

THE AGE DELHI



(left) Arbaaz, Malaika, (top) Schuna and Bikram Saluja

Successful wives, happy husbands

It doesn't matter if the guy is unsuccessful, as long as he is doing something constructive in life, both wife and society will respect him

GAYATRI REDDY

THE ASIAN AGE

Coping with recession is secondary, the major issue now is dealing with and coming to terms with the wife becoming more successful and earning tonnes more. The man vs woman vs job triangle has gotten tricky from the old-fashioned view point of only the husband being the accepted breadwinner. Now we have many girls living with men who don't earn that much as them and they seem happy. TV actress Smriti Irani is forever going gaga over her husband though she is the more successful one, Ashton Kutcher loves his more happening misus as he twitters about how lucky he is to have someone like Demi do the ironing (He is not bothered by the fact that she is a bigger star than him and Demi obviously treats him well as she is doing the ironing.) and in the corporate and political world too high-profile ladies are living happily with lesser achieving better-halves.

Feminists must be rejoicing but how is the male ego adjusting to this phenomena? TV actor Manav Gohil who is married to fellow actor

Shweta Kawatra says it's not the easiest scenario. A mature, responsible woman won't tick her husband off for earning less than her, though the male ego may have issues he says. Manav confesses that when he and wife were buying a flat he made it very clear to her that he wants to pay for the home, "I told her she can pay for the paint or something. You have to understand I am a Rajput who comes from a small city like Baroda." He admits though of becoming more mature over time and now doesn't mind when Shweta buys lunch or pays for movie tickets and stuff.

Shweta and Manav are equally successful, but what if the guy is just not in his wife's league, forget society, is he given importance at home? Of course he is defends socialite and designer Nisha Jamwal. She says she now sees couples tackle ambition as a team as they relentlessly work through a 7,000sq ft home to a lavish lifestyle to say they have "arrived," in life or society. Upper class and middle class families living in cut-throat metros like Mumbai and Delhi are content with the fact that they can afford a good life, who is paying for it doesn't seem to matter. "Being chauvinistic is a luxury which belongs to people living in more laid-back places coz nobody has the time to stand and stare in Mumbai," she says.

Just because Nisha is being kind *ghar jamais* and house husbands can't start breathing a sigh of relief. Posh was the rich and famous one when she was dating Becks, but she never treated him with disrespect as she knew he had potential. Dr Sameer Parikh, psychologist at Max Hospital Delhi says in today's day and age all that talk that the man has to be the breadwinner is "crap". Double incomes are welcome by all and just because the wife is earning more doesn't mean the relationship is doomed.

Guys who are treated with respect are ones doing something constructive in life, but just happen not to be as well-off as the wives. These men don't have self-esteem issues and can be counted on to act maturely and take the situation in their stride. It's only the bona-fide bums and free-loaders who risk being treated shabbily at home and also face the threat of being dumped if the wife meets someone better in life.



Smriti Irani



Purandeshwari and Venkateshwar Rao

HAPPY COUPLES

- ▶ Arbaaz Khan and Malaika Arora
- ▶ Bikram Saluja and Schuna Chauhan
- ▶ Komal Vazir and husband
- ▶ Purandheeshwari and Daggubati Venkateshwar Rao
- ▶ Priya Paul and Sethu
- ▶ Smriti Irani and husband
- ▶ Anisha Mittal and husband