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EMPIRICAL STUDY ON LIVE IN RELATIONSHIP IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT :

The paper elucidates an empirical study on live in relationship in India. Live in relationship has been a part of Indian society for many years through Gandharva marriage without the acceptance of elders of the family. However as the time elapsed such marriages became extinct. In the current times such relationship is known as live in relationship. The present study aims to explore the social and legal aspect of live in relationship in India. The paper elucidates the role of judiciary in protecting the rights of individual opting to stay in the live in relationship status even if it is against the norms of society. The paper highlights the importance of fair legal system; codified legislation and the personal laws on live in relationship to protect the individuals opting to stay in live in relationship. The present research uses both primary and secondary data sources. The research has been conducted using convenience non probability sampling and analyses both qualitative and quantitative data. Data was collected in the month of February 2026 and a sample size of 500 from both male and females.Data on demographic details was collected using closed ended. . The questionnaire consist of 16 questions and likert scale was used and the respondents expressed their views from being most favorable to most unfavorable statements on a preference rating scale of 1 to 5.Based on their answers the results were interpreted and research model was designed. Finally research paper highlights the challenges and proposes the recommendations negotiating the live in relationship in India.

Keywords: Non Parametric test, Judicial Decisions, Social, Legal, Financial

INTRODUCTION

Globalization has led to a paradigm shift of ideas being imbibed freely across the countries and consequently phenomenon of Live in Relationship especially among urban Indian has evolved from being a social stigma to being a right supported by codified legislation in India. Live in relationship means cohabitation without getting married. The western society has made a shallow impact on our society and society has transgressed towards live in relationship. The research paper investigates the legal remedies available to the live in relationship couples. An empirical study has also been conducted and has been statistically analyzed to examine the social, financial & future perspective among the live in relationship couples. Evolution of Live in Relationship in India

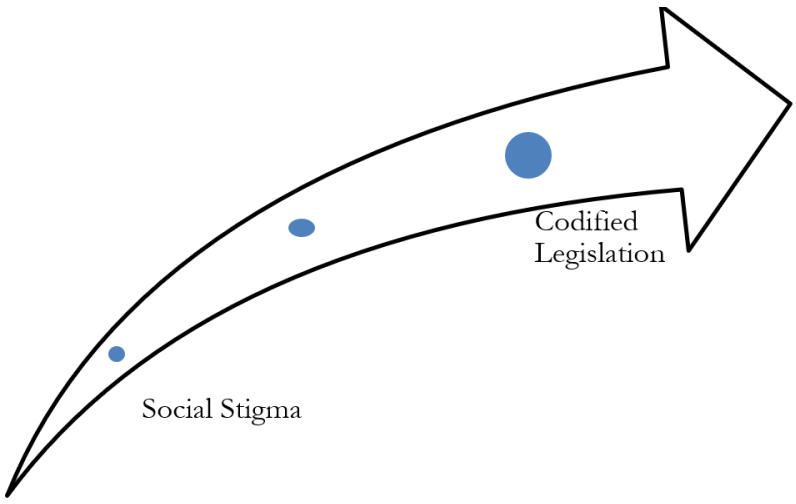


Figure 1Figure 1; Evolution of Live in Relationship in India

1. **Difference Between Marriage and Live In Relationship** (https://blog.shaadi.com/live-in-relationships-vs-marriage-key-differences-and-similarities/)

Table 1

Perspective	Marriage	Live In Relationship
Legitimate Position	Lawful obligation bound by Legislation	Living together without tying nuptial knot
Obligation	Bounded by legal obligations	Relationship based on Joint agreement not bounded by legal obligations
Recognition by society	Recognized by society and family	Not recognized by society and family
Break Up	Requires tedious legal process of divorce	Couples can separate without judicial separation or divorce
Monetary Rights	Partner has the right to inherit through succession	Partner lacks the right to inheritance unless specified

Historical Background

The concept of live in relationship where the where man and women live together as partners without performing any rituals was recognized in Vedic period through the tradition of Gandharva Vivah. Out of different types of eight marriages, Gandharva Vivah was one of them which was based on love between man and women. Marriage of Shankuntala and Dushyant is an example of Gandharva Vivah (https://www.dailyo.in/lifestyle/live-in-relationships-vedas-marriage-rape-prostitution-supreme-court-3361).

Indian Judiciary Views on Live In Relationship

3.1 Badri Prasad vs. Dy.Director of Consolidation & Ors(1978)

(AIR 1978 SC 1557)In this case the man and women were living together for about fifty years. The petitioner Badri Prasad filed a special leave petition in Supreme Court of India challenging the validity of the marriage, both high court of Allahabad (Lucknow Bench) and Supreme Court rejected the point of view of the petitioner and the special leave petition was dismissed.

3.2 Tulsa & Ors vs. Durghatiya & Ors(2008)

(SCC {2008} vol 4 page 520)Landmark judgment of Supreme Court on presumption of marriage. A sale deed was executed by Loli (Defendant Number-1), Durghatiya (Plaintiff) challenged the sale deed stating that Loli was mistress and had no right to sell the ancestral property. The first appellant court and the Madhya Pradesh high court reversed the judgment of the trial court stating that Loli being a mistress has no right to sell the ancestral property. However supreme court held that Appellant Tusla,born out of live in relationship of Loli would be considered as a legitimate child and would have the inheritance right over the property.

3.3 D.Velusamy vs. D.Patchaiammal (2010)

(SCC {2010} Vol 10 Page 469)This is a landmark case based on the concept of Palimony which was derived from US law California Supreme court judgment (Marvin vs. Marvin, 1976) where non married partner living in live in relationship for a long time was granted maintenance. The summary of the case is that a maintenance suit was filed under section 125 of Cr.PC by D.Patchaimmal against Velusamy stating that she was married to Velusamy. Velusamy contended that he was already married to Lakshmi. The family court and Madras High Court of Velusamy with Lakshmi was dismissed and held that Velusamy was legally wedded to Patchaimmal. Family court and Madras high court decided the case against Velusamy due to lack of evidence about Lakshmi. Supreme Court set aside the findings of lower court and the Madras high court stating that Lakshmi was given the chance to be heard and directed the family court to rehear the case by summoning all the stakeholders and inviting the objections.

