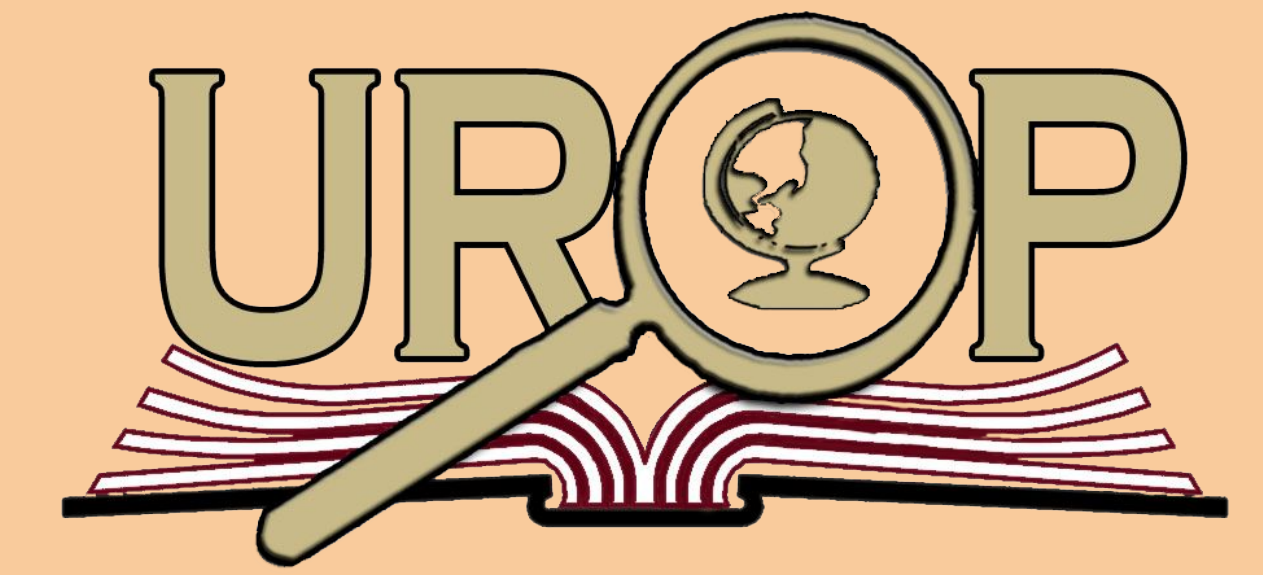




Representation of Women in Bollywood Films

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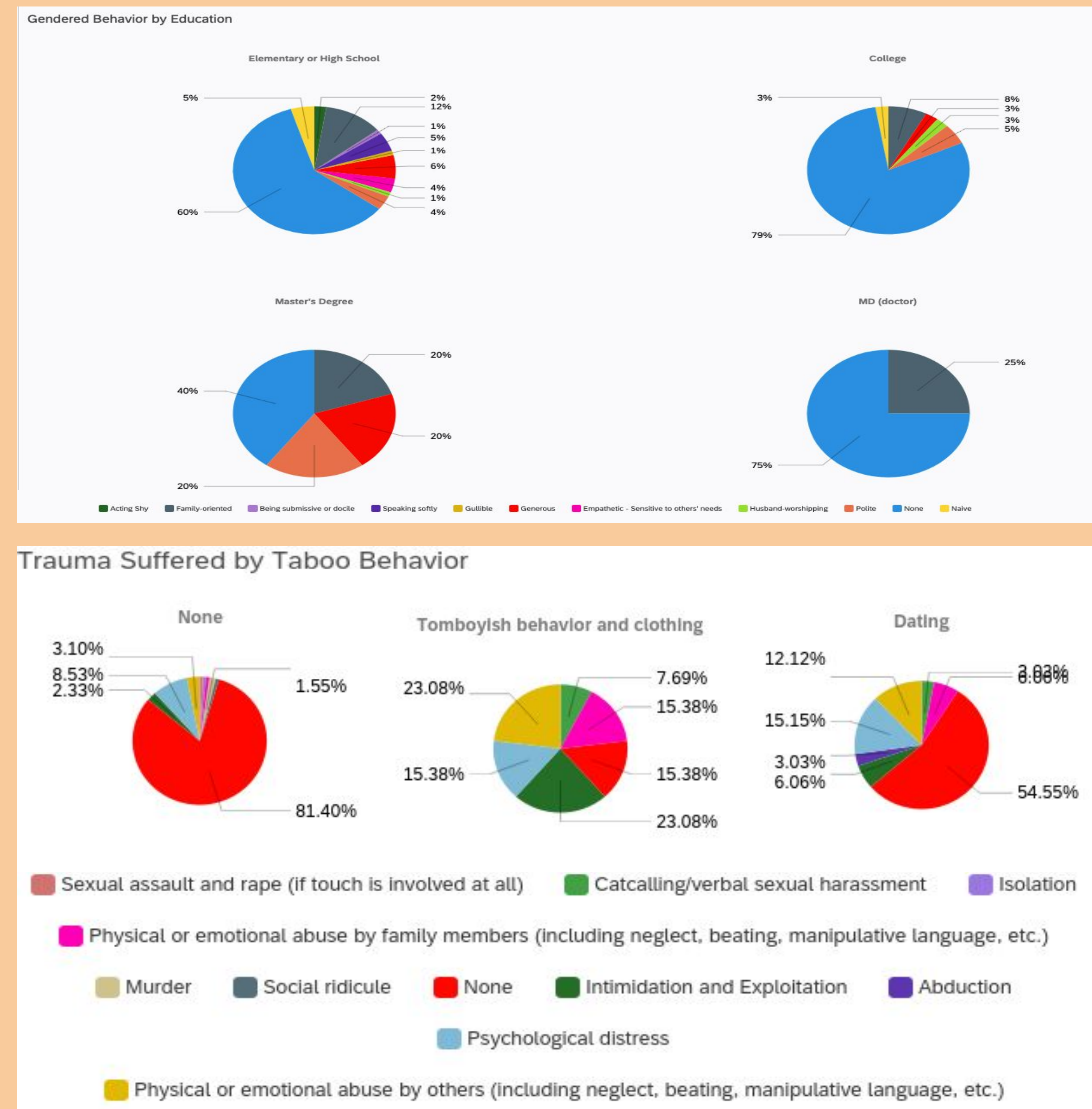
Background

- Most Bollywood films in India have been primarily directed by male directors due to their patriarchal society.
- Women have been historically discriminated against in India and this has not changed till recently.
- Women characters in films are typically given the roles of a wife, mother, or a servant in films to help satisfy traditional expectations.
- As women start to direct more movies, the directors start to make subtle changes to female characters to help give them a distinct and stronger image that is different from traditional expectations.

Methods

- Researchers watched Bollywood films for the first time as intended by director and took count of how many male and female characters that talked during the film.
- After having the initial character count, researchers answered questions about the specific characters (caste system, behavior, trauma experienced, etc.) into a survey.
- Once surveys are completed, corrected for errors, and approved by the research mentor it is finally placed into a survey that compiles all the data that the researchers have done.

Data



Results

Preliminary results based on seven films completed include:

- Most women do not engage in taboo behavior, but our data show that it is more common with young adults and adults.
- The most common taboo behaviors were openly flirting and drinking.
- The most common trauma experienced among those groups are Psychological distress, Intimidation/Exploitation, and Physical/Emotional Abuse by others.
- The most common gendered traits are Family oriented and generous.
- Gendered traits appeared more frequently when the character had lower education.

Conclusion

Although this research is still currently ongoing, the data we have collected tend to show that:

- Women directors are more likely to show young women in their films as showing off more taboo behavior.
- These female-directed movies also tend to show that female characters deviate from normal behavior in India.
- As noted with the results, female directors suggest that female characters that show taboo behaviors are more likely to experience trauma
- Data also suggests that female characters with higher education displayed less gendered traits.

Acknowledgement

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References

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