

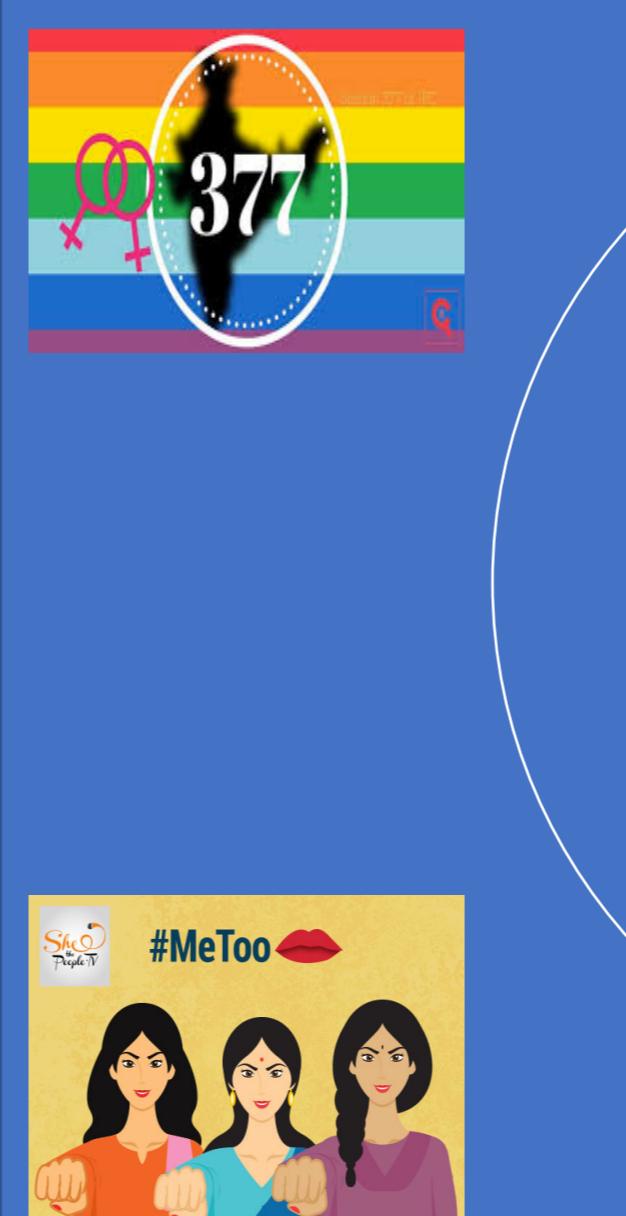
INTERROGATING IDENTITIES: CASE STUDY OF HASHTAG MOVEMENTS IN INDIA

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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



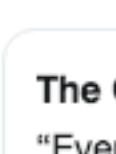
#equal+rights
#homosexuality
#supreme+court+377
#article377
#decriminalize+homosexuality
#metooindia
#sisterhood
#womanhood
#feminism+metoo

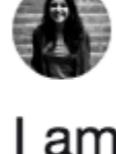
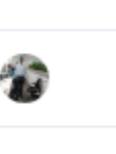
- *Twitter API* to filter tweets on Section 377 and Metoo India with hashtags as queries.
- *Mixed Methods* – Close Reading + Distant Reading of Data.

3. RESULTS

SECTION 377 INDIAN OF PENAL CODE

Tweets on Queer Empathy:

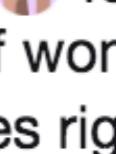
Raghav Bahl  Follow
Members of the LGBTQ community are no different than anyone else. Love, respect and affection have the same definition for all.
The Quint  @TheQuint
"Even with the judgement gone, harassment still exists."
Watch same-sex couples in India open up on love and 'samaaj'....

