On Studying the Inter-relationships amongst the Possible Challenges Faced by Live-in Relationships in India

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ABSTRACT

Present research work explores the various challenges faced by couples in a live in relationship in India. These challenges have been explored over various search engines such as Google scholar; Research gate etc. Thereafter, it explains the ISM methodology and presents possible hierarchical inter-relationships amongst them using ISM methodology.

Keywords: Live in relationship, ISM methodology, Hierarchical relationships

Live-in relationships in India remains a controversial issue, with many young Indian couples and their families on opposite sides of the divide. The concept has been popularised in India with many Bollywood stars patronizing it. Movies, TV serials, your neighbourhood, live-in relationships are popular among all walks of life, at least in the metros and big cities. It seems very practical and a little on-the-job training before marriage.

Although the concept of unmarried couples living together in India is becoming popular, especially in cosmopolitan cities, it's not happening fast enough. Several sections of society still look at live-in relationships with anxiety, dislike as well as fear which creates both personal as well as practical problems. These challenges and / or problems have been discussed and thereafter studied for possible hierarchical interrelationships amongst them using ISM methodology.

The paper is organised as follows: section 2 deals with a set of challenges faced by couples in a live in relationship. Section 3 presents the ISM methodology and section 4 presents the case example of application of ISM methodology in the case of challenges in a live in relationship in India as explored in section 2.

Challenges faced in a live-in relationship in Indian Society

For unmarried couples living together in India comes with its own set of unique challenges. Some of the common challenges faced by them could be:

1. **Societal and moral acceptance [SMA]:** Though a live-in relationship is legalised, it is still a taboo in Indian society and is considered as morally and ethically wrong. Indian society is sceptical about live-in relationship; therefore, couples usually face multi-fold problems like rejection from family, a problem in getting home for rent, refusal by the society, negativity at the workplace and so on. While it seems advantageous to youngsters, it is totally unacceptable by elders and parents. This may lead to stiff resistance and even out casting from

family gatherings and social events (Avantika, 2015; Auroshree, 2020; Krishnadas, 2010; Kanika, 2018).

2. Keeping the secrecy about live-in relationship [KS]: It is not uncommon for many cohabiting couples in India to keep it a secret from their families. In these cases, the couple lives away from their hometowns for work and decides to move in without letting their families know, out of fear of their disapproval (Avantika, 2015; Auroshree, 2020; Krishnadas, 2010; Kanika, 2018).

3. Problem in finding a house [PFaH]: Finding a house to live in is the next great challenge to overcome if you are trying to move in with your partner. Unbelievable as it may sound in this modern age of globalization, finding a house for yourselves may prove quite difficult. Not many people are willing to rent their house to unmarried couples (Avantika, 2015; Auroshree, 2020; Krishnadas, 2010; Kanika, 2018).

4. Financial pressures [FP]: There could be bigger financial complications. In some cases, one of the partners may invest all the savings in co-habitation, whereas the other may refrain from opening up their financial cards at all. Either may hide their individual debts or salary incomes from the other. This may pull you into a financially abusive relationship (Avantika, 2015; Auroshree, 2020; Krishnadas, 2010; Kanika, 2018).

5. Career challenges [CC]: Even if there is no commitment on paper like it is in the case of marriage, you both are still committed by love. If you love each other, understand their inner turmoil, help them gain their inner confidence back and support them through all the ups and downs. Relentless emotional support during a tough career or business phase can work as a page-turner for your relationship (Avantika, 2015; Auroshree, 2020; Krishnadas, 2010; Kanika, 2018).

6 Lack of Privacy [LoP]: Dating someone and having someone in the house 24×7 are two entirely different experiences. With the constant company in the house, the live-in partners may feel the lack of space and privacy in their life. This cramped feeling could lead to a bitter breakup. Honoring each other's space is essential for the longevity of a live-in relationship (Avantika, 2015; Auroshree, 2020; Krishnadas, 2010; Kanika, 2018).