3.4 Indra Sarma vs. V.K.V.Sarma (2013)

(SCC {2013} Vol 15 Page 755)Supreme Court held that women would not be entitled for maintenance under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, if the women knowing that the man is already married enter in live in relationship with that man. Indra Sarma and V.V.Sarma lived in a live in relationship for around 18 years, thereafter they separated & Indra Sarma filed suit for maintenance under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005. The question before the court was whether living together for long term would constitute a relationship similar to marriage under section 2(f) of DV, Act 2005.Lower court citing that long tern relationship is sufficient granted maintainance,however high court reversed the decision stating the legal test of marriage was not met. Supreme Court upheld the high court decision. Supreme court observed the second relationship as adulterous as the man was already married and granting her the status of wife would cause irreparable injury to the legally wedded wife and her children. However if the women was unaware that the man was married then it could have been the marriage like arrangement. Supreme Court also emphasized that legislative reforms to protect the women & children living under the live in relationship was the need of the hour for the protection of such women.

3.5 Ajay Bhardwaj vs. Jyotsna and Ors (2016)

HLR (2017) Vol {1} page 224. Ajay and Jyotsna both divorced from their previous marriage were living together in live in relationship since 2007 and had two children through such relationship, after that they separated and Jyotsna filed for maintenance under section 125 of CrPC.Ajay pleaded that maintenance is for legally wedded wife only. However the court granted the maintenance both to her and her children just like a legally wedded wife.

3.6 Kattukandi Edathil Krishnan & Anr. v. Kattukandi Edathil Valsan & Ors. (2022)

SCC (2022) Vol {11} page 649.In this case Supreme Court gave the inheritance rights to the children born out of live in relationship. Plaintiff the children of Damodaran one of the sons of original owner Kattukandi filed suit to claim their share in the property of their father. However the defendant claimed that since Damodaran died as bachelor the plaintiff have no right over the property. Supreme Court held that children born out of such relationship have the right over the ancestral property.

3.7 S.Khusboo vs. Kanniammal & Anr. (2010)

AIR 2010 SC 3196 In this case Supreme court held that right to freedom of speech cannot be restricted merely because some people find it offensive as well as the case justified live in relationship and pre marital sex.The facts of the case is that in response to a survey conducted by a news magazine "India Today", on incidents of pre marital sex the appellant expressed her personal views on pre marital sex in context of live in relationship and stated that girls should take necessary steps to avoid unwanted pregnancies besides she also advocated that the society must accept the live in relationship. In response to this criminal complaints were filed under section 499,500 and 505 of Indian penal code,1860 and section 4 and 6 of indecent representation of women(prohibition) act,1986.The question before the court was whether pre marital sex and live in relationship is vulgar and obscene. The court held that live in relationship may be viewed as immoral by some; however there is no offence and it is constitutionally valid under article 21 (Right to life) of Indian constitution.

3.8 Bharata Matha v. r. Vjaya Renganathan (2010)

AIR 2010 SC 2685.In this case Supreme Court took cognizance of long term live in relationship, presumption of marriage and inheritance right of the children born out of such relations. The brief of the case is that Peria Mariammal claimed for the property of her brother after his death stating that he died unmarried.Smt Rengammal said that she was in live in relationship with Muthu Reddiar and claimed her rights along with her children. However Smt Rengammal was married to someone else and had not been judicially separated. The court held that since she was already married hence there can be no presumption of marriage. Court further held that under section 16(3) of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, if a child is born out of void or voidable marriage such children are considered to be legitimate,howver their inheritance right is limited to the self acquired property of their parent and they have no inheritance right over the ancestral property.

Right of partners in Live In Relationship in India

4.1 Domestic Violence Act, 2005

4.1.1 **Section 2(f):** This section recognizes the rights of women living in a live in relationship and the women can seek legal remedy if her rights are violated in a live in relationship.(http://student.manupatra.com/Academic/Studentmodules/Law-of-Crimes/Protection-Of-Women-From-Domestic-Violence-Act-2005.htm#:~:text=Section%202(f)%3A%20%22domestic,together%20as%20a%20joint%20family.)

4.1.2 Criminal Procedure Code (Cr.P.C), 1973 & Bhartiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023

4.1.2.1 Section 125 Cr.P.C & Section 144 BNSS: This section along with section 26 of Domestic Violence Act, 2005 gives protection to women living in a live in relationship and who cannot support themselves. (https://www.livelaw.in/articles/maintenance-under-bnss-omission-word-minor-major-change-295467).

4.2 Indian Evidence Act, 1872/Bhartiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023(BSA)

4.2.1 Section 114 Indian Evidence Act/Section 119 Bhartiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023: This section presumes that if couples have lived together for a long period of time then they would be considered as husband & wife. (https://www.livelaw.in/legal-aspects-live-relationship-india)(https://sheokandlegal.com/comparative-chart-of-indian-evidence-act-and-bharatiya-sakshya-adhiniyam-2023/)

4.3 Rights of Children Born Out of Live in Relationship

4.3.1 Hindu Marriage Act, 1955

4.3.1.1 Section 16: Irrespective of void or voidable marriage, children born out of such relationship would be considered as legitimate. (https://www.indiacode.nic.in/show-data?actid=AC_CEN_3_20_00004_195525_1517807318992&sectionId=38584&sectionno=16&orderno=18)

4.4 Hindu Succession Act, 1956

4.4.1 Section 3(1){j} Provided that illegitimate children shall be deemed to be related to their mothers and to one another, and their legitimate descendants shall be deemed to be related to them and to one another; and any word expressing relationship or denoting a relative shall be construed accordingly. chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.indiacode.nic.in/bitstream/123456789/1713/1/AAA1956suc___30.pdf)

