

Working with Stigmatized Communities in India: Minors from Lower Socioeconomic Background

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The Problem

- KillFie - a selfie which has resulted in death (or injuries) of the person taking it or the people around him/her
- Why qualitative research?
- Why lower socioeconomic class?
- Why children and teenagers?



Data Collection

- Semi-structured interviews
- Duration: 5 - 13 minutes
- Context of study: conducted during a summer camp for government school students held at IIIT Delhi in 2017



Population

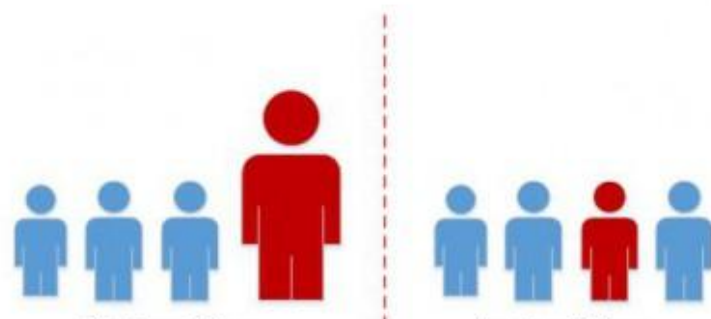
- 8th to 10th grade students
- Age - 12 to 15 years
- Equal number of males and females
- From a Delhi-based government/public school - associated with the lower socioeconomic class



Challenges?

Power Distance

- They might feel inferior being interviewed by “privileged” people
- High power distance: challenging to interact with the lower socioeconomic class and children
- Social mobility associated with cultural capital: Upper middle class elite researcher vs lower socioeconomic class informant
- “Empathise” and don’t “sympathise”



Children Ethics

- Absence of an ethics consent form in India for conducting non-medical research with minors
- No guidelines for similar studies
- Oral approval vs written consent
- Approval from the school principal/parents/legal guardian



Our solution: Created an ethical consent form inspired from LSE’s “Parenting for a Digital Future” project and got approval from other social scientists in the SSH department. The principal of the school then signed this form.

Other Challenges

- Lack of clear class distinction
- Absence of principal and parents/guardians at the summer camp
- Inability to conduct follow-up interviews; data from a single interview needs to be taken as the ultimate truth
- Inability to check their phones for collecting material artefacts like photographs
- Language issues - some students were unable to understand the questions
- Chances of interview bias due to influence of peers

Thank You!
