

Studies on Sociological Impact of Live-In Relationship: A Critical Review

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ABSTRACT: A critical review was made on the sociological impact of live in relationship based on the secondary sources obtained from different reputed researchers of India and abroad. The live in relationship simply can be defined as “an arrangement of staying in a single roof together for betterment of their future life liberally without getting married”. The trend of living a male & female together independently is increasing nowadays seems new especially in the cities of India and has been cultivated habit since long back in several countries of the world. Hence, this critical review has been taken up by keeping the main objectives to find out the basic concept of live in relationship and its social impact & consequences faces by the couples in Indian society and other countries of the world. In addition, its advantages and disadvantages & fundamental issues in family and Indian social life are in-depth discussed herein this review paper.

KEYWORDS: Live in Relationship, Sociological Impact, Advantages and Disadvantages & Critical Review

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I. INTRODUCTION

Live-in-relationship is defined as a “relationship with an informal arrangement between two heterosexual persons to live together without entering into the formal institution like marriage”. It is a concept of Western and traditionally has been cultivated habit of staying together in a single roof without getting married especially in the forest areas of India without their knowledge and it’s very commonly adapted in their cultural society.”Live-in-relationship is the arrangement in which a man and a woman live together without getting married. This is nowadays being taken as an alternative to marriage especially in metropolitan cities. Live in relationships provide for a life free from responsibility and commitment which is an essential element of marriage. The concept of live in relationships is not new to the any society, the only difference is that earlier people were hesitant in declaring their status may be due to the fear of the society but now the people are openly in this kind of relationship. “Live in relationships are a walk in walk out relationship. There are no strings attached to these relationships as the relationship is free from any legal bond between the parties”. This relationship does not impose the typical responsibilities of a marriage. The founding notion behind opting for live in relationships is to test one’s compatibility with the other person before entering any sort of legal commitment. The concept of live-in relationship evolves from the broadened mindset of the people who started to yearn for a relationship with no-strings-attached. A couple is said to be in a live-in relationship when they cohabit, sharing one household but without marriage. However It is more of a westernized concept with very less relevance with the Indian tradition, so the Supreme Court has at various instances taken the liberty to elaborate on the concept through their judgments. It is different from marriage in the legal rights and obligations inflicted on the partners. Therefore, their primes important to the society for digesting the knowledge of live in relationship thoroughly. Hence, this critical review is taken up to know the fundamental knowledge on sociological impact of live-in relationship and its advantages and disadvantages, *etc* are in details discussed herein.

Definitions:

As per the Cambridge dictionary defined it as: “two people cohabit in the same house and have a sexual relationship, but are not married. They often referred to like live-in partners”. according to the oxford dictionary: “To live in the same house to share a home and have a sexual relationship without getting married”.

Further, general definition of live together: “to live with another person and have sex without being married, they lived together for several months before getting married. In other words cohabit, especially when not married”.

Meaning:

The basic meaning of live in relationship is “arrangements whereby two people decide to live together on a long-term or permanent basis in an emotionally or sexually intimate relationship”. The term is most frequently applied to couples who are not married. The legal definition of live in relationship is “an arrangement of living under which the couple which is unmarried lives together to conduct a long going relationship similarly as in marriage. More broadly, the term Live in relationship can mean any number of people living together. To “Cohabit”, in a broad sense, means to “coexist”.

The concept of live in relationship:

The basic concept of live-in-relationships is very common in many western countries and the understanding of live in relationship is that, it is an arrangement of living under which the couples who are unmarried live together to conduct a long staying together in a relationship, which reflects similarly as in marriage. The main idea, of a live-in-relationship is that the interested couple wanted to test their compatibility for each other before going for some commitment. Further, the live in relationship is a de facto union in which couple shares common bed-room without solemnizing marriage. It is non-marital relationship prevailing in West with the different name like, common law marriages, informal marriages or marriage by habit, deemed marriages *etc.* It is a form of interpersonal status which is legally recognized in some jurisdictions as a marriage even though no legally recognized marriage ceremony is performed or civil marriage contract is entered into or the marriage registered in a civil registry. However, the live in relationships are practiced mostly in metropolitan cities. Such practice is still a social taboo in a major part of India which is constituted by villages and towns. There is a gradual transition from the sacrament of arranged marriages to love marriages and ultimately to live-in relationships, due to many reasons like lack of tolerance and commitment.

