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Legal Aspects of Live-in Relationships in India

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ABSTRACT

Live in relationships have emerged as a major social and legal phenomenon in India, posing a threat to the conventional notions of family and marriage and creating complex legal rights and obligations for the individuals involved in the relationship. The purpose of this study is to analyze critically the legal provisions relating to live in relationships in India, highlighting the constitutional values, statutory provisions, and judicial pronouncements that have paved the way for the acceptance of the same. The study will begin with an analysis of the concept and different types of live-in relationships and later look into the past judicial pronouncements which have changed the legal status of live-in relationships in India. The study focuses on the legal protections provided under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act of 2005¹, maintenance rights as per criminal laws, and the evidentiary presumptions relating to long-standing cohabitation under the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam of 2023². In addition to this, the paper focuses on the legal standing of children born during live-in relationships in terms of inheritance and property rights. Moreover, the paper explores the constitutional position of same-sex live-in relationships in light of the current judicial developments and the legality of consensual same-sex relationships in India. Lastly, the paper highlights the legal and social issues faced by people in live-in relationships, such as the absence of cohesive legislation, amongst others.

KEYWORDS: Live-in Relationships, Constitutional Rights, Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, Maintenance, Same-Sex Relationships, Judicial Interpretation, Legal Protection, India.

¹ Act No. 43 Of 2005

² Act No. 47 Of 2023

INTRODUCTION

Live-in relationship is an arrangement where two individuals stay together but are not married. Living together without getting married has been considered as an offense or a sin in the Indian society. In the past, 'Ekapatni Vrat', meaning 'one man, one woman', has been one of the most sacred forms of marriage according to the Hindu Dharma, but humans have developed over time, and they have learned to accept some new practices³. Just like many other countries, India does not legally acknowledge live-in relationships as a marriage. Individuals living together but not being married lack the legal rights that married individuals have, but there is legislation protecting them. A live-in relationship refers to the situation where two individuals who are unmarried stay together for an extended period of time like marriage. Despite the fact that the two individuals are cohabiting and appearing as a couple, there are no legal rights and obligations attached to this kind of relationship as it is different from marriage. There are no laws that regulate live-in relationships in India. Although cohabitation is legal, many Indians find this kind of relationship socially and morally wrong. Despite all this, many people are living in such relationships due to several reasons. Most of the time, live-in relationships help people find out whether they should marry or not. After staying together for a while, couples get to know each other's strengths and weaknesses and then come to a decision regarding their marriage.

This will ensure that there is less chance of separation after marriage. Majority of Indian families follow traditional values and reject such relationships. Even though many people opt for live-in marriages, such relationships have always been looked down upon by society. It is believed that live-in relationships tend to weaken the values and traditions. With increasing divorces and problems between individuals, marriage still holds a lot of importance. This particular form of live-in relationship is seen in major cities of India and has not yet spread to rural India. For many years, women in live-in relationships in India existed in a socially and legally vulnerable space where their decisions were questioned by society. Without the benefits of being legally married, women who spent many years emotionally, physically and financially in such relationships often found themselves having no legal rights, while it was easy for men to escape responsibilities. However, things are changing now. Increasing acceptance of live-in relationships as a legitimate way of expressing one's own freedom and commitments with the help of the court's decision that women in live-in relationships are

³ Lloyd Law college, *Live-in Relationship: Legal Rights of Live-in Partners in India*, (Nov. 4, 2022), <https://www.lloydlawcollege.edu.in/blog/legal-right-of-live-in-partners-in-india.html>.

entitled to legal protection under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005⁴.

As per the verdict of the Supreme Court in *D Patchaiammal vs D Velusamy*⁵ and *Indra Sarma v V.K.V.Sarma*⁶, the 'relationship like marriage' mentioned under the 2005 Act should meet certain conditions. The women in these relationships should fulfill certain conditions in order to qualify for the protections offered by the PWDA. As per the laws of India, the couple should be of legal age to marry each other. As per the High Court of Allahabad in *Payal Sharma v Superintendent Nari Niketan*⁷ woman aged 21 years has the liberty to move about. No statute in Indian law specifically mentions the term 'Live-in relationship'. Nevertheless, this arrangement of living together has been deemed valid by courts and the constitution as well, provided that both the individuals involved in such an agreement give their consent. Although live-in relationships are not recognized by any of the laws like the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955⁸, CrPC⁹ or the Indian Succession Act, 1925¹⁰, however, such arrangements are recognized by DV Act through its section 2(f)¹¹.

