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## Addressing Nurses as Sister or Brother: What Should You Say?

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**Abstract:** *Nurses are the backbone of the health care service. Nurses are a key part of the hospital's ability to ensure the quality of medical care [1]. Nursing is the most prosperous profession in the world. In this endemic situation, the value of the nursing profession can ultimately be understood. Nurses are people who are very close in taking care of the patient. Nurses go through very complicated situations when caring for a patient. The article prompts discussion about addressing nurses as sisters or brothers. What should we have to say?*

Firstly, Nursing is a profession and their designation vary from country to country like nurse or staff nurse or senior staff nurse etc. In nursing recruitment notices around the world refer to nurses as "nurses". However, female nurses are referred to as sisters and male nurses as brothers. Indeed, nurses in Asian countries are often referred to as sisters or brothers. Most Bangladeshi nurses are addressed to as sisters or brothers. It is a contemporary issue in the world and that's why nurses are extremely dissatisfied when addressed as sisters [2].

Secondly, in this century, Nurses are now achieving master's degrees and even post-doctoral status. If any doctor can address as a doctor. So, a nurse has to be addressed as a nurse. The word "sister" come from Catholic nuns. The nurses (originally Catholic nuns) were thus progressively described over a period of time using the word sister and came into existence in everyday life [3]. Nurses are called sisters in many countries. Somewhere male nurses are still addressed as sisters [4]. Also, researchers have referred to nurses as sisters from the beginning of their study [5].



In Bangladesh, female nurses are addressed as sisters and male nurses are addressed as brothers. The way of addressing as sister or brother in the official system is an informal way. All employees must be addressed by official surname or designation. This way of addressing makes Bangladeshi nurses disrespectful. Thirdly, In Bangladeshi culture, if nurses are addressed as sisters or brothers, nurses feel that "nursing is seen as a low priority". Bangladeshi nurses completely dislike the way they are addressed as "sister or brother". They want nurses to be addressed as a nursing officer or nurse.

Fourthly, When I visited a hospital to observe my students were doing clinical practice. One nursing student said that the housekeeping's and nurses at this hospital are addressed as sisters. This means that different professional personalities have been addressed in the same way. Thus, in the workplace, the identity of different employees should be in a professional way, otherwise, it creates employee dissatisfaction with the job [6].

Fifthly, the demand for male nursing is growing worldwide. Nurses should not be referred to as sisters or brothers because it prevents men from entering the profession [7]. In conclusion, it is important to address the dissatisfaction of nurses with the delivery of standard health care services because the quality of care depends on the satisfaction of the nurses [8]. Now is the time to avoid the traditional way of addressing as "sister or brother" and to address nurses as their official designation. We need to address nurses as nurses or nursing officers.

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#### **Conflict of interest**

The authors have no conflict of interest to declare.

#### **Ethical approval**

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