4.5 Special Marriage Act, 1954

4.5.1 Section 26: Irrespective of void or voidable marriage, children born out of such relationship would be considered as legitimate. (https://kanoongpt.in/bare-acts/the-special-marriage-act-1954/chapter-vi-section-26-b2efdae5666b4093)

4.6 Mohammadan Law

According to Mohammadan law the illegitimate child would not inherit anything from the father, however Sunni hanafi law states that child can inherit from the mother.Shia law forbids inheritance from either parents. Mohammadan parents can make a will up to one third of their property to anyone including their illegitimate child. (https://blog.ipleaders.in/illegitimate-children-muslim-law/)

Literature Review

Live in relationship is an informal agreement between two adult individuals. It is relatively a new field of research in India and very less literature is available on live in relationship in the Indian Persepective.People of younger age group must be able to make distinction between their love interest and the individual goals.Shulman et al(2013).Arnett(2013) in his research describes the qualities an individual seeks in their partners which makes them feel more attractive or unattractive. The paper published by Narayan (2021) examines the legal provisions concerning live in relationship. Fitzpatrick et al(1979) in their research found that high satisfaction in relationship was found in those couples who avoided conflict.Krapf(2018) in the research paper stated that while living apart together(LAT) couples while maintain their non residential status may live together or stay separately, the research further elucidated that those living in close proximity are more likely to stay together than those couple who live far away and require more time to travel. The economies of scale is reached if the couples stay in single household. Becker (1981).The relationship can last longer if the partner creates value in the eyes of other partner.Mak (2004).According to paper Financial Integration Relate to Increased Financial Conflict Between Romantic Couples published by Morgan el al(2020).there were more financial fights between the couples who were less financially mingled. Burgoyne et al (2007) conduct a study to find out the financial dependence on the partners before and after one year of marriage. The study found that independent money matters can result in sense of inequality among partners especially in women when they leave their job to raise family. Indian society is gradually moving towards the live in relationship as an alternative to marriage.Thakral (2018).Western concept has introduced the concept of live in relationship in India. Kumar (2019).Live in relationship is not a marriage but resembles marriage in which unmarried couples live together without formally getting married.Saini (2018). Live in relationship is still not accepted in Indian society as it promotes pre marital sex.No exclusive codified law for live in partners is available in India.Laha(2016).Protection of women from domestic violence under protection of women from domestic violence protection act,2005 is the first and foremost legal remedy for the women even out of wedlock.Singla(2024).According to Rabbiraj(2014) live in relationship would more preferred than marriage in future as the future generation would consider their personal life more private. Live in relationship is not accepted by any personal laws in India.Dholam (2015).In the present context even the lawmakers are of the view that live in relationship is an experiment before marriage and does not require new act. Live in relationship is not a healthy practice to raise children as the negative personality shades can have bad effect on children.Dholam (2015).Live in relationship provides financial independence to both partners as both partners can bear their own financial expenses as well as share some expenses.Dholam (2015).Live in relationship promotes equal responsibilities among both the couples instead of traditional marriage where husband is responsible for the financial needs and the wife does the household work.Rahman(2019).Leaving the live in partner or dissolving the live in relationship is comparatively more easier than the complex divorce situation in traditional marriage concept.Deokar(2016).Section 2(f) of the protection of women against domestic violence, act 2005 does not fix minimum duration of time for live in relation but is specific to case. Sharma (2018).Section 2(s) of the protection of women against domestic violence, act 2005 defines the expression shared household where any partner lives or has lived in domestic relationship at some point of time. Abhang(2014).To establish live in relationship holding joint bank accounts, investment in properties, financial investments either jointly or in name of female partner are of substantial importance.Sushma(2021). Female partner taking the responsibility of cooking and cleaning the house indicates married life.Yadav & Kumar (2021).Live in relationship does not only involve cohabitation but also emotional and other

aspects such as raising children.Rawat (2021).Going together to parties, movies and other public places gives a strong indication of live in relationship.Sushma(2021).Sharing information and defining the roles and responsibilities of each other is a key determinant of live in relationship.Rawat(2021).Live in relationship is often not accepted by families and live in relation couples often have to face problems such as finding rented accommodation.Sepaha(2021).Live in relationship category has still not added in the official documents related to bank accounts, financial documents and other official documents as a result the live in partners find it difficult to add their live in partners in the official documents.Dey(2022).Protection of women from domestic violence,act gives protection to the females while the male counterparts are not protected under this act which need to be addressed by law makers.Sepaha(2021).

Statistical Analysis

An empirical research has been conducted to determine the challenges faced by live in relationship couples without being getting married and the legal provisions of live in relationship partners. The study also compares the status of live in relationship in India with other countries.

6.1 Objectives

- To find out the relationship satisfaction of the live in relationship couples
- To find out the financial dependence of live in relationship couples on each other
- To find out how the society in India perceives about live in relationship
- To find out the legal provisions related to the live in relationship in India
- To find out how the individuals perceive their future live in relationship

