

## Comparison of Nursing Students' perceptions about Male Nursing among Zagazig University in Egypt and Shaqra University in Saudi Arabia

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**Abstract:** Aim: To explore and compare students' perceptions about male nursing at Faculty of Nursing Zagazig University in Egypt and Shaqra University in Saudi Arabia. Method: This study is an exploratory comparative descriptive study. Two types of samples were used: A convenience sample including the nursing students (160) at Faculty of Nursing Shaqra University and A stratified proportionate sample (323) from different years of student nurses at Faculty of Nursing Zagazig University. An exploratory comparative descriptive design was used to achieve the objectives of the present study. A questionnaire sheet was used to collect data for the present study (The students' perceptions about male nursing assessment questionnaire format). **Results:** According to the present study findings There were statistically significant differences of career preferences among Zagazig University (Egyptians students) and Shaqra University (Saudis students) regarding a) Working place preferences of both female and male students after graduation in hospital ward, emergency, outpatient clinics and instructor in Nursing Faculty (0.0, 0.0, 0.004&0.003) respectively, b) Clinics are seen suitable for men to work after graduation by both genders in ICU, emergency, Clinics other than maternity care and pediatrics and every clinic with no exception (0.0, 0.0, 0.0& 0.0) respectively and Positions are seen fit for males by both genders after their graduation in staff nurse and in any position available (0.000&0.000) respectively. There were statistically significant differences of students' opinions about effects of males on image and status of nursing among Zagazig University (Egyptians students) and Shaqra University (Saudis students) regarding a) How will males affect the image of nursing in: males will not change anything in image of nursing and males will improve image of nursing (0.000, 0.000) respectively, b) How males will affect the status of nursing in: males will not change anything in the status of nursing and males will improve the status of nursing (0.000, 0.003) respectively and there is not statistically significant difference concerning should nursing only be a female profession. **Conclusion:** (Egyptians students) are not prefer hospital ward and primary care but they prefer emergency care and are not prefer men to work as an instructor while (Saudi students) preferred hospital ward and did not prefer intensive care units (ICU) and consider males as staff nurses and they did not want men to occupy instructor or administrative/ instructor positions. (Egyptians students) and (Saudi students) think that males will change anything in image of nursing, will improve image of nursing, will change anything in the status of nursing and will improve the status of nursing. As well as they refuse the nursing profession to be a female profession.

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**Key words:** Male nursing, career, image, status, gender, comparison

### 1. Introduction

The nursing profession in the Arab world is developing rapidly although it still has a long way to go. Nursing in some Arab countries is considered one of the appreciated and recommended professions, as in Egypt and Saudi Arabia. Nursing has been considerably progressing towards professionalism in recent decades and has produced a scientific base by academically preparing programs for it (Abdel El-Halem *et al.*, 2011). Health care has been identified as number one public priority - and nurses play a central role in delivering health care (Wineman, 2010). Nurses advocate for health promotion, educate patients and the public on the prevention of illness and injury, provide care and assist in cure, participate in rehabilitation, and

provide support. Additions, Nurses help families learn to become healthy by helping them understand the range of emotional, physical, mental and cultural experiences they encounter during health and illness. Nurses help people and their families cope with illness, deal with it, and if necessary live with it, so that other parts of their lives can continue (McGill, 2013). Moreover, establishes a therapeutic relationship based on trust, respect, caring, and listening. Uses clinical skills to assess the client's ability to participate in joint planning, implementation, and evaluation of nursing interventions. Uses health promotion, illness, and injury prevention techniques that are client centered, client-driven, and strengths-based and helps clients to accept their share of responsibility for health (Wineman, 2010). Nursing

filed open many opportunities to male and female nurses such as opens the door to leadership positions in hospitals and community health settings. Nurses with a University degree work in industrialized and developing countries to promote the health of rural and urban populations; They work in rehabilitation, critical care and mental health settings; They work in hospitals, in schools, in community clinics and in peoples' homes; They work to promote physical, psychosocial and environmental health; locally, nationally and internationally (**Institute of Medicine, 2010 & American Association of Colleges of Nursing, 2011**)

The nursing community aims to increase the number of male nursing students and practicing male nurses lately. Gender and sex role stereotyping are recognized as having the potential to limit the professional development of males within the nursing profession. Male nurses have been a minority group within the nursing profession; nevertheless, the nursing community nowadays aims to increase the number of male nursing students and practicing male nurses lately. History appears to indicate that men had a place in nursing for as long as records are available, but their contribution has been perceived as negligible, largely because of the dominant influence that the 19th century female nursing movement has had on the occupation's historical ideology (**Keogh and O'Lynn, 2007**). According to **Johnson and Johnson (2002)** and **Stoltenberg (2008)**, only one man in ten would consider nursing as a career. Those men who are interested in nursing tend to be older and looking for new careers (**Buerhaus et al, 2004 & Nelson & Belcher, 2006**). There is a gap in knowledge regarding why men are entering nursing at low rates despite recent recruitment efforts.

Many female dominant positions, including nursing, have failed to attract male recruits. This can be attributed to in part of issues such as status and pay, but it is also result of the gender role stereotyping of the profession. Thus; it has become identified as a profession deeply embedded in the gender based power relations of society. Although number of males in nursing is increasing recently, feminization of nursing is still an important issue. Men's position in taking care of patients and being in health care industry all around the world is not new and goes far back to medieval times and there is recorded evidence of males' skill and care (**Ozdemir et al, 2008**).

Men come to nursing for much the same reasons as their female counterparts, primarily to help others and for the growth opportunities the profession offers. There were many comments about nursing being a "calling", not just a profession as well as numerous comments about being able to "make a difference". Perhaps due to their minority status, the male nurses

surveyed did not cite established attractors, such as the influence of other health care professionals, parents or a lifelong ambition built on an early awareness of career possibilities (**Spain, 2013**). The key challenges to men in nursing are the stereotyping and cultural adaptation required for entry into a traditionally female profession. In the latter case, lack of male role models and appropriate career preparation for males are also seen as impediments. Male nurses surveyed indicated they, too, were influenced by such widely-held misconceptions, such as the nursing profession being dominated by females and not "appropriate" for men. There were many comments about the term "male nurse" and concern that by using that term we are adding to the problem (**Zenger and Folkman, 2012**).

