgement:** VICE Indonesia writes that efforts to criminalize homosexuals often use the Pornography Law and the ITE Law as the foundation. In fact, according to VICE Indonesia, if you look further, the articles in the Pornography Law are general or can also apply to heterosexual communities. The only homosexual act that is prohibited in the country is homosexual acts against minors. VICE Indonesia wrote that the act of criminalizing homosexuals is also sexual violence if it refers to the PKS (Elimination of Sexual Violence) Law.

**Recommending treatment:** VICE Indonesia wrote that the Police should use the principle of Human Rights (HAM) in treating homosexuals. According to the Deputy External Chairman of Komnas HAM, Muhammad Nurkhoiron, the police should be required to respect human rights in every action, including the homosexual community. Nurkhoiron also asked the media to write balanced news so as not to increase and exacerbate the negative stigma of people against homosexuals in Indonesia.

### News: Tentara Gay di Surabaya Dipecat, Tren Kriminalisasi Prajurit Homoseksual Berlanjut

**Defining problem:** In the struggle of the watershed, the Indonesian Navy soldiers with the rank of Second Lieutenant to reject the criminalization of their sexual orientation met at an impasse. The Surabaya High Military Court III dismissed his appeal. Thus, the verdict received by DAS remains valid, namely dismissal from membership in the Indonesian Navy and imprisonment for six months. According to the trial records at the court, DAS was proven to have had same-sex relations with nine other men in the 2017-2019 period. Five of them are with fellow soldiers.

VICE Indonesia reported that homosexual acts are often considered criminal acts, even at the military level. VICE Indonesia believes this action to be wrong because it considers homosexual acts not to be illegal in Indonesia. This was stated in the VICE Indonesia report, which wrote, "This verdict is the umpteenth criminal case of homosexual soldiers. This criminalization often occurs even though Indonesian law does not prohibit same-sex relationships."

**Diagnosing causes:** DAS, the Indonesian Navy soldiers are considered to have violated Article 281 Paragraph 1 of the Criminal Code concerning Violating Decency Publicly and Deliberately, and Article 103 Paragraph 1 of the Military Code concerning Military Disobedience to Service Orders. Regarding the service order in question, the Telegram of the TNI Commander No. ST/398/2009 and No. ST/1648/2019, which contains that soldiers prohibit LGBT and is a serious violation within the TNI.

VICE Indonesia itself wrote that dismissals often befall members of the TNI, even the Police, even though they have been criticized by activists, activists, and LGBT supporters. This was written in the VICE Indonesia news report: "Despite being often criticized by activists, the TNI has consistently fired and prosecuted homosexual soldiers".

**Make moral judgement:** VICE Indonesia wrote and reported an explanation from the Executive Director of the Institute for Criminal Justice Reform (ICJR), Erasmus Napitupulu, regarding the meaning of the word "leadership order," which makes Article 103 of the Military Criminal Code a "tool" that is considered problematic because it is often used as a means to trap and punish military members who are considered LGBT. Erasmus explained that the Supreme Court said that LGBT people were considered to violate the Commander's telegram of 2009 and 2019, which regulated morality, including the prohibition of homosexuality in the military. Erasmus considered The ruling dangerous because what was meant by "leadership orders" could also be interpreted arbitrarily by military leaders.

"Is Article 103 [the Military Criminal Code] a rubber article? No, because the military nature is a hierarchical command. This makes it a rubber article because it is interpreted that all superiors' orders are considered official orders.

"For us, it is discrimination and a violation of rights. Both privacy and the right to work. Why can't homosexuals be in the military? Even though they are taken an oath to protect the country and have nothing to do with sexual orientation," added Erasmus.

VICE Indonesia considers that with the word "leadership order", it is feared that the military leadership will litigate homosexuality in the military at will. This can happen because the feared interpretation is subjective, so it does not provide the freedom and rights that should be obtained by military members who are considered homosexual.