Live in Relationship in deferent countries

Live in relationships in various countries are either recognized as it exists or it's finding recognition via implied provisions of different states that protect property rights, housing rights. Many countries provide for live in relationship contracts in which partners can determine their legal rights. However, when it comes to the right of child born under such relationship, law of various countries exudes a uniform tenor of protecting their rights. Australia: The Family Law Act of Australia suggests that any “de facto relationship” can exist between two people of the same or different sex and also that a person can be in a de facto relationship even when legally in a de facto relationship with (or married to) another person. Canada: In Canada, cohabitation is officially recognized as “common law marriage”. In a lot of cases, the federal law of the country grants common law couples the same rights as married couples and all common law a child. France: Cohabitation is governed by the Civil Solidarity Pact of ‘pacte civil de solidarité’ which was passed by the French National Assembly in October, 1999. According to the law, cohabitation in France is defined as a “de facto stable and continuous relationship” between two persons of different sexes or of the same sex living together as couple. Ireland: Even though living together is legally recognized in Ireland, public opinions are strictly against a new legislation that aims to facilitate legal rights for “separated” cohabitating couples to demand maintenance or share their property with the financially dependent partners. The legislation is applicable to same sex unmarried couples as well as couples from opposite sexes, provided they have been cohabitating for at least 3 years (or 2 years if they have children). The government, with this new legislation, plans to fetch financial and legal protection for financially dependent and vulnerable cohabitants in the event of break up or death. Scotland: The Family Law Act, 2006 for the first time officially identified and legalized cohabitation in Scotland. According to estimates, at the time when the law was passed, almost 150000 people across the country were involved in live in relationships. In case of such a relationship breaks, a cohabitant enjoys the rights to apply for financial support under section 28. In the event one of the partners die, the survivor has the right to seek financial support from the deceased's estate. United Kingdom: A man and a woman living together in a stable and consensual sexual relationship is often called “common law spouses”. According to the UK laws, live in couples does not enjoy legal sanction and status as granted to married couple. There is no obligation on the partners to maintain each other. Partners do not have inheritance right over each other's property unless named in their partner's will. As per a 2010 note from the Home Affairs Section to the House of Commons, unmarried couples have no guaranteed rights to ownership of each other's property on breakdown of relationship. However, the law seeks to protect the right of child born under such relationship. Both parents have the onus of bringing up their children irrespective of the fact that whether they are married or cohabiting. In the event, the couple decides to separate, the courts do not have the legal power to override that decision. United States and America: Live in relationships used to be illegal in all states before 1970. However, soon after, it was accepted as a common law subject to certain basic requirements. live in couples enjoy legal sanctity if they have lived together for a minimum of 12 consecutive months, or they give birth to adopt India: The position that emerges with respect to live in relationships is not very discernible and lacks a definition in majority of the countries. While some countries have passed legislation

according legal status to live in couples, some countries are granting greater legality to such couples by the implied provision of their statutes as discussed. In India as well, via various decisions of the court, law is exhibiting a tendency of giving legal tinge to live in relationships. Nevertheless, the fact remains; the legal progress of laws with respect to live in relationship and the sweeping increase in number of such live in relationships are not running parallel to each other. The law needs to whiz up to prescribe and proscribe speculation with respect to live in relations.

Objectives:

- To study the concept of the live in relationship from existing literature.
- To know the live in relationship in deferent countries.
- To find out the advantages and disadvantages.

II. METHODOLOGY

The descriptive research method is used to collect data for this paper. This study is based on secondary sources; information has been collected by going through various research articles, journals, reports, and newspapers.

Impact of live in relationship on family, women and society, etc.