Methodology

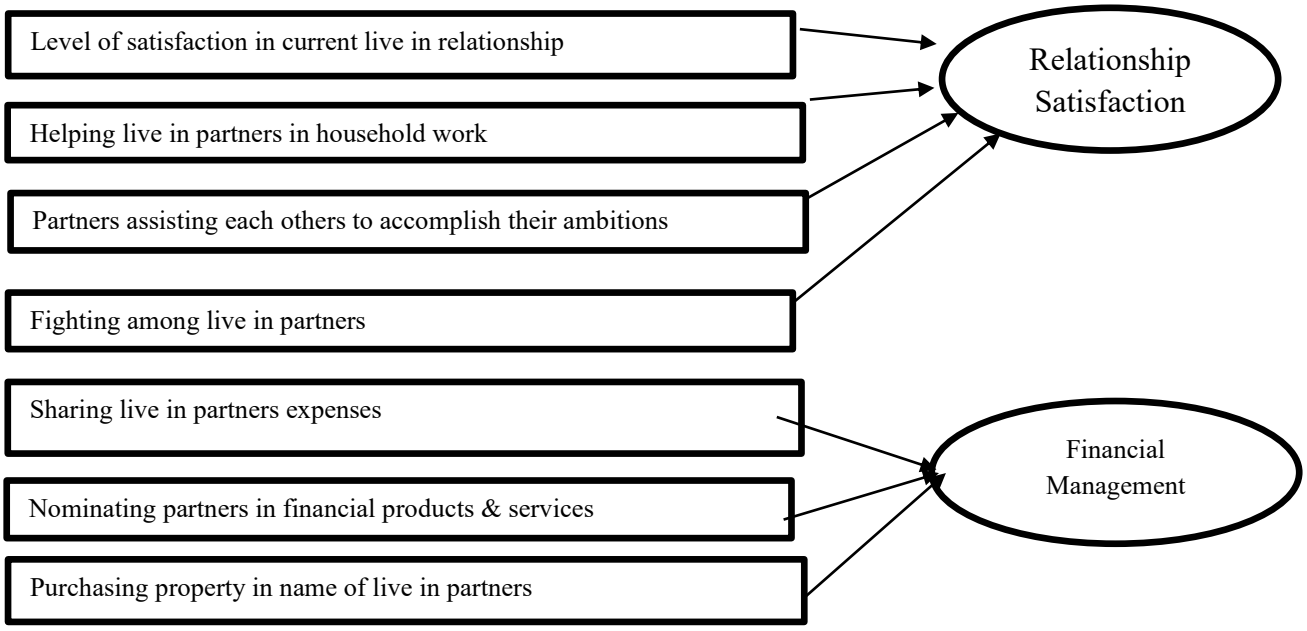
Inverted pyramid research technique from general findings to specific finding filtering the irrelevant observations to focus on core problem was used to measure the sociological, financial and legal aspect of live in relationship and the challenges faced by live in relationship couples. The research uses non parametric test to formulate the hypothesis testing as the data is not normally distributed

6.2.1 Sample

The research has been conducted using convenience non probability sampling and analyses both qualitative and quantitative data.

To conduct quality research sampling is crucial. Sample represents population (Shorten & Moorley, 2014).Sampling ensures smooth data collection and minimizes the cost Lohr (2021).A survey questionnaire was employed to find out the objectives of the research. Data was collected in the month of February 2026 and a sample size of 500 was taken to conduct the research. Data on demographic details was collected using closed ended questionnaire. The questionnaire consist of 16 questions and interval scale was used and the respondents expressed their views from being most favorable to most unfavorable statements on a preference rating scale of 1 to 5 for the measurement of perception of variables used in the study..Based on their answers the results were interpreted and research model was designed.

Research Model



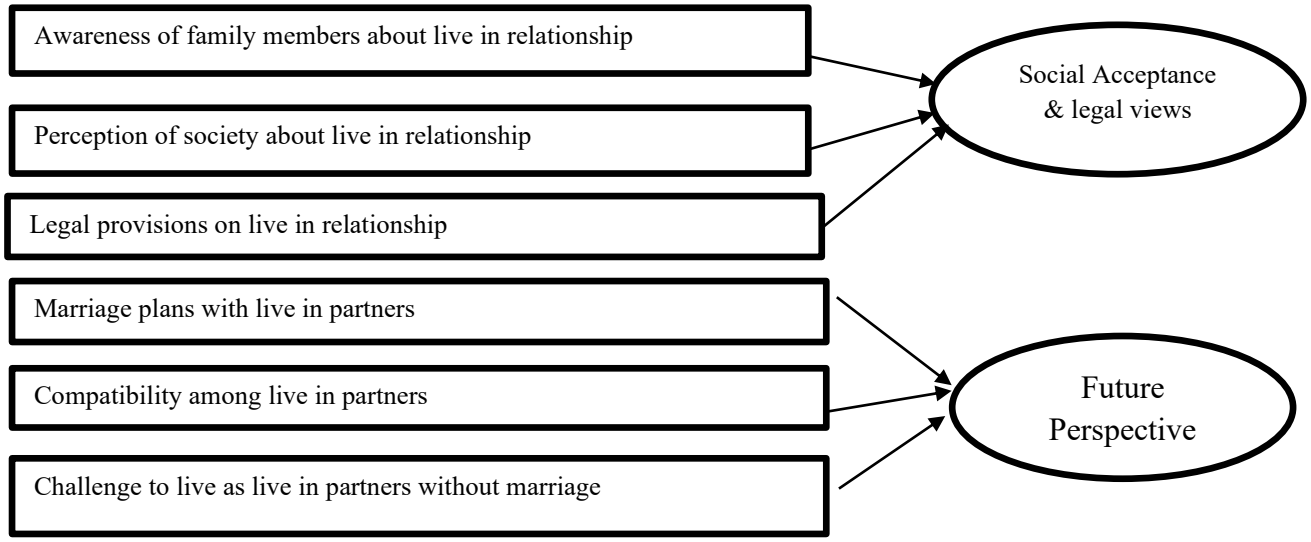


Figure 2Research Model

Reliability of Questionnaire items

Cronbach (1951) in his research paper mentioned one of the most reliable scale to measure internal consistency of the questionnaire is cronbach's alpha which is represented by α a Greek letter. Cronbach & Shavelson(2004) in their research paper have stated that cronbach's alpha is the most measure to check the internal consistency of the questionnaire.