This act considers relationships "in the form of marriage" as legal. Courts have consistently held that live-in relationships do not amount to any crime as there is no marriage at all in such relationships. The females in such arrangements are treated as "aggrieved person" under the DV Act and therefore, they can avail of protection, security and other measures against violence.

Types of cohabitation or live-in relationships

1. Dating or cohabitation
2. Pre-Marital Cohabitation
3. Trial marriage.
4. Substitute for formal marriage

Dating cohabitation refers to individuals spending a lot of time together and choosing to cohabit to benefit from convenience, financial gain, company, and sexual access. These couples are not ready to commit in the long run and are unsure of the quality of the

⁴ Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005

⁵ *D Patchaiammal vs D Velusamy* (2010) 10 SCC 469

⁶ *Indra Sarma v V.K.V.Sarma* (2013) 15 SCC 755

⁷ *Payal Sharma v. Nari Niketan*, AIR 2001 All 254

⁸ Hindu Marriage Act, 1955

⁹ Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973

¹⁰ Indian Succession Act, 1925

¹¹ Section 2(f) of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005

relationship.¹² Trial marriage is another form of cohabitation, similar to pre-marriage cohabitation. It appeals to individuals that are unsure about issues such as race, religion, finance, and personality. Substitute marriage is an arrangement that is committed in the long term between two persons who are not planning to get married. In this way, substitute marriage is used as an alternative to marriage. For example, it can involve one person being separated while still married or being divorced and not wanting to get married again. Cohabitation or live-in relationship can be more complicated than the four types of cohabitation, especially if there are children involved. It can involve two biological partners, one biological partner, or an adoptive partner.

STATUS OF CHILDREN OF COUPLES IN LIVE-IN RELATIONSHIPS

As far as the status of the children of live-in partners goes, there seems to be ambiguity because of the absence of any law addressing this issue. The Hindu Marriage Act of 1955 gives all such children legitimate rights despite the nature of their marriages being illegal, voidable, or valid¹³. But no laws are there to give legitimacy to the children of live-in partners. If live-in partners separate from each other, the future of their children becomes uncertain. Legislation needs to be put in place to ensure the rights of these children.

RESEARCH PROBLEM

The rising trend of live-in relationships in India is due to the changing attitude of society; however, the existing legal framework for these relationships is rather incomplete and dependent on judicial interpretation. Despite certain constitutional provisions and judgments that have helped in providing some kind of recognition and protection to the individuals living together, the incomplete law has created ambiguity regarding maintenance, property rights, succession, legitimacy of children, and even remedies in case of break-up. This gap has resulted in insufficient protection, particularly for women and children. Therefore, the research aims at finding out whether the existing legal framework provides sufficient protection to these individuals or if there is need for complete statutory framework.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVE

1. The study would help in understanding the legal foundation and history of live-in relationships in India.

¹² (Aug. 2, 2017), https://ijrssh.com/admin/upload/1501666740_Kalpna_Deokar_10.pdf.

¹³ Section 16 of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955.

2. The constitutional and legislative basis for live-in relationships shall be studied.
3. The role of statements made by courts in recognizing and protecting the rights of live-in relationships would be critically analyzed.
4. The legal problems in respect of maintenance, property rights, inheritance and rights of children born from live-in relationships would be analyzed.
5. The need for formulating a law for live-in relationship in India and changes required in law would be assessed.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study adopts a non-empirical approach called 'Doctrinal Research'. This type of research relies upon a qualitative approach in legal analysis and primarily depends on secondary sources such as constitutional provisions, laws, Supreme and High Court judicial precedents, law commission reports, legislative documents, books, peer reviewed articles and other legal publications. This study critically and analytically examines the existing legislative framework that regulates live-in relationships in India. On the basis of the findings, recommendations for betterment of legal framework for live-in relationships have been made.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The research highlights the legal issues about live-in relationships in India and discusses the legal issues, both judicial and legislative, concerning the constitutional status of such relationships. The issues under consideration include maintenance, rights in property and inheritance, domestic violence, and the legitimacy and well-being of the child born from such a relationship. Through the examination of important judicial decisions and relevant legislative enactments, gaps in the law are identified. The research is confined to legal and constitutional issues of live-in relationships without touching upon its social or religious aspects, unless necessary.

