

Did you know that in certain states within the United States of America any sexual position other than the “missionary position” is considered illegal? Or that in medieval European, Christian views forbade sex on feast days, fast days, Sunday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, and if you were naked, and was permissible only if you were trying to produce a child? Couples were advised not to have oral sex, try strange positions or fondle each other, to do it just once and to try not to enjoy it!! Therefore, one would assume that the average Indian male would score as the world’s greatest lover. After all, he should be inspired by the varied and acceptable sexual practices depicted on our temple carvings (I’m going with the fact that a majority of Indian’s are Hindu’s) as also by the knowledge that his revered and cherished Gods were sexually proficient. Legend has it that Shiva and Parvati engaged in lovemaking on Mount Kailash continuously for hundreds of years and that the Lord Krishna was a master in all the sixty-four arts of love, maddening the gopi’s with desire and the thrill of climatic love making.

And added to that, Indians have to their historical credit the acclaimed Kama Sutra which literally means “treatise on sexual pleasure” as part of their glorious Indian heritage occupying premium shelf space in bookstores worldwide. Unfortunately, it seems that this over sold manual in the west is but a mere shelf adornment back home in India, and the Indian male gets a low rating on the international ‘greatest lover’ ladder! He flails way behind the adventurous Italians, amorous Frenchmen and the well-endowed African American men!! Wow!! They’re obviously breaking all the rules and scoring brownie points with the women while our Indian men are breaking away from desirable sexual traditions and replacing grunts of pleasure with disgruntled and displeased women!!

I’ve been party to many interesting, amusing and provocative discussions on the Indian male’s sexual prowess. Almost 95% of the women I’ve met bemoan their sex lives and declare Indian men as lousy lovers. Some hilarious reasons attributed to their sexual quagmire are: lack of experience, lack of knowledge, lack of “infrastructure”, lack of sensitivity and even a lack of manners!! In the recent years there have been enormous changes in the outlook of women vis-à-vis their sexual attitudes and from sharing nuggets of research based information, like the fact that men who sport moustaches(without beards) are sexually repressed or have fundamental sexual issues, to questioning whether the emphasis and premium on virginity had less to do with morality and more to do with the fragile Indian male ego of not wanting to be compared to another, the focus is now on the sexually selfish Indian male, who clearly doesn’t like being spotlighted on this subject. At many girlie lunches we chuckle about how vexed most men that triumphantly rode off into the sunset with their virgin brides must be today. We chortle at the thought of the husbands’ mortified expressions when their once young and clueless, now aging and wisened, wives brandish candid, outspoken, informative articles in glossy women’s magazines in their faces and demand to know why they have not experienced the “big O” and lament about how they figure at the depths of the sexual barometer in pop quizzes!!

Judging by the number of sexually dissatisfied Indian wives, the Indian male has clearly stuck to “role playing” and seems to be limited in his abilities or desire to please. It’s apparent that the average Indian is an MCP and perceives his position in his family as that of a ruler and commander and not that of an equal or a fellow explorer through life, and that plays out in every aspect of his life, even in the bedroom. However, Indian women are not willing to be just ‘reproductive beings’ anymore and the sexual revolution in India is no longer just a media event. Thanks to the women’s liberation movement, the male-dominated family days when talking about sex and sexual practices were considered immoral and taboo, are fast changing. Today, discussions on sexual issues and inadequate sex lives are vital between couples, and are termed as therapy, counselling and part of a relationship (intimacy) building process.

Indian women of all ages and social strata’s are exploring the art of sensuality and making no bones about their sexuality. They are curious, willing to explore, experiment and are speeding down the sensory highway in pursuit of pleasure. They have no qualms about having pre-marital sexual relationships because given the average Indian male’s dismal wife pleasuring potential, many insist they would much rather have a preview before committing to the entire movie. An audacious friend of mine stated that even a lousy lover, assuming he was motivated and wasn’t defensive, would shape up just fine with a little advice and guidance. She cheekily added that it was every woman’s duty to another to give a below par lover some useful tips before she passed him on to his next partner!! Many of my friends claim that they judge a potential lover just by kissing him and claim that most Indian men are “prudish kissers” (i.e. hard, no variety, hasty and without any passion) and hence ascertain that he’d also be way too square in bed. It does make sense. I can't imagine a man who is a stimulating, passionate and an adventurous kisser NOT also being a stimulating, passionate and adventurous lover... and vice versa. Ok! I confess, even I rate a man based upon his kiss. A kiss is like a romantic handshake, which, like the real handshake, turns you off if it is too quick, sloppy, weak or aggressive. (A guy who attempts to suck his partner’s tongue out of her head would definitely be just as untouchable as the man who gives you those awful knuckle grinding handshakes. And remember the old adage which always rings true - never trust a man who keeps his eyes open when he kisses.) I guess it goes back to the old wives tale that your husband is supposed to make your knees weak with his kiss. For me, personally, hands off electrifying chemistry and romance are the key elements and I would never compromise on them. Any guy who puts enough energy, time and patience into romancing me off my feet would bring those very qualities into my bedroom. I haven’t made love to a foreigner (yet) to compare them, but my Indian experiences have been incredibly satisfying to date.

