

## Assessment of attitude towards cohabitation among college students in selected institutes of people's university, Bhopal (M.P): A descriptive study.

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### Abstract

Cohabitation is an aspect of life that is quickly becoming relevant to the vast majority of Americans. As the census data shows, this is only going to increase in coming years, whereas marriage was the ideal in the past, romantic cohabitation has become a substitution for some, and a trial period for others.<sup>1</sup> The aim of the study is assess the attitude toward cohabitation among college students in selected Institutes of People's University. A non-experimental descriptive survey research design was adopted. 100 college students were selected through purposive sampling technique. The instrument used for the study was self-structured questionnaire. The findings showed Majority of 89(89%) college students were in the age of 20-22 years, 69(69%) are female 85 (85%) were belong to Hindus, 50 (50%) were belonged to Joint family, 49 (49%) had a monthly family income above Rs. 30,000/- and above and the most of college students have received the information regarding cohabitation 47 (47%) from mass media. The overall attitude of the college students revealed that 48% had favorable attitude & 36% had neutral & 15% had unfavorable attitude. The relationship of attitude with selected demographic variables was determined by using Chi square test. The Chi square value is significant when compared to the table value  $P < 0.05$  level .The significant relationship between the attitude score & socio demographic variables was found with age of the students, total monthly income of family, gender, religion, type of family, and source of information.

**Keywords:** Cohabitation, College student, Attitude.

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### Introduction

Today many couples (those who are engaged and those who are not) prepare for their possible married life together by cohabiting, or "living together," before marriage. Their reasons for doing so are many and varied. However, a view that is commonly held is that couples who live together before marriage can more adequately determine if their lifetime commitment to one another as husband and wife is possible. Two generations ago living together before marriage was viewed as scandalous by our society. Young people were strongly discouraged from cohabiting. As society, that view has been greatly challenged today. Between 30 percent and 40 percent of couples seeking marriage in the United States today are living together. Many people see cohabiting not only as permissible, but even as necessary to attempt to diminish the possibility of divorce or marital unhappiness later in the life of the couple.<sup>2</sup>

Among those who cohabited before marriage, people who fit the following categories are likely to have marital outcomes similar to those who did not live together before marriage. That is, those having these characteristics do not show the type of added risks that have been associated over the past few decades with living together before marriage. Only ever cohabited with the person they marry. Only began to cohabit after having clear, mutually understood plans to marry their spouse. Did not cohabit until the age 23 year or later.<sup>3</sup>

The following main types of cohabitation can be distinguished;

1. Cohabitation as a prelude to marriage.

2. Cohabitation as an alternative to marriages.<sup>4</sup>

Cunningham J, Antiu J. (1994) furthermore Brown and Booth (1996) found that the longer couple's cohabited before marriage the greater was their like hood of divorce. There are two perspectives to explain the correlation between cohabitation and marital quality and stability, the first is the selection perspective, which presumes that individuals who cohabitate before marriage differ from non-cohabiters and it is those differences that increase the like hood of lower marital quality and divorce.<sup>5</sup>

### Objectives

1. To assess the attitude towards cohabitation among college students.
2. To find out association between attitude and their selected socio demographic variables.

### Hypothesis

H<sub>0</sub> - There was no significant relationship between attitudes of college students with their selected demographic variables.

H<sub>1</sub>-There was significant relationship between attitudes of college students with their selected demographic variables.

### Material and Methods

Based on the objective an extensive literature review was done to determine & develop the conceptual framework & methodology for the study. A descriptive survey research approach was used in the study. The

sample consists of 100 college students from selected Institutes of People’s University, Bhopal. Non probability purposive sampling technique was used for the selection of the participants. The instrument used for the study was a self structured questionnaire. The attitude of college students towards cohabitation was assessed & compared with the socio – demographic variables by using descriptive & inferential statistics.

**Results**

The data were organized & presented under following sections.

