



ATTITUDE TOWARDS LIVE-IN RELATIONSHIPS

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Abstract

This study evaluated the psychological attitudes towards Live-in Relationships. This study was conducted in January 2019. The current social conditions & changing normative nature of our society, is altering the attitudes of the youngsters. Generalization can be made on the basis of the results obtained in this study. Thus, we can conveniently say that females' attitude towards live-in relationship is becoming more positive. The checklist includes 10 questions containing few positively worded and few negatively-worded statements. These checklists were carefully administered to 20 subjects (including 10 boys and 10 girls). Five minutes were provided to each subject to answer the questions. In this way the vital responses of the participants were collected. Even they prefer first live-in relationships and then marriage, as a form of social experimentation. Although, there are some limitations of this study. The questionnaire should have consisted more questions. Probability of occurrence of chance errors, sampling fluctuations, influence of other organismic and subjective factors like personality traits of the subjects, mood etc. was very high. This might have biased our results.



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ATTITUDES - BASIC CONCEPTS

Attitude is a hypothetical construct that represents an individual's like or dislike for an item. Attitudes are positive, negative or neutral views of an "attitude object": i.e. a person, behaviour or event. People can also be "ambivalent" towards a target, meaning that they simultaneously possess a positive and a negative bias towards the attitude in question.

Attitudes are composed from various forms of judgments. Attitudes develop on the ABC model (affect, behavioral change and cognition). The affective response is a physiological response that expresses an individual's preference for an entity. The behavioral intention is a verbal indication of the intention of an individual. The cognitive response is a cognitive evaluation of the entity to form an attitude. Most attitudes in individuals are a result of observational learning from their environment. The link between attitude and behavior exists but depends on human behavior, some of which is irrational. For example, a person who is in favor of blood transfusion may not donate blood. This makes sense if the person does not like the sight of blood, which explains this irrationality.

Implicit and explicit attitudes

There is also considerable research on "implicit" attitudes, which are unconscious but have effects (identified through sophisticated methods using people's response times to stimuli). Implicit and "explicit" attitudes seem to affect people's behavior, though in different ways. They tend not to be strongly associated with each other, although in some cases they are. The relationship between them is poorly understood. Attitudes is human change

Philosophical aspect

Attitude may also be seen as a form or appearance that an individual assumes to gain or achieve an egotistic preference, whether it is acceptance, manifestation of power or other self-centered needs. Attitude may be considered as a primitive attribute to the preservation of the self or of the ego.

Attitude formation

Unlike personality, attitudes are expected to change as a function of experience. Tesser (1993) has argued that hereditary variables may affect attitudes - but believes that they may do so indirectly. For example, if one inherits the disposition to become an extrovert, this may affect one's attitude to certain styles of music. There are numerous theories of attitude formation and attitude change. These include:

- Consistency theories, which imply that we must be consistent in our beliefs and values. The most famous example of such a theory is Dissonance-reduction theory, associated with Leon Festinger, although there are others, such as the balance theory of Fritz Heider.
- Self-perception theory, associated with Daryl Bern
- Meta programs, associated with Neuro-linguistic programming
- Persuasion
- Elaboration Likelihood Model associated with Richard E. Petty and the Heuristic

Systematic Model of Shelly Chaiken.

- Social judgment theory
- Balance theory
- Abundance theory
- Intellect

Factors that affect attitude change

Attitudes can be changed through persuasion. The celebrated work of Carl Hovland, at Yale University in the 1950s and 1960s, helped to advance knowledge of persuasion. In Hovland's

view, we should understand attitude change as a response to communication. He and his colleagues did experimental research into the factors that can affect the persuasiveness of a message:

1. Target Characteristics: These are characteristics that refer to the person who receives and processes a message. One such trait is intelligence - it seems that more intelligent people are less easily persuaded by one-sided messages. Another variable that has been studied in this category is self-esteem. Although it is sometimes thought that those higher in self-esteem are less easily persuaded, there is some evidence that the relationship between self-esteem and persuasibility is actually curvilinear, with people of moderate self-esteem being more easily persuaded than both those of high and low self-esteem levels (Rhodes & Woods, 1992). The mind frame and mood of the target also plays a role in this process.

2. Source Characteristics: The major source characteristics are expertise, trustworthiness and interpersonal attraction or attractiveness. The credibility of a perceived message has been found to be a key variable here (Hovland & Weiss, 1951); if one reads a report about health and believes it came from a professional medical journal, one may be more easily persuaded than if one believes it is from a popular newspaper. Some psychologists have debated whether this is a long-lasting effect and Hovland and Weiss (1951) found the effect of telling people that a message came from a credible source disappeared after several weeks (the so-called "sleeper effect"). Whether there is a sleeper effect is controversial. Received wisdom is that if people are informed of the source of a message before hearing it, there is less likelihood of a sleeper effect than if they are told a message and then told its source.

3. Message Characteristics: The nature of the message plays a role in persuasion. Sometimes presenting both sides of a story is useful to help change attitudes.

4. Cognitive Routes: A message can appeal to an individual's cognitive evaluation to help change an attitude. In the central route to persuasion the individual is presented with the data and motivated to evaluate the data and arrive at an attitude changing conclusion. In the peripheral route to attitude change, the individual is encouraged to not look at the content but at the source. This is commonly seen in modern advertisements that feature celebrities. In some cases, physician, doctors or experts are used. In other cases film stars are used for their attractiveness.

GENDER DIFFERENCES IN ATTITUDES

A Gender difference is a distinction of biological and/or physiological characteristics typically associated with either males or females of a species in general. In the study of humans, socio-political issues arise in classifying whether a sex difference results from the biology of gender. This article focuses on quantitative differences which are based on a gradient and involve different averages. For example, men are taller than women on average, but an individual woman may be taller than an individual man.

Other articles describe differences which clearly represent a binary male/female split, such as human reproduction. Some women give birth to babies; men don't.

Though some sex differences are controversial, they are not to be confused with sexist stereotypes.

The existence of a gender difference does not necessarily identify whether the trait is due to nature or environment. Some traits are obviously innate (for example, reproductive organs), others obviously environmental (for example, given names), while for others the relationship is either multi-cause or unknown.

