INTERROGATING IDENTITIES: CASE STUDY OF HASHTAG MOVEMENTS IN INDIA
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1. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- How do online networks drive digital movements in the Southern Hemisphere?
- Do cyberspaces create safe spaces for the Indian youth? Are they merely a representation of a privileged subset?
- What are the constraints and challenges of digital movements in India?

2. METHODOLOGY

- Twitter API to filter tweets on Section 377 and Metoo India with hashtags as queries.
- Mixed Methods – Close Reading + Distant Reading of Data.

3. RESULTS

SECTION 377 INDIAN OF PENAL CODE
Tweets on Queer Empathy:

Queer Representation Graph: (200 unique tweets)

METOO INDIA
Tweets on Feminist Solidarity and Exclusion:

These tweets signify sisterhood solidarity. However, it caters to a subset of an elitist, upper brahmanical idea of womanhood. Where are the Dalits, transgender and other marginalized?

4. CONCLUSION

- Section 377 - Queer empathy drives the movement.
- Queer Participation and linguistic self-representation is less than that of non-queer participation.
- Queer platforms are important in expression of solidarity.
- #MeTooIndia - Feminist solidarity movement.
- Lack of access, participation and representation of women of lower castes, transgender makes this movement exclusive.
- Intersectional Queering: Breaking away from identity categorizations to include broader intersectional narratives and combat problems of lack of inclusion in the South.

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