Men in nursing face many barriers and obstacles not only from the general public but also from their patients and colleagues (**Stott, 2004 & Furlong, 2005**). Every feeling a person has about him/herself as a professional will affect his/her way of thought and action in professional relations. Therefore nurses, who have positive professional images, will have more and stronger remedial relations with their patients (**Jennifer, 2013**). The image of nursing as a profession is affected by numerous factors and accordingly affecting the choice of nursing as a career. These factors include: media, public image, social prestige, nurses themselves, having a family member, relative or a friend who is a nurse, role models, physician nurse interaction, nursing educators, nurse preceptors, risk of violence, exposure to health hazards and nursing education programs (**Twomey & Meadus, 2008 & Abdel El-Halem et al., 2011**).

On the same line, **Hodes Research Group, 2005 and Haplize, 2010** state that factors affecting perception of nursing as a career choice included A wide array of social, cultural, physical, psychological, personal/innate and external factors were found to affect a person's perception. The following were identified to be significant factors that influence perception in relation to career decisions: Parents, teachers and friends, image of the profession, interests and fears, early exposure and ethnicity (**Romem & Anson, 2005**), status and salary (**Mkhize & Nzimande, 2007**), work hours and work load information and social support (**Whitehead et al, 2007**) media, and gender (**Tillman & Machtmes, 2008 and Ozdemir et al, 2008**).

In the Eastern Mediterranean Region, the role of nurses was traditionally part of the role of women, but only for their own families. To take up nursing as a career, girls required education and training, for which there were limited opportunities. Generally, nursing schools were perceived as simply training students to carry out physicians' orders (**World Health**

**Organization, 2000).** In addition, in most Arab countries, nursing has been generally restricted to the area of maternal care provided by day as (the ancient sisterhood of midwives) (**Tawash, 2012& El-Sanabary, 2013**). Egyptian community was not improved properly even after the nurse has been qualified a university level. Therefore, for recruiting and retention of nurses, there is a need to promote nursing professional image to enhance its standing in the community especially for males. (**Abdel El-Halem et al., 2011**)

In Bahrain, nursing has traditionally been an unacceptable career option, and few females studied professional nursing. At present, there is increasing recognition that nursing has become a career opportunity. Yet it would appear that families in Bahrain may be influencing their daughters not to enter nursing because they perceive nursing as an unsuitable profession for girls. Observations made about the public image of nursing in Bahrain suggest nursing is perceived as a low paying, low status job involving much hard and unpleasant work. The international literature shows that early perceptions of students have a profound influence on their decision as to whether continue with their nursing studies, and students frequently make decisions to leave nursing against the wishes or without the support from their school or family (**Spouse, 2000& Tawash, 2012**)

Other studies reported that nursing students recognize nursing as a caring profession and as an opportunity to help people gain a better health (**Beck, 2000- O'Brien, 2008**). Nursing students also viewed nursing as a noble and well-regarded career path (**Mackintosh, 2006**) and one which requires strength, patience and compassion (**Spouse, 2000& Cook, 2003**). Apart from the traditional perception of nursing as caring, a longitudinal study that examined nursing students' perceptions of nursing showed that students considered nursing as a profession based on scientific knowledge and requires expertise in nursing and responsibility. They also viewed nursing as a 'medical-technical' activity (**Manninen, 1998 & Tawash, 2012**).

Though they still represent a slim minority, men are increasingly pursuing careers in nursing, attracted by abundant job opportunities, good salaries, and the opportunity to make a difference in people's lives. This is in no small part due to the fact that the nursing profession has worked for years to dispel misconceptions surrounding men in this female-dominated field. Egypt and Saudi Arabia share common life profiles, including language and religion, but are different in regard to cultural, historical and financial aspects of life. Thus, there is good reason to hypothesize that there would be a significant difference between the two samples in perceptions

about male nursing. The aim of this study was to explore and compare students' perceptions about male nursing at faculty of nursing Zagazig University in Egypt and Shaqra University in Saudi Arabia

## 2. Significance of the Study

Men are increasingly pursuing careers in nursing, attracted by abundant job opportunities, good salaries, and the opportunity to make a difference in people's lives and nursing profession invest this and give many opportunities to male for entering to this female-dominated field to overcome its' challenges as: nursing shortages, rapidly changes and reforms in health care, globalization, practitioners should meet consumer demands, specialization, bad image in media, Professionalization, Political& economical forcers, social & cultural forces, evidence-based practice required to maintain accreditation, technology and nursing informatics' impact...etc.

So studying students' perceptions about male nursing at faculty of nursing Zagazig University in Egypt and Shaqra University in Saudi Arabia is very important as a step to determine the students perceptions about male nursing and what areas they prefer to work in and if they will improve the nursing status and image or not.

Egypt and Saudi Arabia share common life profiles, including language and religion, but are different in regard to cultural, historical and financial aspects of life. Thus, there is good reason to hypothesize that there would be a significant difference between the two samples in perceptions about male nursing.

## 3. Subjects and Methods

### Aim of the Study

An exploratory comparative study of nursing students' perceptions about male nursing at faculty of nursing Zagazig University in Egypt and shaqra University in Saudi Arabia

The aim of this study was to explore and compare students' perceptions about male nursing at faculty of nursing Zagazig University in Egypt and Shaqra University in Saudi Arabia

To fulfill this aim the following research objectives were formulated to:

1-assess students' perceptions about male nursing at faculty of nursing Zagazig University in Egypt and shaqra University in Saudi Arabia

2- Compare students' perceptions about male nursing at faculty of nursing Zagazig University in Egypt and Shaqra University in Saudi Arabia

Research question:

1-What are the nursing students' perceptions about male nursing at faculty of nursing Zagazig University in Egypt and Shaqra University in Saudi Arabia?

2-What are the gender differences perceived by female and male nursing students about male nursing at faculty of nursing Zagazig University in Egypt and Shaqra University in Saudi Arabia?

