**Title: Is Modesty Being Honored In Clinical Practice? High Time To Introspect  
Author: Syed Esam Mahmood**

**Review Comments**

**Reviewer 1**

1. There are recommendations by Medical councils and mandates in clinical examination books on doctors examining patients of the opposite sex. So, if any physician functions otherwise it is an ethical misconduct. Why is this still happening? Can the author quote specific simulated scenarios?

2. Modesty dictionary meaning: -propreity of dress, conduct or behaviour- is it the modesty of the doctor or of the patient that the author comments on? Is it sexual harassment or is it modesty that is being addressed by the author?

3. Is there any data from India?

4. The author may read the following articles and quote them as necessary

a. Kurpad and Bhide.Sexual boundaries in the doctor–patient relationship: Guidelines for doctors [**Indian J Psychiatry**](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3339229/). 2012 Jan-Mar; 54(1): 81–87.doi:  [**10.4103/0019-5545.94654**](https://dx.doi.org/10.4103%2F0019-5545.94654)

b. **[Sunita Simon Kurpad](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Kurpad%20SS%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=22556445)**,[**Tanya Machado**](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Machado%20T%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=22556445), **[Ravindra B. Galgali](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Galgali%20RB%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=22556445)**, and [**Sheila Daniel**](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Daniel%20S%5BAuthor%5D&cauthor=true&cauthor_uid=22556445).All about elephants in rooms and dogs that do not bark in the night: Boundary violations and the health professional in India [**Indian J Med Ethics.**](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20432878) 2010 Apr-Jun;7(2):76-81.

5. The piece may be shortened significantly with focused mention of existing codes and mandates, comment on modesty of the doctor vs autonomy of the patient, and sexual harassment discussion with Indian data.

**Reviewer 2**

Unfortunately the power of a doctor creates disequilibrium between him/her and the patient. Modesty, rather dignity of all persons regardless of caste, creed or gender is important. The article should not appear biased towards or against any community.

Since the author is writing to an Ethics journal, ethical principles he wants respected may be highlighted.