From the viewpoint of evolutionary psychology (championed by David Buss, Steven Pinker, Desmond Morris, Daniel Dennett, and others) modern humans have inherited natural traits that were adaptive in a prehistoric environment, including traits that had different advantages for males versus females (see Sexual selection). Gender role theory and Alice Eagly claims that boys and girls learn the appropriate behavior and attitudes from the family and overall culture they grow up with, and so non-physical gender differences are a product of socialization. These are not all mutually exclusive theories: it is possible that gender differences are partially innate but are then reinforced and exaggerated by the environment.

Some feminists see gender differences as caused by patriarchy or discrimination, although difference feminism argues for an acceptance of gender differences. Traditional masculinists tend to see gender differences as inherent in human nature, while liberal masculinists may challenge traditional roles.

Traditional Abrahamic religions see gender differences as created by God: "He made them in his image: man and woman He made them."

ATTITUDE TOWARDS LIVE-IN RELATIONSHIP

Over the years, the concept of marriage has undergone a sea change. From the orthodox "arranged marriages" where the girl was seen to be betrothed to the entire family and not just her husband, they have moved to the more liberal "love marriages" where the nubile girl

chooses her own partner to make a cozy twosome. In both these type of marriages though, social sanction is earnestly sought.

However, Generation Next has moved one step forward. They don't believe in the institution of marriage nor feel the need for a societal contract, they just live-together.

Live-in relationship may well be the arrangement of the future, where both parameters are free to walk in and out-with no strings attached. No court cases or alimony; no headaches.

Live-in relationship increasingly seems to be a viable alternative to marriage, for many. So much so, that even the legal system is taking note of it, as is evident by the recommendation of Justice V.S. Malimath Committee to the Law Commission-2003. it states that if a woman has been "living-in" with a man for a "reasonable" period of time, then she should enjoy the legal rights of a wife. If this recommendation is accepted in the law books.

A live-in relation is a commitment and no less. "In a sense, there is not much difference in a live-in relationship or marriage. In both, if you love the other person, you are in it for keeps. Just because there is no legal contract and it is easy to walk out does not mean that the bond does not exist. Once you live together out of love, it is hard to quit or leave", explains Mohan. Living with your partner before tying the knot may help you pay the rent, but it could cost you the relationship, new research suggests. About half of American couples today live together before marrying often to "practice" for marriage. But those couples tend to have poorer communication skills once married, which may in turn increase their likelihood of divorce.

Non-traditional behaviors with respect to sex, family and gender roles have become increasingly widespread and more socially accepted. The traditional, "nuclear family" which have been described as a sexually exclusively unit with a division of labour between husband and wife and a focus of children, has become more flexible with changing societal trends. In the U.S., for example, step families comprise nearly 17% of all two-parent families, while 50%-60% of children born in 1990 lived with a single parent. (Furstenberg, 1996; Hetherington et al, 1998; Tasker & Richard, 1994).

Well, it is now very clear that the twain issues of

- Marriage
- Live-in relationship

hold immense significance for the present generation. The orthodox, conversation and introvert section of the society express "favourable" attitude towards marriage. Whereas the frank, open and extrovert section of the society express "favourable" attitude towards live-in

and "un favourable" attitude towards marriage. Thus the population comprises mixed opinions.

An important point which exists here is the gender-differences between male and females concerning attitude towards marriage and live-in. Obviously marriages has its own advantages like security, safe sex, less depression, low anxiety and suicide, less problem drinking and substances-abuse and so on. On the contrary live-in relationships have their specific positive agreements. The two influential sectors of the society have differences of opinions based on these aspects.

Speaking generally, males express a positive attitude towards live-in relationships. On the other hand females favour marriage: a legal stereotypic bond than live-in, which lacks in legal security measures. Several reasons combine to constitute such differences. These vast variations are explained further with a help of a study conducted by me on a scale of teenagers, who are not an appropriate representation of the population. But their views, beliefs and reasons greatly help to explain and determines that why such differences in opinion exist.

In today's social set up, live-in relationships have become more common and acceptable. The number of people living together without marriage has dramatically increased over the years. In recent years, a majority of young people have come to favour cohabitation over marriage. Though cohabiting couples deny the need for legal and social contracts to support a relationship, statistical data has clearly established marriage as a superior arrangement over live-in relationships.

Different Perspective on Time

Cohabiting couples tend to have a different perspective of time as compared to married folks. While married people consider marriage to be a life long contract that demands adjustment and compromise, for cohabiting couples, their relationship often happens to be a matter of convenience, susceptible to their individual happiness and needs. Cohabiting people often hesitate in making emotional investments in their relationship. They desire to have emotional and physical intimacy without incurring the responsibilities and obligations of marriage.

Level of Commitment

Marriage is a highly responsible relationship that not only demands personal commitment of both the spouses, but, is bound by social and legal provisions that tend to enforce responsibility and accountability. It demands high levels of sincerity, cooperation and compromise. The live-in relationships on the contrary are leading to an increase in the

number of people with an inability to sustain long term relationships. Married people are often more adjusting and have realistic expectations of each other.

Emotional Impact

Various research papers and studies over the years have conclusively established that married people are often more emotionally satisfied and stable as compared to cohabiting couples. Marriage though deprives an individual of unrestrained freedom, still it brings in the kind of security and acceptance to a relationship that promotes a sense of well being and joy. Cohabitation often has far reaching consequences. It has been found that couples who cohabit before marriage are more likely to opt for a divorce in the long run.

Health Implications

Body and mind do have a profound influence on each other and an individual's state of mind determines to a great extent, his physical well being and strength. Cohabiting couples do feel less healthy and are more prone to illnesses and ailments. It has been found that cohabitating people have a higher rate of mortality as compared to married folks. They are more vulnerable to alcohol and substance abuse. Cohabiting couples with liberal attitudes towards fidelity are more prone to acquire STIs and AIDS.

Financial Impact

Evidence tends to suggest that married people are often better off financially as compared to cohabiting couples. Though cohabiting spouses insist on managing their individual finances, yet they tend to loose in the long run. Married men are often more serious about their careers and tend to earn more as compared to their cohabiting counterparts. Married women not only have access to their husbands' savings and assets, but also reap ample family support and help in pursuing their careers. Marriage certainly ensures better management of family assets.