3- What are differences perceived by nursing students about male nursing at faculty of nursing Zagazig University in Egypt and Shaqra University in Saudi Arabia?

#### **Research Design:**

An exploratory comparative descriptive design was used to achieve the objectives of the present study, it aimed at exploring and comparing students' perceptions about male nursing at faculty of nursing Zagazig University in Egypt and Shaqra University in Saudi Arabia. This was achieved through cross-sectional assessment students' perceptions.

#### **Setting:**

This study was conducted at faculty of nursing Zagazig University. That includes sex scientific departments. And College of Applied Medical Sciences at Shaqra University that involves scientific nursing program.

#### **Subjects:**

To collect data for the present study two types of samples were used:

- 1- A convenience sample including the nursing students (160) at faculty of nursing Shaqra University including different years of student nurses who agreed to participate in the study.
- 2- A stratified proportionate sample from different years of student nurses at faculty of nursing Zagazig University was taken as follows.

Sample size: the sample size is estimated with a 20% precision and Confidence level 95%, Population size 1221, and Margin of error 5%. Ideal sample size was 293

After adjust of a dropout rate of 10 % the sample size required was 323.

Sampling method: the sample was taken through a stratified proportionate random sampling technique, based on the distribution of the different years of student nurses

- The researcher selected randomly the sample size from each stratum using the simple random sampling technique until the required sample size was obtained.

#### **Operational definition:**

For the purposes of this study, the following operational definitions were used:

1- Bachelor Degree Nursing Student

A student enrolled in a traditional B.SC-N program and who has completed at least one clinical course

2- Students' perceptions regarding male nursing  
Students' expectations about where should males be in nursing and Students' opinions about effects of males on image and status of nursing

#### **Tools:**

Data for the present study was collected using the following tool:

A questionnaire sheet was developed by Ozdemir et al (2008) to assess the students' perceptions about male nursing which was contained three sections. The first part of the questionnaire included socio demographic data, second part of the questionnaire included questions about perceptions of both female and male students about position of males in nursing career while questions regarding effects of recruiting males to nursing career were included in the third part.

#### **Procedure**

The current study was carried out on two phases; preparation phase and implementation phase.

##### **1-Preparation phase.**

This phase was concerned with managerial arrangements to carry out the implementation phase, as well as preparation of data collection tool.

Managerial arrangements, an official permission was obtained from the dean of the faculty of nursing at Zagazig University in Egypt and Shaqra University in Saudi Arabia to select the samples, to conduct the study and to collect the data. The researcher explained the aim of the study.

Regarding preparation of the tool the researcher adopt the questionnaire sheet

A pilot study was carried out on 38 - 16 students selected randomly at faculty of nursing Zagazig University and Shaqra University respectively that is to identify obstacles and problems that may be encountered during data collection, to test clarity, feasibility of the tool and whether it was understandable, and to determine the time needed to fill the forms. The tool was handed to participants to fill it and collected by the researchers. The time for the completion of the questionnaire sheet was ranged from 15-25minutes.

##### **2-Implementation phase**

The researcher copied 350 sheets for any lost sheets and to ensure the collection of the required sample size. Data collection took the period from April 2012 to May 2012 at Faculty of Nursing Zagazig University and from January 2013 to February 2013 at Faculty of Nursing, Shaqra University

The researchers began to collect data from the nursing students by explaining to each participant the aim of the study and take him or her acceptance and explaining the scale and how to file the sheet. Filling the questionnaire sheet about male nursing was ranged from 15-25minutes; this time was depending on the work conditions and interference of many variables. Data collection for some participants carried out through distribution of the questionnaire sheet to the

subjects and was handed back to the researchers upon completion.

#### Statistical analysis:

Data entry was done using Microsoft Excel computer software package, while statistical analysis was done using SPSS 13.0 statistical software package. Quality control was done at the stages of coding and data entry. Data were presented using descriptive statistics in the form of frequencies and percentages for qualitative variables, and means and standard deviations for quantitative variables. Qualitative variables were compared using chi-square test. Whenever the expected values in one or more of the cells in a 2x2 tables was less than 5, Fisher exact test was used instead. In larger than 2x2 cross-tables, no test could be applied whenever the expected value in 10% or more of the cells was less than 5. Statistical significance was considered at  $p$ -value <0.05.

## 4.Results

### I- Students' expectations about where males should be in nursing

Table (1) shows that, There are statistically significant differences of career preferences among males' and females' students at faculty of nursing Zagazig University (Egyptians students) regarding a) Working place preferences of both female and male students after graduation in hospital ward, primary care and emergency (0.041, 0.015, 0.000) respectively, while there are not statistically significant differences as regard to b) Clinics are seen suitable for men to work after graduation by both genders. There are statistically significant differences concerning positions are seen fit for males by both genders after their graduation in: instructor (0.000).

**Table 1: Comparison between males' and females' Students' expectations about where should males be in nursing at faculty of nursing Zagazig University (n=325)**

Students' expectations	Male		Female		X <sup>2</sup>	P value
	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree		
<b>A-Working place preferences of both female and male students after graduation</b>						
1. Hospital ward	10	66	15	234	4.17	0.041
2. Primary care	13	63	19	230	5.88	0.015
3. Emergency	23	53	141	108	16.18	0.000
4. Outpatient clinics	14	62	34	215	1.051	0.305
5. Instructor in nursing faculty	16	60	40	209	1.016	0.313
<b>B-Clinics are seen suitable for men to work after graduation by both genders</b>						
1) Internal medicine- surgery clinics	11	65	19	230	3.25	0.071
2) ICU	37	39	122	127	.002	0.962
3) Operating room	19	57	74	175	.635	0.426
4) Emergency	4	72	6	243	1.590	0.207
5) Clinics other than maternity care and pediatrics	0	76	2	247	.614	0.433
6) Every clinic with no exception	5	71	29	220	1.596	0.206
<b>C-Positions are seen fit for males by both genders after their graduation</b>						
1. Staff nurse	35	41	139	110	2.23	0.135
2. Administrator	11	65	27	222	.743	0.389
3. Instructor	14	62	13	236	13.31	0.000
4. In any position available	9	67	54	195	3.61	0.057
5. Administrative/ instructor	7	69	17	232	.484	0.487

Table (2) shows that, There are statistically significant differences of career preferences among males' and females' students at shaqra University (Saudi students) regarding a) Working place preferences of both female and male students after graduation in: hospital ward, primary care, emergency, outpatient clinics and instructor in

nursing faculty (0.000, 0.031, 0.022, 0.019, 0.032) respectively, b) Clinics are seen suitable for men to work after graduation by both genders in ICU, operating room and every clinic with no exception (0.001, 0.042, 0.000) respectively. c) Positions are seen fit for males by both genders after their graduation in: administrative/ instructor (0.001).