Findings

Table 2

Reliability Statistics	
Cronbach's Alpha	N of items
.765	16

The value of cronbach's alpha measuring the internal consistency of the questionnaire was found to be .765 Streiner(2003) in his research has provided a table correlating the value of cronbach's alpha to check the reliability of the internal questionnaire

Table 3

	Cronbach's Alpha	Internal Reliability
1.	α >0.9	Excellent
2.	α 0.7<0.9	Good
3.	α 0.6<0.7	Acceptable
4.	α 0.5<0.6	Poor
5.	α <0.5	Unacceptable

As the value of α is 0.765 the internal reliability of the questionnaire is good

8.2 Descriptive Statistics

Table 4

Gender

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Male	413	82.6	82.6	82.6
	Female	87	17.4	17.4	100.0
	Total	500	100.0	100.0	

A survey was conducted on a sample of 500 participants who have opted for live in relationship which comprised of 413 males and 87 females to analyze gender specific pattern in live in relationship.

Table 5

Age

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	21-30 years	143	28.6	28.6	28.6
	31-40 years	115	23.0	23.0	51.6
	More than 41 years	242	48.4	48.4	100.0
	Total	500	100.0	100.0	

A survey was conducted on a sample of 500 participants of different age group who have opted to stay in live in relationship which comprised of 143 respondents belong to age group ranging from 21-30 years 115 respondents belong to age group ranging from 31-40 years and 242 respondents belong to age category of more than 41years to analyze age specific pattern in live in relationship.

Table 6

Employment Status

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Employed	419	83.8	83.8	83.8
	Self Employed	78	15.6	15.6	99.4
	Unemployed	3	.6	.6	100.0
	Total	500	100.0	100.0	

A survey was conducted on a sample of 500 participants of different employment category who have opted to stay in live in relationship which comprised of 419 respondents who were employed, 78 were self employed and 3 were unemployed to analyze employment specific pattern in live in relationship

8.3 Normal Distribution of Data

According to Altman (1995).A bell shaped curve represents normally distributed data. For continuous distributed data which is normally distributed

Table 7

Number of observations	Mean
68.2 percent	+/- 1 Standard Deviation
95.4 percent	+/-2 Standard Deviation
99.7 percent	+/-3 Standard Deviation

For parametric testing it is assumed that the data should be normal. Most commonly used normality test are Kolmogorov-Smirnov and Shapiro-Wilk test (https://statistics.laerd.com/).

8.3.1Findings

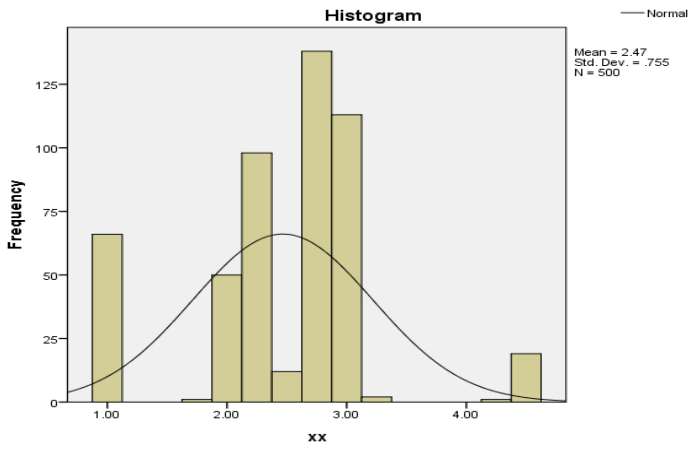
Null hypothesis (H_0): Data is normally distributed
Alternate Hypothesis (H_1): Data is not normally distributed

Table 8

Test of Normality						
	Kolmogorov Smirnov			Shapiro Wilk		
Relationship Satisfaction	Statistic	df	Sig	Statistic	df	Sig
	.196	500	.000	.864	500	.000
Financial Management	.228	500	.000	.862	500	.000
Social & Legal Views	.299	500	.000	.748	500	.000
Future Perspective	.117	500	.000	.969	500	.000

Since the p value< 0.05 hence we reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternative hypothesis that the data is not normally distributed.

Figure 3



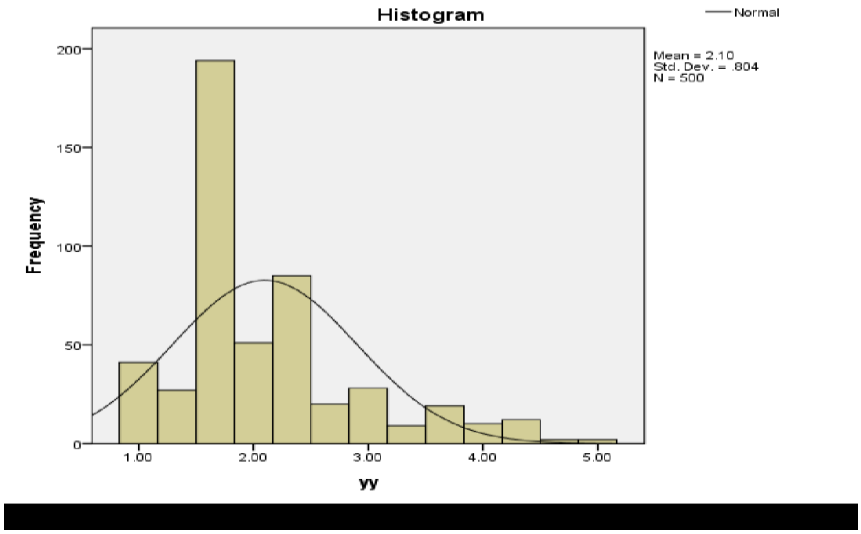
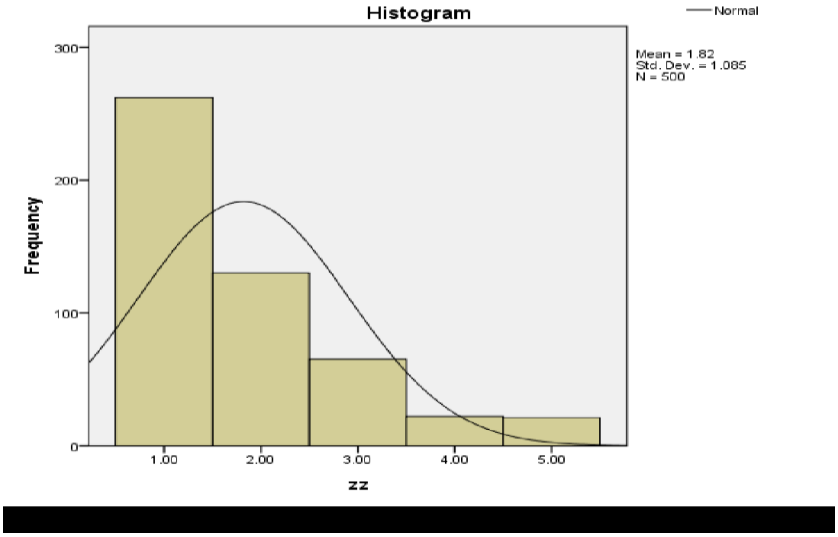