**Recommending treatment:** VICE Indonesia reported an assessment of 'military members who are considered to violate morality due to homosexuality' from Amnesty International Indonesia (AII) Director Usman Hamid. Usman said that Indonesia should follow and emulate various countries that have allowed a gay or lesbian person to serve the country through the military. "After all, every citizen, every person, no one should be punished just because of their sexual orientation. This is an act of hatred against fellow human beings, members, citizens, just because of sexual identities that are considered deviant," said Usman.

VICE Indonesia considers that a gay or lesbian should be allowed to serve the Indonesian state through the military. The punishment inflicted on gay or lesbian soldiers is considered only a hatred of fellow human beings because humans should not be punished just because of their sexual orientation.

### News: Podcast Deddy Undang-Undang Pasangan Gay Diserang karena Kuatnya Asumsi LGBTQ Menular

**Defining problems:** Deddy Corbuzier uploaded a podcast video widely discussed by the public on May 7, 2022. The video titled "TUTORIAL TO G4Y IN INDO = MOVING TO GERMANY (watch before going berserk) RAGIL AND FRED -Podcast".

After being viewed millions of times and becoming a trending public topic, Deddy took down the video on May 10, 2022. Deddy then uploaded an apology through his Instagram account on May 10, 2022. "I'm taking down the video. But I still believe they are human. Hope they will find a better way. Sorry for all," Deddy wrote on his Instagram account. Along with the release of a video about the podcast with Ragil and his gay partner, Deddy then uploaded a clarification podcast video with Gus Miftah and repeatedly emphasized that he is not an LGBT supporter.

VICE Indonesia reported that the podcast video uploaded by Deddy Corbuzier with a gay couple who was famous at that time, namely Ragil Mahardika and Frederik Vollert, became a video that was widely talked about by the Indonesian people. This can happen because the Indonesian people consider LGBT to be still a taboo and taboo thing among the public.

**Diagnosing causes:** VICE Indonesia also reported how and why the public can talk about Deddy Corbuzier's podcast with Ragil and his gay couple. Previously, Deddy also did a podcast with figures from the LGBT community, namely Lucinta Luna and Millen Cyrus, who are transgender. When Deddy's podcast video with the two figures, no one accused Deddy of supporting LGBT people in Indonesia.

VICE Indonesia then reported the results of its interview with Krishna, a queer who lives in Jakarta. Krishna said that according to his assumption, Luna and Millen were the first figures to appear in public as LGBT figures. This makes the public no longer surprised because they have had time to make a fuss about the identities of the two, and this has long passed. Both of them have tried to change their image for the better so that the community is no longer excited.

"On Deddy's podcast, I think one of the things that makes a fuss is the title. In Milen and Luna's episode, the title is not as bombastic as Ragil's title. In addition, Ragil himself on social media is not a darling. She is widely blamed for her feminine expression and how she expresses self-acceptance and why others should not hate. Many people consider this as an agenda to normalize and campaign for LGBT people rather than spreading a positive message," said Krishna.

VICE Indonesia reported that the cause of the crowded Deddy podcast video with Ragil is how Ragil has appeared on social media. Ragil did not follow the approach taken by Lucinda Luna and Millen Cyrus, who tried to make the image of both of them in the eyes of the public good even though they are transgender. Ragil is considered to force the public to accept his presence as LGBT. That made the public angry, and they thought that Deddy supported the existence of LGBT by uploading a podcast video with Ragil on his YouTube channel.

**Make moral judgement:** VICE Indonesia wrote that the public considers LGBT to be contagious. The focus of society is to unite the view that LGBT is a same-sex sex offender so that LGBT is only limited to sexual relations, not identified as sexual orientation and identity.

VICE Indonesia then rewrote the news about the results of its interview with Krishna, an LGBT activist from Jakarta. VICE Indonesia asked Krishna if LGBT is contagious. According to Krishna, sexuality in human beings is fluid, and sexuality in human beings can change. Humans tend to satisfy their curiosity and explore themselves. People who have successfully explored themselves are people who then realize that their sexuality does not match what they have always believed in themselves.

