

Reflection

What factors contribute towards the cultivation of rape culture among young males in Delhi?

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Introduction

Over the summer I conducted research on the genesis of misogyny and sexism in educational institutes in Delhi, India. My initial plan was to conduct primary interviews with stakeholders in NGOs from Delhi as well as educators and sociologists to obtain a well rounded perspective regarding the psychology of rape culture and its consequent impact. However, I experienced a few unforeseen delays in submitting an ethics approval for the interviews which prompted me to adapt.

Adapting the Methodology

I adapted my methodology to secure secondary interviews from news websites, social media channels and other online spaces. Whilst this pivot from conducting primary interviews to relying on secondary qualitative data may limit the addition of novel perceptions, it did on the other hand offer three main benefits. First, secondary qualitative data filled an important gap in my research as previously I could not include the statements of victims or interview any vulnerable populations due to the ethics protocol at University of Toronto. Through secondary data, I sourced the perceptions, experiences and statements by victims of sexual harassment from social media. These testimonies are pivotal to understanding how women in Delhi experience harassment at different levels. Second, using secondary qualitative data contributed to increasing external validity of the research findings. This is primarily because qualitative data collection is larger taking into account different demographics due to the spread of the platform. This helped extrapolate the findings and actionable insights for other parts of Delhi and other metropolitan cities in India in the conclusion or “next steps” portion of my final research report. Third, qualitative

textual evidence from films, songs, news, and social media offered unique insights into collective behavioural and sociological factors that influence societal outlook towards sexual harassment and gendered violence.

Coding the Data

I faced roadblocks when conducting my research especially due to the breadth of data available. Codifying the content was arduous but through this process, I learned to use an online software called Taguette to help create codes for large qualitative datasets. This is definitely a platform that I will be reusing in the future and allows me to better understand how statistical softwares and technology can be leveraged to fasten the research process.

Awareness

Despite being from India, this research opened my eyes to several problems that shadow the everyday experiences of young girls in Delhi that I was not privy to. I learned more about the intersection of privilege and violence, the role institutions play in perpetuating misogyny and how art can be used to negatively socialize young boys into entrenched patriarchal norms. This awareness has motivated me to conduct further research on the subject in the future to study employing quantitative statistical models to study correlation and also conduct primary interviews to gain a novel perspective on the topic.