CONSTITUTIONAL AND STATUTORY FRAMEWORK

➤ Constitutional Rights

The fundamental right guaranteed to all individuals under Article 21¹⁴ of the Indian Constitution pertains to the right to life and personal liberty, which has been widely construed

¹⁴ Article 21 of the Indian Constitution, 1950

by the apex court to encompass the right to dignity, privacy, autonomy, and the right to choose a life partner. On the basis of this fundamental premise, it has been held by the courts that there is a right for two adults to cohabit without getting married legally. In the case of *S. Khushboo v. Kanniammal*¹⁵, it has been explicitly held by the Supreme Court that live-in relations among consenting adults are neither illegal nor an offence, since the decision to get married or to live together falls within the ambit of personal liberty guaranteed by Article 21 of the Constitution. This principle has been upheld by further cases such as *Indra Sarma v. V. K. V. Sarma*¹⁶ where the Court acknowledged the fact that live-in relationships deserve legal protection in appropriate circumstances, particularly to protect the rights of women in live-in relationships that are similar to marriages. In this manner, Article 21 forms the basis of the constitution under which live-in relationships can be recognised and protected¹⁷.

Under Article 14¹⁸ of the constitution, persons in live-in relationships do not face any form of discrimination simply because they have chosen not to get married. Since marriage is recognized under law, the denial of constitutional protection simply because they are unmarried violates the principles of equality.

➤ **Live-In Relationship and the Domestic Violence Act, 2005**

The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 (thereafter known as 'DV Act') takes into account a new social phenomenon that prevails in India: live-in relationships. This new form of relationship, though rare in our country, can sometimes be seen in major urban areas. The Indian courts have read the phrase "relationship like marriage" used in Section 2¹⁹ of the Act as live-in relationships due to a changed social scenario. According to Section 2(a)²⁰ of the Act, 'aggrieved person' is defined as "a woman who is, or has been, in a domestic relationship with the respondent and alleges to have been subjected to domestic violence at the hands of the respondent. "Section 2(f)²¹ of the act mentions that 'living together in a shared household' means a domestic relationship. This definition does not mention the period during which such living takes place.

¹⁵ *S. Khushboo v. Kanniammal* (2010) 5 SCC 600

¹⁶ *Supra* 6

¹⁷ Dr. Gurdeep Kaur, *Live-in relationship and law in India: A study of judicial decisions*, (Dec. 12, 2025), <https://www.lawjournals.org/assets/archives/2025/vol11issue12/11292.pdf>.

¹⁸ Article 14 of the Indian Constitution, 1950

¹⁹ Section 2 of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005

²⁰ Section 2 (a) of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005

²¹ Section 2 (f) of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005

According to the judgment of the Madras High Court in *M. Palani v. Meenakshi* case²², the period of living together need not be any specified number of days under the provisions of the act. If there is a shared household at the time of consensual sexual intercourse, a woman can claim her maintenance under the Act."

In *D. Velusamy v. D. Patchaiammal*²³, the Supreme Court laid down the following guidelines to determine whether there exists a 'relationship in the type of marriage':

1. The couple must conduct themselves in society as husband and wife.
2. They must attain the legal age before marriage.
3. For marriage, certain qualifications must be satisfied by the individuals, one of which is being unmarried.
4. They must cohabit as husband and wife for a considerable period of time.

The Court held that a 'relationship resembling marriage' as stipulated in the Act of 2005 must satisfy the above-listed characteristics in addition to 'cohabitation as a member of a household in a domestic relationship' in section 2(s)²⁴ of the Act²⁵. Weekend visits or a one-night stand do not amount to a 'domestic relationship'. According to the historic judgment of *Indra Sarma vs. V.K.V. Sarma* (2013)²⁶, a live-in relationship shall be deemed valid when it satisfies some criteria like the long-lasting and stable nature of the arrangement, with both individuals agreeing to live together as couples.

