

# **The Green -Eyed Monster: Understanding The Meaning of Jealousy in Romantic Relationship**

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## **ABSTRACT**

The present research was an exploratory study conducted to understand the meaning and implication of jealousy in romantic relationship by exploring (a) the conceptualization of jealousy (b) Tracing the reasons/ context that led to it (c) The strategies used for coping when confronted with jealousy. (d) The effect on the relationship. The research was conducted on five postgraduate students of University of Delhi, who were either currently involved or were a part of romantic relationship, for at least a year. Qualitative research methods of semi-structured interview and grounded theory were employed for data collection and analysis respectively. It was found that conceptualization of jealousy and the context / reason attributed as its cause were interdependent, which subsequently determined the behavior of both the partners and the outcome of the relationship, in terms of either enhancing it or terminating it. The relationship outcome was guided by the coping behavior, the desirability of the relationship and the indispensability of the partner, each carrying its own range of connotation. The conceptualizations obtained were dynamic in nature, rooted in the context of the individual's romantic relationship.