Kokila Bhattacharya  Follow
I am a heterosexual woman identifying as an LGBTQIA person. Problem?
8:41 AM - 11 Jan 2018
1 Like  Tweet your reply

METO印度

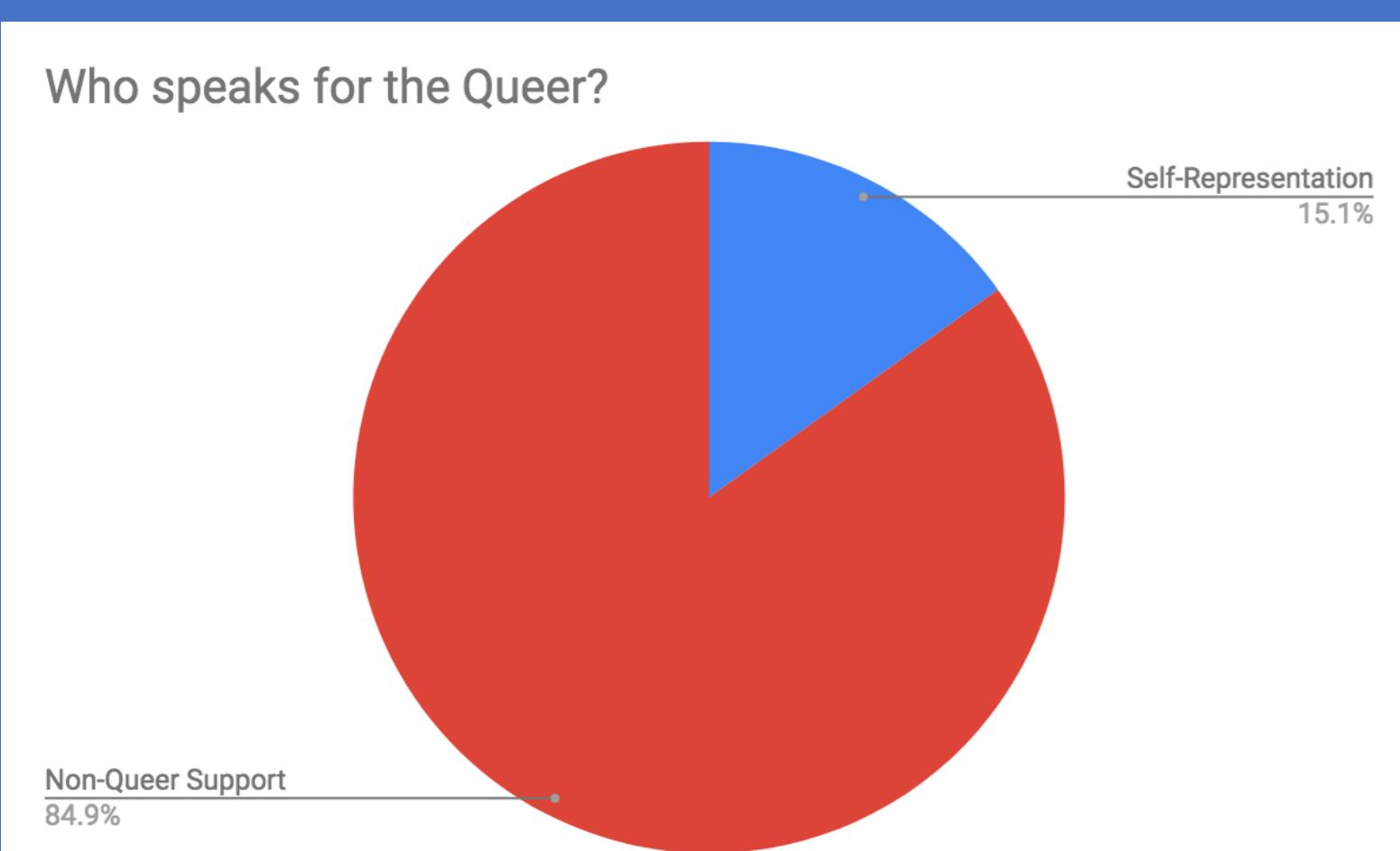
Tweets on Feminist Solidarity and Exclusion:

Zahra Saifullah  Follow
Please learn to love instead of spewing hate and learn to forgive instead of making mountains out of molehills.
Sisterhood is fundamental to Feminism, please try to empathetically build your sisters up instead of making them your enemies.
9:22 AM - 23 Mar 2019