Romantic Life

Though cohabiting couples tend to have as much physical intimacy as compared to the married ones, still their amorous experiences often turn out to be less satisfying owing to the underlying instability and unpredictability in their relationships. Marriage brings in the element of commitment and security into a person's intimate life that yields more satisfaction. Married people often have a wholesome attitude towards physical intimacy and they mostly consider intimacy and love to be intrinsically connected.

Effects on Children

Children from cohabiting families tend to have poor emotional development and often under perform in social, academic and personal aspects of their life. Being more exposed to feelings

of insecurity and instability, they tend to have a lousy self concept. Marriage still happens to be the number one institution for bringing up children.

Physical Abuse

Live-in relationships often lead to more physical exploitation of women and children as compared to marriages. Cohabiting women are almost twice as prone to physical abuse as compared to married ones. Children are often susceptible to abuse at the hands of their mothers' live in boy friends who do not happen to be their biological fathers.

The fact is that live-in relationships are here to stay, no matter what sociologists say or hold about them. So it is vital that the society alters its framework to bring them within the ambit of legal provisions and social responsibility. Reality not always exists in black and white. Sometimes we need to look into the grey zones also.

LIVING TOGETHER - IS LIVE-IN RELATIONSHIP 'IN'

There has been a lot of buzz about 'Live in relationships' these days, thanks to the recent movies but. there are still many questions about it which are left unasked. Are people actually- living-in') What about the societal and parental pressures? What if it doesn't workout'? Here is what we find out-

Live-in relationships maybe in the news these days thanks to recent movies but there are still many questions about it. Are people actually living-in? What about the societal and parental pressures? What if it doesn't workout? Here is what we find out...

COUPLE SPEAK

Finding out about your partner, before making the final commitment, is often the reason behind this relationship. As BPO executive Mary Johnson, who is in a live-in relationship for the past six months. remarks. "I have very erratic working hours so I want to check out if my boyfriend can adjust with me or not." On the other hand, DU student Anita Larson says. "I am very finicky about cleanliness and other daily chores. so I have to be very sure about the guy I marry. I don't want these things to create problems in my life." Political Science student Ina Bliss and management student Glenn Dicks have taken an apartment together in New York city, "Right now. neither of us are ready for marriage. But, we are so much in love with each other, that we thought why shouldn't we live together?" justifies Glenn.

Among the professionals. the MNC work culture with long working hours provides the rationale for couples opting for living together. Shruti Sinha, who works in a call centre, feels that she is open to both live-in and marriage and that her parents have no objection to it. "But. in case I go for a live-in, I would definitely want it to materialise into marriage someday".

says Shruti. Management student Marry Rieger feels that it is always better to test the compatibility levels before you enter marriage. "Society attaches so much stigma to the divorced. plus it is a messy thing to happen. With live-in relationships it can be always be avoided." she says.

LEGAL SPEAK

Lawyers attribute the increase in live-in relationships among the young couples to lack of patience and the inability to adjust to each other. "Everybody has a pre-conceived notion about marriage and now-a-days the couple wants to walk out of it if it doesn't work out the way they had imagined. Due to the financial independence of both partners, none of them are willing to compromise," says Leslie.

"Inability to be accountable for something reflects the immaturity of the couple these days. Earlier, in our parents' generation, the couples put up with each other. Today, the tolerance levels have gone down," adds Donna Johnson.

SC justifies live-in relationship

Posted at Thursday, 17 January 2008 10:01IST

New Delhi, Jan 17: In a historical judgement, the Supreme Court today held that live-in relationship should be treated equivalent to marriage.

The apex court also observed that the children born out of a live in relationship should be called legitimate.

Hearing a petition filed by a woman, who was born to parents who were not married, the court said that a man and woman involved in a live-in relationship for a long period, will be treated as a married couple and their child would be called legitimate.

APPROVED OR NOT

In most cases, the parents of the couple are not told about it. That is because, though such relations are acceptable to the youth, it is still far from being accepted among the older generation, which continues to believe in the institution of marriage. Remarks marketing executive Donald Saunders, "My parents have no clue about this relationship because they will never accept it. I will tell them about us only when I am ready to marry my girlfriend. "

The morality question about such arrangements bring about varied views. According to management student Jim Peterson, "If it is just to rebel against the traditional norms, it is useless and if it is to test a relationship, I don't think it is an appropriate way to do so."

Rajkotia, however, refrains from labelling it as either good or bad. "It's just an integral part of the new generation where the young want to make their own rules and defy traditional norms"

STUDY ON ATTITUDE TOWARDS LIVE-IN RELATIONSHIP

Psychology is the science of behaviours and cognitive processes. It provides for the specific study an aspect which affects behaviour, such as attitude. Attitude is a combination of several beliefs and behaviour one has. Marriage is one of the most important events in ones life. One begins to think about marriage at a very less age.

Teenagers are drastically influenced by marriage view points and relationships. This stage is very crucial because the attitudes now formed will be very difficult to change in future and these beliefs are stable and fixed forever. Adolescent boys and girls hold critically separate attitudes, especially concerning "arranged marriages" and "live-in relationships". The study specifies these differences.

The following psychological survey investigates the gender differences relating attitude on marriage and live-in relationships.

Aim of the attitude study

The primary aim of this study was to determine the gender differences, if any exists, i.e., the variations in the attitudes of boys and girls of the age group 16-17 yrs towards live-in relationship and marriage.

Materials Used

A simple checklist containing 10 statements was constructed, which reveals attitude towards marriage and live-in relationship. The first five statements reveal attitude towards marriage and the last five items reveal attitude towards live-in relationship, of the subjects.

The analysis of the items is based upon the 5-point rating Likert scale- Strongly Agree(SA), Agree(A), Can't Say(CS), Disagree(D) and Strongly Disagree(SD). These items are either positively or negatively worded, that is depicted below.

Positively Worded Statements- 1,2,6,7 & 8.

Negatively Worded Statements- 3, 4, 5, 9 & 10.

