

A STUDY ON STUDENTS' PERCEPTION TOWARDS HOMOSEXUALITY
IN MALAYSIAN PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES

BY

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Abstract

With several homosexuality studies having been conducted around the world, the main focus area has been gender differences in perception/attitudes towards this form of sexual orientation. The objective of this study was to explore students' overall perception towards homosexuality, in addition its aim was to determine whether there was a significant difference between male and female university students' in their perception towards the act. Three existing instruments namely; Beliefs About Women Scale (BAWS), Attitudes Toward Lesbians and Gay Men Scale (ATLG) and The Attitudes Toward Women Scale (AWS) were adapted to form the items used in this study. Purposive sampling was used to select students (n=328) of two private universities in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia to complete the questionnaire anonymously. Results showed that there was no significant difference between male and female university students' in their perception towards homosexuality furthermore results showed that overall students' harboured positive perception towards homosexuality. As a contribution these results outline the changing perceptions Malaysian students' harbour as well as the need to conduct more research in the area of homosexuality in the country.

Keywords: Homosexuality, Malaysia, perception, gender differences