Live-in relationship with a married individual shall be differentiated from marriage. The court found that live-in relationships fall under the definition of marriages according to the 2005 Act. There are four necessary criteria which need to be fulfilled to get this privilege.

➤ **Presumption of marriage under the Evidence Act**

According to the Indian Evidence Act, 1872²⁷, facts may be presumed by judges depending upon circumstances. In this context, it can be said that the presumption is made under the provision of Section 114²⁸ of the Act (Section 119 of the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam,

²² *M. Palani v. Meenakshi*, 2008

²³ *D. Velusamy v. D. Patchaiammal* (2010) 10 SCC 469

²⁴ Section 2(s) of the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005

²⁵ *Aggrieved Women and Live-In Relationships: Judicial Discourse*, (Mar. 11, 2013), <https://docs.manupatra.in/newslines/articles/upload/0f9385c7-ddf2-41eb-a7db-fa111c39bfd8.pdf>.

²⁶ *Supra* 6

²⁷ Indian Evidence Act, No. 1 of 1872

²⁸ Section 114 of the *Indian Evidence Act*, 1872

2023²⁹) that living together for a considerable period of time constitutes valid marriage if not proved to be different. The basis of the presumption is that legitimacy should take precedence over illegitimacy. The court recognizes marriages of those individuals who live together for years to protect the interests of children. The presumption can be rebutted by showing the absence of the marriage³⁰.

➤ **Live-In Relationship and Issue of Maintenance**

In June 2008, the National Commission for Women recommended to the Ministry of Women and Child Development³¹ that live-in female partners must be made eligible for maintenance under Section 125³² of the Criminal Procedure Code, 1973. This was in view of the decision in the case of *Abhijit Bhikaseth Auti v. State of Maharashtra and Others*³³. In October 2008, the Government of Maharashtra adopted the recommendation of Malimath Committee³⁴ and Law Commission of India that women living together in live-in relationships must have equal status as a wife.

Section 125 of the CrPC (Section 144(1) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023³⁵) provides for maintenance for spouse and other relatives. Explanation (b) to section 125(1)³⁶ of CrPC states that the term 'wife' means a woman who is divorced but has not remarried. Further, it was held by the court that 'wife' under Section 125 must be interpreted to mean only legally wedded wife. The section 125 of CrPC 1973 has been interpreted by the three judge bench of the Supreme Court of India in the case of *Vimala v. Veeraswamy*³⁷ to avoid vagrancy and poverty. "Wife" as used in section 125 of CrPC 1973 means a wife who has been divorced by her husband or who has obtained a divorce and has not remarried. The lady without legal status comes within the ambit of "wife", as per the intent³⁸.

In the case of *Chanmuniya v. Virendra Kushwaha*³⁹, the Supreme Court reversed its previous decision and held that a woman has a right to claim maintenance from the opposite sex under

²⁹ Section 119 of the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023

³⁰ (Sept. 14, 2020), <https://ijlmh.com/wp-content/uploads/Live-In-Relationship-The-Legality-of-Unconventional-Relationship-in-India.pdf?pdf=1>

³¹ Times Of India, *Maintenance for live-in partner?*, Times of India (June 30, 2008), <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Maintenance-for-live-in-partner/articleshow/3178050.cms>.

³² Section 125 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973

³³ *Abhijit Bhikaseth Auti v. State of Maharashtra and Others*, 2008

³⁴ (Aug. 21, 2023), <https://ijlmh.com/wp-content/uploads/Legality-of-the-Live-In-Relationship-in-India.pdf?pdf=1>.

³⁵ Section 144(1) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023

³⁶ Section 125(1)(a) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973

³⁷ *Vimala v. Veeraswamy* (1991) 2 SCC 375

³⁸ *Supra* 24

³⁹ *Chanmuniya v. Virendra Kushwaha* (2011) 1 SCC 141

Section 125 of the CrPC 1973. The reason behind extending such an advantage to a woman living with the opposite sex is to stop men from taking undue advantage of a live-in relationship.