The example of this questionnaire is shown alongside.

Method: Survey/ Questionnaire Method

Survey method is used to conduct this study. This is a research methodology in which large number of people answer questions about aspects if their views or behaviours. Self- report

inventories assisted in the task. The advantage of this method is that it consumes very less time and can be easily performed.

The procedure followed was fluent and effective. Conclusions were drawn on the basis of responses to the questionnaire.

Data Collection

The checklist includes 10 questions containing few positively worded and few negatively-worded statements. These checklists were carefully administered to 20 subjects (including 10 boys and 10 girls). Five minutes were provided to each subject to answer the questions. In this way the vital responses of the participants were collected.

All the further evaluation is done on the basis of these responses. Subjects were requested to give any feedback (critical appreciation) about the study. I received positive responses.

Few vital and alike instructions were given to the subjects in a similar manner to avoid any experimenter bias. Informed consent of all the respondents was taken before. Fluent and open interaction with the subjects concerning their attitudes towards marriage and causes for their present attitudes improved my involvement with the subjects. Any more views on marriage and live-in relationship were to be filled in the empty spaces given below the checklist. The likert scale and simple bar graph measurements were used to depict the data collected accurately in graphical form. This improves understanding.

In the end of the experiment debriefing is done. Careful assessment of the responses provide exquisite evidence to predict the inter-group differences regarding views of boys (favourable) and girls (unfavourable) towards live-in relationship. Also why such differences occur is discussed in the end.

Rapport-formation

Rapport formation was established to ensure that the responses given are accurate. A harmonious understanding build on the basis of trust and unanimity is very essential for any survey to yield valid and reliable results. Clear and coherent instructions assisted in the process of rapport-formation. I was deeply involved with my subjects and maintained appropriate contact with them to research more about the causes of their specific responses.

This helped in searching the attitudinal causes that why do boys prefer live-in relationships and why do girls prefer marriages. This assisted in making inter-group comparisons.

Data Collected: 20 checklists

Boys Group

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Subject Particular

Name: Rohit Chandana

Age: 16

Sex: M

Instructions

For each statement below decide which of the following answers best apply to you by checking the appropriate boxes. Your responses will be used for research purposes only.

Attitude on live-in-relationship & marriage

S.A A C.S. D S.D.

1. Marriage is sacred.					
2. I will never go against my parents will in choosing my partner in life.					
3. I think marriage is a compromise					
4. Marriage is a hinderance to once's career					
5. I would not like to take up responsibilities associated with marriage					
6. I would be comfortable getting married to a person only after a live-in-relationship.					
7. I would be comfortable with physical intimacy only after marriage.					
8. I would be uncomfortable to know that my friend is in a live-in-relationship.					
9. I would be comfortable as a single parent without marriage					
10. I would opt for a live-in-relationship.					

S.A.	Strongly Agree
A	Agree
C.S.	Can't Say
D	Disagree
S.D.	Strongly Disagree

Any more views about marriage and live-in-relationship: I've no problems with line in relationship and according it is very essential fact of life

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Subject Particular

Name: NIZAYA KUMAR MISHRA

Age: 17

Sex: M

Instructions

For each statement below decide which of the following answers best apply to you by checking the appropriate boxes. Your responses will be used for research purposes only.

Attitude on live-in-relationship & marriage

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S.A.	Strongly Agree
A	Agree
C.S.	Can't Say
D	Disagree
S.D.	Strongly Disagree

Any more views about marriage and live-in-relationship: I STRONGLY BELIEVE IN ARRANGED MARRIAGE AND I FEEL THAT IT IS A BEAUTIFUL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BOTH THE PERSON

**PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Subject Particular

Name: ROBIN KUMAR

Age: 17 Yrs.

Sex: M

Instructions

For each statement below decide which of the following answers best apply to you by checking the appropriate boxes. Your responses will be used for research purposes only.

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10. I would opt for a live-in-relationship.					

S.A.	Strongly Agree
A	Agree
C.S.	Can't Say
D	Disagree
S.D.	Strongly Disagree

Any more views about marriage and live-in-relationship: Before getting married it is important to know each other not only by the mean of physical relationship but by mature and love do well-live and let live.

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Name: Rajinder Kumar Bagole

Age: 17

Sex: M

Instructions

For each statement below decide which of the following answers best apply to you by checking the appropriate boxes. Your responses will be used for research purposes only.

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9. I would be comfortable as a single parent without marriage					
10. I would opt for a live-in-relationship.					

S.A.	Strongly Agree
A	Agree
C.S.	Can't Say
D	Disagree
S.D.	Strongly Disagree

Any more views about marriage and live-in-relationship: I feel that living in relationship is not good as our society does not allow it.

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Subject Particular

Name: Nikhil Singh Ghatal

Age: 17

Sex: M

Instructions

For each statement below decide which of the following answers best apply to you by checking the appropriate boxes. Your responses will be used for research purposes only.

Attitude on live-in-relationship & marriage

1. Marriage is sacred.					
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10. I would opt for a live-in-relationship.					

S.A.	Strongly Agree
A	Agree
C.S.	Can't Say
D	Disagree
S.D.	Strongly Disagree

Any more views about marriage and live-in-relationship: No more views

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Subject Particular

Name: Nikhil Singh Ghatal

Age: 17

Sex: M

Instructions

For each statement below decide which of the following answers best apply to you by checking the appropriate boxes. Your responses will be used for research purposes only.

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9. I would be comfortable as a single parent without marriage					
10. I would opt for a live-in-relationship.					

S.A.	Strongly Agree
A	Agree
C.S.	Can't Say
D	Disagree
S.D.	Strongly Disagree

Any more views about marriage and live-in-relationship: No more views

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Subject Particular

Name: SUMIT OBERAI

Age: 17

Sex: M

Instructions

For each statement below decide which of the following answers best apply to you by checking the appropriate boxes. Your responses will be used for research purposes only.

Attitude on live-in-relationship & marriage

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10. I would opt for a live-in-relationship.					

S.A.	Strongly Agree
A	Agree
C.S.	Can't Say
D	Disagree
S.D.	Strongly Disagree

Any more views about marriage and live-in-relationship: Marriage is an important decision of everyone's life and one enjoys life if he/she get a good life partner and life becomes enjoyable after marriage.