"If this question (Can you be a gay cave?) Asked to someone who has not accepted themselves, maybe what happens is that they will be even more depressed because they remember that people label them as sick people who can transmit the LGBT virus. If this question is asked to me, someone who has accepted himself even though he has not opened up to others, then the answer is no. But, I can help you to learn about gender diversity and sexuality that can take you on the gender spectrum, on this journey you may know who you really are," said Krishna.

Here, VICE Indonesia tries to convey that LGBT is not a contagious virus. LGBT emerged as a result of human exploration within themselves in terms of sexuality. People who consider themselves LGBT are people who have managed to explore and discover their identity, and so far, the sexuality inside them is not by what they believe. For example, people who have always considered LGBT to be taboo even though they tend to like the same sex or consider their gender identity incompatible with their sexual identity are not people who have succeeded in exploring themselves.

**Recommending treatment:** VICE Indonesia reported and wrote opinions from another queer activist, Nurdiyansyah Dalidjo. Nurdiyansyah said that access to knowledge about the diversity of sexual identities and human rights is quite exclusive. However, this is not and can be judged. According to Nurdiyansyah, with an inclusive approach (an approach that puts oneself into someone else's point of view), what should be done is to promote and educate human rights values and principles so that people can accept sexual diversity, namely LGBT.

VICE Indonesia then wrote about how Krishna responded to Deddy Corbuzier's statement that Deddy did not support LGBT, considered them deviant, and hoped they would find the right path. "Maybe those who should get back on the right path are those who pretend to be part of the LGBT community for the sake of queer-baiting," Krishna concluded.

### News: Walkot Bobby Mendadak Umumkan Medan Kota Anti-LGBT Usai Datangi Pesta Tahun Baru

**Defining problems:** VICE Indonesia wrote that suddenly, Medan Mayor Bobby Nasution, who is also the son-in-law of President Joko Widodo, announced that the city of Medan is a city that rejects the existence of LGBT. The announcement appeared on January 2, 2023. This came out after, on the eve of the 2023 New Year celebration, Bobby walked from the Medan mayor's office to Jalan Raden Saleh, one of the 2023 New Year's Eve celebration locations in Medan. Bobby said that he found many samesex couples along the way. Bobby also added in his statement that Medan residents, especially those who do not have a partner, should pray to marry a partner of the opposite sex soon. "So we pray for singles to get married in 2023 quickly, those who are already married quickly have children, those who already have children, please add but not too many times, just two," he said.

**Diagnosing causes:** VICE Indonesia reported the reason for the statement from the Mayor of Medan. The statement of the Mayor of Medan, Bobby Nasution, who stated that the city of Medan rejects the existence of LGBT, is a message from religious leaders. In addition, Bobby added and claimed that there is not a single ethnicity in Medan that accepts the existence of LGBT in their city.

VICE Indonesia also added the emergence of pros and cons that emerged after the issuance of a statement from the Mayor of Medan. Pro-parties, one of which is a member of the DPRD of the Nasdem Party faction, Afif Abdillah, stated that handling LGBT issues should be the responsibility of the government. "In Indonesia, LGBT is [deserved] to be considered a disease, so there must be a role from the government to treat LGBT people, not just refuse," Afif said.

In addition, some parties are against Bobby's statement that LGBT people in the city of Medan are in opposition. One of them is the Commissioner of Komnas HAM, Anis Hidayah. Anis reminded us that people should not be discriminated against in terms of race, ethnicity, religion, or even sexual orientation. The law in Indonesia states that all people have equal rights in the eyes of the law. "Discrimination is defined as restriction, harassment, exclusion, whether direct or indirect, based on discrimination on the basis of religion, ethnicity, ethnicity, group group, economic status, language," said Anis.

**Make moral judgement:** VICE Indonesia wrote that discriminatory actions should not be allowed in terms of race, ethnicity, religion, and even sexual orientation. Even discriminatory actions are not allowed economically, politically, and in various other aspects. VICE Indonesia also added that persecution against people who are suspected of being LGBT is increasing as the political year approaches. In this case, VICE Indonesia would like to convey that discriminatory actions against LGBT people in Indonesia are not justified. People should be treated equally even though they are different in terms of race, ethnicity, religion, and even in terms of their sexual orientation.

