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## No longer 'fruits of adultery'

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**A recent SC judgement on the rights of children of live-in parents has raised questions about the sanctity of marriage in today's times,**

**A** recent Supreme Court bench headed by Justice Arijit Pasayat, decreed that children born of a long live-in relationship

can no longer be called 'illegitimate' or 'fruits of adultery'. It recognised them as equal heirs to their father's property

This judgement has raised many debates on its repercussions on the institution of marriage, joint family property and the rights of children born to married couples. "Hindu Succession Law has hitherto laid tremendous emphasis on the institutions of family and mar-

riage," says former Justice of the Supreme Court of India, Sujata Manohar, "Now this latest judgement has created a new dimension to this law by giving inheritance rights to children born of live in' couples who are not legally married but have lived in a 'marriage like' arrangement for a length of time. The effects of this judgement is yet to be checked out in our conventional and traditional society It seems to me that

the judges have looked at the children of such live-in arrangement as

'innocent' non-participants in their parents' decision to live without a legal marriage. And they opine that such children should not suffer financial deprivation. But how this will affect children born of legal marriages is yet to be seen."



