

# DRISHTI

## STREE ADHYAYAN PRABODHAN KENDRA

### **A Survey Report on** ***“Legalization of Same Sex Marriages in India”***

The 'Navtej Singh Johar' Case of 2018 brought the construct of 'Same Sex Marriage' to the forefront and debates. It has been 5 years since the case is being heard in the apex court of the country and Indian society, at varied strata, has been trying to comprehend with the concept of 'Same Sex Marriage'. Moreover, the subject has an emotional appeal for acceptance and traditional approach for rejection in the society.

However, an in depth understanding of the subject on a societal level is required to either accept or reject 'Same Sex Marriage' as a recognized form of marriage in the society. At this stage it is significant to first take a note of what exactly is the understanding of the Indian masses regarding 'SAME SEX MARRIAGES'. It is important to know where we stand as a society and what is the societal opinion of the same when it comes to legalizing such marriages.

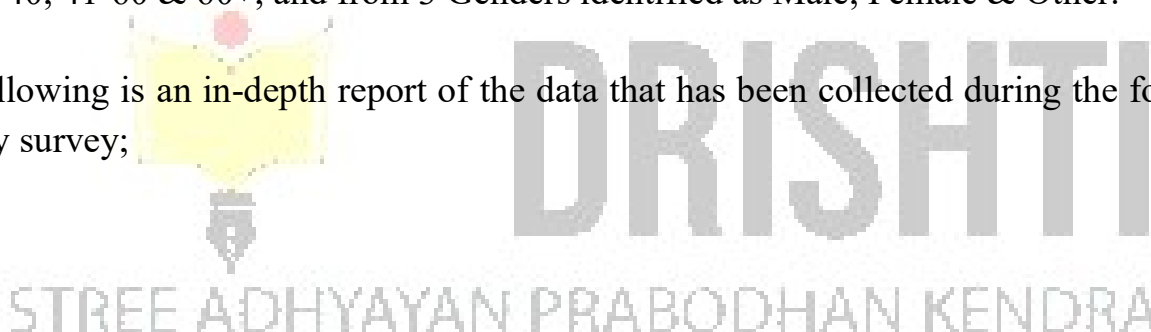
With the same aim Drishti Stree Adhyayan Prabhodhan Kendra, that is based in Pune, has been systematically collecting data so that India's position in the comprehension process of 'SAME SEX MARRIAGES' can be mapped, based on which further societal response to legalization of same sex marriages can be developed.

Besides, Drishti's initiative to take a social survey was triggered by the latest SC hearing of 16 petitions dealing with the issue of 'LEGALIZATION OF SAME SEX MARRIAGES' & the fact that the result of this hearing will impact the entire society and not just a particular section, which is why understanding the society's cognizance of the issue becomes significant.

Drishti Stree Adhyayan Prabhodhan Kendra, a women's study centre has been working for more than two decades in researching and understanding the vital and important issues regarding women's status in the society. The organization's interest in the subject has been on the lines of how the legal recognition of Same Sex Marriage can potentially impact the role of women & children in the society.

The survey that Drishti Stree Adhyayan Prabhodhan Kendra carried out between Apr 25 to Apr 28, received responses in 13 languages, from four age groups; 18-25, 26-40, 41-60 & 60+, and from 3 Genders identified as Male, Female & Other.

Following is an in-depth report of the data that has been collected during the four-day survey;



## **Respondent Statistics: Age Group & Gender**

As mentioned above, the survey that was carried out during a stretch of four days between Apr 25 and Apr 28, includes the responses of four age groups; 18-25, 26-40, 41-60 & 60+. As per the collected data, most responses counting to 46 per cent account to the third group of 41-60, followed with 28 per cent responses accounting to the second group of 26-40, followed with 15 per cent responses accounting to the fourth group of 60+ & the least responses of 11 per cent accounting to the first group of 18-25.

