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Let financial stress not ruin your marriage!

If couples are not clear about their financial goals, it leads to unnecessary confusion, frustration and can eventual turmoil in married life.

By Hindustan Times

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Marriage is a lifelong commitment that comes with a lot of responsibilities and obligations. Once the marriage is fixed, couples have to take care of many responsibilities, including financial obligations. They have to plan for a wedding venue, outfits and their dream home.

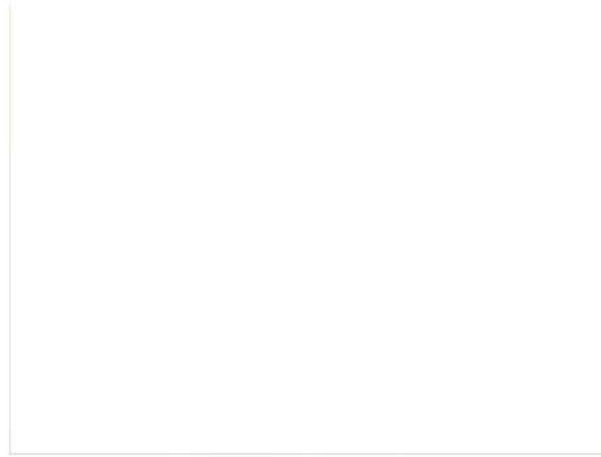
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One has to discuss his/her financial status with the spouse and prepare a strong financial foundation for the future. If couples are not clear about their financial goals, it leads to unnecessary confusion, frustration and can eventual turmoil in married life.

Couples should communicate with each other openly to ensure a joint responsibility for maintaining healthy finances of the household, say financial experts.

Engage in conversation about financial planning

“Talking to each other on financial matters will also ensure transparency and build trust in married couples. They should have a clear objective of what they want their cash flow for, the ‘cannot do without’, ‘can do without’ and ‘not important’ expenses. Couples should be in sync with respect to their incomes, expenses, savings and investments. They should create a household financial objective kitty and personal financial comfort kitty for each of the spouse. This way they can create a financial roadmap together,” explains Mudra Portfolio Managers Founder, Director and Business Head-Wealth Nishant Kohli.

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The financial professional says during such trying times, it is very important for couples, especially newly married ones, to create financial resilience. Until the situation gets back to normal, couples should refrain from taking any decision which can hamper their liquidity or can create a debt burden.

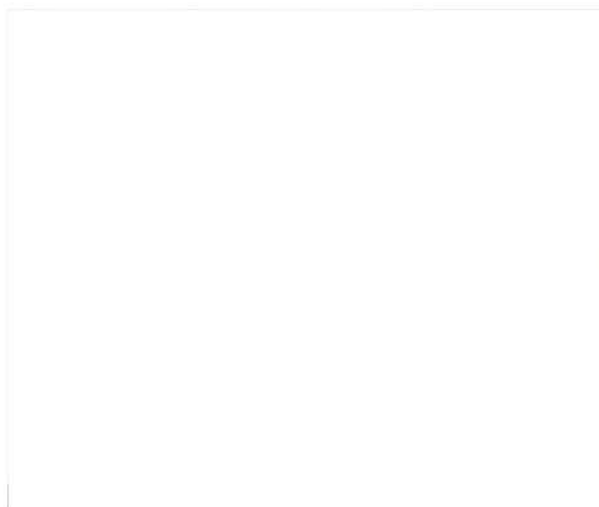
Create joint financial goals

It is important for couples to work together as a team, set certain financial goals and then carve out their plan to achieve them. Not only will it keep you motivated, but also ensure that you achieve your goals faster.

It is also important to discuss whether the spouse has any debt like personal, car or house loans. “My future spouse told me clearly about his annual pay package and we even discussed about the

purchase of a piece of furniture, house rent and other expenses,” says newly-married IT professional Vaishnavi M.

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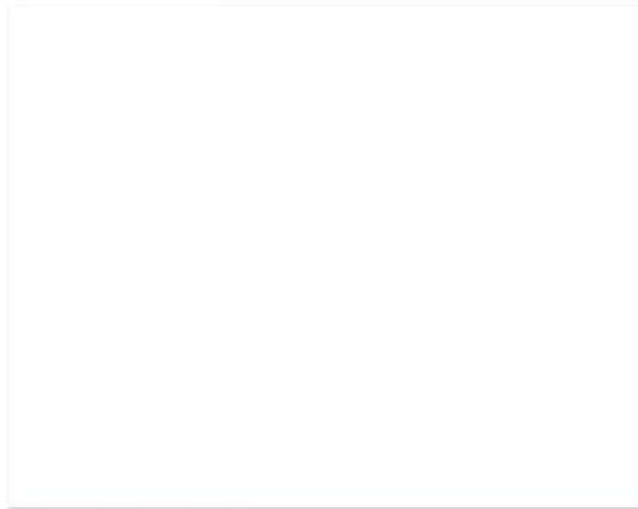
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ignore, opines Kohli.

In marriage, conflicts arise if couples do not discuss their financial situation, interest and expectation towards their future goals. For instance, one would have availed an educational loan or personal loan before marriage, the person should inform the spouse about it very clearly.

“To avoid conflicts, couples need to do their financial planning for family and personal separately. When it comes to family financial planning, the purpose should be common to both of them for short and long term needs or uncertainties. Accordingly, they can plan their savings and investments,” says Zebu Share and Wealth Management Founder and CEO V Vijayakumar.

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Create a budget

After setting goals and planning, you will need a structure to support your goals. Creating a budget is the foundation of your financial goals. A couple needs to sit down and make a budget to ensure that they spend responsibly and not live beyond their means. Budgeting will also encourage you to have more open conversations about finances. Once they have an idea about expenses, they will be able to get clarity on savings and can chart out investment plans to achieve financial goals. Subsequently, you could go a step further and discuss the way a portfolio is built and maintained. You should discuss how to choose some great mutual fund options, or any other investment instruments for a portfolio.



SIPs in mutual funds can be started as per your financial goals. The most important benefit of regular investment like SIP is that the finances is deducted from your bank account leaving you little option to overspend while the investments quietly grow bigger and bigger with each passing month through compounding.

Don't overspend on vacations

It is quite natural to overspend during the initial days of marriage that includes buying expensive gifts, furniture, or appliances, going for vacations or lavish dinner dates.

While these are subjective and are important in building a bond with each other, they should not get carried away in order to impress the each other as well as their social circles. "Firstly, newly married couples should always set the expectation of their standard of living right.

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They should always do budgeting as it is a new household and a new family that they're starting. Secondly, they should also focus on earnings and savings to build a financial discipline in the early years of marriage which would later become a good habit. Thirdly, they should start saving



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risk and financial burden. "Couples who start saving early can enjoy the magic of compounding benefits," he adds.

In the current pandemic, one should save major portion of surplus earnings in liquidated assets, also plan uncertainties in medical expenses by upgrading medical insurance policies that offer pandemic cover.

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Key takeaways

▣ Newly-married couples should set clear financial goals and invest accordingly

▣ Creating a contingency fund is critical in this current pandemic. This fund can help them brace themselves for the future uncertainties

▣ Savings should then be bifurcated into liquid savings as well as low-risk investments. In case there is a reduction in their salaries, then they should optimise their savings by curtailir [OPEN APP](#) unimportant expenses.

▣ SIPs in mutual funds can be started as per your financial goals

This article is part of the HT Friday Finance series published in association with Aditya Birla Sun Life Mutual Fund.

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