

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

Protocol title: Exploring the Romantic Experiences of Young Adults from Indian Military Families

IEC Protocol No.: IEC2-349-2024

Principal Investigator: Mehak Shakya

Designation: Post Graduate Student

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Please read this form carefully. If you decide to volunteer to take part in this study you must sign the informed consent document below.

You are invited to participate in this study / research because you are currently engaged in a romantic relationship and you are from a military family. The study will look at trust, intimacy and infidelity experiences of the participants. The study explores the influence of military culture on the romantic experiences of the participants. We are trying to understand if there are specific challenges unique to the military culture that shapes an individual's romantic experiences.

This study will include individuals between the ages of 18- 30 years who have at least one parent in the military, either still serving or retired. Additionally, they should currently be in a romantic relationship that has lasted for at least 6 months, regardless of whether it is a heterosexual or homosexual relationship. Participants should also have completed their schooling in military schools and have lived on military bases or cantonments from the age of 5 until at least 18 years. Individuals who have experienced relocation at least 6 times are eligible to take part in the study. The study excludes individuals who have been diagnosed with a mental health condition, those who are married and been in a relationship for less than 6 months.

Upon providing your consent to participate in the study, you will be contacted via telephone and email to verify your willingness to participate. Subsequently, an individual interview appointment will be scheduled based on mutual availability between the participant and the researcher. The interviews will be conducted online using Microsoft Teams. The interview session will consist of a single session during which the researcher will ask a series of questions and follow-up queries regarding your romantic experiences. Interview is expected to last for 50-60 minutes. The questions posed will be tailored specifically to your personal experiences in this domain.

Entering a research study is voluntary. You may decline participation without giving any reason. Your participation in this research will not bestow upon you any competitive academic or occupational advantage over other students or staff who do not volunteer, and we will not impose any academic or occupational penalty on those students or staff who do not volunteer

If you have any questions about this form or any study related issue, you may contact the Principal Investigator as above.