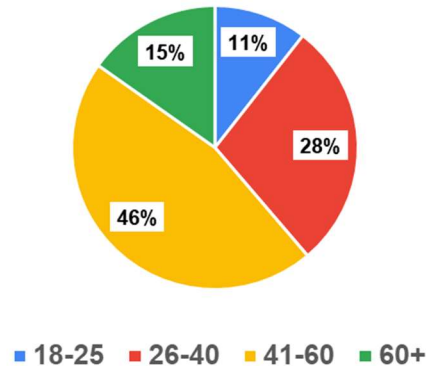
On the parameters of Gender, as per the data collected, for the first group of 18-25 years of age, 3535 responses were received from individuals who identified themselves as Male, 2468 responses were received from individuals who identified themselves as Female and 65 responses were received from individuals who identified themselves as Other Gender.

For the second group of 26-40 years of age, 10924 responses were received from individuals who identified themselves as Male, 5309 responses were received from individuals who identified themselves as Female and 51 responses were received from individuals who identified themselves as Other Gender.

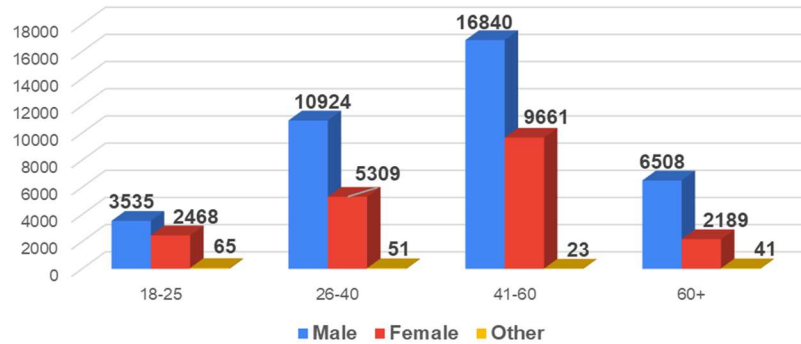
For the third group of 41-60 years of age, 16840 responses were received from individuals who identified themselves as Male, 9661 responses were received from individuals who identified themselves as Female and 23 responses were received from individuals who identified themselves as Other Gender.

For the fourth group of 60+ years of age, 6508 responses were received from individuals who identified themselves as Male, 2189 responses were received from individuals who identified themselves as Female and 41 responses were received from individuals who identified themselves as Other Gender.

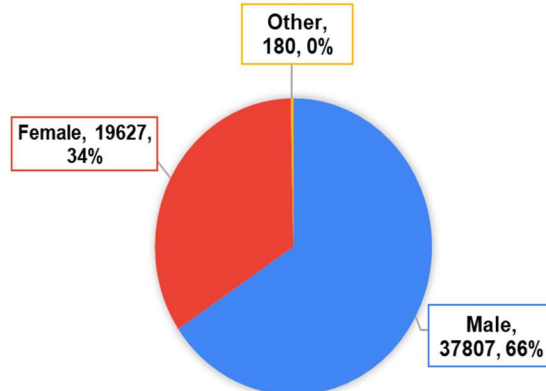
### RESPONDEDNT STATISTICS AGE GROUP



### RESPONDENT STATISTICS AGEGROUP, GENDER



### RESPONDENT STATISTICS GENDER



This quick opinion survey received responses across all age groups, from several regions in India and gender representation of Male, Female and other Genders as well.

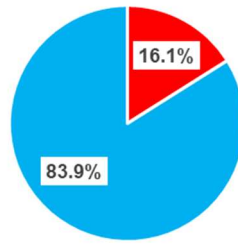
## 1. Is same sex marriage issue, a serious concern in India?

On the parameters of age, as per the data collected, the first group of 18-25 years of age received 83.0 per cent responses as 'YES' and 17.0 per cent responses as 'NO'. The second group of 26-40 years of age received 84.2 per cent responses as 'YES' and 15.8 per cent responses as 'NO'. The third group of 41-60 years of age received 84.5 per cent responses as 'YES' and 15.5 per cent responses as 'NO'. The fourth group of 60+ years of age received 82.4 per cent responses as 'YES' and 17.6 per cent responses as 'NO' for the question.