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Subject Particular

Name: IRFAN ASHRAF

Age: 17

Sex: M

Instructions

For each statement below decide which of the following answers best apply to you by checking the appropriate boxes. Your responses will be used for research purposes only.

Attitude on live-in-relationship & marriage

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2. I will never go against my parents will in choosing my partner in life.					
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10. I would opt for a live-in-relationship.					

S.A.	Strongly Agree
A	Agree
C.S.	Can't Say
D	Disagree
S.D.	Strongly Disagree

Any more views about marriage and live-in-relationship: Marriage teaches a person to take care of others and is a means of lessening social evils like molestation, rape etc.

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Subject Particular

Name: Malik Tanvell

Age: 17 years

Sex: M

Instructions

For each statement below decide which of the following answers best apply to you by checking the appropriate boxes. Your responses will be used for research purposes only.

Attitude on live-in-relationship & marriage

1. Marriage is sacred.					
2. I will never go against my parents will in choosing my partner in life.					
3. I think marriage is a compromise					
4. Marriage is a hinderance to once's career					
5. I would not like to take up responsibilities associated with marriage					
6. I would be comfortable getting married to a person only after a live-in-relationship.					
7. I would be comfortable with physical intimacy only after marriage.					
8. I would be uncomfortable to know that my friend is in a live-in-relationship.					
9. I would be comfortable as a single parent without marriage					
10. I would opt for a live-in-relationship.					

S.A.	Strongly Agree
A	Agree
C.S.	Can't Say
D	Disagree
S.D.	Strongly Disagree

Any more views about marriage and live-in-relationship: No more views

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Subject Particular

Name: Javeed Mohi-ud-din Sofi

Age: 17 years

Sex: M

Instructions

For each statement below decide which of the following answers best apply to you by checking the appropriate boxes. Your responses will be used for research purposes only.

Attitude on live-in-relationship & marriage

1. Marriage is sacred.					
2. I will never go against my parents will in choosing my partner in life.					
3. I think marriage is a compromise					
4. Marriage is a hinderance to once's career					
5. I would not like to take up responsibilities associated with marriage					
6. I would be comfortable getting married to a person only after a live-in-relationship.					
7. I would be comfortable with physical intimacy only after marriage.					
8. I would be uncomfortable to know that my friend is in a live-in-relationship.					
9. I would be comfortable as a single parent without marriage					
10. I would opt for a live-in-relationship.					

S.A.	Strongly Agree
A	Agree
C.S.	Can't Say
D	Disagree
S.D.	Strongly Disagree

Any more views about marriage and live-in-relationship: No more views

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Subject Particular

Name: Shrayank Srivastava

Age: 17 years

Sex: M

Instructions

For each statement below decide which of the following answers best apply to you by checking the appropriate boxes. Your responses will be used for research purposes only.

Attitude on live-in-relationship & marriage

1. Marriage is sacred.					
2. I will never go against my parents will in choosing my partner in life.					
3. I think marriage is a compromise					
4. Marriage is a hinderance to once's career					
5. I would not like to take up responsibilities associated with marriage					
6. I would be comfortable getting married to a person only after a live-in-relationship.					
7. I would be comfortable with physical intimacy only after marriage.					
8. I would be uncomfortable to know that my friend is in a live-in-relationship.					
9. I would be comfortable as a single parent without marriage					
10. I would opt for a live-in-relationship.					

S.A.	Strongly Agree
A	Agree
C.S.	Can't Say
D	Disagree
S.D.	Strongly Disagree

Any more views about marriage and live-in-relationship: I believe that live-in-relationship provide the individuals with extra time to know each other better, Because a person behaves in a different manner in society in respect to family or home. His actual behaviour and life

style comes into view only after living with the person. Moreover, I feel sexual intimacy/relationship should be kept apart from a live-in-relationship. As a social consideration I feel marriage is a sacred and divine relationship. But in another sense it is just a social certificate which authorizes two individuals to stay together.

Girls-Group

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Subject Particular

Name: Sanjana Negi

Age: 17 years

Sex: F

Instructions

For each statement below decide which of the following answers best apply to you by checking the appropriate boxes. Your responses will be used for research purposes only.

Attitude on live-in-relationship & marriage

1. Marriage is sacred.					
2. I will never go against my parents will in choosing my partner in life.					
3. I think marriage is a compromise					
4. Marriage is a hinderance to once's career					
5. I would not like to take up responsibilities associated with marriage					
6. I would be comfortable getting married to a person only after a live-in-relationship.					
7. I would be comfortable with physical intimacy only after marriage.					
8. I would be uncomfortable to know that my friend is in a live-in-relationship.					
9. I would be comfortable as a single parent without marriage					
10. I would opt for a live-in-relationship.					

S.A.	Strongly Agree
A	Agree
C.S.	Can't Say
D	Disagree
S.D.	Strongly Disagree

Any more views about marriage and live-in-relationship: Live-in relationships in India are not meant to be as the mindset of the people is the same as it was easier. Virgin brides are expected by almost everyone and chasity is considered a virtue.

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Subject Particular

Name: Chitra

Age: 17 years

Sex: Female

Instructions

For each statement below decide which of the following answers best apply to you by checking the appropriate boxes. Your responses will be used for research purposes only.

Attitude on live-in-relationship & marriage

1. Marriage is sacred.					
2. I will never go against my parents will in choosing my partner in life.					
3. I think marriage is a compromise					
4. Marriage is a hinderance to once's career					
5. I would not like to take up responsibilities associated with marriage					
6. I would be comfortable getting married to a person only after a live-in-relationship.					
7. I would be comfortable with physical intimacy only after marriage.					
8. I would be uncomfortable to know that my friend is in a live-in-relationship.					
9. I would be comfortable as a single parent without marriage					
10. I would opt for a live-in-relationship.					

S.A.	Strongly Agree
A	Agree
C.S.	Can't Say
D	Disagree
S.D.	Strongly Disagree

Any more views about marriage and live-in-relationship: Indian society takes marriage to be sacred and therefore live-in-relationships are not accepted. I am a broad-minded person but even then I would not support live-in-relationships.