7. Risks of abuse at an all-time high [RoA]: A lack of social security exposes them to a rampant abusive relationship. A woman may end up trusting the wrong man and lose all her financial assets or savings (Avantika, 2015; Auroshree, 2020; Krishnadas, 2010; Kanika, 2018).

8.Absence of official documents [AOD]: In India, for all official documents, there is still no column for a live-in relationship. The couple face problems in having joint accounts, nominees name, insurance, visas and so (Avantika, 2015; Auroshree, 2020; Krishnadas, 2010; Kanika, 2018).

9. Cultural issues [CI]: Hinduism and Islam do not accept the Live –in concept, although Christianity somehow accepts it. In India belief, custom, usages and culture have a significant impact on people's mindset (Avantika Sarkar, 2015). Subsequently, acceptance of new norms depends upon the prominence of their belief rather than any law.

10. Property rights and inheritance [PRI]: The main problem of live – in relationship is of inheritance and property rights. Presently, only under Hindu law, property rights have been given to the child born out of a live – in relationship and that too of self-acquired property and not of ancestral property. Muslim law has its mechanism for distribution of property and it has till date not made any attempt to initiate any debate on time.

ISM methodology

Interpretive Structural Modelling (ISM) (Warfield, 1974) is an interactive learning process in which a set of unique, interrelated variables are structured into a comprehensive model presented as a hierarchy graph. The method is interpretive in that the group's judgement decide whether and how items are related. Suggested by Warfield (1974), ISM works with the following steps: It starts with identifying the relevant elements and pair-wise establishing the contextual relationship amongst them. Thereafter, a structural self-interaction matrix (SSIM) may be developed between two variables i.e. *i* and *j* establishing a "Lead to" relationship between criteria. Four symbols viz. *V, A, X & O* are used for establishing the relationships. Using SSIM matrix, initial reachability matrix can be formed, it has all values in binary form. Decision maker must check for rule of transitivity. After that final reachability matrix is formed after checking the rules for

transitivity. After that, a level partition matrix can be obtained based on establishing the precedence relationships and arranging the elements in a topological order. A Mic-Mac analysis is performed categorizing the variables in to autonomous, dependent, driver and linkage category. Finally, a diagraph can be obtained.

Case example

The 16 barriers discussed in section 2 viz.Problem of Societal and moral acceptance [PSMA]; Keeping the secrecy about live-in relationship [KS]; Problem in finding a house [PFaH]; Dealing with financial pressures [FP]; Career challenges [CC]; Lack of Privacy [LoP]; Risks of abuse [RoA]; Absence of official documents [AOD]; Cultural issues [CI]; Property rights and inheritance [PRI] have been studied further via ISM methodology for the possible hierarchical inter-relationships. This is a draft paper. As the deadline is approaching, authors have submitted the draft paper which is required to be modified in the light of comments and reviews.

1. Structural Self-interaction Matrix [SSIM]

Fig. 1: SSIM matrix for pair wise relationship amongst barriers to live in relationship in India

Sl. No.	Barriers	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		PSMA	KS	PFaH	FP	CC	LoP	RoA	AOD	CI	PRI
1	PSMA		A	V	V	V	V	X	X	V	V
2	KS			V	V	V	V	V	V	V	V
3	PFaH				A	A	A	A	A	A	A
4	FP					A	A	A	A	A	A
5	CC						A	A	A	A	A
6	LoP							A	A	A	A
7	RoA								A	A	A
8	AOD									V	V
9	CI										X
10	PRI										

2. Initial reachability Matrix [IRM]

Fig. 2: IRM for pair wise relationship amongst barriers

Sl. No.	Barriers	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		SMA	KS	PFaH	FP	CC	LoP	RoA	AOD	CI	PRI
1	PSMA	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	KS	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
3	PFaH	0	0	1	0	0	00	0	0	0	0
4	FP	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	CC	0	00	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
6	LoP	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
7	RoA	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0
8	AOD	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
9	CI	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1
10	PRI	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1