On the parameters of gender, as per the data collected, an overall result reflects 88.4 per cent Female responding 'YES' to the question, with an 11.6 per cent 'NO' as a response for the same. In case of Male responses, the result reflects 81.7 per cent 'YES' and 18.3 per cent 'NO' for the question. In case of responses from individuals identified as Other Gender, the result reflects 74 per cent 'YES' and 26 per cent 'NO' for the question.

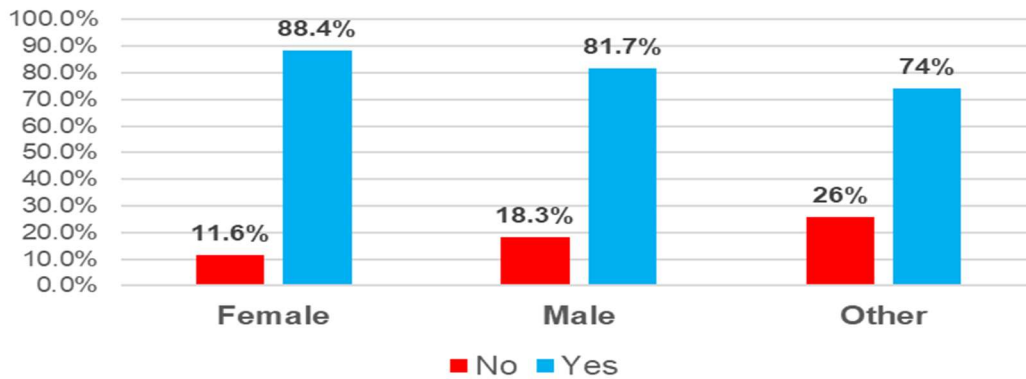
**Observation:** In an overall insight of the question, 83.9 per cent responses were received who identified same sex marriage issue as a serious concern in India, while 16.1 per cent responses were received who didn't identify same sex marriage issue as a serious concern in India.

Is same sex marriage issue, a serious concern in India?

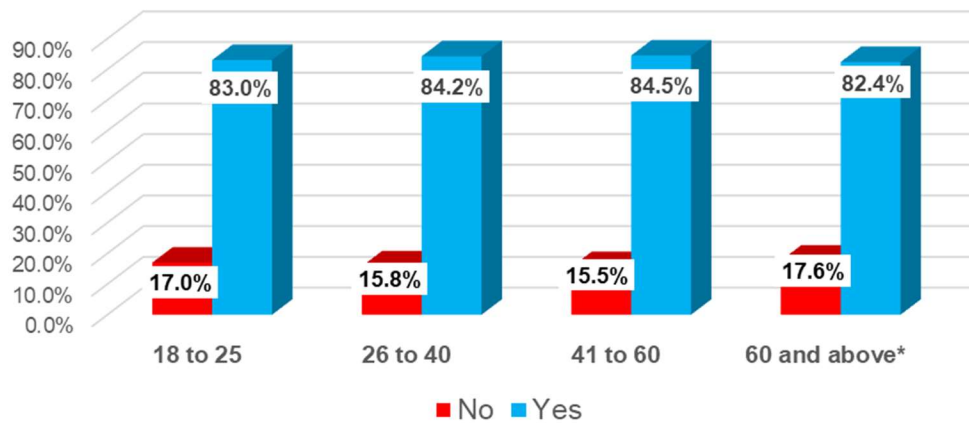


■ No ■ Yes

### Respondents by Gender



### Respondents by Age Group



Majority of respondents across age groups and genders think that same sex marriage issue is a serious concern in India

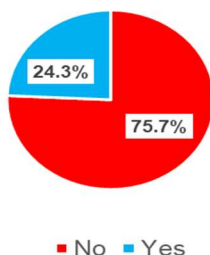
## 2. Do you believe same sex relationship is a natural phenomenon?

