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## RESEARCH ARTICLE

### FEMALE NURSES: A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY

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#### ABSTRACT

Nursing profession is to care health of masses with 24x7 hours. More females are working in nursing profession and there is conception that female care more compared to males. As there are different work place problems such as shift duties, busy in their work place, etc, the female nurses can't able to look after their families properly. Due to this reason, many of the female nurses remain unmarried. In this regard, a sociological study of female nurses was made in Kalaburagi city and primary data was collected from 130 female nurses. It is suggested to female nurses to marry and settle in their social life, as social life is also equally important for females.

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## INTRODUCTION

A nurse is a health care professional, who along with other health care professionals, is responsible for the treatment, safety, and recovery of acutely or chronically ill or injured people, health maintenance of the healthy, and treatment of life-threatening emergencies in a wide range of health care settings. Nurses may also be involved in medical and nursing research and perform a wide range of non-clinical functions necessary to the delivery of health care. Nurses also provide care at birth and death. India is a country, where one can find different culture, races, religions and customs. The nurses as a professionals have to be in contact with different kinds of people. To work with people, the nurses must be people-friendly, social, caring, have patience and must aim for the welfare of the people (patients). Like other western countries, India is also dominated by females in the profession of nursing. Due to the diverse culture, it is difficult to work for the nurses with different kinds of people. Still many of the people think that the women are not to work outside, but to work as housewife in the family to care the family members only.

Conversely, the role of nurse is to care for the general people of ill health and patients. Due to the role conflict, there are majority of female nurses remained as unmarried for the welfare of the people serving the patients in the hospitals. If the female nurses are married, there are many problems such as lack of care to their family members such as husband and children, due to the flexible working hours of the hospital. Further, the professional female nurses, have to be people-friendly, which may pose problems for their marital relations. The working time of the nurses is in both day and night shifts, which may pose a challenge of misconception among their family members. Further, due to the lack of security in the hospitals, there may be chances of exploitation and sexual harassment of the female nurses in the hospitals. Due to all these reasons there may be regular quarrels and frictions in the family of the female nurses. Hence, it is essential to study the social life of female nurses and an effort was made in this regard in Kalaburagi city.

#### Objectives of the Study

The present study has the following objectives

- To look into the marital status of female nurses;
- To find out the gender equality and equality in marital relations; and
- To study the social life satisfaction of female nurses in Kalaburagi city.

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## MATERIALS AND METHODS

As discussed above, the present study is made in Kalaburagi city, which is headquarters of Hyderabad-Karnataka region. To assess the social life of the female nurses, the author visited different hospitals namely, Banale Hospital, Basaveshwar Hospital, Government/ Public Hospital and Khaja Bande Nawaz Hospital. It was aimed to survey at least 150 female nurses, but 20 female nurses were given incomplete information. Hence, the primary data collected from only 130 female nurses were finalized. The collected primary data from 130 female nurses is analyzed and discussed as under.

### Analysis and Discussion

#### Educational Background of the Respondents

Educational qualifications play an important role in knowledge and expertise in nursing profession. Basic education qualification for nursing profession is certificate and diploma in nursing and there are also courses such as Ph D in nursing as higher qualification in nursing. The educational qualification of the respondents covered under the present study is as under.

**Table 1. Educational Qualifications of the Respondents**

Particulars	Frequency	Percentage
Certificate/ Diploma	28	21.54
Graduate	93	71.54
Post-Graduate	09	6.92
Any Other	--	--
Total	130	100

The above table shows that of the total 130 (100%) of the respondents covered under the present study, 93 (71.54%) are graduates, followed by 28 (21.54%) are completed certificate/ diploma in nursing and remaining only 09 (6.92%) have completed Post-Graduate Degree in Nursing. Hence, it can be stated that all of the nurses covered under the present study are educated and specialized in nursing.

#### Marital Status

Marital Status of the respondents plays an important role in determining the social life of the nurses. Generally it is observed that majority of the nurses are more service and profession oriented and to achieve this purpose, they are unmarried and also stay unmarried forever. The information collected on the marital status of the nurses covered under the present study is shown in the following table.

