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Unfaithfully yours, sign women

Anjali Doshi

Mumbai, November 20, 2005

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Women — married ones at least — are getting frisky in Mumbai: according to the Bandra family court, while in 1995 "adulterous" women were responsible for divorces in every fifth case, now they are involved in one in every third case. What's

more, a detailed analysis of case files also reveals that indulging in not one but multiple extra-marital affairs is becoming common.

There's also data to prove that marriages are getting more fragile. These days, one out of three marriages break up due to infidelity. In 1995, this number was one in seven.

Counsellors in the family court, who handle roughly 400 cases each a year, believe changes in social values are responsible for this trend. "Couples are now far more impatient. If things are not working out in their marriage, they don't hesitate to look outside," says Madhavi Desai, a family court counsellor. Women have also become more conscious of their sexual needs and are comfortable getting into a "better relationship".

In 2004, 1,122 of a total of 3,400 divorce cases were filed due to adultery; women constituted 33 per cent. Of the 2,055 divorce cases filed in 1995, 308 were due to adultery of which unfaithful women comprised 20 per cent. This trend is not restricted to any particular class — but is more prevalent in upper socio-economic classes.

Time spent at work is also a contributor to the rise in adultery, with people developing closer bonds with colleagues. "Sharing a good professional vibe with a colleague of the opposite sex is usually how an extra-marital affair begins," says marriage counsellor Rajan Bhonsle.

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