On the parameters of age, as per the data collected, the first group of 18-25 years of age received 45.4 per cent responses as 'YES' and 54.6 per cent responses as 'NO'. The second group of 26-40 years of age received 32.9 per cent responses as 'YES' and 67.1 per cent responses as 'NO'. The third group of 41-60 years of age received 17.7 per cent responses as 'YES' and 82.3 per cent responses as 'NO'. The fourth group of 60+ years of age received 13.5 per cent responses as 'YES' and 86.5 per cent responses as 'NO' for the question.

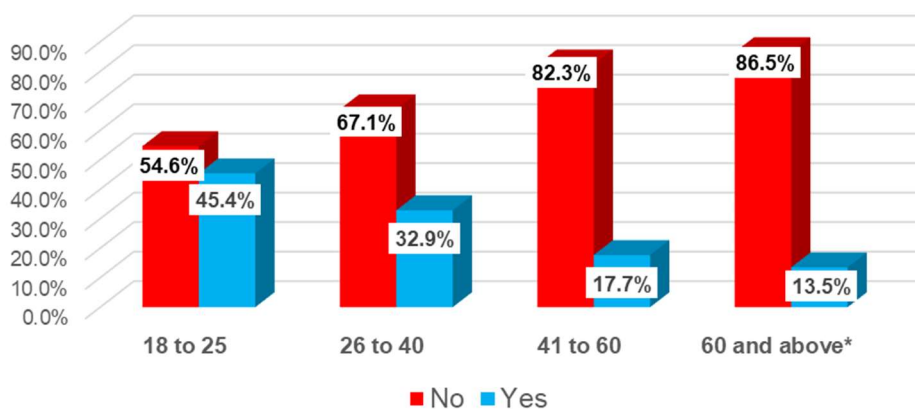
On the parameters of gender, as per the data collected, an overall result reflects 26.8 per cent Female responding 'YES' to the question, with a 73.2 per cent 'NO' as a response for the same. In case of Male responses, the result reflects 22.8 per cent 'YES' and 77.2 per cent 'NO' for the question. In case of responses from individuals identified as Other Gender, the result reflects 47 per cent 'YES' and 53 per cent 'NO' for the question.

**Observation:** In an overall response insight of the question, 75 per cent respondents believe that same sex relationship is not a natural phenomenon. Increasing percentage of respondents follow the belief of same sex relationship not being a natural phenomenon, in higher age groups. A lack of scientific awareness on same sex relationships across genders and age groups has been observed.

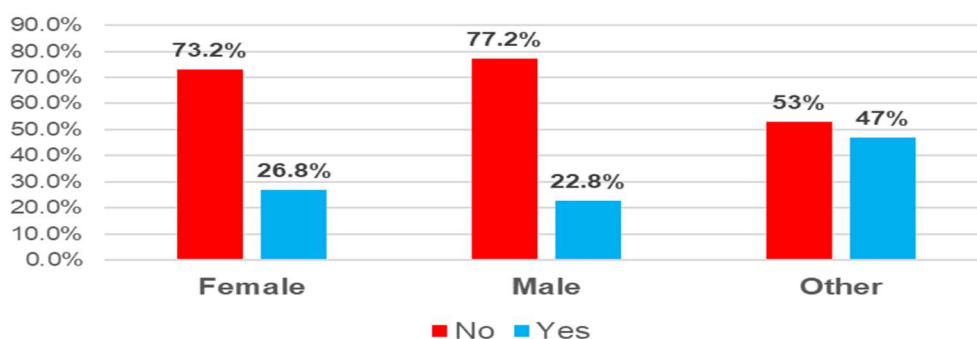
Do you believe same sex relationship is a natural phenomenon?