As per *Kamala v. Mohan Kumar*⁴⁰, the Honorable Supreme Court held that the concept of 'wife' needs to be interpreted purposefully in order to uphold social justice values and ensure that the dignity of people is protected under the Constitution of India. In the case in question, since the lady had lived with the man for an elongated period of time, there was an implicit presumption of marriage. The court further held that the lady is entitled to get maintenance for herself and her children.

LEGAL STATUS OF CHILDREN BORN OUT OF A LIVE-IN RELATIONSHIP

According to the decision in the case of *Tulsa v. Durghatiya*⁴¹, the child born out of such a union cannot be termed as an illegitimate one anymore. The couple should have stayed together for quite some time to prove their commitment to each other. *S.P.S. Balasubramanyam v. Suruttayan*⁴² was the first case where the validity of the children born out of a live-in relationship was established by the Supreme Court. According to the judgment, "If a man and woman are living under the same roof and cohabiting for some years, there will be a presumption under Section 114 of the Evidence Act that they live as husband and wife and the children born to them will not be illegitimate." The Supreme Court had also read down the provision of Article 39(f)⁴³ of the Constitution of India⁴⁴.

The Supreme Court, in the case of *Revanasiddappa v. Mallikarjun*⁴⁵, has recognised four children born out of a live-in relationship as "legal heirs" and has granted them the right of inheritance. The Court ensures that the children born out of any live-in relationship will have the right of inheritance and won't be deprived of it. In another judgment, *Bharatha Matha v. R. Vijaya Renganathan*⁴⁶, the Supreme Court has recognised the legitimacy of a child born out of a live-in relationship and has granted him the right of inheritance of his parents' property.

⁴⁰ *Kamala v. Mohan Kumar* (2019) 11 SCC 491

⁴¹ *Tulsa v. Durghatiya* (2008) 4 SCC 520

⁴² *S.P.S. Balasubramanyam v. Suruttayan* (1994) 1 SCC 460

⁴³ Article 39(f) of the Constitution of India, 1950

⁴⁴ (Sept. 14, 2020), <https://ijlmh.com/wp-content/uploads/Live-In-Relationship-The-Legality-of-Unconventional-Relationship-in-India.pdf?pdf=1>.

⁴⁵ *Revanasiddappa v. Mallikarjun* 2011 AIR SCW 2447

⁴⁶ *Bharatha Matha v. R. Vijaya Renganathan* 2010 INSC 328

SAME-SEX LIVE-IN RELATIONSHIPS

For same-sex live-in couples, there is legal protection within the Constitution via Articles 14⁴⁷, 15⁴⁸, 19⁴⁹, and 21⁵⁰ that give equality, dignity, privacy, and personal liberty respectively. While India does not legally recognize same-sex marriage or civil partnerships, same-sex cohabitation is legal following the famous judgement of *Navtej Singh Johar v. Union of India*⁵¹, whereby the Supreme Court of India legalized consensual sex between two adults by declaring void Section 377⁵² of the Indian Penal Code. It held that one's sexual orientation is an intrinsic part of his/her identity, and every individual has the constitutional right to choose his/her intimate partner and live in dignity, privacy, and autonomy. The decision in the case of *Supriyo @ Supriya Chakraborty v. Union of India*⁵³ made it clear that LGBT persons have the fundamental liberty to enter into unions, live together, and even set up a family without any discrimination, despite the rejection of a claim to the constitutional right to same-sex marriage. But since there is no statutory recognition for this, same-sex live-in partners will still find themselves at a loss when it comes to issues related to inheritance, maintenance, adoption, succession, and conjugal rights⁵⁴.

ISSUES AND CHALLENGES OF LIVE-IN RELATIONSHIPS

Even with the legalisation of live-in relationships through the judiciary, there remain several hurdles that need to be discussed in more detail. Below are some of the major grey areas that require an amicable settlement.