Figure 4



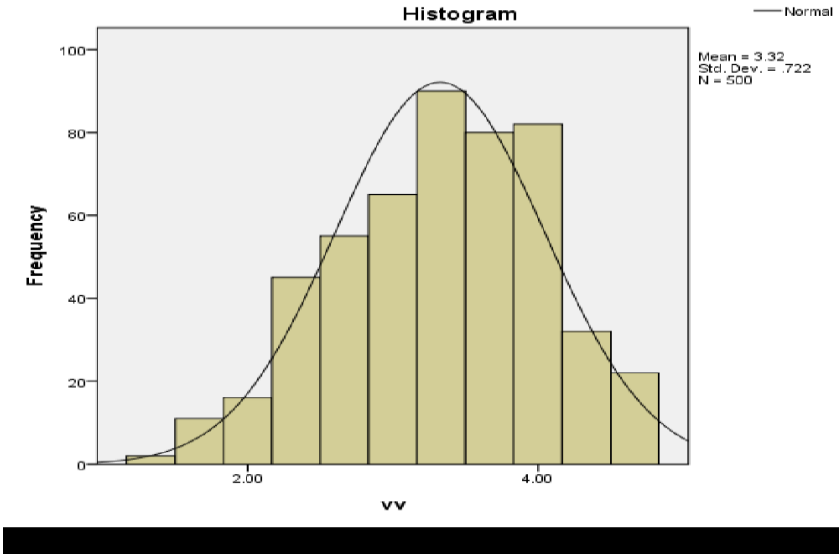


Figure 5

Non Parametric Test

When the data is not normally distributed then Non Parametric Test to analyze the data. Such test does not involve arithmetic mean and the distribution of data is also not defined. In comparison to the parametric test non parametric test require less information than the parametric test and considered as less effective than parametric test, however when the conditions of parametric test are not met than only we use non parametric test.Aezel(1989).

9.1 Mann-Whitney U Test

One of the most common non parametric test is Mann-Whitney U Test

Most Critical Factor in Live in Relationship based on Mean.Kasuya (2001).Mann-Whitney U Test has been developed by Mann & Whitney (1947) and by Wilcoxon (1945).

9.1.1Findings

As the result above indicates that the research data is not normally distributed hence we use non parametric test to analyze our data.

9.2 Research Hypothesis

Difference of Live in Relationship between Males and Females

Statistical Hypothesis

Null hypothesis (H_0) :The population means are same

Alternate Hypothesis (H_1): The population means are not same

Results

Table 9

Hypothesis Test Summary

	Null Hypothesis	Test	Sig.	Decision
1	The distribution of Relationshipsatisfied is the same across categories of Gender.	Independent-Samples Mann-Whitney U Test	.089	Retain the null hypothesis.
2	The distribution of Financemanagement is the same across categories of Gender.	Independent-Samples Mann-Whitney U Test	.665	Retain the null hypothesis.
3	The distribution of societyandlegalviews is the same across categories of Gender.	Independent-Samples Mann-Whitney U Test	.194	Retain the null hypothesis.
4	The distribution of futureofyourrelationship is the same across categories of Gender.	Independent-Samples Mann-Whitney U Test	.840	Retain the null hypothesis.

Asymptotic significances are displayed. The significance level is .05.

The null hypothesis is accepted and the alternative hypothesis is rejected.

9.3 Kruskal –Wallis Test

Kruskal(1952)The Kruskal- Wallis test is a non parametric test and can be compared to parametric one way ANOVA test.While Mann-Whitney and Wilcoxon test for two independent samples while Kruskal-Wallis test uses more than two independent variables.

9.4 Research Hypothesis

Educational Qualification and Live in Relationship Satisfaction

Statistical Hypothesis

Null hypothesis (H_0): The population means are same

Alternate Hypothesis (H_1): The population means are not same

9.4.1 Results

Table 10

Kruskal Wallis Test
Ranks

	Educational qualification	N	Mean Rank
Relationship satisfied	12th	23	158.37
	Graduation	325	276.10
	Post Graduation	147	209.92
	Doctorate	5	203.10
	Total	500	

Table 11

Test Statistics[a,b]

	Relationship satisfied
Chi-Square	33.134
df	3
Asymp. Sig.	.000

a. Kruskal Wallis Test

b. Grouping Variable: Educational qualification

Since the p value is less than < 0.05 hence we reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternative hypothesis.The mean value of graduates is highest and they are most satisfied in live in relationship whearas the mean value of 12th pass out has lowest mean value hence they are least satisfied in live in relationsup.