Respondents by Age Group



Respondents by Gender



75% respondents believe that same sex relationship is not a natural phenomenon. Increasing percentage of respondents have this belief in higher age groups. There seems a lack of scientific awareness on same sex relationship across genders and age groups.



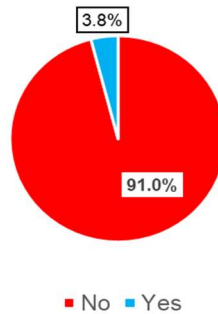
### 3. In India, would it be appropriate to legalize same sex marriage?

On the parameters of age, as per the data collected, the first group of 18-25 years of age received 27.1 per cent responses as 'YES' and 72.9 per cent responses as 'NO'. The second group of 26-40 years of age received 11.6 per cent responses as 'YES' and 88.4 per cent responses as 'NO'. The third group of 41-60 years of age received 4.9 per cent responses as 'YES' and 95.1 per cent responses as 'NO'. The fourth group of 60+ years of age received 3.8 per cent responses as 'YES' and 96.2 per cent responses as 'NO' for the question.

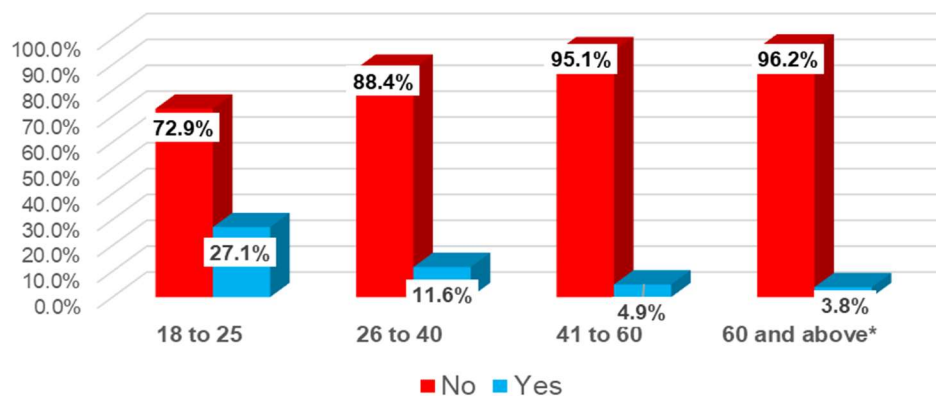
On the parameters of gender, as per the data collected, an overall result reflects 6.0 per cent Female responding 'YES' to the question, with an 86.1 per cent 'NO' as a response for the same. In case of Male responses, the result reflects 3.1 per cent 'YES' and 93.7 per cent 'NO' for the question. In case of responses from individuals identified as Other Gender, the result reflects 12 per cent 'YES' and 67 per cent 'NO' for the question.

**Observation:** In an overall response insight of the question, 27 per cent of respondents from age group, 18 to 25 think it is appropriate to legalize same sex marriage in India. It should be noted that this percentage drops in higher age groups and we observe that 91 per cent respondents of age group 60+ think it is not appropriate to legalize same sex marriage in India.

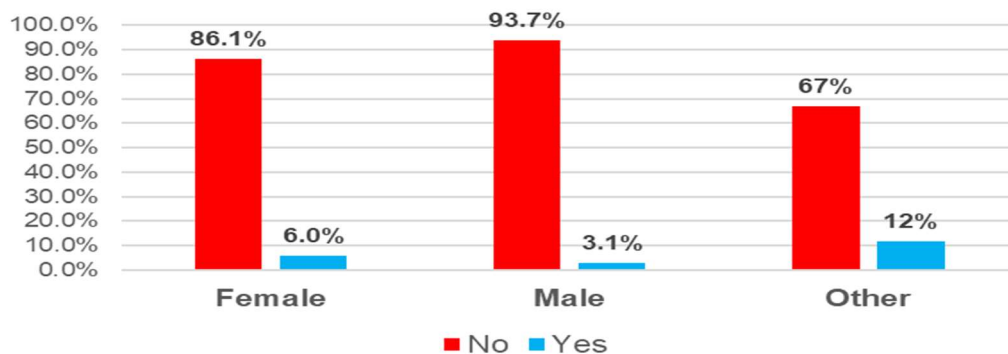
In India, would it be appropriate to legalize same sex marriage?



