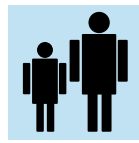




Sex & Relationships

Survey conducted by MaRS
Sample size: 7,021



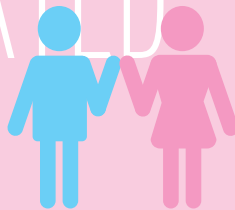
Age group
18-25



Cities covered in the survey
15

In questions where the option 'Can't Say' has less than 1% respondents, the option has not been mentioned

BAFFLED FLUMMOXED
DISCOMBOBULATED
DISCONCERTED
BEWILDERED

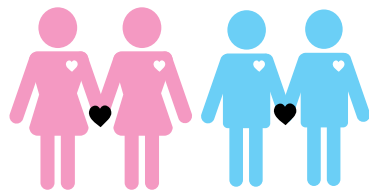


IS THIS A CONFUSED GENERATION?

When it comes to matters of the heart (and body), today's youth seem trapped between tradition and modernity
by Pranav Dixit

DEAR YOUNGSTERS of India, if you're reading this and are between the ages of 18 and 25, chances are that you're slightly muddled in the head. Not when it comes to picking out your wardrobe or choosing a career - most of you are doing a peachy job on those fronts. But in things like falling in love, getting hitched and rolling in the hay, you seem to be thoroughly bewildered. Hey, we're not being preachy. Nor are we pulling these accusations out of our hats. In fact, this is what YOU'VE told us, 7,021 of you, in a survey we conducted across 15 cities over the last few weeks.

Don't get us wrong. We know that in many ways, the times that you happen to be born into are both the best and worst to be young. It must be disconcerting to trade that red low-cut dress for a daddy's-good-girl salwar kameez



HOMOSEXUALITY IS AN ACCEPTABLE SEXUAL PREFERENCE

Agree	23.1%	Disagree	76%
Male	26.5%	Male	73%
Female	19.6%	Female	79%

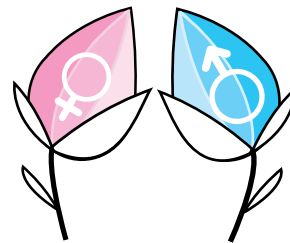
Almost 100% of Chandigarh respondents are against homosexuality, followed by 91.5% each in Indore and Ahmedabad

I EXPECT MY HUSBAND/WIFE TO BE A VIRGIN



Agree	62.3%	Disagree	37%
Male	62%	Male	37.5%
Female	62.6%	Female	36.4%

Almost all the respondents in Ahmedabad want their spouses to be virgins! Chandigarh tops the liberal list with 99.5% disagreeing



PRE-MARITAL SEX IS NO LONGER A BIG ISSUE IN INDIA

Agree	54.9%	Disagree	44.5%
Male	42.4%	Male	41.8%
Female	52%	Female	46.9%

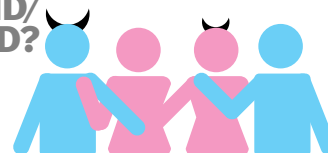
Hyderabad appears to be most progressive with 96.8% respondents agreeing. Chandigarh comes last with only 3% agreeing

DIVORCE IS NOT AN OPTION

Agree	47.4%	Disagree	51.9%
Male	49.9%	Male	49.8%
Female	45%	Female	54.1%

Interestingly, 63.4% respondents did not consider divorce as an option in 2010. So more people seem to be opening up to the idea

HAVE YOU EVER CHEATED ON YOUR GIRLFRIEND/BOYFRIEND?

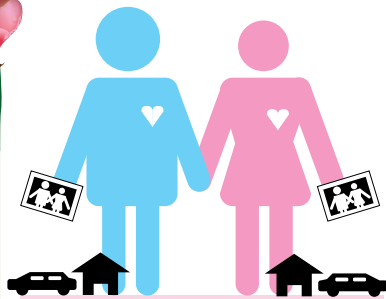


Yes	27.7%	No	54.2%	Can't say	18.1%
Male	30.2%	Male	51.2%		
Female	25.3%	Female	57.2%		

At 73.5%, Jaipur has the highest number of cheaters. Delhi stood at a little over 50%. Kochi had the maximum number of faithful respondents at 75.4%



PHOTOS: THINKSTOCK



WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT WHEN LOOKING FOR A SPOUSE?

