

# Metro Now

## DEKH

## BHAI DEKH





(Above & below) Grabs from Bigg Boss

**Bigg Boss is doing social damage by making peeping toms out of regular neighbours. Rajesh Ahuja takes a dekho**

**T**o catch a 35-year-old sari-clad Vimla pressing her ear against the door of the adjacent apartment is a common sight. After all, she has to know what Kamla's (her neighbour) 18-year-old daughter is up to these days. The background of the guy she saw her with at the supermarket will make for juicy gossip for her next kitty party. But aunts (or Billy Baldwin in *Sliver*) aren't the only peeping toms deriving voyeuristic pleasure these days. With *Bigg Boss* acquainting people of all age groups to sample bedroom *masala*, voyeurism is on a steep rise. Peek-a-booming is Delhi's favourite pastime now.

Catching someone else's living room antics through the keyhole can be fun, confess self-professed voyeurs. "I live in a building that's stuffed with paying guests. The balcony facing mine has two good-looking girls who party every weekend. They return in the morning and head straight for a shower. To see them lie in the bed after that over a cup of tea is refreshing," chuckles Manav Khanna (name changed), a bank executive.

Manav might be doing it for kicks as his pair of binoculars comes handy, but with *Bigg Boss* taking viewers into the bedroom of the inmates every evening, the show has triggered a new trend of sorts. "If you're a working professional living alone, television tends to become your dinner mate. I'm glued to *Bigg Boss* simply because I love the voyeuristic format of the show. Keeping a track on who is backbiting or who's conspiring against whom, is interesting. The uncanny setting makes for a spicy treat," beams Niharika Anand (name changed), a budding designer.

The show interests the 25-year-old and fans her bitchy fad. "I love eyeing what's happening in the house next to mine. It's fun to spy on strangers," she declares with a sheepish grin. This 'hobby' isn't restricted to living spaces alone. There are working class heroes who love doing that at office too. "I love to peep into other's chambers once in a while. I once caught two co-workers kissing in the conference room," recalls Raghav Kumar (name changed), an event manager.

It sure can be like watching a 'reality show', but this activity still has its negatives. Besides intrusion being criminal, this 'love' might become an obsession too. Though music composer Dhruv Dhalia feels that the hidden cameras "make the show more real and the audience likes watching celebs goof up", he isn't all for it. "It's not my cup of tea," he says.

Clinical psychologist Megha Hazuria of Max Healthcare, throws light upon the 'dysfunctional activity' that the show is pushing the city towards. "Voyeurism backfires when one gets sexually or emotionally involved with the object in question. Lives of people who indulge in such activities become restricted. They might see it as entertainment, but more often than not, it reflects certain complex issues that need to be addressed. Most such cases revolve mirror signs of the person being asocial or a loner," informs Hazuria. Though she doesn't mind a dose of hidden-camera-reality-fun, she thinks viewers shouldn't take to the culture. "Such shows have to be taken with a pinch of salt. If you like peeping into others' lives, you can't put a camera in their rooms. Identifying with inmates form the show isn't recommended," she adds.