**Table 2: Comparison between males' and females' Students' expectations about where should males be in nursing at faculty of nursing shaqra University (n=158)**

Students' expectations	Male		Female		X <sup>2</sup>	P value
	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree		
<b>A-Working place preferences of both female and male students after graduation</b>						
1) Hospital ward	44	14	42	58	16.970	0.000
2) Primary care	3	55	17	83	4.645	0.031
3) Emergency	3	55	18	82	5.241	0.022
4) Outpatient clinics	0	58	9	91	5.535	0.019
5) Instructor in nursing faculty	11	47	35	65	4.573	0.032
<b>B-Clinics are seen suitable for men to work after graduation by both genders</b>						
1. Internal medicine- surgery clinics	2	56	9	91	1.747	0.186
2. ICU	0	58	17	83	11.049	0.001
3. Operating room	9	49	30	70	4.142	0.042
4. Emergency	12	46	32	68	2.337	0.126
5. Clinics other than maternity care and pediatrics	9	49	9	91	1.545	0.214
6. Every clinic with no exception	32	26	23	77	16.744	0.000
<b>C-Positions are seen fit for males by both genders after their graduation</b>						
1) Staff nurse	20	38	24	76	2.008	0.157
2) Administrator	5	53	13	87	.697	0.404
3) Instructor	0	58	6	94	3.617	0.057
4) In any position available	28	30	56	44	.880	0.348
5) Administrative/ instructor	8	50	1	99	11.184	0.001

Table (3) shows that, There are statistically significant differences of career preferences among year level students at Faculty of Nursing Zagazig University (Egyptians students) regarding a) Working place preferences of both female and male students after graduation in: hospital ward and outpatient clinics (0.000, 0.009) respectively, b) Clinics are seen suitable for men to work after graduation by both genders in ICU, emergency and every clinic with no exception (0.001, 0.027, 0.012) respectively c) positions are seen fit for males by both genders after their graduation in: staff nurse, instructor and in any position available (0.000, 0.000, 0.034) respectively.

Table (4) shows that, There are statistically significant differences of career preferences among year level students at faculty of nursing shaqra University (Saudi students) regarding a) Working place preferences of both female and male students after graduation in: instructor in nursing faculty (0.035) b) Clinics are seen suitable for men to work after graduation by both genders in ICU and

emergency (0.012, 0.004) respectively while there is not statistically significant difference concerning positions are seen fit for males by both genders after their graduation.

Table (5) shows that, There are statistically significant difference of career preferences among Zagazig University (Egyptians students) and shaqra University (Saudis students) regarding a) Working place preferences of both female and male students after graduation in hospital ward, emergency, outpatient clinics and instructor in nursing faculty (0.000, 0.000, 0.004, 0.003) respectively, b) Clinics are seen suitable for men to work after graduation by both genders in ICU, emergency, Clinics other than maternity care and pediatrics and every clinic with no exception (0.000, 0.000, 0.000, 0.000) respectively and Positions are seen fit for males by both genders after their graduation in staff nurse and in any position available (0.000, 0.000) respectively.

**Table 3: Comparison between year level students' expectations about where should males be in nursing at faculty of nursing Zagazig University (n=325)**

Students' expectations	1 <sup>st</sup> year		2 <sup>nd</sup> year		3 <sup>rd</sup> year		4 <sup>th</sup> year		X <sup>2</sup>	P value
	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree		
<b>A-Working place preferences of both female and male students after graduation</b>										
1) Hospital ward	14	57	1	82	4	77	6	84	20.38	0.000
2) Primary care	9	62	8	75	5	76	10	80	2.03	0.56
3) Emergency	29	42	40	43	41	40	54	36	6.07	0.108
4) Outpatient clinics	3	68	16	67	18	63	11	79	11.6	0.009
5) Instructor in nursing faculty	16	55	18	65	13	68	9	81	5.93	0.115
<b>B-Clinics are seen suitable for men to work after graduation by both genders</b>										
1) Internal medicine- surgery clinics	9	62	5	78	7	74	9	81	2.122	0.548
2) ICU	22	49	47	36	50	31	40	50	17.15	0.001
3) Operating room	28	43	21	62	18	63	26	64	6.14	0.105
4) Emergency	3	68	0	38	6	75	1	89	9.2	0.027
5) Clinics other than maternity care and pediatrics	1	70	1	82	0	81	0	90	2.2	0.520
6) -Every clinic with no exception	10	61	9	74	1	80	14	76	10.8	0.012
<b>C-Positions are seen fit for males by both genders after their graduation</b>										
1. Staff nurse	33	38	161	22	27	54	53	37	29.04	0.000
2. Administrator	9	62	12	71	11	70	6	84	3.1	0.36
3. Instructor	11	60	2	81	7	74	7	83	8.6	0.034
4. In any position available	9	62	4	79	33	48	17	73	36.7	0.000
5. Administrative/ instructor	9	62	5	78	3	78	7	83	4.7	0.191

**Table 4: Comparison between year level students' expectations about where should males be in nursing at faculty of nursing shaqra University (n=158)**