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Subject Particular

Name: Ishita Upadhyay

Age: 17 years

Sex: F

Instructions

For each statement below decide which of the following answers best apply to you by checking the appropriate boxes. Your responses will be used for research purposes only.

Attitude on live-in-relationship & marriage

1. Marriage is sacred.					
2. I will never go against my parents will in choosing my partner in life.					
3. I think marriage is a compromise					
4. Marriage is a hinderance to once's career					
5. I would not like to take up responsibilities associated with marriage					
6. I would be comfortable getting married to a person only after a live-in-relationship.					
7. I would be comfortable with physical intimacy only after marriage.					
8. I would be uncomfortable to know that my friend is in a live-in-relationship.					
9. I would be comfortable as a single parent without marriage					
10. I would opt for a live-in-relationship.					

S.A.	Strongly Agree
A	Agree
C.S.	Can't Say
D	Disagree
S.D.	Strongly Disagree

Any more views about marriage and live-in-relationship: In this fast going life people are running after western life styles and forgetting their own culture and thus opting live-in-relationships which in my opinion is not fit for Indian culture.

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Subject Particular

Name: Soumya Semuval

Age: 16 years

Sex: Female

Instructions

For each statement below decide which of the following answers best apply to you by checking the appropriate boxes. Your responses will be used for research purposes only.

Attitude on live-in-relationship & marriage

1. Marriage is sacred.					
2. I will never go against my parents will in choosing my partner in life.					
3. I think marriage is a compromise					
4. Marriage is a hinderance to once's career					
5. I would not like to take up responsibilities associated with marriage					
6. I would be comfortable getting married to a person only after a live-in-relationship.					
7. I would be comfortable with physical intimacy only after marriage.					
8. I would be uncomfortable to know that my friend is in a live-in-relationship.					
9. I would be comfortable as a single parent without marriage					
10. I would opt for a live-in-relationship.					

S.A.	Strongly Agree
A	Agree
C.S.	Can't Say
D	Disagree
S.D.	Strongly Disagree

Any more views about marriage and live-in-relationship: Marriage is compromise for both bride and groom but this compromise can be turned into a loving bond contribution of both.

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Subject Particular

Name: Sakshi Khawla

Age: 17 years

Sex: Female

Instructions

For each statement below decide which of the following answers best apply to you by checking the appropriate boxes. Your responses will be used for research purposes only.

Attitude on live-in-relationship & marriage

1. Marriage is sacred.					
2. I will never go against my parents will in choosing my partner in life.					
3. I think marriage is a compromise					
4. Marriage is a hinderance to once's career					
5. I would not like to take up responsibilities associated with marriage					
6. I would be comfortable getting married to a person only after a live-in-relationship.					
7. I would be comfortable with physical intimacy only after marriage.					
8. I would be uncomfortable to know that my friend is in a live-in-relationship.					
9. I would be comfortable as a single parent without marriage					
10. I would opt for a live-in-relationship.					

S.A.	Strongly Agree
A	Agree
C.S.	Can't Say
D	Disagree
S.D.	Strongly Disagree

Any more views about marriage and live-in-relationship: In a marriage both husband and wife are responsible for a good relation.

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Subject Particular

Name: Priyanka

Age: 17 years

Sex: Female

Instructions

For each statement below decide which of the following answers best apply to you by checking the appropriate boxes. Your responses will be used for research purposes only.

Attitude on live-in-relationship & marriage

1. Marriage is sacred.					
2. I will never go against my parents will in choosing my partner in life.					
3. I think marriage is a compromise					
4. Marriage is a hinderance to once's career					
5. I would not like to take up responsibilities associated with marriage					
6. I would be comfortable getting married to a person only after a live-in-relationship.					
7. I would be comfortable with physical intimacy only after marriage.					
8. I would be uncomfortable to know that my friend is in a live-in-relationship.					
9. I would be comfortable as a single parent without marriage					
10. I would opt for a live-in-relationship.					

S.A.	Strongly Agree
A	Agree
C.S.	Can't Say
D	Disagree
S.D.	Strongly Disagree

Any more views about marriage and live-in-relationship: If anything on earth is heaven that it is marriage.

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Subject Particular

Name: Ankita Joshi

Age: 16 years

Sex: Female

Instructions

For each statement below decide which of the following answers best apply to you by checking the appropriate boxes. Your responses will be used for research purposes only.

Attitude on live-in-relationship & marriage

1. Marriage is sacred.					
2. I will never go against my parents will in choosing my partner in life.					
3. I think marriage is a compromise					
4. Marriage is a hinderance to once's career					
5. I would not like to take up responsibilities associated with marriage					
6. I would be comfortable getting married to a person only after a live-in-relationship.					
7. I would be comfortable with physical intimacy only after marriage.					
8. I would be uncomfortable to know that my friend is in a live-in-relationship.					
9. I would be comfortable as a single parent without marriage					
10. I would opt for a live-in-relationship.					

S.A.	Strongly Agree
A	Agree
C.S.	Can't Say
D	Disagree
S.D.	Strongly Disagree

Any more views about marriage and live-in-relationship: is cool.

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Subject Particular

Name: Minnie Gandhi

Age: 17 years

Sex: Female

Instructions

For each statement below decide which of the following answers best apply to you by checking the appropriate boxes. Your responses will be used for research purposes only.

Attitude on live-in-relationship & marriage

1. Marriage is sacred.					
2. I will never go against my parents will in choosing my partner in life.					
3. I think marriage is a compromise					
4. Marriage is a hinderance to once's career					
5. I would not like to take up responsibilities associated with marriage					
6. I would be comfortable getting married to a person only after a live-in-relationship.					
7. I would be comfortable with physical intimacy only after marriage.					
8. I would be uncomfortable to know that my friend is in a live-in-relationship.					
9. I would be comfortable as a single parent without marriage					
10. I would opt for a live-in-relationship.					

S.A.	Strongly Agree
A	Agree
C.S.	Can't Say
D	Disagree
S.D.	Strongly Disagree

Any more views about marriage and live-in-relationship: For me marriage is really sacred. It is a life-time commitment which changes your life completely.

