

Search of Truth, Series-23

Live-in Relationship

A Bane to Society



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INTRODUCTION

Live-in Relationship is a living arrangement in which an unmarried couple live together. Outwardly it resembles a marriage. Couples cohabit, rather than marry, for a variety of reasons. Live-in relationship is becoming a common trend in the western culture. It is now emerging in India as well. The concept of living in the same house with a person of opposite sex but without marriage and maintaining sexual relations has always been considered taboo, in Indian culture. It is yet not widely accepted in our country. The question arises that can our Indian culture accept this practice? Answer is clearly no. The western influence is spreading like an illness amongst our youth. As supervision has been relaxed by parents, the impact of west has brought evils with it.

ISSUES

The following are some crucial issues with respect to live-in relationship:

1. Marriage loses its value

Live-in relationships obviously lack the depth of a marriage. The easy way out in the form of live-in relation makes people irresponsible. They end up delaying marriage as an option. When a person opts for a live-in relationship, he does not have responsibility. On the other hand marriage imposes sacred obligations, which selfish people find difficult to bear.

2. Easy way out

It is easy to break a live-in relationship and walk out, when compared to a marriage. In a live-in relationship it is only two people who come together. But in a marriage, it is two families who come together. So even when problems pop up, the senior members of the family may put all efforts to solve them, and try to bridge the gap.

3. Women suffer the most

Biologically, socially and emotionally women would suffer more when compared to a man when live-in relationship fails. In our society

particularly women are the ones who bear the worst brunt for violating conventions. It becomes difficult for them to find a good spouse after being in a live-in relationship with someone else. Also, women run against time with their biological clocks ticking away when marriage is delayed.

4. Effect on children

The children who are born in a live-in relationship are adversely affected by it. The children may develop a lack of respect for rules and norms. And they also harbour feelings of mistrust in their hearts, especially if their parents separate.

LIVE-IN RELATIONSHIP BEFORE MARRIAGE

Some people suggest live-in relationship for a brief duration before getting married, to find whether they are compatible. But studies have proved that it is not a good idea and it will damage long-term love. Studies have shown that, those who live together before marriage are least likely to marry each other. They have high separation and divorce rates, have unhappy marriages, frequent disagreements, recurring fights and

violence. They do not experience the best sex. They encounter behavioural problems with negative impact on their children.

MISGUIDED PROMOTION OF LIVE-IN RELATIONSHIP

A section of media has done its bit to promote live-in relationship by depiction of movies, which target the youth. The movies make fun of the institution of marriage. Such propaganda ultimately brings up live-in as alternative to marriage. The movies have disconnected people from the real world and have failed to identify ill effects of irresponsible behaviour.

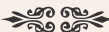
CONCLUSION

Islam strongly condemns live-in relationship. It is prohibited in clear terms. A boy and girl are not permitted to live together, without getting married. Live-in would only lead to satisfaction of sexual desires without any kind of responsibility. Islam not only prohibits live-in relationship, but also gives a practical and natural alternative, which is marriage.

Every cultural trend is different and it is not necessary that we should adopt

all trends emanating from the west. Live-in relationship is promoted in India by a lobby in the west, in a subtle way. Every country must protect moral boundaries and respect for women. Marriage is a sacred relation. By adopting live-in relation, one mocking the whole sanctity of marriage.

Today live-in relationship is projected as a sign of boldness and people are shown a false picture. It becomes our duty to realize the truth by grasping the unethical nature of irresponsible behaviour. The main objective of a marriage is procreation, which helps to build a strong and healthy society. But when one indulges in live-in relationship, the crucial purpose of marriage is defeated. The foundation for a successful society is a strong family. Let's develop a strong family system for a stronger India.



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