Fig. 3: FRM for pair wise relationship amongst barriers

Sl. No.	Barriers	1 SMA	2 KS	3 PFaH	4 FP	5 CC	6 LoP	7 RoA	8 AOD	9 CI	10 PRI	D.P
1	PSMA	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9
2	KS	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10
3	PFaH	0	0	1	0	0	00	0	0	0	0	1
4	FP	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
5	CC	0	00	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
6	LoP	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	4
7	RoA	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	6
8	AOD	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8
9	CI	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	7
10	PRI	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	7
	De.P	4	1	10	9	8	7	6	3	5	5	

3. Level partition matrices

Reachability set	Antecedent set	Intersection set	Iteration	Factor/s selected at the iteration
3	1,2,3,4,5,6,,7,8,9,10	3	I	**3**
3,4	1,2,4,5,6,7,8,9,10	4	II	**4**
3,4,5	1,2,5,6,7,8,9,10	5	III	**5**
3,4,5,6	1,2,6,7,8,9,10	6	IV	**6**
3,4,5,6,7	1,2,7,8,9,10	7	V	**7**
3,4,5,6,7,9,10	1,2,8,9,10	9,10	VI	**9,10**
1,3,4,5,6,7,9,10	1,2,8	1	VII	**1**
1,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10	2,8	8	VIII	**8**
1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10	2	2	IX	**2**

4. Driving power and dominance diagram

Table 3.1: Driving Power & Dominance Diagram (MICMAC analysis)

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	10	KS									
	9				SMA						
Driving	8		**Drivers**	AOD					Linkage		
power →	7					CI,PRI					
	6						RoA				
	5										
	4		Autonomous					LOP	**Dependent**		
	3								CC		
	2									FP	
	1										PFAH
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		Dependence power →									

4.5 ISM DIAGRAPH
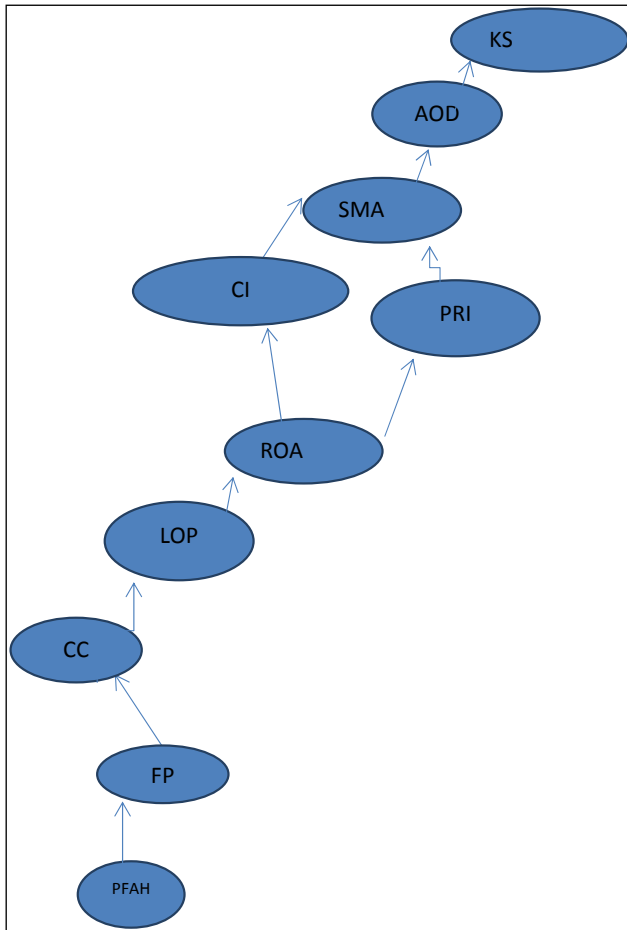
CONCLUSION

The following research work discusses the major challenges faced by couples in live in relationship in India. It further explores the hierarchical interrelationships amongst them using ISM methodology.

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