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A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY OF FEMALE NURSES IN GULBARGA CITY

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Abstract:

Globalization has opened the doors of many professions and occupations to all people including women. As such, women have entered many professions and nursing is one such occupation, in which women are dominating. Nursing is not time bounded work in hospitals. As such, the families of the nurses may be neglected. Present study was undertaken in Gulbarga city by using questionnaires and total 130 female nurses were interviewed on socio-economic life. It is highlighted from the study that outside work helped female nurses to get status and respect in their family and society. On the other hand, there is relative stress and family burden as expressed by the respondents. Even majority of the respondents have stated that the nurses should not marry as there is heavy work burden in the hospitals and due to this reason, their families may be neglected. In this regard, it is suggested to the employers in hospitals to recruit more nurses to reduce the work burden of the existing female nurses.

INTRODUCTION

The globalization and especially technological transformation opened the door for the women new opportunities towards their work life. Now, women occupied in all the occupations and professions, which were occupied by men earlier. Hence, the women engaged as successful professionals as Medical Practitioners, Nurses, Teachers, Lawyers, Bankers, Lecturers, Librarians, Information Technologists, Engineers, etc. But, the women are not like men. Earlier there were the responsibility that the men have to lead the family and work outside for earning and women have to look after the household work. But now, the women also working outside like men and looking after the household work. In this way, now-a-days, women are playing a dual role in her office work and house work. Therefore there is need to study the role and status of working women by studying her socio-economic life, political life, education, political life, professional life, life in work place, religious life, etc.

Pulla Rao (2007) remarked that although women work for longer hours and contribute substantially to the family income, they are not perceived as workers by either the women themselves or the data collecting agencies and the Government, as all of them do not recognize the multidimensional functions of women which include their productive and reproductive labour.

Now, majority of women are happy with their family life and do not cherish any ambition relating to the political and public life. Those earning women members also do not have the full freedom to spend their money in accordance with their own will and wish. Most of the women do not prefer to take decision. Thus, the women are not completely free from the hold of the tradition. In the unorganized sector, exploitation of women continues, for they are illiterate, ignorant and unorganized. In most of the homes, male-children are still being preferred to female children. If appears that the societal approach towards women, their role and status has not radically changed. Hence, bringing about more and more legislations to ensure better opportunities to grant more rights and concessions is of no benefit unless there is a basic change in the people's attitude towards women and women's role in society. It is noted that now-a-days, women were working in all the sectors, namely, education, Medical science, banking, law, insurance, Information Technology, etc. Compared to other professions, education and medical science fields to a

major extent are occupied by majority of women professionals. Of these two professions, in medical profession, the numbers of female nurses are increasing and nursing profession is increasingly popular for the females.

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. There is currently a shortage of nurses in the United Kingdom, United States and a number of other developed countries.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

The present study is made:

1. To Study the age, education and professional experience of the female nurses in Gulbarga city;
2. To examine whether the working wives are happier to housewives;
3. To assess the social life satisfaction of female nurses; and
4. To study the professional, family and economic status of female nurses.

METHODOLOGY AND LIMITATIONS:

The present study is made in Gulbarga city. To collect the primary data, the author visited different hospitals in Gulbarga city and interviewed the female nurses. Due to the varied working hours, many of the nurses are not available and hence, the study is made on the basis of sample survey. Totally 130 female nurses working in Government Hospital, Basaveshwar Hospital, Banale Hospital, Khaja Bande Nawaz Hospital, Dhanwantari Hospital and such other hospitals located in Gulbarga city were interviewed with the help of questionnaires to collect the primary data. Hence, the present study is limited to 130 female nurses in Gulbarga city.

ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION:

1. 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 No. 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.

2. Age –wise distribution of the Respondents:

The age of the respondents covered under the present plays an important role in deciding their role in the society as well as to assess their family aspects. The following table disclosed the age of the respondents covered under the present study.

Table No. 2. Age-wise distribution of the Respondents

Particulars	Frequency	Percentage
Below 25 years	37	28.46
26 to 35 years	52	40.00
36 to 45 years	21	16.15
46 to 55 years	14	10.77
Above 55 years	06	4.61
Total	130	100

It is observed from the above table that of the 130 nurses covered under the present study, 52 (40.00%) are in the age group of 26 to 35 years, followed by 37 (28.46%) are below 25 years of age, about 21 (16.15%) are between the age group of 36 to 45 years, about 14 (10.77%) of the respondents are in the age group of 46 to 55 years and only 06 (4.61%) are of above 55 years of age. It is noted that even though nursing profession is old, majority of the respondents are below 35 years of age and it is can be generalized that due to the increasing development of the profession, these respondents have joined to the nursing profession.

3. Caste-wise distribution of the Respondents:

The caste back ground helps to know about the cultural issues and family issues of the respondents. The following table depicts the caste of the respondents.

