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# Social platforms becoming the new way to find friends

BY [IPSITA BASU](#), ET BUREAU | UPDATED: OCT 20, 2016, 11.19 AM IST

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BENGALURU: While Bengaluru is a young city , what with innumerable startups and technology companies employing young talent, making friends is not an easy thing. Sales professional Jerry Vachaparambil, 27, who moved here a year ago, found it difficult to connect with others, not to speak of likeminded people. "Either people already had their own groups or I wasn't meeting the right people," he shares.

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But that has changed now, thanks to social apps. Social platforms or apps are becoming the new way to find friends in the city. The idea of walking into a crowded pub and trying to socialise over loud music or finding a connection could be passé.

Urban professionals are increasingly taking to technology to help them find smaller groups made of similar-minded individuals who want to strike a conversation while learning to bake, make cocktails or even have a story-telling session. Vachaparambil uses OpenOut and US-based Couchsurfing.

Arun Rafi, 28, Founder of OpenOut, says he felt the need to start such a platform when he realised people in their latter half of their twenties look for meaningful friendships rather than just an evening out. He organises events priced between Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,500 and for groups up to 15 guests. Over four months, OpenOut has hosted 20 events through its social media page.

Badri, co-founder of Gathr, which calls itself a DIY entertainment plat form and has in the past hosted events like Breakfast Club Dosa Party, Sleep Concert and Productivity Hack, says it is important to host an event that holds people's interest and has to be amateur-friendly. Gathr has hosted 28 events in five months of its existence.

[Seema Vasudevan](#), 53, has attended 10 or more events with Gathr. Fed up of the usual weekend drinking par ties, Vasudevan, a resident of [Koraman-gala](#), says, "My motivation to socialise through such platforms is to meet new people from different backgrounds, most of them who are much younger than I. This pushes me out of my comfort zone, broadens my horizon and I get to engage in an interesting activity ."

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Food-related web magazine The Goya Journal runs Cookbook Club, a community of food lovers who cook a specific recipe from a selected cook book. For the first potluck that was held at Cubbon Park, it saw 12 participants who cooked different dishes from [Madhur Jaffrey's](#) Flavours of India. Going forward, cofounder Aysha Tanya, 27 wants to hold such food-centric meet-ups every six weeks. "We will keep these events for smaller groups of 15-20 people because we want people to connect with each other over food."

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