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Subject Particular

Name: Sakshi Vasan

Age: 17 years

Sex: Female

Instructions

For each statement below decide which of the following answers best apply to you by checking the appropriate boxes. Your responses will be used for research purposes only.

Attitude on live-in-relationship & marriage

1. Marriage is sacred.					
2. I will never go against my parents will in choosing my partner in life.					
3. I think marriage is a compromise					
4. Marriage is a hinderance to once's career					
5. I would not like to take up responsibilities associated with marriage					
6. I would be comfortable getting married to a person only after a live-in-relationship.					
7. I would be comfortable with physical intimacy only after marriage.					
8. I would be uncomfortable to know that my friend is in a live-in-relationship.					
9. I would be comfortable as a single parent without marriage					
10. I would opt for a live-in-relationship.					

S.A.	Strongly Agree
A	Agree
C.S.	Can't Say
D	Disagree
S.D.	Strongly Disagree

Any more views about marriage and live-in-relationship: Marriage is heaven if you are happy and hell if you are not happy.

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Subject Particular

Name: Jigyasa Dhingua

Age: 17 years

Sex: Female

Instructions

For each statement below decide which of the following answers best apply to you by checking the appropriate boxes. Your responses will be used for research purposes only.

Attitude on live-in-relationship & marriage

1. Marriage is sacred.					
2. I will never go against my parents will in choosing my partner in life.					
3. I think marriage is a compromise					
4. Marriage is a hinderance to once's career					
5. I would not like to take up responsibilities associated with marriage					
6. I would be comfortable getting married to a person only after a live-in-relationship.					
7. I would be comfortable with physical intimacy only after marriage.					
8. I would be uncomfortable to know that my friend is in a live-in-relationship.					
9. I would be comfortable as a single parent without marriage					
10. I would opt for a live-in-relationship.					

S.A.	Strongly Agree
A	Agree
C.S.	Can't Say
D	Disagree
S.D.	Strongly Disagree

Any more views about marriage and live-in-relationship: Can't say because not got in all this stuff

Graph

Attitude on Marriage

STATISTICAL TREATMENT OF THE DATA

What is Likert Scale?

Social Psychologists measure attitudes with more formal means, generally involving the use of scales or questionnaires, the items on these measuring instruments are carefully constructed to be related to a particular issue.

The items on attitude scales can be represented to respondents in many different formats but one important approach involves which is known as Likert Scale. They are the scales for measuring attitudes containing statements highly favourable or unfavourable toward the attitude object. Respondents indicate the extent to which they agree or disagree with each of these statements. To the extent that respondents agree with statements favourable to the attitude object or reject statements unfavourable to it, they are assumed to hold a positive attitude. To the extent that they endorse statements unfavourable to the attitude object or reject statements favourable to it, they are assumed to hold a negative attitude.

Calculation for Graph-Construction (the numbers are assigned on the basis of Likert scale and marking scheme).

Attitude on Marriage

Males Group						Females Group					
Subjects	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Subjects	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5
Rohit	1	1	5	5	5	Sanjana	3	4	1	4	2
Nilaya	5	2	1	1	5	Chitra	5	5	4	5	2
Robin	3	2	2	3	2	Ishita	4	5	3	3	5
Rajinder	5	3	4	5	5	Saumya	3	2	1	4	5
Nikhil	4	4	3	3	3	Sakshi	5	4	2	3	5
Sumit	5	4	5	5	5	Priyanka	5	3	4	5	3
Irfan	5	4	2	4	4	Ankita	3	2	3	5	4
Malik	5	4	3	3	3	Minnie	5	3	2	4	5
Shrayank	5	2	3	4	5	Sakshi	5	3	4	4	4
Sum=	43	30	31	36	40	Sum=	43	34	28	42	39

Graph Attitude on live-in relationships

Males Group						Females Group					
Subjects	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Subjects	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
Rohit	4	5	5	3	5	Sanjana	2	2	3	2	2
Nilaya	4	5	5	1	5	Chitra	1	2	3	2	1
Robin	4	4	5	4	4	Ishita	3	1	5	3	1
Rajinder	4	1	5	3	1	Saumya	2	2	3	3	2
Nikhil	5	1	3	2	1	Sakshi	1	1	1	1	1
Sumit	4	5	1	1	5	Priyanka	2	1	5	1	2
Irfan	2	2	1	2	2	Ankita	2	4	5	4	2
Malik	3	4	4	2	3	Minnie	1	2	4	1	2
Shrayank	4	4	5	1	5	Sakshi	2	1	3	1	2
Σ=	37	35	38	21	34	Σ=	19	17	36	19	19

Measures of Central Tendency

Central tendency pertains to the middle (center) of a distribution of scores. Their purpose is to provide a single summary figure that best describes the centre location of an entire distribution of observations. Such a measure is helpful in comparing the performance of a group with that of a standard reference group. A measure of central tendency also helps simplify comparison of two or more groups tested under different conditions.

There are many measures of central tendency. The most common used in education and the behavioural sciences is Arithmetic Mean.

The Arithmetic Mean

The Arithmetic Mean is the sum of all the scores in a distribution divided by the total number of scores. It is also called the average or just mean.

It is depicted by the following formulae:

Definitional (Raw Score) formulae for the mean

$$\mu_x = \Sigma X/N \text{ (Mean of Population)}$$

$$\text{Mean of } X = \Sigma X/n \text{ (mean of a sample)}$$

Calculations of the mean of the data obtained in our research are as follows:

N	X (male scores)	Y (female scores)
1	21	17
2	30	19
3	31	19
4	34	19
5	35	28
6	36	34
7	37	36
8	38	39
9	40	42
10	43	43
	$\Sigma = 345$	$\Sigma = 296$

Mean of X = $\Sigma X/n = 345/10 = 34.5$

Mean of Y = $\Sigma Y/n = 296/10 = 29.6$

DISCUSSION

The aim of this study was to determine the gender differences, if any exists, i.e., the variations in the attitudes of boys and girls of the age group 16-17 yrs towards marriage and live-in relationship.