Respondents by Age Group



Respondents by Gender



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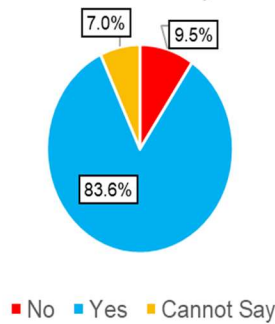
#### 4. Will legalizing same sex marriage in India have adverse effects on Indian Society?

On the parameters of age, as per the data collected, the first group of 18-25 years of age received 65.2 per cent responses as 'YES', 18.8 per cent responses as 'NO' and 16 per cent are unsure about their own response. The second group of 26-40 years of age received 79.3 per cent responses as 'YES', 12.5 per cent responses as 'NO' and 8 per cent are unsure about their own response. The third group of 41-60 years of age received 88.1 per cent responses as 'YES', 7.8 per cent responses as 'NO' and 5 per cent are unsure about their own response. The fourth group of 60+ years of age received 90.6 per cent responses as 'YES', 5.6 per cent responses as 'NO' for the question and 4 per cent are unsure about their own response.

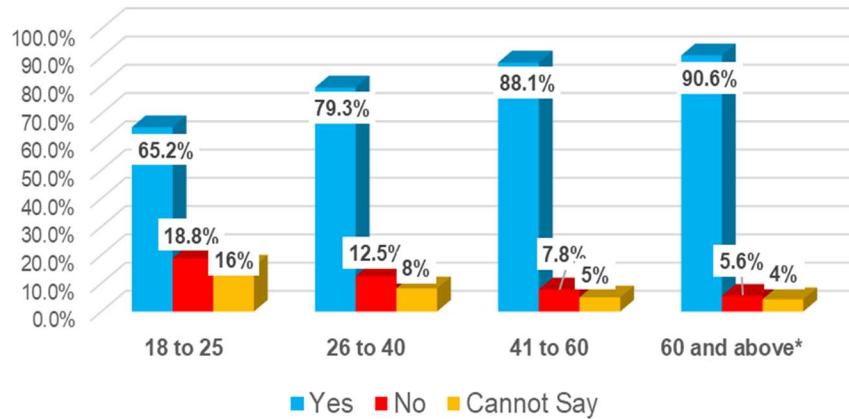
On the parameters of gender, as per the data collected, an overall result reflects 78.3 per cent Female responding 'YES' to the question, with an 10.9 per cent 'NO' as a response for the same question and 11 per cent are unsure about their own response. In case of Male responses, the result reflects 86.5 per cent 'YES', 8.7 per cent 'NO' for the question and 5 per cent are unsure about their own response. In case of responses from individuals identified as Other Gender, the result reflects 56 per cent 'YES', 27 per cent 'NO' for the question and 17 per cent are unsure about their own response.

**Observation:** Majority of the respondents across age groups and genders think that legalizing same sex marriage will have adverse effects on Indian Society.

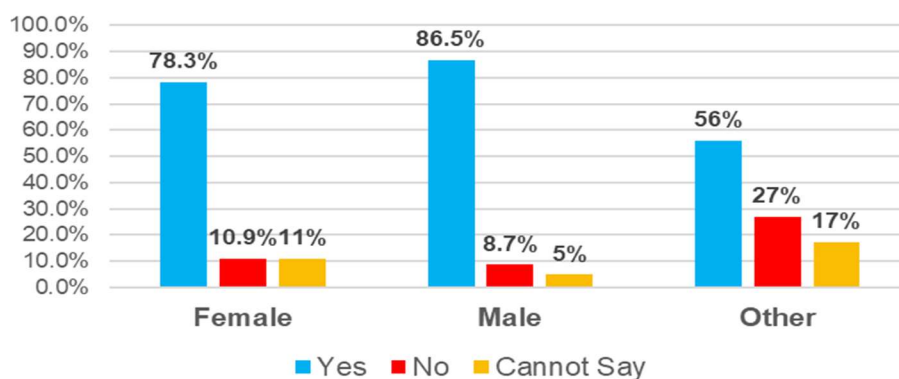
Will legalizing same sex marriage in India have adverse effects on Indian Society?