Students' expectations	1 <sup>st</sup> year		2 <sup>nd</sup> year		3 <sup>rd</sup> year		4 <sup>th</sup> year		X <sup>2</sup>	P value
	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree		
<b>A-Working place preferences of both female and male students after graduation</b>										
1. Hospital ward	26	31	13	12	26	13	21	16	4.28	0.233
2. Primary care	7	50	4	21	5	34	4	33	.375	0.945
3. Emergency	3	54	5	20	7	32	6	31	5.173	0.160
4. Outpatient clinics	3	54	2	23	2	37	2	35	.296	0.961
5. Instructor in nursing faculty	24	33	6	19	6	33	10	27	8.618	0.035
<b>B-Clinics are seen suitable for men to work after graduation by both genders</b>										
1) Internal medicine- surgery clinics	1	56	1	24	4	35	5	32	5.830	0.120
2) ICU	0	57	4	21	6	33	7	30	11.022	0.012
3) Operating room	18	39	6	19	8	31	7	30	2.490	0.477
4) Emergency	7	50	6	19	16	23	15	22	13.39	0.004
5) Clinics other than maternity care and pediatrics	9	48	5	20	2	37	2	35	5.756	0.124
6) -Every clinic with no exception	33	24	8	17	12	27	11	26	2.125	0.547
<b>C-Positions are seen fit for males by both genders after their graduation</b>										
1. Staff nurse	17	40	8	17	11	28	8	29	1.042	0.791
2. Administrator	2	55	3	22	6	33	7	30	6.21	0.102
3. Instructor	0	57	0	25	3	36	3	34	6.7	0.081
4. In any position available	36	21	13	12	18	21	17	20	3.8	0.279
5. Administrative/ instructor	2	55	2	23	2	37	3	34	1.17	0.758

**Table 5: Comparison between Zagazig University (n=325) and shaqra University n=158 Students' expectations about where should males be in nursing**

Students' expectations	Zagazig University N=325		Chakra University n=158		X <sup>2</sup>	P value
	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree		
<b>A-Working place preferences of both female and male students after graduation</b>						
1) Hospital ward	25	300	86	72	130.12	0.000
2) Primary care	32	293	20	138	.875	0.350
3) Emergency	164	161	21	137	62.15	0.000
4) Outpatient clinics	48	277	9	149	8.4	0.004
5) Instructor in nursing faculty	56	269	46	112	9.012	0.003
<b>B-Clinics are seen suitable for men to work after graduation by both genders</b>						
1) Internal medicine- surgery clinics	30	295	11	147	.704	0.401
2) ICU	159	166	17	141	66.855	0.000
3) Operating room	93	232	39	119	.828	0.363
4) Emergency	10	315	44	114	65.69	0.000
5) Clinics other than maternity care and pediatrics	2	323	18	140	31.108	0.000
6) Every clinic with no exception	34	291	55	103	41.93	0.000
<b>C-Positions are seen fit for males by both genders after their graduation</b>						
1) Staff nurse	174	151	44	114	28.33	0.000
2) Administrator	38	287	18	140	.009	0.923
3) Instructor	27	298	6	152	3.39	0.065
4) In any position available	63	262	84	74	57.29	0.000
5) Administrative/ instructor	24	301	9	149	.476	0.490

## II- Students' opinions about effects of males on image and status of nursing

Table (6) shows that, There are statistically significant differences of students' opinions about effects of males on image and status of nursing among males' and females' students at faculty of nursing Zagazig University (Egyptians students) regarding a) How will males affect the image of nursing in: males will not change anything in image

of nursing, males will improve image of nursing and males will worsen image of nursing (0.000, 0.000, 0.019) respectively, b) How males will affect the status of nursing in: males will not change anything in the status of nursing, males will improve the status of nursing and males will worsen the status of nursing (0.001, 0.000, 0.049) respectively and there is not statistically significant difference concerning should nursing only be a female profession.

**Table 6: Comparison between males' and females' Students' opinions about effects of males on image and status of nursing at faculty of nursing Zagazig University (n=325)**

Effects of males on image and status of nursing	Male		Female		X <sup>2</sup>	P value
	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree		
<b>A- How will males affect the image of nursing</b>						
1. Males will not change anything in image of nursing	4	72	62	187	13.87	0.000
2. Males will improve image of nursing	70	6	158	91	22.82	0.000
3. Males will worsen image of nursing	2	74	29	220	5.48	0.019
<b>B- How males will affect the status of nursing</b>						
1. Males will not change anything in the status of nursing	4	72	56	193	11.47	0.001
2. Males will improve the status of nursing	69	7	164	85	17.82	0.000
3. Males will worsen the status of nursing	3	73	29	220	3.88	0.049
<b>C- Should nursing only be a female profession</b>						
Yes/NO	18	58	52	197	.27	0.603

Table (7) shows that, There are statistically significant differences of students' opinions about effects of males on image and status of nursing among males' and females' students at shaqra University(Saudi students) regarding a) How will males affect the image of nursing in: males will not change anything in image of nursing, males will improve image of nursing and males will worsen

image of nursing (0.000, 0.000, 0.011) respectively, b) How males will affect the status of nursing in: males will not change anything in the status of nursing, males will improve the status of nursing and males will worsen the status of nursing (0.000, 0.000, 0.019) respectively and there is not statistically significant difference concerning should nursing only be a female profession.

**Table 7: Comparison between males' and females' Students' opinions about effects of males on image and status of nursing at Faculty of Nursing Shaqra University (n=158)**

Effects of males on image and status of nursing	Male		Female		X <sup>2</sup>	P value
	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree		
<b>A- How will males affect the image of nursing</b>						
1. Males will not change anything in image of nursing	10	48	47	53	14.097	0.000
2. Males will improve image of nursing	45	13	33	67	29.195	0.000
3. Males will worsen image of nursing	3	55	20	80	6.489	0.011
<b>B- How males will affect the status of nursing</b>						
1. Males will not change anything in the status of nursing	8	50	49	51	19.731	0.000
2. Males will improve the status of nursing	50	8	42	58	29.494	0.000
3. Males will worsen the status of nursing	0	58	9	91	5.535	0.019
<b>C- Should nursing only be a female profession</b>						
Yes/NO	9	49	17	83	0.059	0.809

Table (8) shows that, There are statistically significant differences of students' opinions about effects of males on image and status of nursing among year level students at Faculty of Nursing Zagazig University (Egyptians students) regarding: a) How will males affect the image of nursing in: males will improve image of nursing and males will worsen

image of nursing (0.000, 0.000) respectively, b) How males will affect the status of nursing in: males will improve the status of nursing and males will worsen the status of nursing (0.003, 0.003) respectively and there is statistically significant difference concerning should nursing only be a female profession.

