

Bars Across Borders: A Cross-Cultural Analysis of Gender, Sexual Violence, and Hypermasculinity in Indian and American Rap.

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This paper presents a cross-cultural analysis of gender dynamics, sexual violence, and hypermasculinity in Indian and American rap, examining how both cultures' music industries propagate and reflect broader societal issues. Through a close analysis of lyrics, this study highlights the objectification of women, normalization of sexual violence, and reinforcement of hypermasculine ideals as pervasive themes across both contexts, despite their cultural differences. American rap, with its roots in marginalized communities, often portrays these themes as a by-product of urban struggles and male dominance. In India, rap is emerging as a popular genre with similar themes, adapted to local contexts where patriarchal norms and hypermasculine identities continue to shape societal narratives. Additionally, this paper explores homophobia and the marginalization of LGBTQ+ identities in both rap cultures, where displays of drag or non-heteronormative behaviors are frequently used as comedic devices or stigmatized expressions. By comparing these patterns, this paper seeks to deepen the understanding of how rap both mirrors and influences gender norms, prompting questions about its role in perpetuating or challenging societal expectations. The study concludes with a discussion on the potential for evolving these narratives toward a more inclusive and responsible form of expression.

Keywords: Cross-Cultural Analysis, Gender Dynamics, Sexual Violence, Hyper-masculinity, Homophobia in Rap Music