Respondents by Age Group



Respondents by Gender



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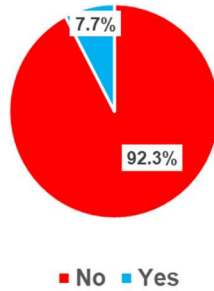
## 5. Will you support same sex marriage in your/your extended family?

On the parameters of age, as per the data collected, the first group of 18-25 years of age received 24.0 per cent responses as 'YES' and 76.0 per cent responses as 'NO'. The second group of 26-40 years of age received 10.3 per cent responses as 'YES' and 89.7 per cent responses as 'NO'. The third group of 41-60 years of age received 4.0 per cent responses as 'YES' and 96.0 per cent responses as 'NO'. The fourth group of 60+ years of age received 2.8 per cent responses as 'YES' and 97.2 per cent responses as 'NO' for the question.

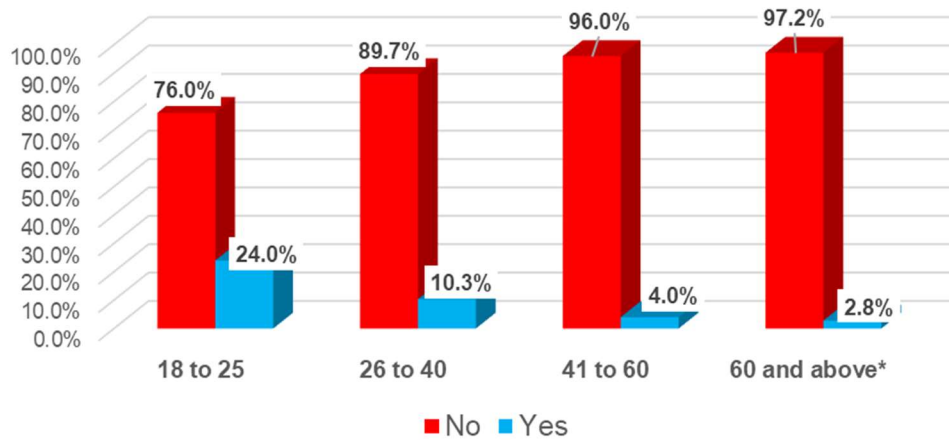
On the parameters of gender, as per the data collected, an overall result reflects 12.4 per cent Female responding 'YES' to the question and 87.6 per cent 'NO' as a response for the same. In case of Male responses, the result reflects 5.1 per cent 'YES' and 94.8 per cent 'NO' for the question. In case of responses from individuals identified as Other Gender, the result reflects 29 per cent 'YES', 71 per cent 'NO' for the question.

**Observation:** A large majority of respondents across age groups and genders will not support same sex marriage in their / their extended family.