**Table 8: Comparison between year level students' opinions about effects of males on image and status of nursing at Faculty of Nursing Zagazig University (n=325)**

Effects of males on image and status of nursing	1 <sup>st</sup> year		2 <sup>nd</sup> year		3 <sup>rd</sup> year		4 <sup>th</sup> year		X <sup>2</sup>	P value
	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree		
<b>A-How will males affect the image of nursing</b>										
1. Males will not change anything in image of nursing	19	52	20	63	17	64	10	80	7.29	0.063
2. Males will improve image of nursing	35	36	59	24	58	23	76	14	23.64	0.000
3. Males will worsen image of nursing	17	54	4	79	6	75	4	86	22.35	0.000
<b>B-How males will affect the status of nursing</b>										
1. Males will not change anything in the status of nursing	17	54	11	72	17	64	15	75	3.4	0.32
2. Males will improve the status of nursing	39	32	65	18	58	23	71	19	13.9	0.003
3. Males will worsen the status of nursing	15	56	7	76	6	75	4	86	13.8	0.003
<b>C-Should nursing only be a female profession</b>										
Yes/NO	28	43	11	72	11	70	20	70	19.8	0.000

Table (9) shows that, There are statistically significant differences of students' opinions about effects of males on image and status of nursing among year level students at Shaqra University(Saudi students) regarding a) How will males affect the image of nursing in: males will not change anything

in image of nursing and males will improve image of nursing (0.000, 0.012) respectively however there are not statistically significant differences as regard to how males will affect the status of nursing and should nursing only be a female profession.

**Table 9: Comparison between year level students' opinions about effects of males on image and status of nursing at faculty of nursing shaqra University (n=158)**

Effects of males on image and status of nursing	1 <sup>st</sup> year		2 <sup>nd</sup> year		3 <sup>rd</sup> year		4 <sup>th</sup> year		X <sup>2</sup>	P value
	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree		
<b>A-How will males affect the image of nursing</b>										
1. Males will not change anything in image of nursing	9	48	9	16	19	20	20	17	18.06	0.000
2. Males will improve image of nursing	37	20	13	12	16	23	12	25	10.9	0.012
3. Males will worsen image of nursing	11	46	3	22	4	35	5	32	1.77	0.621
<b>B-How males will affect the status of nursing</b>										
1. Males will not change anything in the status of nursing	15	42	10	15	15	24	17	20	4.18	0.243
2. Males will improve the status of nursing	39	18	14	11	22	17	17	20	4.8	0.184
3. Males will worsen the status of nursing	3	54	1	24	2	37	3	34	578	0.901
<b>C-Should nursing only be a female profession</b>										
Yes/NO	8	49	2	23	7	32	9	28	3.27	0.351

Table (10) shows that, There are statistically significant differences of students' opinions about effects of males on image and status of nursing among Zagazig University (Egyptians students) and Shaqra University (Saudis students) regarding a) How will males affect the image of nursing in: males will not change anything in image of nursing and

males will improve image of nursing (0.000, 0.000) respectively, b) How males will affect the status of nursing in: males will not change anything in the status of nursing and males will improve the status of nursing (0.000, 0.003) respectively and there is not statistically significant difference concerning should nursing only be a female profession.

**Table10: Comparison between Zagazig University (n=325) and shaqra University n=158 Students' opinions about effects of males on image and status of nursing**

Effects of males on image and status of nursing	Zagazig University N=325		Chakra University n=158		X <sup>2</sup>	P value
	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree		
<b>A-How will males affect the image of nursing</b>						
1. Males will not change anything in image of nursing	66	259	57	101	13.92	0.000
2. Males will improve image of nursing	228	97	78	80	19.78	0.000
3. Males will worsen image of nursing	31	294	23	135	2.6	0.101
<b>B-How males will affect the status of nursing</b>						
1. Males will not change anything in the status of nursing	60	265	57	101	17.97	0.000
2. Males will improve the status of nursing	233	92	92	66	8.7	0.003
3. Males will worsen the status of nursing	32	293	9	149	2.35	0.125
<b>C-Should nursing only be a female profession</b>						
Yes/NO	70	255	26	132	1.72	0.189

## 5. Discussion

Men are increasingly pursuing careers in nursing, attracted by abundant job opportunities, good salaries, and the opportunity to make a difference in people's lives. This is in no small part due to the fact that the nursing profession has worked for years to dispel misconceptions surrounding men in this female-dominated field. On the other side of the gender divide, men who enter nursing may still face questions about their masculinity or sexuality (**Sridevy, 2011**).

The aim of this study was to explore and compare students' perceptions about male nursing at Faculty of Nursing Zagazig University in Egypt and Shaqra University in Saudi Arabia. To fulfill this aim the following research objectives were formulated to: 1- assess students' perceptions about male nursing at Faculty of Nursing Zagazig University in Egypt and shaqra University in Saudi Arabia.

- 1- Compare students' perceptions about male nursing at Faculty of Nursing Zagazig University in Egypt and Shaqra University in Saudi Arabia
- 2- assess students' perceptions about male nursing at Faculty of Nursing Zagazig University in Egypt and Shaqra University in Saudi Arabia.

Concerning Students' expectations about where males should be in nursing. This study indicated that both female and male students at Faculty of Nursing Zagazig University (Egyptians students) prefer emergency departments 50.5% and intensive care units (ICU) 48.9% for men to work after graduation, while majority did not prefer hospital ward 92.3% and clinics other than maternity care and pediatrics 99.4% for men to work after graduation that could be due to men have physical power and Masculinity characteristics that enable them to work in these hard areas which need handling patients. Concerning positions are seen fit for males by both genders after their graduation. The majority of students consider males as staff nurses 53.5 %, and they did not want men to occupy instructor 91.7% or administrative/ instructor 92.6 % positions that could be due to saturation of nursing management positions and severe shortage in nursing staff.