Table No. 3. Caste-wise distribution of the Respondents

Particulars	Frequency	Percentage
Scheduled Caste	19	14.61
Scheduled Tribe	10	7.69
Other Backward Classes	58	44.61
Others	43	33.08
Total	130	100

As stated in the above table 58 (44.61%) of the respondents are from Other Backward Classes, followed by 43 (33.08%) are from other and open category, about 19 (14.61%) are from Scheduled Caste and remaining 10 (7.69%) are from Scheduled Tribe. It is surprising to note that there are very lower number of respondents from the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe.

4. 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 No. 4. 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.

5. 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 No. 5. 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.

6. Reasons to choose Nursing Profession:

Nursing profession is welfare and service oriented profession, rather than earning oriented. Hence, it was asked the respondents, to furnish the reasons to choose the nursing profession as their occupation. The collected information is presented in the following table.

Table No. 6. Reasons to Choose Nursing Profession

Particulars	Frequency	Percentage
Profession has Status and Respect	25	19.23
Favourable Profession	19	14.61
To earn Money and Income	22	16.92
For the Social Welfare/ Well being of people	31	23.85
Chosen Accidentally	33	25.38
Any Other	--	--
Total	130	100

On the reasons to choose the nursing profession among 130 (100%) respondents covered under the present study, 25 (19.23%) are stated that the profession has status and respect, 19 (14.61%) are expressed that it is their favourable profession, about 22 (16.92%) are expressed that to earn money and income they have chosen this profession, about 31 (23.85%) are chosen this profession for the social welfare and well being of the people and remaining 33 (25.38%) of the respondents have chosen this

profession accidentally.

7. Monthly Income:

Income of the respondents is a major factor for assessing the economic status of the respondents. As such the information on monthly income of the respondents was collected and presented in the following table.

Table No. 7. Monthly Income

Particulars	Frequency	Percentage
Below Rs. 8000	13	10.00
Rs. 8001 to Rs. 10000	28	21.54
Rs. 10001 to Rs. 15000	57	43.85
Above Rs. 15000	32	24.61
Total	130	100

The above table made it clear that of the total respondents, 57 (43.85%) has monthly income between Rs. 10001 to Rs. 15000, followed by 32 (24.61%) have monthly income of above Rs. 15000, about 28 (21.54%) have income between Rs. 8001 to Rs. 10000 and the remaining 13 (10.00%) have monthly income below Rs. 8000. The collected data revealed that the respondents are leading a middle class family, as revealed by their monthly salary.

8. 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 No. 8. 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.

9. 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 No. 9. 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.

10. Women working Outside gets more Status and Respect:

It was asked to the respondents, whether they agree that women gets more status and respect, if she works outside the family. The collected responses are tabulated as under.

Table No. 10. Women working outside get more Status and Respect

Particulars	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	130	100
No	--	--
Total	130	100

It is interesting to note from the above table that all the nurses covered under the present are agreed to the full extent that women working outside get more status and respect in life.

11. Reasons to get Status and Respect for the Working Women:

As the above table clearly indicated that all the respondents agreed that women working outside get more status and respect, if she works outside their family. The reasons for getting such status and respect are furnished as under.

Table No. 11. Reasons to get Status and Respect for the Working Women

Particulars	Frequency	Percentage
Economic Independence	118	90.77
Knowledge about Outside Work	82	63.08
Increase in Social Security	72	55.38
Increase in Life Security	130	100
Total	130	100

It was asked to the nurses covered under the present study that to reasons to get status and respect as a working women and the collected data revealed that all the 130 (100%) of the respondents felt that there is increase in life security, about 118 (90.77%) are expressed that there is economic independence, about 82 (63.08%) are expressed that there is knowledge about outside work and only about 72 (55.38%) are stated that there is increase in social security. According to the respondents, increase in life security and economic

independence plays an important role in getting status and respect in the society as depicted by the above mentioned data.

12. 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 No. 12. 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.

13. Extent of Professional Satisfaction:

Professional satisfaction is a major determinant in job satisfaction, which also has greater impact on the life satisfaction of the respondents. The level or extent of professional satisfaction of the respondents covered under the present study is disclosed in the following table.

Table No. 13. Extent of Professional Satisfaction

Particulars	Frequency	Percentage
Highly Satisfactory	43	33.07
Satisfactory	64	49.23
Not Satisfactory	23	17.69
Total	130	100

The above table depicted that of the respondents covered under the study, 64 (49.23%) are satisfactory, followed by 43 (33.07%) are highly satisfactory and the remaining 23 (17.69%) of the respondents are not satisfactory with respect to their profession.

CONCLUSION:

Nursing is not time bounded profession and also involves in stress and strain. As such, majority of the female nurses are of the opinion that the women in nurses should not marry. It shows the lesser social life satisfaction of the female nurses. In this respect, it may be suggested to the employers in hospitals to recruit more nurses to reduce the work burden of the existing nurses, so that they can look after family affairs also. However, it can be concluded that due to their outside work, majority of the female nurses have

A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY OF FEMALE NURSES IN GULBARGA CITY



got status and respect in their respective families as well as in the society.

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