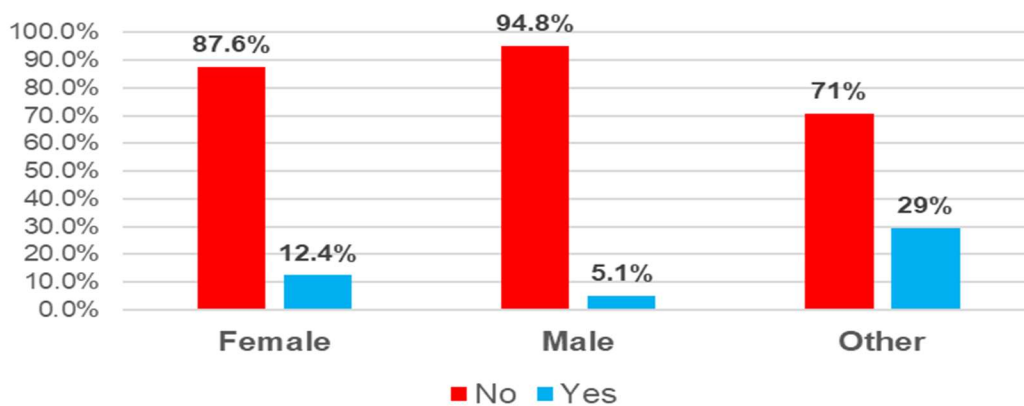
Will you support same sex marriage in your / your extended family?



Respondents by Age Group



Respondents by Gender



A large majority of respondents across age groups and genders will not support same sex marriage in their / their extended family.

## Conclusion:

As per the collected data, it has been observed that the majority of the received responses suggest a rigid approach for accepting 'same sex marriages' in the personal sphere of their life. The survey also indicates that the majority of the individuals believe that legalizing same sex marriages will adversely impact Indian society.

It has also been observed that there is a considerable number of individuals who think that 'same sex marriages' are actually against the natural order of humanity and rather it disturbs the balance of natural order. In the comments received in an open-ended question in the survey, it has been noted that several individuals have called out attention to other countries where the legal order of nations has recognized same sex marriages and later has faced several judicial and social problems, which initially weren't even considered while approving legality to the subject. There are individuals who in their replies to the survey have mentioned that no religions across the world either permit or support 'same sex marriages'.

Besides, there are several replies that address the threat to both male as well as female; who in case are sexually harassed by the other gender will have no hopes to cling to for their case to be justified as there is no legal framework for any such situation. There also seemed to exist some anxiety among certain individuals that legalization of such marriages will create and promote anarchy and chaos in the society. Some of the respondents have expressed concern over psychological effects due to bombardment of information through new media and early age exposure to sexuality related topics on teenage boys and girls. Higher age group respondents have expressed concern over early age exposure to sexuality and need for education system to find a solution to educating children on such topics at appropriate age and manner.

Some of the replies received through the survey are quoted below as is to give a pulse on various dimensions of the subject voiced by the respondents;

1. Natural occurrence of homosexuality is very rare in society so no need to legalize.
2. Same sex marriage is against creation, against Indian culture, against any religions.
3. Harassment of girls will be serious issue. She will not be safe within a group of girls, or the same case with boys may happen.
4. This will have long term adverse effects on family system and children.
5. It is against the nature. If you disturb nature, we don't know how nature will disturb us. Future generations will be messed up. Only female and male can bring balance to the society.
6. Same-sex marriage will create social unrest.
7. Minor psychiatric illness- personality disorders. It needs careful treatment from family and society's concern.
8. The arguments of the LGBT community also seem to be genuine. Therefore, social acceptance and all social attitudes should be checked on this matter and its effect on our future generation should also be discussed. It is necessary to have discussions on an open platform in real terms. Thoughts presented from sociological point of view are to be presented.
9. Implementation of same sex marriage will lead to degradation of our social system, which already various societies are suffering after legalizing this. There should be more civic sense used in such decisions.
11. Promoting Homosexuality will destroy the natural order of the society as younger generation is getting unnecessarily confused about their identity.
12. As a society we need to learn to respect every individual irrespective of their sexuality. No hype required on this topic, just learn to accept everyone for who they are.

We conclude that there is a loud and clear mandate against same sex marriages being legalized in India. There are concerns over societal and legal implications of the same sex marriages being legalized that need to be further studied.

Drishti Stree Adhyayan Prabodhan Kendra is making this survey report available in public domain for further research and invites subject matter experts from different fields to share their interpretations and further research on related topics with us.