The majority of women state the Indian man’s lack of grooming as being a complete turn off. We realise that men do not have an arsenal of beauty products to depend upon like we women do, but they can certainly pay attention to body odour, unwashed body parts, hair sticking out of noses and ears to bad breath (Indian cuisine is high on onions and garlic). Given that women are considerate enough to do away with their body hair, make

sure they smell good, douche and keep their breath fresh to ensure that men enjoy the experience; its high-time the Indian gentlemen reciprocated the efforts.

In fact, most urban Indian women are no longer shy in asking, even insisting on etiquette and for their desires to be fulfilled and I know many (now beaming) women who have presented their husbands or partners with copies of the Kamasutra, which recognizes women as thorough and lusty participants in sex, advocates the use of sex toys and is very attentive to women's' pleasure.

The horrified urban Indian male now has a clear choice. Foreplay or no play!!! It's well documented that men the world over, suffer from complexes about size (in fact it's proven that men are obsessed with their penises, even if they don't realize it and most men live in constant fear that their "manhood" is not big enough) and performance anxiety. While we do acknowledge that not all men are born equal (at least as far as being well endowed is concerned), and all of us women do agree that size does matter, it's definitely a no contest when size competes with expertise. The good news for men is that technique definitely triumphs over size, since most women never reach an orgasm solely from intercourse despite size or how long it lasts. In fact, 82% of women in a recent study agreed that the quality of sex was much more important than the quantity and that they found "well hung" men to be lousy lovers.

The bad news for the average lackadaisical Indian man, however, is that the technique for satisfying their woman involves time and effort and also the realisation that mutually gratifying sex should not begin and end with the male orgasm. A truly displeased friend of mine grumbled that the world's most realistic Indian vibrator would definitely have to be one which went limp and turned itself off just before the woman orgasmed.

Hey!! Who said turning on and pleasing women sexually was easy? In fact the makers of Viagra abandoned efforts to produce a drug to improve women's sexual function after concluding that women are a lot more complicated than men and that there was a definite disconnect between a woman's genital and mental changes and her willingness to have sex depends on numerous inconsistent factors. To quote Bette Midler: "if sex is such a natural phenomenon, how come there are so many books on how to?"

Well, it's obvious the books are handy because worldwide, sex is being initiated, explored and enjoyed more for recreation than procreation and the general consensus among women is that it's time our very own Indian men woke up to the realization that sex is a sensuous ride that involves TWO people. They need to shake out of conservative mindsets that have boxed women into conventional roles of 'mother', 'homemaker', and domesticated wife and see women more as sensual and sexual beings for whom caressing, kissing, touching and other acts of foreplay are crucial to her love making process. My girl friends, who are delighted I'm writing this article insist I state and affirm on their behalf, for the record, that women respond to intimacy, caring, mush, and manners and that its a definite turn off when the MCP button isn't turned off in bed and

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orders and directions are being barked at them during the act. OK!! Listen up guys! It isn't remotely decent to make her get up to go get the towel or to just toss a towel at her after sex. Also, the perplexed Indian male has to familiarize himself with "alien" new dimensions to sex, like sensuality. Sometimes women just want to make "love," which involves a whole lot more than just a vagina, breasts and a penis. There's eye contact, body massaging, and silent communication. Women love feeling like they're at the center of a man's world and there's no better way to show her she is loved, than to literally make love with her. The solution is clearly communication.

And "communication", shout my defensive male buddies, "is a two way street! It takes two hands to clap and for explosive fireworks women shouldn't just lie there. When he hits the right spot, sigh, moan, groan and encourage him! That way both partners will get what they want."

Finally, I'd like to personally request all my male friends' and other women's husbands and lovers that get inspired by this article, that the Kama Sutra which their partners have or one day will bring home introduces crazy positions that only contortionists can pull off, and if you're going to determinedly try some of those really peculiar positions, just maneuver her gently. Please don't fracture any of her bones!! You need to be notching up that 'great lover' ladder, not whizzing down it!!!