Wazida, (2006) mentioned in his article that is entitled as Live in Relationship and status of women in India, the enduring debate on live-in-relationship can never have a conclusive viewpoint as it keeps varying from time to time and new issues observance. The author's main aim is that perspective on legalization of Live-in Relationship and also discussed the status of women involved in such a relationship and legal effects and consequences of adopting such a relationship in the Indian social and legal system. Here he also has analyzed some of the relevant causes for the Live in Relationship.

Iren Levin and Lan Trost, (1999) elaborated in this article entitled "Living apart together: A new family form". He said that marriage ritual cohabiting couples do not have the status of being married. The other said that live in relationship is a new family form but it is changing the norms. In the 20th century major changes occurred in the western world that have affected on family situation. This research on live in relationships drawn upon data collected by both qualitative and quantitative methods. Most of the qualitative data came from the Sweden where he collected data on three different occasions first was 1993, second 1998 and third 2001. He applied probability sampling method to collect the data. The Swedish opinion research subway founded that 6% of those respondents who were neither married nor cohabiting affirmed that they were in live in relationship. The article summarized only a few decades ago marriage was the sole socially approved institution for couples planning to live together.

Rajib, (2015) presented that, how to impact live in relationship on the Indian traditional society. India is such a country where marriage occupies a sacramental position or sacred union. Philosophically, practically and traditionally India is traditional society. This article analyzed that, why such relationships are emerging rapidly in the present day world. India is a country which is slowly opening its doors for western ideas and lifestyles and one of the most crucial episodes amongst the concept of live in relationship. Also he studied about the position of live in relationship in various countries in the world. Live in relationship in various countries are either recognized as it exists or its finding recognition via, implied provisions of different states that protect property rights, housing rights, etc in Scotland, France, United States, Canada, etc. Also he studied about the advantages and disadvantages of live in relationship. This article tried to suggest certain remedial measures to meet the changing needs and demands of the contemporary world.

Rabbiraj, (2014) the article shows the Marriage and family is the foundation of Indian culture and tradition. The Indian society is mostly religious and family centric. The influence of live-in-relationships in India is of very recent past which has raised several crucial questions relating to the impact of such relationships on the society. Although, there is no legislation on this subject matter, the Indian judiciary has thrown much light into the issue on live-in-relationships and has prudently tried to balance the general expectations of the society and the individual rights of people. This article highlighted the issue of live-in-relationships in India and examines the need to protect the future generation from the influence of live-in-relationships which is no better arrangement than marriage.

Sylvia and Reva, (2006) presented the conceptual, time-ordered, and developmental framework, centered on courtship processes; it studied the premarital roots of marital success and failure. In this model, it assumed that partners bring relatively stable qualities to their courtship that independently and in combination affect the course of the courtship and, in turn, shape how well couples fare in marriage. This article highlighted the appreciation of courtship features that predict marital success or failure, social scientists must understand the importance of moving beyond static variable-centered approaches to more developmental ones (both conceptually and analytically) that emphasize the interplay among premarital partners' qualities, the dynamics

of their courtships, including the social and cultural contexts within which they are embedded, and the stability and satisfactoriness of the marriages they establish.

The 2002 NSFG(National Survey of Family Growth) suggested that women at 14 ages were living with their married. Biological parents are less likely to have ever cohabited compared with women in other family structures at 14 (45% vs 61%). Also two qualitative studies concur that economic considerations are an important part of the decision to cohabit. One study, based on 18 focus groups with young working – and middle-class adults, only some of whom had cohabited, combined with 54 in dept interviews with cohabiters, found that splitting expenses constitutes, alongside the chance to evaluate compatibility and take the relationship to the “next level,” a primary motive for cohabitation. And three- quarters of the 54 cohabiting individuals’ interviewees identified financial consideration as an important advantage of cohabitation. (Smock, huang, manning, and bergstrom-lymch 2006). While it could be argued that marriage offers equivalent opportunity to share expenses, the economic “bar” for marriage appears to be higher than for cohabitation (see cherlin 2004;edin and Kefalas 2005; smock, manning, and porter 2005). The recent qualitative studies indicated many cohabiters as well as unmarried parents, cohabiting or not, will not consider marriage unless and until they attain financial comfort and stability (Cherlin 2004; Edin 2000; Edin and Kefalas 2005; Gibson, Edin, and McLanahan; smock, manning, and porter 2005).