For the conduction of the experiment, a questionnaire containing 10 items was formed. 10 male subjects and 10 female subjects were selected randomly and their responses were carefully taken. Then the analysis of the collected data was done and the conclusion was formed.

Henceforth, it was found that the attitudes of males and females did not differ much towards live-in relationship, as is evident in their respective means (Mean of boys = 34.5; Mean of girls = 29.6)

The male subjects prefer live-in relationship over marriage. In the few past years, females were thought to have orthodox and conservative views about live-in relationships. But this study clearly shows that views and attitudes of females towards live-in relationship is changing from negative to positive. Thus, in the present time, even the female gender prefers live-in relationship over marriage.

The variance calculated in the data shown that the spread of scores of females as more, as compared to that of males. The variance of female group was 98.04 and that of male group was 33.85. This also highlights the changing attitude of females. Both the data are symmetrical, but females scores are more symmetrical. Gender differences are at present become less and their attitudes becoming similar.

The two groups chosen were entirely independent, and in no way the scores of X influence the scores of Y. The correlation coefficient was found to be +0.86. This shows a high positive correlation between the two variables. But this in on any way establishes causation. The attitudinal shifts observed in this study can be attributed to extraneous or several environmental factors.

The society is becoming more acceptable, open to new ideas, modern, understanding and flexible. The obsolete views of the past society are no more followed by the present-day generation. Also girls have started viewing the optimistic aspects related to live-in relationship. Live-in relationship has several advantages over the traditional Indian marriages. This also highlights the influence of westernity over easternity. The overall proportion of unmarried persons has risen in the past thirty years and the number of non-marital cohabitants has also increased.

Boy meets girl. Boy and girl date. Boy and girl fall in love. This is where the story deviates from the one ordinarily told to children. Gone are the days when the next logical step was "boy marries girl." Now, the story often goes something like, "boy and girl date for a few months, then boy asks girl to move in." Or vice-versa. It's a common storyline played out across America and in other western cultures. In the movies, such couples usually end up living some sort of rosy, happily-ever-after type of life. In the real world, however, cohabitating couples do not fare so well. Despite the seemingly logical arguments for unmarried heterosexual couples living together, the evidence shows that it simply is not the better choice. Therefore, couples should not live together prior to marriage.

Many couples choose to live together before getting married in order to save money. They figure that by moving in with one another the rent is split in half, the food bills get smaller, and the financial burden is shared. Some claim they will be able to put away money for their future as a couple; however, saving is not always very egalitarian. Income gaps frequently found between unmarried live-in partners tend to destabilize the relationship while doing the opposite for marriages. Then, if the relationship ends, the disadvantages of merging finances prior to marriage reveal themselves. Married couples have protection under the law that is not afforded to couples who cohabit. For example, when a married couple own a house or live in an apartment together, both people have rights to the property. When cohabiting, unless both names are on the deed or lease, both do not have the same rights; the person whose name is on the lease stays and the other quickly finds him or herself homeless.

Proponents of cohabitation say that it is just another step in the courting process on the road to marriage, much like engagement. Unfortunately, many unmarried couples that live together never make it to the altar. Forty percent of cohabitational relationships among unmarried people are ended within five years and only a tenth last five years or more. Some speculate that the reason for this lies in the character of unmarried people who choose to live together. Cohabiting individuals tend to come from slightly more liberal backgrounds, are less religious, and are more supportive of non-traditional gender and family roles. Therefore, they are less likely than those from a more conservative background to consider such an arrangement taboo. It also seems that those who cohabit sometimes invest less commitment into their live-in relationship, choosing that over marriage because it is an easier arrangement to extract themselves from.

It is commonly heard that living together before marriage gives the couple a chance to get to know one another better, thus decreasing the likelihood of divorce. However, there is little evidence to support this claim. More than half of couples that lived together prior to their marriage end up divorcing within the first ten years. Compared to the thirty percent divorce rate among couples that did not cohabit before getting married, we see that cohabiting actually means an increased risk of divorce.

Research shows that there are yet more discouraging trends among unmarried couples living together. While cohabiting couples claim to have sex more often, married couples report a much more satisfying sex life, both physically and emotionally.

According to the Howard Center for Family, Religion and Society, cohabitants cheat on their partners more often than spouses. Finally, unmarried live-in couples face more conflict and abuse than do married couples. They as a group actually have one of the highest rates of "severe domestic violence".

What is the true goal of cohabiting? The underlying desire of most couples is to have a flourishing, fulfilling, and lasting relationship. Proponents of cohabitation support it because they believe it will strengthen their relationship. That is simply not true. The evidence is clear: living together before marriage decreases the chances that couples will be able to reach their goals. Young people must return to the idea that living together is reserved until after the wedding. Then perhaps we can curb the rising divorce rate and see more successful marriages than failures.

Marriage is just considered a public display of extravagant expenditure, by the youths of today. Thus, males and females, both, prefer cohabitation since it involves no legal

complications and social orthodox rules. Cohabitation is not thought to be an unnecessary and expensive ritual like marriage. Hence, it attracts the ultra-cool modern generation of today. Moreover, live-in relationship promotes better interaction, communication, adjustability, understanding, sharing (financial, emotional and physical), support and feelings of trust and comfort. It makes one feel loved and cared and thus it improves one's psychological well-being.

One of the subjects in the study said, "I always hate to get married to a woman and making her feel submerged for my sake and not allowing her to do her job perfectly. It's not a fair means on this aspect and also that to restrict her ambitions to my own wishes. I will support those who think that just being friends in life will serve better than getting married". This clearly denotes favourable attitude towards live-in relationship and unfavourable attitude towards marriage. Live-in relationships also serve to provide more "freedom" to females of the society and reduce woman exploitation or crimes against and females.

CONCLUSION

Generalization can be made on the basis of the results obtained in this study. Thus we can conveniently say that females attitude towards live-in relationship is becoming more positive. Even they prefer first live-in relationship and then marriage. Although, there are some limitations of this study. A very small sample was used. The questionnaire should have consisted more questions. Probability of occurrence of chance errors, sampling fluctuations, influence of other organismic and subjective factors like personality traits of the subjects, mood etc. was very high. This might have biased our results.

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