**Recommending treatment:** VICE Indonesia wrote a statement from Dede Oetomo from GAYa Nusantara, the oldest institution that focuses on sheltering and assisting LGBT people in Indonesia. Dede stated that negative sentiment towards LGBT often increases ahead of the general election. He said that there is often no effort and commitment from the government to protect the existence of LGBT people in Indonesia. "Regional heads tend to follow the trend in issuing local regulations that are anti-LGBTQ," Dede told VICE Indonesia In this case, VICE Indonesia wants the same protection in the eyes of the law for LGBT people in Indonesia. VICE Indonesia also wants there to be no attempts at persecution or negative legal rules against LGBT people in Indonesia.

### Social Construction of Reality

This theory, which developed by Peter Berger and Thomas Luckman, explains that every reality is a fact that has happened and is objective. The reality that occurs is then constructed by media workers into a subjective reality, likewise with the existence of LGBT in Indonesia. Their existence gives the fact that they exist and live in Indonesia. In this case, VICE Indonesia tries to construct its existence by writing news about LGBT.

Based on the Social Reality Construction Theory, three stages occur in constructing social reality: externalization, objectification, and internalization. In the externalization stage, VICE Indonesia, as a media, positions itself amid Indonesian society. VICE Indonesia also adjusts its existence amid Indonesian society by reporting on the social reality in Indonesia; this study is reporting on LGBT. VICE Indonesia wants to try to understand how Indonesian people view the existence of LGBT.

In the objectification stage, VICE Indonesia understands the social reality that the majority of Indonesian people reject the existence of LGBT. This understanding then emerged as a real objective reality. This can be evidenced by efforts to criminalize and discriminate against the existence of LGBT people in Indonesia on various grounds, such as pornography, immoral acts, and religious grounds. Using the word "majority" to understand the objectification process carried out by VICE Indonesia on social reality in Indonesia refers to how VICE Indonesia writes that there are still some.

The last stage is internalization, where VICE Indonesia tries to understand the objective reality that emerges in Indonesia; namely, the majority of Indonesian people reject the existence of LGBT people in Indonesia. This objective reality is then "absorbed" and reinterpreted by VICE Indonesia into a subjective reality and displayed through the media. The process of changing social reality in humans is influenced by their preferences and understandings, which are formed from previous understandings. In this case, VICE Indonesia understands that the existence of LGBT people should be acceptable in Indonesia without discrimination and criminalization of differences in sexual orientation and gender identity.

This is also evidenced by an LGBT news article written by VICE Indonesia. In the Make Moral Judgment section of the selected news, VICE Indonesia wrote that the ethical justification for LGBT is that sexual orientation is not something to blame. In the recommending treatment section of the selected news, VICE Indonesia often writes about the opinions of individuals who support the existence of LGBT people in Indonesia. Opinions from individuals written by VICE Indonesia lead to the desire and hope that the existence of LGBT people can be accepted in Indonesia. The efforts made by VICE Indonesia in writing news about LGBT people in Indonesia are the result of a series of efforts to construct social reality, which gave birth to the conclusion that VICE Indonesia is a media outlet that supports the existence of LGBT people in Indonesia.

#### 5. CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the research that has been carried out, the media has its views and framing of a problem. From the selected news, VICE Indonesia is the media that agrees with the existence of LGBT people in Indonesia. VICE Indonesia tries to frame that LGBT should be acceptable in Indonesia, even though in terms of moral and religious values, LGBT is prohibited from existence in Indonesia. The news written has a negative connotation, where VICE Indonesia takes the view that LGBT people are often denied their existence in Indonesia. VICE Indonesia's news that brings a negative perspective in the form of a rejection of the existence of LGBT in Indonesia is an effort to construct a social reality that VICE Indonesia wants the Indonesian people to accept the existence of LGBT. VICE Indonesia does not want the public to consider LGBT as a crime and wants efforts to criminalize LGBT to be abolished. The conclusion above shows that the media has the power to construct and frame a problem according to what is desired. In this case, VICE Indonesia also tries to convey that LGBT people should be accepted in Indonesia because every human being has human rights.

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