

Marriage or Live in Relationship among same sex - An outcome of urbanization

Dr. Richa Singhal
Dr. Saloni Ratnu

Abstract

The present paper introspect the Homosexual marriages as per the urbanization or social development of the society. Time has changed and so the society. The transformation of culture is coming up with numerous questions. Homosexual marriages and live in relationships are spreading with the development of the society. By this time when we are in 21st century, it important to accept the things as they are rather than forcing opinions on others.

Urbanization and Marriage

Urbanization or emergence of Urban Culture means social transformation of society from traditional to modern one. During this process social institution like marriage, family, caste face new challenges. Marriage is losing its sanctity. It is treated as a civil contract then a sacred bond. Instances of divorce, desertion, and separation are increasing.

This research paper analysis the homosexual marriages in the Indian context as an invisible conflict which is successfully kept under cover and has not been discussed greatly. India is a vast land with unity in diversity. Here people from different parts of the world have settled down irrelevant of their caste, culture, creed etc. India is known for its age old customs and traditions. People have their own values and morals and show a deep faith in the different institutions that formulate the society. The institution of marriage in Indian society is generally regarded as extending only to male female relationships. Due to the development in technology and the process of urbanization many examples of acceptance of homosexuals marriages has only been recently forthcoming as society is gradually becoming more permissive.

The word 'Homosexual' literally means "of the same-sex". Homosexuality is a sexual orientation characterized by sexual attraction or Romantic Love exclusively for people who are identified as being of the same sex. Homosexuals are not included in the main stream of the society. They have started to accept themselves to live in relationship. Since gay couples rarely differ only in that both partners are of the same sex. The homosexual relationships are radically from married couples. The-researches have indicated that male homosexuals relationships lasts only a fraction of the length of the marriages.

The evidence is overwhelming that the homosexuals "committed" relationships are not the equivalent of marriage. In the gay life fidelity is almost impossible. There is little evidence that

homosexuals lesbians truly desired to commit themselves to the kind of monogamous relationship as signified by marriage.

Urbanization is a modern phenomena which means the physical growth of the urban areas which result in rural migration and even sub urban concentration into cities particularly the very large ones. Urbanization has become a world phenomena today. Due to urbanization many changes have taken place in technology. Technology has not spared the social institution of its effects. The impact of urbanization can be seen on the societies becoming increasing urbanized, social emphasizes is placed on achievement rather than on ascription. Urbanization has brought about many changes in various spheres of urban life, namely physical social, psychological and cultural aspects. The institutions of family, religion, morality, marriage, state, property etc have been altered. Religion is loosing hold over the members. People are becoming more secular, rational and scientific but less religious in their outlook. The age old institutions of marriage, kinship, family, religion etc have changed their concepts due to the effects of urbanization.

In this paper we are going to discuss the relevance of marriage in indian society and its changing perspectives due to modernization. Marriage is loosing its sanctity. It is treated as a civil contract then a sacred bond. Indian society is a traditional multicultural diversified integrated society where in Hindus dominate and for Hindus marriage is an enduring heterosexual institutions but in the present scenario the concept of marriage is being interchanged by live in relationship. This concept of live in relationship is not a very common phenomena among heterosexual couples but it is gaining prominence among the homosexuals also. So the religious sacrament of marriage has lost its relevance in the urban societies when related with the homosexuals.

The institutions of marriage in Indian society is generally regarded as extending only to male female relationship. Abundant material has been placed on record which shows that the Indian society is vibrant, diverse and democratic and homosexuals have significant support in the population. Homosexuality is a sexual orientation, characterized by sexual attraction or romantic love exclusively for people who are identified as being of the same sex. People who are homosexual, particularly males are known as 'Gay', females are known as 'lesbians'. Homosexuals marriages referred to as gay marriage, means marriage between two persons of the same sex. Homosexual marriages or Homosexuals living together in "Live in Relationship" with a rise of urbanization becoming less tolerated and even outlawed in some cases. In the late 1990's and early 2000's progress towards and ban's of same sex marriage created a topic of debate all over the world.