**Table 2. Marital Status**

Particulars	Frequency	Percentage
Unmarried/ Single	46	35.38
Married	52	40.00
Widows	10	7.69
Divorcees/ Separated	22	16.92
Total	130	100

The above table made it clear that 52 (40.00%) of the respondents are married and living with their husbands, followed by 46 (35.38%) are unmarried and single, about 22 (16.92%) are divorcees and separated from their husbands and

the remaining 10 (7.69%) are widows. It is surprising to note from the above table that relatively there are more number of divorcees and separated nurses and this may be due to the professional work of these respondents. The related aspects of the nursing profession and work timings which may be the reasons for the disorganization of the family of these nurses are discussed in the forthcoming sections.

#### Professional Experience

Professional experience helps to know about the proficiency and expertise of the nurses in their day to day work in hospitals. The following table disclosed the professional experience of the nurses as under.

**Table 3. Professional Experience (in Years)**

Particulars	Frequency	Percentage
Less than 5 years	37	28.46
6 to 10 years	60	46.15
11 to 15 years	18	13.85
16 to 20 years	11	8.46
Above 20 years	04	3.08
Total	130	100

It is revealed from the above table that 60 (46.15%) of the respondents covered under the study have experience between 6 to 10 years followed by, 37 (28.46%) have professional experience less than 5 years, about 18 (13.85%) have professional experience between 11 to 15 years, about 11 (8.46%) of the respondents have professional experience between 16 to 20 years and the remaining 04 (3.08%) of the respondents have above 20 years of professional experience in nursing.

#### Number of Children

As an important aspect related to the social life of the respondents, it was asked to the respondents to furnish information on the number of children. The collected information is shown in the following table.

**Table 3. Number of Children**

Particulars	Frequency	Percentage
1 to 2	56	43.08
3 to 5	13	10.00
Above 5	08	6.15
Not Applicable	53	40.77
Total	130	100

It is noted that from the above table that of the total 130 (100%) respondents covered under the present study, 56 (43.08%) have 1 to 2 children, followed by 53 (40.77%) are expressed that it is not applicable to them as they are widows, unmarried and divorcees, about 13 (10.00%) of the respondents have 3 to 5 children and the remaining 08 (6.15%) of the respondents have above 5 children. It was observed from the collected data nearly half of the respondents have no children, due to unmarried, separated, divorcees and widows. It is emphasized from the above table that nurses give more emphasis to the family planning and family welfare measures, as the number of children are less to the majority of the married respondents.

**Marital Status and Life Satisfaction is Greater among Professional and Working Wives**

Many of the women today think that marital status and satisfaction is greater among the professional and/or working women. It was asked to the nurses covered under the present study, whether they will agree to the same. The collected information is presented in the following table.

**Table 4. Marital Status and Life Satisfaction is greater among Professional and Working Wives**

Particulars	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	51	39.23
Disagree	16	12.31
Don't Know	17	13.08
Not Applicable	46	35.38
Total	130	100

It is observed from the above table that 51 (39.23%) of the respondents are agreed that the marital status and life satisfaction is greater among professional and working wives, followed by 17 (13.08%) are not cleared about the same and the remaining 16 (12.31%) of the respondents are not agreed to the same. Further, the question is not applicable to 46 (35.38%) of the respondents as they are unmarried and living single. Many of the people think that there is more satisfaction in the family life, if there are housewives in their family, so as to look after the elders, husband and children. But such kind of attitude among the educated people has changed and majority of the nurses expressed that there is greater marital status and life satisfaction due to the working wives.

**Equal Mutual Respect and Marital Relationship between Husband and Wife**

In Indian society, the conventions define husband as superior compared to wife. Due to modernization, now women are treated equal in all respects. Hence, socially also women are equally playing an important role. In this respect, now both husband and wife are equal in marital relationship and they have to give equal respect to each other in the social life. The opinions expressed by the respondents covered under the present study are tabulated as under.