9.5 Research Hypothesis

Employment Status and Live in Relationship

Statistical Hypothesis

Null hypothesis (H_0): The population means are same

Alternate Hypothesis (H_1): The population means are not same

9.5.1 Results

Table 12

Kruskal Wallis Test

Ranks

	EmploymentStatus	N	Mean Rank
Relationship satisfaction	Employed	419	257.91
	Self Employed	78	217.36
	Unemployed	3	77.83
	Total	500	

Table 13

Test Statistics[a,b]

	Relationshipsatisfied
Chi-Square	9.921
df	2
Asymp. Sig.	.007

a. Kruskal Wallis Test

b. Grouping Variable: EmploymentStatus

Since the p value is less than < 0.05 hence we reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternative hypothesis. The mean value is highest in case of employed individuals hence are most satisfied in live in relationship while mean value is lowest in case of those unemployed hence are least satisfied in live in relationship.

9.6 Research Hypothesis

Age and Live in Relationship

Statistical Hypothesis

Null hypothesis (H_0): The population means are same

Alternate Hypothesis (H_1): The population means are not same

9.6.1 Results

Kruskal Wallis Test

Table 14

Ranks

	Age	N	Mean Rank
Relationship satisfaction	21-30 years	143	222.51
	31-40 years	115	262.68
	More than 41 years	242	261.25
	Total	500	

Table 15

Test Statistics[a,b]

	Relationshipsatisfied
Chi-Square	7.866
df	2
Asymp. Sig.	.020

a. Kruskal Wallis Test

b. Grouping Variable: Age

Since the p value is less than < 0.05 hence we reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternative hypothesis. The mean value is highest among those individuals who are within the age group of 31-40 years hence are most satisfied in live in relationship while mean value is lowest among those individuals who are within the age group of 21-30 years hence are least satisfied in live in relationship

9.7 Research Hypothesis

Educational qualification and fight among live in relationship couples

Statistical Hypothesis

Null hypothesis (H_0): The population means are same

Alternate Hypothesis (H_1): The population means are not same

9.7.1 Findings

Kruskal Wallis Test

Table 16

	Educational qualification	N	Mean Rank
Do you and your partner quarrel	12th	23	235.35
	Graduation	325	264.22
	Post Graduation	147	224.17
	Doctorate	5	202.40
	Total	500	

Test Statistics[a,b]

	Do you & your partner quarrel
Chi-Square	13.447
df	3
Asymp. Sig.	.004

a. Kruskal Wallis Test

b. Grouping Variable: Educationalqualification

Since the p value is less than < 0.05 hence we reject the null hypothesis and accept the alternative hypothesis. The mean value is highest among those individuals who are class 12th pass out hence they quarrel a lot with their live in partners while mean value is lowest among those individuals who have doctorate degree hence quarrel least with their live in partners.

9.8 Research Hypothesis

Planning to marry live in partners in future is gender specific

Statistical Hypothesis

Null hypothesis (H_0): The population means are same

Alternate Hypothesis (H_1): The population means are not same

9.8.1 Mann-Whitney Test

Table 17

Ranks

	Gender	N	Mean Rank	Sum of Ranks
Planning to marry the Live in Partner in future	Male	413	247.87	102369.00
	Female	87	263.00	22881.00
	Total	500		

Table 18

Test Statistics[a]

	Planning to marry the Live in Partner in future
Mann-Whitney U	16878.000
Wilcoxon W	102369.000
Z	-.916
Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed)	.360

a. Grouping Variable: Gender

Since the p value is more than > 0.05 hence we accept the null hypothesis and reject the alternative hypothesis. It means that both males and females do not wish to marry their live in partners in future.

9.9 Research Hypothesis

Perception of people of different age groups to marry live in partners in future

Statistical Hypothesis

Null hypothesis (H_0): The population means are same

Alternate Hypothesis (H_1): The population means are not same

9.9.1 Kruskal-Wallis Test

Table 19

Ranks

	Age	N	Mean Rank
Planning to marry the Live in Partner in future	21-30 years	143	243.42
	31-40 years	115	265.50
	More than 41 years	242	247.56
	Total	500	

Table 20

Test Statistics[a,b]

	Planning to marry the Live in Partner in future
Chi-Square	1.793
df	2
Asymp. Sig.	.408

a. Kruskal Wallis Test

b. Grouping Variable: Age

Since the p value is more than > 0.05 hence we accept the null hypothesis and reject the alternative hypothesis. It means that irrespective of age groups they do not wish to marry their live in partners in future.

9.10 Research Hypothesis

Relationship between employment status and plan to marry live in partners in future
Statistical Hypothesis
Null hypothesis (H_0): The population means are same
Alternate Hypothesis (H_1): The population means are not same

9.10.1 Kruskal-Wallis Test

Table 21

Ranks

	EmploymentStatus	N	Mean Rank
Planning to marry the Live in Partner in future	Employed	419	252.44
	Self Employed	78	238.80
	Unemployed	3	283.83
	Total	500	

Table 22

Test Statistics[a,b]

	Planning to marry the Live in Partner in future
Chi-Square	.795
df	2
Asymp. Sig.	.672

a. Kruskal Wallis Test

b. Grouping Variable: EmploymentStatus

Since the p value is more than > 0.05 hence we accept the null hypothesis and reject the alternative hypothesis. It means that irrespective of employment status they do not wish to marry their live in partners in future

9.11 Research Hypothesis

Perception of males and females on what society thinks about live in relationship

Statistical Hypothesis

Null hypothesis (H_0): The population means are same

Alternate Hypothesis (H_1): The population means are not same

9.11.1 Kruskal-Wallis Test

Table 23

Ranks

	Gender	N	Mean Rank	Sum of Ranks
Does society respect Live in Relationship	Male	413	254.02	104910.50
	Female	87	233.79	20339.50
	Total	500		

Table 24

Test Statistics[a]

	Does society respect Live in Relationship
Mann-Whitney U	16511.500
Wilcoxon W	20339.500
Z	-1.298
Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed)	.194

a. Grouping Variable: Gender

Since the p value is more than > 0.05 hence we accept the null hypothesis and reject the alternative hypothesis. It means that both male and females think that society does not respect the live in relationship.