In India so far no such progressive changes have taken place as regards social and legal recognition and homosexuals remain victims of violence in different forms. At the roof of the dignity is the autonomy of private will and the persons's freedom of choice and of action. Human dignity rests on recognition of the physical and spiritual integrity of the human being, his or her humanity, and his value as person, irrespective of the utility he can provide to others. Hence even

if homosexuals have their own private will to marry with a same sex person and alternative sexual orientation, they have to right to live with dignity in society. The expression "dignity of the individual" finds specific mention in the preamble to the constitution of India. The homosexual are treated as dignified as other citizens of India. Homosexuals are normal human attracted to their own gender. Relationships are defined by comfort levels and not by societal sanctions. "Like heterosexuality, Homosexuality is an orientation which is not unnatural. The world accepts this orientation, society is changing" what is not Changing is the legal mind set in India.

Homosexual marriages or gay's live in relationship - as this idea is a life style. No doubt in the past fifty years social life has been under continuous change with the introduction and propagation of urbanization. Same sex marriages or live in relationship is one of those topics which has come up as a hot topic for discussion. India is also no exception to this but as country which has a significant cultural history. This topic has to be discussed from many aspects. As marriage is a legal way of binding two people, the gay relationship can be legalized through marriage which will help in preventing the cases of illegitimate secret relations. A satisfactory personal life is as much a right of gay couples as straight couples.

The culture of marriage has changed over the years in that recognizing the same sex marriage is just another change. Supporting the heterosexual marriages means restricting the marriage to opposite sex couples based on societies need for an institution. That symbolizes the inherently procreative relationship between a man and a woman, means that opposite sex couples who can not or do not want to have children should be excluded from the religions sacrament of marriage or more extremely that only a man and a woman who produce a child should be allowed to marry. If it is argued that homosexuals or same sex marriages should not be made legal "Because they do not produce kids" is ridiculous. Should heterosexual couples over 50 years of age should not be allowed to marry because they too cannot produce kids either. If two people love each other and want to unite their destiny then it is a beautiful thing which should be celebrated. Whether his called "marriage" or "life-pact i.e. live in relationship" Same sex unions harm no one, one's support or opposition to this is a matter of personal belief and morality, with which the Government, the society, the individuals have no business to interfere.

Honor killing is defined as a death that is awarded to a woman of the family for marrying against the parent's wishes, having extramarital and premarital relationships, marrying within the same gotra or outside one's caste or marrying a cousin from a different caste. Honor killing is different from the dowry deaths that are also a very common practice in india as, in the case of dowry deaths, the perpetrators of that action claim that they have not been given enough material rewards for accepting the woman into the family. In that case there is a lot of harassment from the in-laws and more times than one, it has been noted that the wife commits suicide rather than being killed by the in-laws, though it has to be said that she has been mentally killed, if not physically. We have had a tradition of honor killing. This tradition was first viewed in its most horrible form

during the partition of the country in between the years 1947 and 1950 when many women were forcefully killed so that family honor could be preserved. During the Partition, there were a lot of forced marriages which were causing women from India to marry men from Pakistan and vice-versa. And then there was a search to hunt down these women who were forced to marry a person from another country and another religion and when they returned 'home' they were killed so that the family honor could be preserved and they were not declared social outcasts from their region. At that time, the influence of religion and social control was much greater and hence there were at least a couple of honor killings a day, if not more. The partition years can be seen to be the beginning of the tradition of honor killing on a large scale. It's worth mentioning here that Honor Killing is not specifically related to India only. This is a practice that continues to be prevailing in North and South America, Africa, Turkey and many other countries. But the thing that has to be kept in mind is that the number of incidents relating to this crime is very low and there is a very strict punishment for committing this crime in other countries.

Women in the family tend to support the honor killing of one of their own, agreeing that the family is the property and asset of men and boys. Alternatively, matriarchs may be motivated not by personal belief in the misogynistic ideology of women as property, but rather by pragmatic calculations. Sometimes a mother may support an honor killing of an "offending" female family member in order to preserve the honor of other female members since many men in these societies will refuse to marry the sister of a "shamed" female whom the family has not chosen to punish, thereby "purifying" the family name by murdering the suspected female.

Asstt. Prof.
Deptt of EAFM
S.S. Jain Subodh PG (Autonomous) College