These findings are supported by **Sridevy, (2011)** studied "An Exploratory Study of Student Nurses' Perceptions of Gender" who found that the most of the female students and nearly half of the male students chose emergency units as the most "suitable" area for male nurses. Additionally, these findings similarly with **Ozdemir et al, (2008)**, who stated that ICU, operating room and emergency departments were seen as proper places for males to work after graduation by both genders. On the other hand maternity and pediatric clinics were not seen as fit places for males to work. Moreover, these findings are supported by (**Chung, 2000 and Senses et al., 2001**). The places

males choose to work in hospitals are ICU and ER which are identified with technical skills and autonomy (**Evans 1997 and Ozdemir et al, 2008**). This result matched with those of **Rernard Hodes Group (2008)**, who found that the top nursing specialties among respondent's men include: Critical care (27%), ED (23%) and Med/surg 20%. Other top areas of expertise include Middle Management (19%) and Educator (15%). This finding is not online with **Sridevy, (2011)** who illustrated that, nearly 42% of the female nurses preferred men to work as instructors in nursing schools after graduation.

On the other hand, expectations of males' and females' students at Shaqra University (Saudi students) was antagonized with their colleagues in Egypt in which Saudi Arabia students prefer hospital ward 54.4% and did not prefer intensive care units (ICU) 89.2 % for men to work after graduation this might be due to nursing as a profession for Saudi is new and they haven't serial problems and challenges facing female nurse as in Egypt. Additionally, the majority of students consider males as staff nurses 53.5 %, and they did not want men to occupy instructor 96.2% or administrative/ instructor 94.3% positions in which they consistent with their colleagues in Egypt in their choice but differed with them in the aim of choice in which in Saudi Arabia there are high salaries for staff nurses in hospitals higher than those who work as educators. The present study findings disagreed with **Sridevy, (2011)** that show in results of the survey male students prefer administrative/instructional positions after graduation. In contrast, female students said they more often preferred men to assume staff nurse positions. There are difficulties for men working in female-dominated professions; male nurses tend to have a faster and more straightforward career progression than their female counterparts. These results could be attributed to the Saudi culture and perception about nursing job in hospital ward lighter than work in intensive care units. Besides, the majority of nurses recruited by the Ministry of Health hospitals in Saudi Arabia are from India and the Philippines. Others come from Malaysia, Australia, North America, the United Kingdom, South Africa and other Middle East- countries for this reason can depend and recruiting his / her nurses in to nursing profession; such as (ICU) and emergency. Moreover, Saudi students may perceive that they are not experienced enough to occupy instructor or administrative/ instructor. **Patidar et al. (2011)** conducted a study about "Future nurses' perception towards profession and carrier plans: A cross sectional survey in state Punjab", they found that the males students were more interested in bedside nursing. The result of the present study agree with **Stoltenberg & Behan, (2011)** they concluded that only 5.7% males

agree inherent in a nursing career; a career which, as of Services Administration . The result of the present study differs with some researcher, (**Ozdemir et al, 2008; Rernard Hodes Group, 2008**)

The findings of the present study indicated that There are statistically significant differences of career preferences among males' and females' students at faculty of nursing Zagazig University (Egyptians students) regarding: Working place preferences of both female and male students after graduation in hospital ward, primary care and emergency (0.041, 0.015, 0.000) respectively, in which the study sample are not prefer hospital ward and primary care as working places but they prefer emergency care. There are statistically significant differences concerning positions are seen fit for males by both genders after their graduation in: instructor (0.000) in which the study sample are not prefer men to work as an instructor.

In the same study, there are statistically significant differences of career preferences among males' and females' students at Shaqra University (Saudi students) regarding a) Working place preferences of both female and male students after graduation in: hospital ward, primary care, emergency, outpatient clinics and instructor in nursing faculty (0.000, 0.031, 0.022, 0.019, 0.032) respectively, in which female students are not prefer men to work in wards but male agree and the study sample are not prefer men to work in primary, emergency care, outpatient clinics and as an instructor in Nursing Faculty b) Clinics are seen suitable for men to work after graduation by both genders in ICU, operating room and every clinic with no exception (0.001, 0.042, 0.000) respectively. in which the study sample are not prefer men to work in ICU, operating room and female students are not prefer men to work in every clinic with no exception but male agree c) Positions are seen fit for males by both genders after their graduation in: administrative/ instructor (0.001) the study sample are not prefer men work as administrator or instructor.

**Sridevy,(2011)** mentioned that, There were significant differences between both genders' perceptions about the nursing positions men should occupy after graduation. While 48% of the female students considered men as staff nurses, most of the male students said they should occupy administrative (40%) or teaching posts (38%) after graduation. The results of our study agreement with **Ozdemir et al, (2008)**, who stated that, male students mainly wanted to occupy administrative and administrative/ instructor positions after graduation. In contrast to this finding female students wanted to see males in staff nurse positions. According to these results, female students actually did not want males to occupy administrative

positions. Similarly, this finding matched with that of (**Ryan & Porter, 1993**), who stated males being mostly in administrative and educative positions and females being employed mostly. Moreover This result is supported by **Ericksen,(2007)** who noted that men tend to work in emergency,intensive care unit . However, the result of the present study differs with **Karadakovan, (1993)** who revealed that with Nursing College students, 3.25 % of the nursing students reported that men will work in areas that need physical power and they will help females earn the rights they deserve. The finding also agreed with **Rernard Hodes Group (2008)**, who showed in their study that male nurses seen as "muscle" by female nurses. **Bartfay et al. (2010)** commented that greater efforts need to be taken to recruit more male in clinical practice.

