



Spying... on the family

Parents and children are both using detectives to spy on each other


Delhi's Sherlock Holmes are working overtime these days. All thanks to the anxious parents and the perturbed kids, who are using detective agencies to spy on each other. Call it lifestyle anxiety or growing cynicism, but this is increasingly happening in Delhi these days.

Explains Sanjay Singh of Indian Detective Agency, "We have handled numerous cases in which parents ask us to keep a watch on their children and vice-versa. In 90 out of 100 cases, these doubts are well founded. Most of the parents are worried about the probability of their kids cheating and lying to them. In such cases, we follow these youngsters day in and day out. We make a note of their activities; find out

then fall into bad company and habits. It is when the parents start getting suspicious of all this that they use the spy eye.

Says Ashish Mathur CEO, Trident Investigation Network, "In most of the investigations initiated by parents, we have seen that they either know nothing about their kids' whereabouts or are under the impression that they are doing combined study at a friend's place. Whereas the children are actually having affairs or are in bad company or, as in some cases, are even doing drugs."

The majority of the parents under surveillance are engaged in extramarital affairs. Explains **Baldev Kr Puri, CEO, AMX Detectives**, "If a child sees a significant change in his



Spycam on dad, and kids too

- A detective agency deals with 8-10 such cases a month
- The cost ranges from Rs 2,000-2,500 for a day's investigation
- The cost can go up appreciably if photographic evidence is needed

who they are meeting and where they go after school or college. The children, meanwhile, come to us asking us to keep a watch on their parents. They are generally 15-17 year olds — sensitive children who are dejected that their parents are no longer paying them enough attention or are always at loggerheads with them. In such cases, usually, the parents are having extramarital affairs."

The fee for such services depends on the requirement of the client — whether he/she wants only a summary of the activities or is demanding photographic evidence. The cost, therefore, varies from Rs 2,000-2,500 per day. Usually, parents are so busy with their work that they cannot check on what is happening in their children's lives. The kids, sometimes,

mother's behaviour, he senses something fishy. He tries to communicate with his father but is rebuffed. Or, if it is the father who is in the wrong, the mother refuses to accept the reality. It is then that the child comes to us. Obviously, this lot belongs to the well-heeled strata of society that can afford our services."

He adds, "Children help us a lot in our investigations. We track the person from dawn to dusk and follow them through our associates if they travel to other cities. I remember a kid from Green Park who told us that his father had told the family that he was going to Meerut, while he felt he was meeting his paramour in Dehradun. We checked and the youngster's hunch proved to be right."

JAYA BRUNNA

Handwritten signature and date: 11/20/06