

Experiences of Sexual and Gender Based Violence Among Queer Individuals in India

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Abstract

This study explores the multifaceted experiences of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) among queer individuals in India, both online and offline, through an intersectional and phenomenological lens. Drawing from in-depth interviews with three participants, it examines how caste, religion, gender identity, and socio-cultural structures influence the nature, frequency, and response to SGBV. Using Interpretive Phenomenological Analysis (IPA), the research uncovers themes of digital and physical violence, institutional apathy, internalized stigma, and fractured support systems. The findings highlight the psychological toll of SGBV, the failure of formal legal and mental health structures, and the critical role of informal and community-based support. This study calls for systemic reform and inclusive interventions that center queer voices and recognize intersectionality as essential to justice and healing.

Keywords: queer individuals, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), india, intersectionality, digital violence, offline violence, caste, religion, minority stress, support systems, LGBTQ+, mental health