**Table 5. Equal Mutual Respect and Marital Relationship between Husband and Wife**

Particulars	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	23	17.69
No	46	35.38
Not Applicable	61	46.92
Total	130	100

The above table made it clear that only 23 (17.69%) of the respondents have agreed that there is mutual equal respect and equal marital relationship between husband and wife in their family, about 46 (35.38%) are not agreed that there is equal marital relationship between husband and wife and remaining 61 (46.92%) are not expressed on the same, as it is not applicable to them. Even though the nurses are educationally qualified and working outside, they are not getting equal status and respect in their marital relationship.

**To a Greater Extent, Women Working as Nurses cannot Marry because they can't able to give attention to her Family**

It is generally observed that most of the nurses are unmarried and they will give different reasons for not marrying. But it is noted that the nursing is a profession that is meant to care for the people, especially patients. Further, the working times of the nurses are not fixed and are not regular also. In this respect, it is generally believed that women working as nurses cannot marry because they can't able to give attention to her family. Hence, it was asked to the respondents whether they agree to the same and the collected responses are tabulated as under.

**Table 6. To a Greater Extent, Women Working as Nurses cannot Marry because they can't able to give attention to her Family**

Particulars	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	73	56.15
No	57	43.85
Total	130	100

It is generalized from the above table that 73 (56.15%) of the respondents are agreed that to a greater extent women working as nurses cannot marry because they can't able to give attention to her family, whereas remaining 57 (43.85%) are not agreed to the same. It is surprising to note that an overwhelming majority of the respondents are agreed that women working as nurses cannot marry because they can't able to give attention to her family and family members.

**Reasons for being Single (Unmarried)**

Above table made it clear that about 73 of the respondents agreed that to a greater extent women working as nurses cannot marry and remain single, due to the working nature of the profession. The reasons furnished by these respondents are shown in the following table.

**Table 7. Reasons for being Single (Unmarried)**

Particulars	Frequency	Percentage
Due to Irregular Work Timings	07	9.59
Due to Work Tension in Hospital	03	4.11
Professional Work gets disturbed due to Family	04	5.48
Lower Status in the Society	11	15.07
Any Other	--	--
All of the Above	48	65.75
Total	73	100

Of the total 73 (100%) of the respondents, who agreed that the nurses should be stayed as unmarried due to the work nature of their profession, 07 (9.59%) have opined that due to irregular work timings nurses cannot marry, about 03 (4.11%) are stated that due to work tension in hospital nurses cannot marry, about 04 (5.48%) are stated that professional work gets disturbed due to the family, about 11 (15.07%) are stated that there is lower status for the nurses in the society and the remaining 48 (65.75%) are stated that due to all the reasons mentioned above, the nurses cannot marry and would like to remain single. From the above table it may be generalized that the nursing profession is not family oriented and nurses cannot marry because, they can't able to look after the family members properly.

### Satisfied with Social Life in the Family

Satisfaction in social life plays an important role in the life of every human being. As such it was asked to the respondents, that whether they are satisfied with social life in their family. The collected responses are shown as under.

**Table 8. Satisfied with Social Life in the Family**

Particulars	Frequency	Percentage
Fully Satisfied	33	25.38
Satisfied to a Greater extent	51	39.23
Not Satisfied	46	35.38
Total	130	100

The above table made it clear that of the total respondents, 51 (39.23%) are satisfied in social life to a greater extent, followed by 46 (35.38%) are not satisfied and remaining only 33 (25.38%) of the respondents are fully satisfied in their social life.

### Conclusion

The present study assessed the social life of the female nurses in Gulbarga city. Of the total respondents, it is worth to note that majority have preferred professional and work life, rather than family life. But it is emphasized that family and social role of women is also equally important. It was found from the present study that a considerable number of the nurses are unmarried, divorcees and separated. It shows that they are deprived from social and family life. These female nurses must know about the social role of working women is also important.

### REFERENCES

Wikipedia: <http://www.wikipedia.org>

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