Looks 9.8%	Wealth 10.1%
Male 12.7%	Male 8.4%
Female 7%	Female 11.8%

Family background 40.6%
Male 40.6%, Female 40.5%

Intelligence 23.8%	Kindness 15.7%
Male 22.3%	Male 16%
Female 25.3%	Female 15.4%

Not surprisingly, men ranked looks higher than wealth while women ranked wealth higher. Some things don't change!

WHICH OF THESE STATEMENTS APPLY TO YOU?

Had sex before 18 6.2%	
Male 8.8%	
Female 3.6%	

Had sex after 18 44.9%	Still a virgin (18-25) 48.9%
Male 48.5%	Male 42.7%
Female 41.4%	Female 55.1%

Almost half the respondents are virgins despite being okay with premarital sex. More men had sex before 18 than women in 2011

LIVE-IN RELATIONSHIPS ARE ACCEPTABLE

Agree 39.5%	Disagree 59.7%
Male 45.5%	Male 54%
Female 33.5%	Female 65.3%

Funnily, 80% of Patna respondents are okay with live-in relationships, but 98% of Chandigarh respondents are not. Small town values?

IN PHYSICAL RELATIONSHIPS, DO YOU ALWAYS USE PROTECTION (CONDOMS), SOMETIMES OR NEVER?

Always 32.7%	Sometimes 38.9%
Male 33.83%	Male 40%
Female 31.29%	Female 37.53%
Never 15%	Can't say 13.2%
Male 14.9%	Male 11.2%
Female 15.1%	Female 16%



The number of respondents who always use condoms dropped from 42.5% in 2010. A disturbing revelation



Methodology: Youth Survey 2012 was carried out by MaRS Monitoring and Research Systems among 7,021 urban youth in 15 state capitals and major towns in India - Delhi, Lucknow, Jaipur and Chandigarh in the North; Kolkata, Patna, Guwahati in the East; Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Bhopal and Indore in the West; and Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Kochi in the South. Target respondents were both males and females aged between 18-25 years. The respondents were either currently undergraduate students (or above) or employed with graduate education (and above). Respondents were selected at the household level.

because that nice boy that your parents like is coming to, er, 'see' you. We understand that.

But - and this is on the basis on what YOU have told us - we think you're, well, confused. How else would you explain these glaring contradictions? More than half of you are fine with premarital sex - hallelujah for being progressive - but over 60 per cent of you *still* want a virgin for a spouse. You think nothing of jiving to Lady Gaga's *Born This Way*, but homosexuality is unacceptable. To the world, you are the epitome of the independent girl or guy, but secretly, you want your folks to choose the person you'll marry. Because over 40 per cent of you care about 'family background' (whatever that is) when looking for a spouse.

Excuse me - just what did we miss here??

We racked our brains till we almost missed the deadline for this story but couldn't come up with anything to explain your double standards. So we turned to some people to explain this better.

"This may be a time of transition but I am not sure that being so confused is a healthy trend," says social analyst Dr Syed Mubin Zehra. "You will see that despite the seemingly minor differences between male and female opinions, the chastity

'IN INDIA, EVEN AT 25, PEOPLE DON'T QUESTION THINGS. THEY JUST ACCEPT WHAT THEY'RE TOLD BY THEIR PARENTS'

belt still lies with girls."

And so, we have a couple of bones to pick with you.

First off, getting hitched: "In our society, marriage is still seen as a bond between two families and not just two individuals," Pankaj Shastri, a marriage broker told us. "Family background is the number one demand of my clients."

Standing up for your gay buddy (do you have one at all?) too is clearly not the hip thing to do (though you spent a thousand bucks on tickets, popcorn and cola when you watched *Dostana*). Seventy-six per cent of you say that homosexuality is just not acceptable. Which shows you're not independent, says Anjali Gopalan of the Naz Foundation, an NGO that works on HIV/AIDS and sexual health. "In India, even at the age of 25, people don't question

things around them," she says. "They simply accept what's been passed on to them by their parents."

We get it - being stuck in that chasm between East and West must be hard. But you know what's heartening? That you're at least *thinking* of these things. Advaita Kala, author of *Almost Single* blames your confusion on the way you've been raised. "How do you explain urban, educated parents opposing sex education in schools?" she asks. "We get hypocritical messages as we're raised."

So hear us out: we're not saying you should forget your roots. But if you were to think for yourselves, you'd make us all happy. All you need (and author Ira Trivedi agrees with us) is some direction.

If we find you're still unchanged after a few years, however, we'll brand you immature. Remember, this survey is an annual feature - we're coming back for you next year!

With love,
Brunch

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