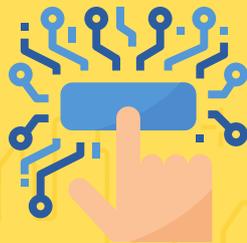# Youth Survey

Digital Citizenship and Civic
Participation for Gender Equality

Centre for Social Research
in collaboration with @TwitterIndia

About the Survey

The rising concerns of online safety issues like - online harassment, bullying, negative online experiences, limit the youth's (especially women) willingness and ability to express themselves on online platforms. According to the UNDP report 2019, the boom in usage of digital platforms for expression has given rise to a great cause of concern. The representation of women and girls on these platforms lags significantly behind men and boys, in India. Among the youth social media users, the majority of 78% are men while only 22% are female (UNDP).

Centre for Social Research in collaboration with Twitter India is reaching out to youth across India, we seek to empower young women and men in their engagement in the civic dialogue on social media and also influence policy development on issues of digital gender equality. Through our workshops, we encourage everyone to use online platforms for combating difficult situations and take the measures to keep themselves safe and healthy while engaging in the digital world and train students in all aspects of safety and security and teach them about tools/techniques that can help them combat online difficult situations effectively.

We conducted a nationwide online survey covering two thousand (2000) youth (aged 18 years & above) to gauge the impact of the youth accessing internet and their awareness of digital safety.

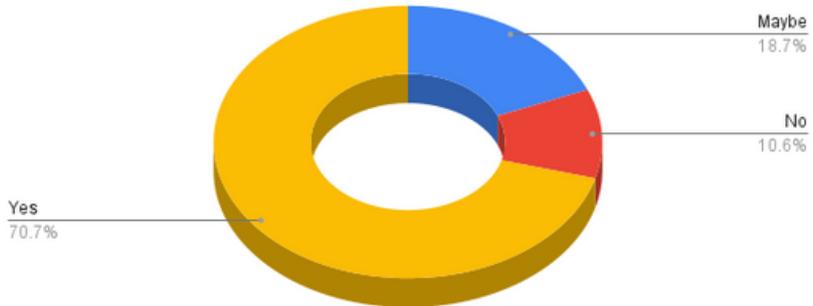We would like to take this opportunity and share some results with you!

OUT OF 2,000 RESPONDENTS:

Prefer not to say
0.3%
Male
21.4%
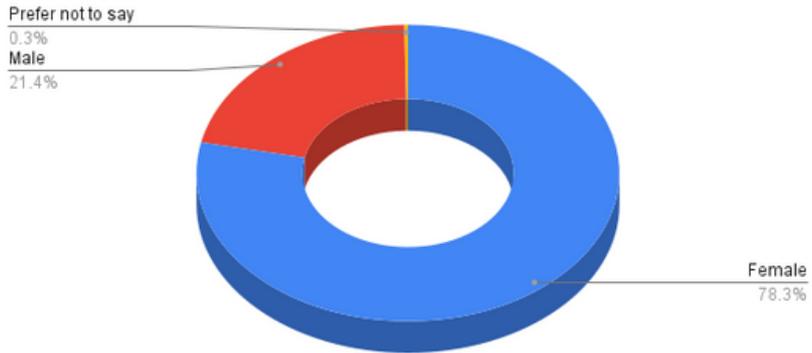
Female
78.3%

78.3% are female
21.4% are male
&
0.3% preferred not to say

WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE EXISTING GENDER GAP IN THE DIGITAL WORLD

Maybe
18.7%

No
10.6%

Yes
70.7%

A little more than 70% of the participants felt that gender gap does exist in the digital world. While, around 10% of the participants felt that it does not. Perhaps, around 18% weren't sure.
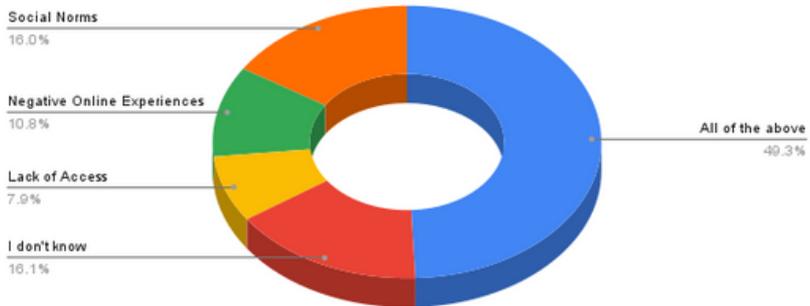
WHEN ASKED ABOUT IMPORTANCE OF EQUAL REPRESENTATION IN ONLINE SPACES:

Maybe
6.3%

No
3.6%

Yes
90.1%
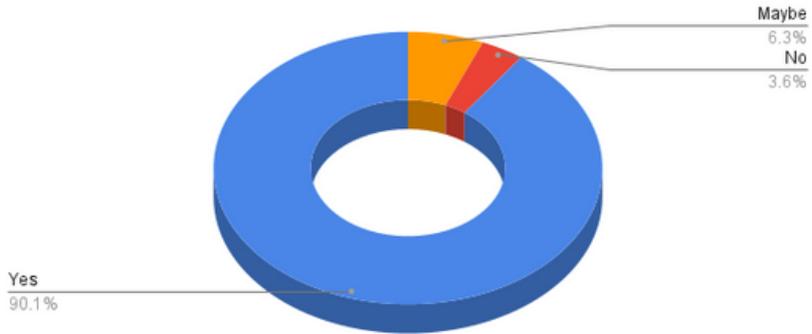
90% of our participants said that they believe there should be equal representation in digital spaces. While a meager 3% believed that there shouldn't be; and around 6% were not sure of its importance.

WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE REASON FOR THE GENDER GAP IN ONLINE WORLD:

Social Norms
16.0%

Negative Online Experiences
10.8%

Lack of Access
7.9%

I don't know
16.1%

All of the above
49.3%

Only around 7.9% participants feel that lack of access is a reason. While 16% of the participants place the reason to be social norms and more than 10% feel that negative online experiences results in the gap in gender in the online world. However, around 49% participants feel that gender-gap on digital spaces is due to the culmination of all the reasons.
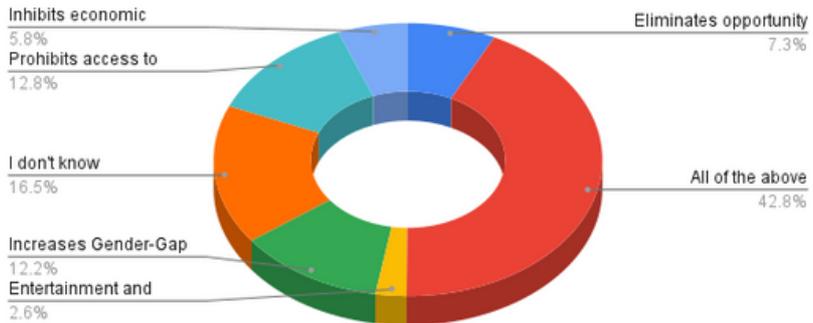
WHEN ASKED ABOUT IF WOMEN AND GIRLS ARE TARGETED MORE THAN MEN AND BOYS ON ONLINE PLATFORMS:

I don't know
8.5%

Maybe
22.4%

No
8.8%

Yes
60.3%
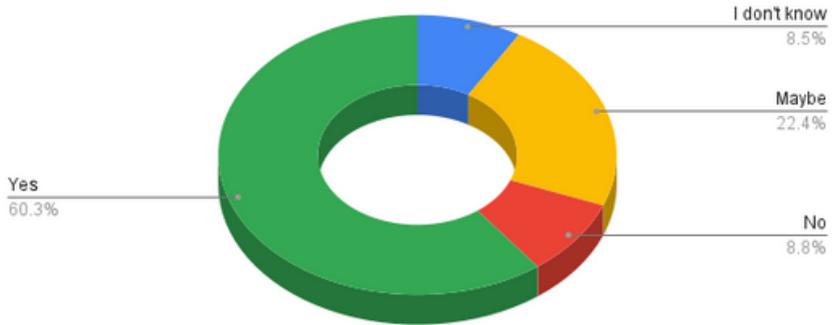
60% of the participants felt that women and girls are targeted more on online spaces. While, a little more than 8% feel that it's not the case; and around 22% participants feel that the target may or may not be gender-specific.
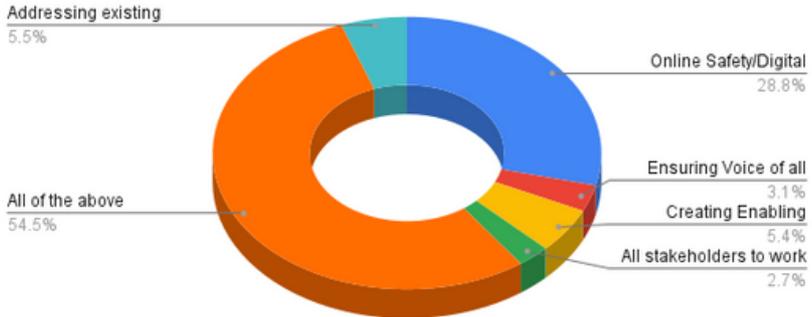
WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE BIGGEST SETBACK CREATED BY GENDER GAP IN DIGITAL WORLD:

Inhibits economic
5.8%

Prohibits access to
12.8%

I don't know
16.5%

Increases Gender-Gap
12.2%

Entertainment and
2.6%

Eliminates opportunity
7.3%

All of the above
42.8%

42% of the participants felt that the Gender Gap in the digital world prohibits access to educational opportunities, inhibits economic advancement, eliminates opportunities for social connect, entertainment and leisure activities are missed, and increases Gender-Gap in the real world. While 16.5% youth do not know about any setbacks.

WHEN ASKED ABOUT WAYS TO IMPROVE PARTICIPATION OF GIRLS AND WOMEN ON ONLINE PLATFORMS:

Addressing existing
5.5%

Online Safety/Digital
28.8%

Ensuring Voice of all
3.1%

Creating Enabling
5.4%

All of the above
54.5%

All stakeholders to work
2.7%

More than 50% participants suggest ways to improve participation of women and girls - through addressing existing social norms, imparting online safety/digital citizenship education, enabling participatory environment for all genders genders, ensuring voice of all communities in policy formation, and by working in tandem to ensure equal participation.

WHEN ASKED ABOUT JOINING THE CAMPAIGN TO ENSURE GENDER EQUAL SAFE AND SECURE DIGITAL WORLD:

I don't care
3.8%

No
7.6%

Yes
88.6%
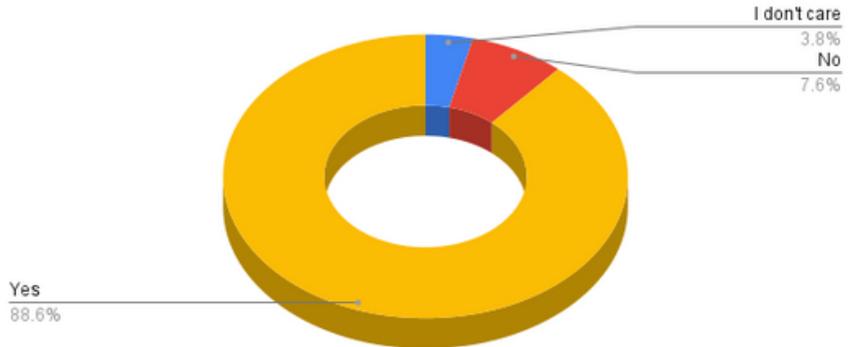
88.6% youth who participated in the survey are positive to join the campaign to ensure a gender equal, safe and secure digital world.

Conclusion

The purpose of this survey was to encapsulate the understanding of (2000) youth across India on the issue of gender-based discrimination and violence on digital spaces. Most notably, the reasons of the (existing) gender gap and the importance of equal representation in online spaces.

The survey highlighted that women and girls are targeted more than men and boys on online platforms, which in turn results in gender-gap being the biggest setback both online and in the real world.

To ensure gender equal and safe online spaces, we have to:
- Improve participation of women and girls through addressing the current social norms
- Focus on online safety and digital literacy education through a gendered lens
- Enabling the voice of marginalized communities in policy formation to build an equal participatory online environment.