



Abstract

This research aimed to gain knowledge and have a deeper understanding of the ROTC cadette officers' shared experiences and psychological pattern in balancing their feminine and masculine images. The focus of the study were the lived experiences of the cadette officers in a predominantly male setting, their femininity management as expressed in their actions in a military setting, and the meaning of femininity for the cadette officers. The researchers conducted an in-depth interview to gather information. Qualitative interpretative phenomenological analysis was used to analyze the data gathered from a total number of 7 cadette officers, participants were chosen using purposive sampling. The results revealed that the cadette officers had various types of motivations in joining the ROTC, and also they had several emotional experiences resulting from being accepted in the the corps. Different life changes upon joining were also experienced by them, as well as challenges due to being a woman in ROTC, and challenges and issues as being an ROTC officer itself. In managing their femininity, some coping strategies were developed, but few of them de-emphasized gender roles. The meaning of femininity for them revolved around their construction, expression, and impact of femininity in ROTC.

Keywords: Femininity, Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC), cadette officers, interpretative phenomenological analysis