Image of nursing is one of the most important factors in the development of the nursing profession (**Ellis & Hartley, 2008**). Regarding Students' opinions about effects of males on image and status of nursing the results of our study clarifies that, the majority of students (Egyptians students) and (Saudi students) think that males will improve image of nursing (70.2% - 49.4%) and they view those males will improve the status of nursing (71.7% -58.2%) while they refuse nursing to be only a female profession (78.5% - 83.5 %) respectively. This could be due to male and female students more understand and oriented with the problems of nursing profession as: the shortage in nursing staff, past image of nursing related to culture, the problems and challenges that facing the females in this profession, the quality of service provided to community if delivered by both male or female. This result was in harmony with **Ozdemir et al, (2008)**, who stated that 64.63 % of the students, reported that men would help to improve the status of nursing. Conversely, the same authors reported that some of the students (19.9 %) thought men would have no effect on status of nursing. However, this finding is not in accordance with some research reports **Andrews (2005)** who conducted study about, "Perceptions of High School Boys Toward Nursing as a Career Choice" and **Cakmakci (2003)**, who reported that majority 82 % of the male high school students did not prefer nursing as a career and they believed that nursing should only be a female profession, and **Hansen (2002)** who concluded that females tended to disagree that males are better suited to nursing than women. Conversely, the result of the present study differs with **Ozdemir et al, (2008)**, who noted that male students have a role tension regarding nursing, because almost half of them (48.6%) saw nursing as a female profession. A similar finding was reportedly, **Bartfay et al. (2010)** who concluded that general perception in canadian society that nursing is more suitable career choice for females than men.

Furthermore, **Stoltenberg & Behan,(2011)** who studied "Perceptions Surrounding Men in Nursing" they found that when asked if women like dating men who are nurses, only 23.33% of males and 18.84% of females agreed. As well, the same researchers recommended that, marketing can be directed at males whose personality types have the highest tendency to select nursing as a career. Finally, **Sridevy,(2011)** recommended that nursing as a profession can only benefit from a talent pool drawing a proportionate number of men. Nursing schools, health care organizations, and the media should continue to advocate for the profession, portraying positive images of the field and male nurses. A community education campaign to improve the image of nursing could also be initiated. To emphasize a nurse's role identity without any gender segregations, school educators should encourage students to manage gender-related problems.

The results of the present study found that there are statistically significant differences between the study samples (Egyptians students) and (Saudi students) in which both think that males will change anything in image of nursing, will improve image of nursing, will change anything in the status of nursing and will improve the status of nursing. As well as they refuse the nursing profession to be a female profession. This might be due to: in Egypt there are severe problems and challenges facing the females in nursing profession, severe shortage in nursing staff, back ground and image in media, socio cultural problems, the learning system in ministry of education regarding secondary schools and results of students that did not enable them to enter faculty of medicine so they decide to enter faculty of nursing, challenges facing men in which there are not opportunities for employment for them and nursing profession represent an opportunity for employment. In Saudi Arabia there are not problems or bad image in media but nursing represent an opportunity for employment with high salaries in which the government support this trend very well to replace the nursing staff from other countries like Egypt, Philippine, and Pakistan with Saudi staff to overcome the severe shortage.

As the society changes, health care emphasis and lifestyle also change requiring nurses themselves to change (**Valizadeh and Ali, 2008**). (**Gerencher, 2002**) reported that if men entered the profession at the same rate as women. Today, there would be no nursing shortage. On the same line **Shukri, (2005)** mentioned that male-female ratio of practicing nurses has increased rapidly in some Arab countries. For example, the percentage has reached 50/50 in Palestine and 40/60 in Jordan. (**O'lynn and Tranbarger, 2003**) added that in order to attract more individuals to the profession, a positive image of

nursing needs to be engendered by nurse education and general community. Hence, the purpose of the current study was to determine nursing students' perceptions about male nursing. Beside, the reason for this could be even men who choose nursing as a career have some questions about gender. Cultural values, a lack of understanding about what nurses really do at work, and the way nurses are portrayed in popular media highly affect the public image of nursing., who revealed the same result of female and male students' perception at work and the way the nurses portrayed in media highly affect nursing image in the public.. Similarly, this finding matched with **Ozdemir et al, (2008)**, who revealed the same result of female and male students' perceptions about effects of males on image and status of nursing. In a study done in Turkey, **Emiroglu (2000)** found that both doctors and public have negative image for nursing as a profession. Doctors see nurses as their handmaiden and therefore, negative image of nursing continues to be a problem.

### Conclusions

**The current study concluded the following:**

- 1- Males' and females' students at faculty of nursing Zagazig University (Egyptians students) are not prefer hospital ward and primary care as working places but they prefer emergency care and are not prefer men to work as an instructor.
- 2- Males' and females' students at faculty of nursing shaqra University (Saudi Arabia students) preferred hospital ward and did not prefer intensive care units (ICU) for men to work after graduation and consider males as staff nurses and they did not want men to occupy instructor or administrative/ instructor positions
- 3- (Egyptians students) and (Saudi students) think that males will change anything in image of nursing, will improve image of nursing, will change anything in the status of nursing and will improve the status of nursing. As well as they refuse the nursing profession to be a female profession.
- 4- female students at Shaqra University\_(Saudi students) are not prefer men to work in wards but male agree and the study sample are not prefer men to work in primary, emergency care, outpatient clinics and as an instructor in nursing faculty and are not prefer men to work in ICU, operating room and female students are not prefer men to work in every clinic with no exception but male agree and are not prefer men work as administrator or instructor.

### Recommendations

The current study recommended the following:

1. Further researches on large scale to generalize results all over Egyptian and Saudi students and to investigate the causes for men to enter nursing profession
2. Further studies to determine the suitable areas and units for men nursing to work in
3. Faculties of nursing should design and implement orientation training programs about nursing career and profession for men students before admission
4. Awareness should be raised through introducing courses of professionalism in nursing curricula
5. Media should produce the positive nursing roles in community and improve image of nursing profession as well as men in nursing.
6. Faculties of nursing should encourage admission of men in nursing profession to decrease the severe shortage considering the suitable areas for men to work in
7. Faculties of nursing and nursing syndicate should encourage and organize the admission of men to nursing profession to be fruitful through policies, rules, regulations, determining male role identity, job description, rights....etc
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