

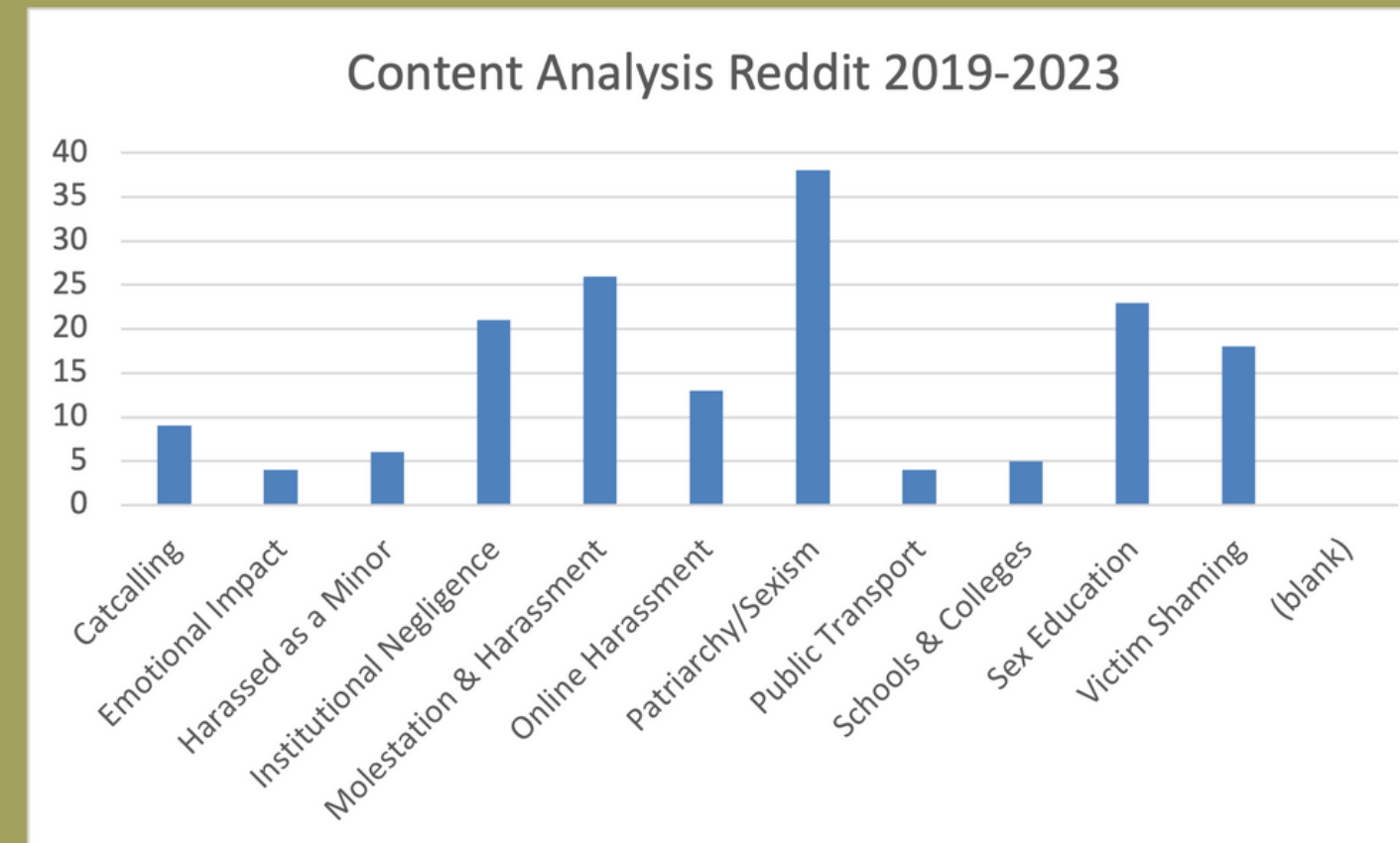
WHAT FACTORS CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS THE CULTIVATION OF RAPE CULTURE AMONG YOUNG MALES IN DELHI?

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Background

- In 2018 which ranked India as the “most dangerous country for women” in the world.
- In 2022, on average six rapes were registered in Delhi each day dubbing Delhi as the “rape capital” of India.
- Scholars explaining these trends have studied the role an individual’s socio-economic background plays in perpetrating violence against women.
- Chakraborty et. al found that social deprivation and lower socio-economic status can motivate violence against women. Others point to caste differences as the source of sexual violence.
- They fail to shed light on more recent incidents of gendered violence that disseminate from young educated, upper-class and affluent members of Delhi.
- Cases like *Bois Locker Room* indicate the prevalence of misogyny and sexual violence in urban centres perpetrated by young boys.
- A 2018 study by the University Grants Commission (UGC) of the ministry of Education reported that 171 out of the 188 universities mentioned reported complaints of sexual harassment often orchestrated by fellow classmates