**Section A** Frequency and percentage distribution of college students according to socio-demographic variables.

**Section B** Overall attitude of the college students.

**Section C** Association between attitude & socio-demographic variables.

**Section A Frequency and percentage distribution of college students according to socio- demographic variables.**

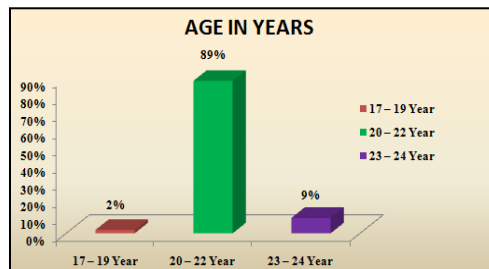


Fig. 1: Bar diagram representing the percentage distribution of college student according to age

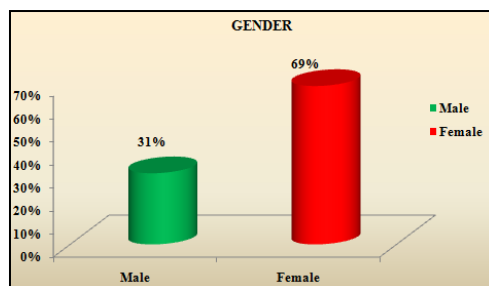


Fig. 2: Cylindrical diagram representing the percentage distribution of college students according gender

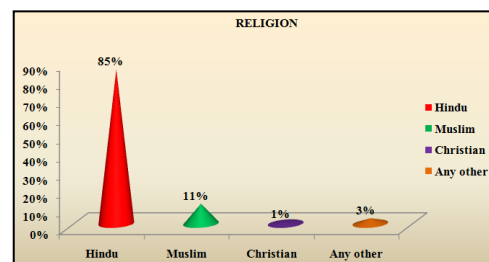


Fig 3: Cone diagram representing the percentage distribution of college student according to religion

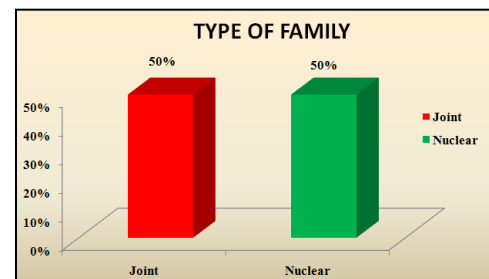


Fig. 4: Bar Diagram representing the percentage distribution of college student according to type of family.

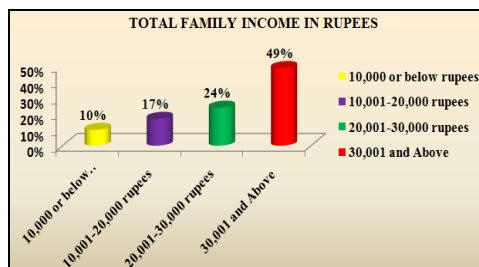


Fig 5: Cylindrical diagram representing the percentage distribution of college student according to monthly income of family.

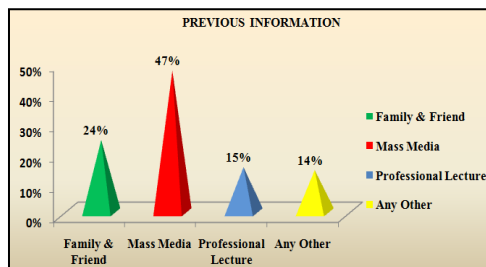


Fig 6: Cone diagram representing the percentage distribution of college student according to information regarding cohabitation is obtained.

Section B

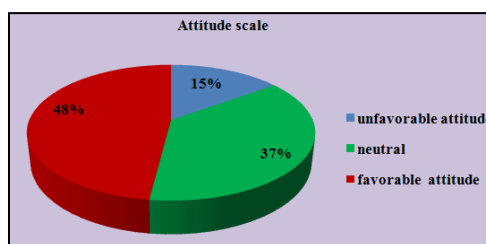


Fig 7: Pie diagram representing the distribution of overall attitude of college students towards cohabitation.

Section C

Association between attitudes of college students with their selected socio-demographic variables

The association between attitude and selected demographic variables was determined by using Chi square test. The Chi square value is significant when compared to the table value  $P < 0.05$  level. The significant relationship between the attitude score & socio demographic variables was found with age of the students, total monthly income of family, gender, religion, type of family, and source of information.

Conclusion

From the finding of the study it is clear that the college student had favorable attitude regarding cohabitation & also the study determined the significant association was found between attitude & socio demographic variables like type of family and source of previous information. The study concluded that the cohabitate couple who are living in society should not be ignore and isolated by the society.

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