Ranks

The variables have been ranked based on their mean values and the respondents believe that the most critical factor in live in relationship is the challenge of living in live in relationship without being married, followed by the challenge of marrying the live in partner in future.

Table 25

S.No	Variable	Mean	Rank
1.	Is it challenging to live in Live in Relationship without being married	4.24	1
2.	Planning to marry the Live in Partner in future	2.95	2
3.	Are you satisfied with current distribution of work	2.85	3
4.	Are you satisfied with your current relationship	2.85	4
5.	Has the understanding between you & your partner has improved after Live in Relationship	2.78	5
6.	Does your partner assist you to accomplish your ambitions	2.49	6
7.	You & your partner do assist each in household work	2.45	7
8.	Do you & your partner quarrel	2.07	8
9.	Is Indian Judicial system able to protect the right of live in partners	1.82	9
10.	Children born out of Live in Relationship in India have legal rights	1.82	10
11.	Legal provision guarantees Live in Relationship in India	1.82	11
12.	Does society respect Live in Relationship	1.82	12
13.	Is it difficult for your partner to be your nominee in financial policies	1.82	13

14.	Are your family members aware of your Live in Relationship	1.82	14
15.	Your Partner assist you in daily household activities	1.72	15
16.	Your partner share expenses	1.72	16

10.1 Correlation

Correlation is a relationship between two variables.Fraenkel & N.E.(200) in their research have stated that if both variables move in same direction it is said to be positive correlation and if both the variables move in opposite direction, it is said to be negative correlation.Syamsuddin(2009) states that positive and negative correlation is measured on the basis of correlation coefficient. Sugiyono (2013) in his research has stated that the level of correlation depend on the value of coefficient of correlation.

Table 26:Relation between two variables based on coefficient of correlation

Coefficient of Correlation	Relation Between Two Variables
0.8-1.0	Very High
0.6-0.79	High
0.4-0.59	Medium
0.2-0.39	Low
-1.0-0.19	Very Low

10.1.1 Findings

Null hypothesis (H_0): There is no relationship between Relationship Satisfaction & Financial Management, Social Acceptance & Future Perspective in Live in Relationship

Alternate Hypothesis (H_1): There is relationship between Relationship Satisfaction & Financial Management, Social Acceptance & Future Perspective in Live in Relationship

As the p value is less than 0.01 in case of Financial Management hence we reject the H_0 hypothesis & accept the H_1 hypothesis that there is relationship between Relationship Satisfaction and Financial Management.

As the p value is more than 0.01 in case of Social Acceptance and Future Perspective hence we accept the H_0 that there is no relationship between Relationship Satisfaction and Social Acceptance and Future Perspective.

Table 27

Correlations

		Relationship Satisfaction	Financial Management	Social Acceptance	Future Perspective
Relationship Satisfaction	Spearman Rank Correlation	1	.405**	-.046	-.072
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000	.304	.107
	N	500	500	500	500
Financial Management	Spearman Rank Correlation	.405**	1	-.016	-.259**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000		.713	.000
	N	500	500	500	500
Social Acceptance	Spearman Rank Correlation	-.046	-.016	1	.001
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.304	.713		.975
	N	500	500	500	500
Future Perspective	Spearman Rank Correlation	-.072	-.259**	.001	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.107	.000	.975	
	N	500	500	500	500

**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

The table indicates that there is moderate positive relationship between social satisfaction and financial management as the Spearman Rank correlation value is .405 and there is negative correlation between social satisfaction and social acceptance as the Spearman Rank correlation is -.046. Similarly there is negative correlation between social satisfaction and future perspective as the Spearman Rank correlation is -.072.

Table 28

Correlations

		Social Satisfaction	Financial Management	Social Acceptance and Legal Views	Future Perspective
Social Satisfaction	Spearman Rank Correlation	1			
Financial Management	Spearman Rank Correlation	.405**	1		
Social Acceptance and Legal Views	Spearman Rank Correlation	-.046	-.016	1	
Future Perspective	Spearman Rank Correlation	-.072	-.259**	.001	1

**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Challenges

In the changing times our society has adopted pre marital and extra marital affairs still our culturally rich society has refused to accept such relationships and our conservative society recommends the institution of marriage. There are couples who prefer live in relationship over marriage due to their personal preferences as such relationships can be terminated without any legal battle. Even the judiciary states that live in partners cannot be considered as equal to husband and wife.The law needs to be more specific on the status of live in relationship and the legal status of the children arising out of such relationship..

Recommendations

The modern day society has undergone major changes as the people are becoming more career focused. Both men and women have become more financially independent. As the society is becoming more educated concept of inter caste and inter religion relationship is on rise. The approach of the society has undergone a major change due to the use of internet. The society cannot be punished for undergoing such changes strict codified law needs to be put in place to safeguard the interest of the live in partners. The live in relationship should be able to bridge the gap between tradition and modern society.

Conclusion

Live in relationship which was considered a social stigma in the context of Indian society not long ago as having multiple partners and having children out of marriage was not at all socially as well legally accepted. There was hardly any law to protect the rights of women and children born out of wedlock. With more career conscious society and due to social, legal and cultural barriers to marry partner of the choice of live of relationship all across India, a strong legal mechanism is required to protect the rights of all the stakeholders especially women and children including the inheritance laws, property and maintenance laws. With changing times live in relationship is not considered as a crime and illegal which is also supported by the judgments given by judiciary. Even the research also suggest that it is most challenging to live in relationship without getting married and even the society does not respect the live in relationship. The results of the study states that irrespective of the income group and type of employment the partners do not wish to marry their live in partners in future. As law and development goes hand in hand with even more stringent law to protect the vested interest of live in partners, the modern society with more liberal mindset has began to accept the live in relationship.

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