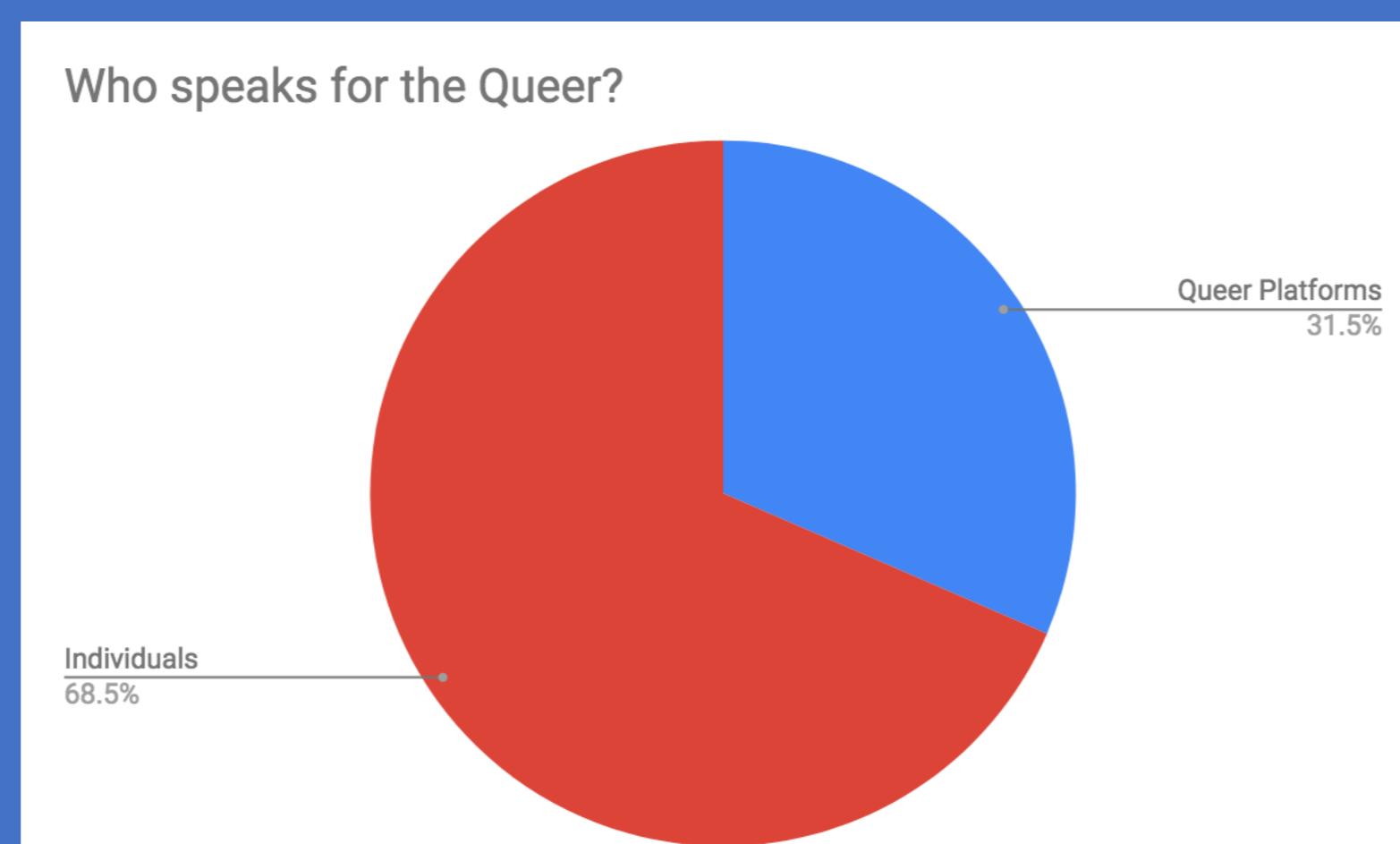
Veera  Follow
Women are women's best allies. Women are women's only allies. Thank you #metooindia  for slapping that old sexist stereotype of women being each other's worst enemies right in the face. #metoo 
I'm so proud of the sisterhood for looking out for each other. #solidaritysisters
9:23 PM - 12 Oct 2018
37 Retweets 116 Likes       

Queer Representation Graph: (200 unique tweets)

Self-representation vs Non-Queer



Support from Individual vs Queer Platforms



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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