

Peer Review

Review of: "Reproducing Misogyny: The Indian and Malayali Manosphere"

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- **Abstract:** While the abstract effectively highlights the significance of studying online misogynistic communities, it could be improved in several ways. Firstly, it lacks a clearly stated research question or objective, making it difficult to discern the precise aim of the study. Additionally, the abstract does not mention the theoretical framework or methodological approach, leaving readers uncertain about how the study analyzes these digital communities. The use of broad terms, such as “sophisticated network of interconnected platforms,” could be refined by specifying whether these platforms include forums, social media spaces, or private groups. Similarly, the description of the Malayali manosphere as being “distinguished by innovative terminologies” is somewhat vague; providing a brief example would enhance clarity. Lastly, while the abstract rightfully critiques the misogynistic nature of these communities, the repeated use of “misogyny” without distinguishing between different ideological strands—such as traditional patriarchal values versus incel extremism—risks oversimplifying the phenomenon. Addressing these aspects would improve the abstract’s clarity, depth, and analytical rigor.
- **Introduction:** The introduction effectively situates the study within global concerns about online misogyny. It provides background on the manosphere and its ideological underpinnings. However, it could be more focused by clearly stating the research problem and objectives upfront rather than weaving them into the broader discussion.
- **Problem Statement:** The article presents a broad and significant issue—online misogynistic communities, particularly the manosphere and its regional variations in India and Kerala. However, while the introduction highlights the importance of the topic, the problem statement is not explicitly formulated as a research question or hypothesis. Instead, it is woven into the discussion, making it less clear to the reader what specific gap the study aims to address. A clearer statement outlining the exact research problem would enhance focus.

- **Objective:** The paper does not explicitly list research objectives but implies them through its discussion of ideological structures, radicalization processes, and the regional adaptations of the manosphere. Explicitly defining objectives would strengthen the study's clarity and direction.
- **Methodology:** The article lacks a clearly defined methodological section. There is no discussion of whether the study relies on content analysis, discourse analysis, interviews, or other empirical research methods. While the article references academic literature and incorporates examples from online platforms, the method of data collection and analysis is unclear. Without this, it is difficult to assess the study's rigor and reliability.
- **Results and analysis:** The paper provides an extensive descriptive analysis of the manosphere and its components, including the Indian and Malayali variants. It introduces key terms, actors, and discourses within these communities. However, the lack of a structured results section makes it unclear what new findings emerge from this study versus what is already established in prior research. Including a distinct results section summarizing key empirical insights would improve readability.
- **Discussion:** The discussion engages critically with the topic, linking the manosphere to broader societal and political structures. The regional focus is particularly valuable, as it highlights cultural and linguistic adaptations of the manosphere in India. However, the discussion often reads as an extended literature review rather than a synthesis of new findings. A more structured approach that explicitly connects theoretical frameworks with observed trends would enhance analytical depth.

Declarations

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.