

ABSTRAK

Fenomena *living together* atau kohabitasi di kalangan mahasiswa di Purwokerto merupakan persoalan sosial yang kian kompleks meskipun berlangsung secara terselubung. Kesenjangan antara norma agama, sosial, dan hukum yang menolak praktik tersebut dengan realitas perilaku mahasiswa di lapangan mendorong para pelaku kohabitasi mengelola identitas ganda dan melakukan kamuflase sosial untuk menghindari stigma serta konsekuensi sosial maupun hukum dari keluarga, lingkungan kampus, dan masyarakat. Penelitian ini bertujuan menganalisis dan mendeskripsikan bentuk presentasi diri mahasiswa pelaku *living together* di Purwokerto, baik pada ruang publik (*front stage*) maupun ruang privat (*back stage*), dengan menggunakan perspektif teori Dramaturgi Erving Goffman. Penelitian menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif deskriptif. Data dihimpun melalui wawancara mendalam dengan informan kunci, yakni mahasiswa pelaku *living together*, serta informan pendukung berupa warga sekitar kos, yang dipilih dengan teknik *purposive sampling*. Analisis data dilakukan dengan model interaktif Miles, Huberman, dan Saldana, yang mencakup reduksi data, penyajian data, serta penarikan kesimpulan dan verifikasi. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa pada *front stage*, mahasiswa secara konsisten membangun citra sebagai mahasiswa normal dan anak yang patuh melalui pengaturan gaya bicara, penampilan, serta pembatasan informasi tempat tinggal agar sesuai dengan ekspektasi sosial di sekitarnya. Sebaliknya, pada *back stage* mereka merasa lebih leluasa mengekspresikan diri dan hubungan tanpa tekanan normatif, meskipun ruang privat tersebut tidak sepenuhnya bebas dari beban psikologis berupa rasa bersalah dan kecemasan akan terbongkarnya status mereka. Penelitian ini menyimpulkan bahwa mahasiswa pelaku *living together* melakukan manajemen identitas yang terstruktur sebagai strategi utama untuk melindungi diri dari konsekuensi sosial dan hukum, dengan pemisahan tegas antara kehidupan publik dan privat.

Kata kunci: Presentasi Diri, *Living Together*, *Front Stage*, *Back Stage*, Dramaturgi, Mahasiswa, Purwokerto.

ABSTRACT

The phenomenon of living together or cohabitation among university students in Purwokerto reflects an increasingly complex social issue that nevertheless tends to occur covertly. The gap between religious, social, and legal norms that reject this practice and the reality of student behavior on the ground compels cohabiting students to manage dual identities and engage in social camouflage to avoid stigma and social or legal consequences from family, campus, and community. This study aims to analyze and describe the forms of self-presentation employed by cohabiting students in Purwokerto, both in the public sphere (front stage) and the private sphere (back stage), using Erving Goffman's Dramaturgical theory as the analytical lens. A descriptive qualitative approach was applied. Data were gathered through in-depth interviews with key informants, namely students engaged in living together, and supporting informants consisting of residents around the boarding houses, selected through purposive sampling. Data were analyzed using the interactive model of Miles, Huberman, and Saldana, comprising data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing and verification. The findings show that on the front stage, students consistently constructed an image of being a normal and obedient student through controlled speech patterns, appearance, and restricted disclosure of their residence in order to meet surrounding social expectations. Conversely, on the back stage, they felt freer to express themselves and their relationships without normative pressure, although this private space was not entirely free from psychological burdens such as guilt and anxiety over potential exposure. The study concludes that cohabiting students undertake a highly structured identity management strategy as their primary means of self-protection from social and legal consequences, with a sharp separation between public and private life.

Keywords: self-presentation, living together, front stage, back stage, dramaturgy, university students, Purwokerto.