

## Why don't busy bodies gossip about you?

- Sunny Gangar, M&M



Is it the general reels that suggest gay relationships don't last longer? Or the very fact that gay marriages are still not recognised in most parts of the world? But one thing is certain, my lunch table conversations do not include any questions about my "relationship status".

We usually talk about how a colleagues' husband/wife reacted to a certain event; the food that's made by their husband/wife. We also talk about kids' education and how their little ones are growing up so fast!

In all this, never once has anyone asked me about my relationship/dating life?

Why is no one curious about this, even if they have known me for over 2 years now?

Did something change?

Sometimes, I feel the moment I outed myself to this group, they settled with the fact that if there is a change in my routine, I will share it firsthand and perhaps that's why they don't ask.

Or

Maybe they don't ask because it's relationships we are talking, they don't last long, especially for queer folks. Btw Jack Baker and Michael McConnell, the first same-sex couple in United States history known to have obtained a marriage license, celebrated their 50th Marriage anniversary in 2021!

Or

Maybe they feel its not right to ask a single man about their relationship status, especially when it's a queer guy. This perhaps trickles down from the general approach - we don't ask 30 something peeps about their marriage. But if it was a 30 something girl, she would have been asked about her marriage plans - how contrasting that its generally thought and taught that women folks are sensitive and men have a tough skin. Is it that a queer guy misidentified as a sensitive individual and hence treated differently?

Or

May be its about keeping it simple - we don't talk about our partners. But then we do talk about the husbands, wife, in-laws, kids because they are family and are bound to be referred in general life update.

Or

Is it just a way to avoid confronting the real-ness that Queer folks go through. A citizen who is not permitted to get married; nominate same-sex partner as next of kin; not allowed to adopt a child or take medical decision on behalf of their same-sex partner. By not having these conversations or issues faced by queer folks, one is essentially ignoring us and the challenges queer folk's face. May be this isn't a lunch table conversation, but when is it an appropriate time or where will it be appropriate?

Pride month is a month to remind the society that queers exist and are surviving even if they are denied the basic human rights. The month of June is a reminder to pay homage to those who made the heaviest sacrifices to keep the flame burning even when the abuse of power felt like endless downpour. Pride month is a way for allies to come shoulder to shoulder and remind their queer folks that they are not alone in this fight for right!