III. ADVANTAGES & DISADVANTAGES OF LIVE IN RELATIOSHIP

There are several advantages and disadvantages are elaborated by different researchers in their studies. Basically, today, many couples choose living in before marriage because they believe it will let them know if they are suited for marriage. Living in before marriage has some advantages and disadvantages for the couple and some of those are listed below. Some of the advantages of living in before marriage are: living-together living together will lower the cost of food, rent and bills because two people are splitting the cost of living. In some cases, one person takes care of all the bills. In those cases, it is usually the woman who gets the benefit of free room and board costs. Having someone there for emotional support, sexual relations and for conversation without being committed in a marriage is considered an advantage for most couples. Living together before marriage allows the couple to test their compatibility. For some people, they want to feel that they can get along with someone while living together before they plan for their wedding. By living together, you will see how loyal your partner is to you.

This will help you build trust together that cannot be shaken if you agree to get married in the future. By living together, you can prepare for marriage ahead by learning someone’s habits, attitudes and manners. There are also some disadvantages of living together before marriage. These are: living-together two by living together for a long time, you may get too comfortable with each other and totally avoid tying the knot in the future. Living together makes it easier for one partner to walk out on the relationship because there is no legal obligation to the other person.

Living together can encourage an easy out for someone who wants it. Living together is often short-lived, statistics has shown. The female is the one who usually suffers if the relationship does not work out. Women tend to feel that they lose time, because of their biological clock, and dignity when they live together with a partner that ends in a break-up. No one knows for sure that living together before marriage is the best thing to do. It is much easier to walk out of a relationship than it is walk out of a marriage. However, everyone knows that divorce involves a lot more than what a break-up involves for a couple just living together. Many pastors and marriage counselors advise young couples that if they believe in the institution of marriage to find someone who believes in that themselves. People who believe in the sanctity of marriage do not suggest living with someone first just to get to know them better or see if they are well-suited for each other. After all, marriage is an institution, and we cannot learn things outside of an institution.

Live-in relationship is a contract of living together which is renewed every day by the parties and can be terminated by either without the consent of the other. Thus people who choose to have a live-in relationship cannot complain of infidelity or immorality. Therefore, we can say it nothing more than personnel enjoyment. Everyone has the moral liability to adhere to life-enriching norms to enable the future generations to be proud of their birth, cultural traditions and national identity. Why should children be made to bear the cross of the skewed behavior of their parents? Responsible parents will leave a valuable legacy and not vicarious liabilities to the progeny. Even when parents normatively raise their children, many precautionary measures are required to insulate them from the ill-effects of the unsanctioned societal deviations and the vicious projections of modernity. India cannot afford to throw its proven and time-tested merits of its custom to the winds.

Ultimately, as such relationships are choice of two individual wish to make their own family without the will of their parents there is always expectation of weak relation between the parents of the spouse family. Therefore, it is no doubt that there is always change of conflict of ideas and opinion in the family as a result it will laterally lead to weaken the relation between other member of the family. So over all it has a bitter negative effect in the society.

IV. CONCLUDING REMARKS

The live in relationship is a new concept of recent years and the trend of live in relationship has been consistently increasing in Indian developing cities and mostly developed countries of world as per the existing literatures. Further, in several research cases our ideas through review articles can only be fulfilled by new data collections or at least in enhancing of new measures to ongoing surveys. This review summarizes, the research and review data on live in relationship, which would enhance our scientific understanding of relationship to ensure the surveys of family demographers and social scientists rely are responsive for it. Further, through this review article, it glances on fundamental concept of live in relationship through which people can understand the reality clues behind the unraveled truth of this relationship. Further, it focused on advantages as well as disadvantages in the Indian society and abroad in depth elaborated critically on live in relationship in the sociological point of view.

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