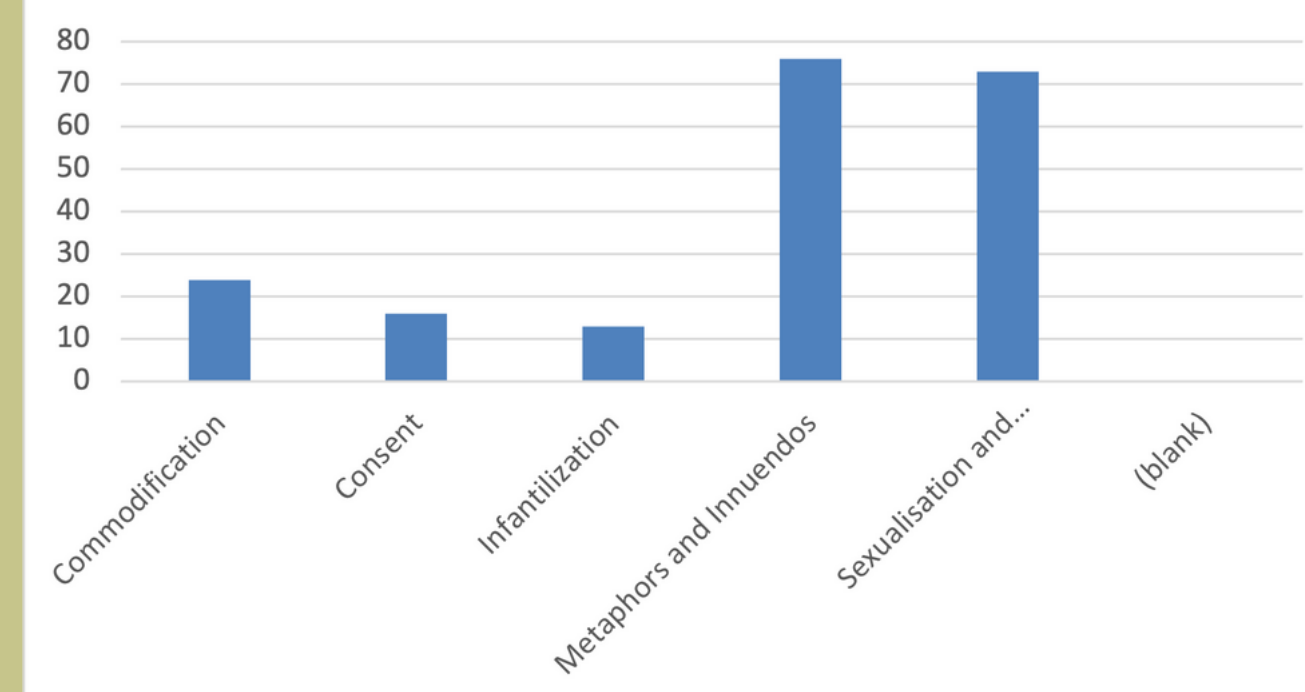
Key Insights

- In order to socialise young boys into recognising the importance of consent, they first have to unlearn patriarchal and sexist values that objectify and demean women. Often such attitudes are adopted at a young age and a cognitive dissonance emerges as children are subjected to one pattern of behaviour that upholds the status quo in their homes and another at school which aims to dismantle that very behaviour.
- Patriarchal values permeate class delineations. Boys receive preferential treatment in comparison to their female counterparts promoting a sense of entitlement and power asymmetry within the society from a young age. Furthermore, rape and gendered violence broadly are often described as being natural reactions elicited due to the clothing or behavioural patterns of the victim.
- Institutional negligence stemming from the internalisation of sexist values and corruption obstruct the path toward justice for victims thereby discouraging them from speaking. Perpetrators belonging to affluent families have connections to prevent the registration of cases and are able to bribe officials to ensure impunity.
- Film and art play an important role in socialising behaviour of young males. Item songs in particular taint expectations of sex and relationships, cementing patriarchal and sexist values in the minds of young boys which can lead to the objectification and dehumanisation of women.

Why Delhi?

- Delhi reported the highest cases of rape among 19 cities which had a population of more than two million.
- Delhi offers a pan-Indian perspective on gendered violence as it is the city with the highest share of inter-state migrants attracting students from different parts of India to attend educational institutes in the capital city.
- Delhi is the second wealthiest city in India allowing us to understand how misogynistic attitudes are cultivated among the urban-elite strata .

Content Analysis on 15 Item Songs



Limitations

- The research adopted only a qualitative methodology due to limited data on the demographics of perpetrators of gendered violence and limited resources. As such, data collection from social media sites offers only a partial view of the problem of sexual violence and also operates to reinforce the negative experiences solely as these spaces often are echo chambers reflecting a monolithic perspective.
- There is no mechanism to verify the authenticity, accuracy and honesty of these statements shared on Reddit and control for any external factors influencing their comments.
- The content analysis derived from the study of 15 item songs does not suggest any correlation or causation between the popularity of these songs and the direct impact of its messaging on youth. The analysis conducted is primarily triangulated through the statements made by the commentators on YouTube, Reddit as well as secondary interviews of individuals belonging to the film industry.
- Future research combining vast statistical models to understand the spatial and demographic characteristics of rape in educational institutes and interviews to dissect the relation between cinema and societal norms needs to be studied to mitigate the aforementioned limitations.

Methodology

- The research adopts a qualitative framework by conducting content analysis on secondary testimonies, interviews and perspectives shared online as well as of popular Bollywood songs.
- The content analysis of social media discourse on gendered violence in Delhi was sourced primarily from Reddit from the years 2019-2023 on two subreddits namely: r/Delhi and r/India with 1.9 million members. In total, ten posts and 43 comments were selected to be studied. 167 observations were coded under 11 themes.
- Content analysis was conducted on 15 “item songs” with 202 observations coded under 5 themes.

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