1. **Social and moral acceptance:** Though a live-in relationship is legally accepted in India, it is still considered to be morally and ethically unacceptable. There is skepticism in the Indian society about live-in relationships, and hence there arise problems like rejection by family, inability to find accommodation, social rejection and negative attitude in employment.
2. **Cultural aspects:** India is known for its distinct cultures and religions. The impact of globalization in our country on human interactions has been enormous. Family values

⁴⁷ Article 14 of the Indian Constitution, 1950

⁴⁸ Article 15 of the Indian Constitution, 1950

⁴⁹ Article 19 of the Indian Constitution, 1950

⁵⁰ Article 21 of the Indian Constitution, 1950

⁵¹ *Navtej Singh Johar v. Union of India* AIR 2018 SUPREME COURT 4321

⁵² Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code

⁵³ *Supriyo @ Supriya Chakraborty v. Union of India*, 2023

⁵⁴ Dr. Gurdeep Kaur, *Live-in relationship and law in India: A study of judicial decisions*, (Dec. 12, 2025), <https://www.lawjournals.org/assets/archives/2025/vol11issue12/11292.pdf>.

and relations are changing immensely. There is different opinion about live-in relationships in every religion. The Special Marriage Act of 1955⁵⁵ gives provision of anti-religion marriage, which is a complicated issue. Live-in relationships are not approved by Hinduism and Islam but are acceptable in Christianity. In India, beliefs, customs, usages and culture play a significant role in influencing people's outlooks⁵⁶.

3. **Absence of proper law:** There is an absence of law pertaining to live-in relationships. Laws pertaining to marriage have a defined set of rules and regulations regarding its validity, registration, annulment, rights and so forth. But in case of live-in relationships, there is nothing like that and there is no clarity in that regard. Court judgments serve as source of information. And since the same case may be interpreted differently by different judges, this makes the whole process ambiguous.
4. **Absence of proper definition and evidentiary issues:** The lack of a precise definition of the phrase “relationship similar to marriage” used in the law creates ambiguity and difficulty in proving. Courts take into account aspects like duration of the relationship between the partners, living conditions and how others see the relationship in the society. But these are not fixed guidelines and may differ according to each instance. This creates difficulties in real life especially for the woman because if the woman approaches court, she needs to prove her relationship as per these vague guidelines but due to secrecy of the relationship it becomes difficult to do so.
5. **Social Pressure and the Problem of Access to Justice:** Although the law offers protection, society is not supportive of live-in relationships. People continue to have negative attitudes towards live-in relationships. Women facing such issues may be subject to social condemnation, family pressure, and interference that is unnecessary. This is why most women are reluctant to take legal action because it will involve revealing the nature of their relationship and will cause more problems for them. Therefore, despite having such legislation, people might not feel comfortable using it.
6. **Gender prejudice:** The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005 stipulates that a woman, who has been living in a relationship with a male partner for

⁵⁵ Act No. 43 of 1954

⁵⁶ (May 14, 2024), <https://www.ijfmr.com/papers/2024/3/20396.pdf>.

a significant amount of time, is deemed equal to a wife, which means she is eligible to receive some benefits like maintenance and property. Sadly, it doesn't extend any provisions to males or gay relationships. Men often get charged for sexual assault and abusing women in the name of marriage. It seems odd because there's nothing strong about males. Likewise, there's no protection against the sexual assault of the same sex. Special laws for live-in relationships are required⁵⁷.

CONCLUSION

Live-in relationships have emerged as an important phenomenon in India with the changing values and increasing appreciation of individual freedom in the realm of intimate relations. Although Indian law has not enacted any specific legislative provision on live-in relationships, the judicial process has been instrumental in acknowledging and upholding such relationships by virtue of the interpretation of constitutional principles of equality, dignity, privacy, and personal liberty. The courts have observed that the act of living together by two consenting adults is neither criminal nor immoral. Some limited provisions have also been created by the law to protect such relationships, especially women and children, by the enactment of statutes like the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act of 2005. However, although some important milestones have been achieved through court decisions, the legal scenario pertaining to live-in relationships is still unclear and disjointed. There is no statutory provision for issues related to maintenance, inheritance, succession, property laws, parenting issues, and even live-in relationships of homosexuals. Therefore, a well-balanced legal regime will be needed to bridge the gulf between constitutional values and the ground realities of socioeconomic life. It should define the rights, responsibilities, and obligations of cohabiting individuals, while also uphold personal freedom and barring the abuse of the law.

⁵⁷ Priya Sepaha, (Apr. 30, 2021), <https://lawcolloquy.com/journals/PriyaV1C2.pdf>.