

Introduction to the Profession of Pharmacy

History of the Profession of Pharmacy in India

Basic Idea

- The profession of pharmacy in India has developed over many centuries.
- It started with the preparation and use of herbal medicines and gradually became a modern healthcare profession based on scientific research, education, and regulated practice.
- Today, pharmacists are important healthcare professionals who ensure the safe, effective, and rational use of medicines.

Ancient Period

- In ancient India, medicines were mainly prepared from natural sources such as plants, herbs, minerals, and animal products.
- The practice of medicine was based mainly on the Ayurvedic system of medicine.
- Ancient scholars such as **Charaka** and **Sushruta** made significant contributions to medicine and pharmacy.
- Charaka described many medicinal plants and methods for preparing medicines in the **Charaka Samhita**.
- Sushruta explained surgical procedures and the use of medicines in the **Sushruta Samhita**.
- Medicines were prepared manually by physicians or trained assistants according to traditional methods.

Medieval Period

- During the medieval period, the **Unani system of medicine** was introduced into India.
- New methods of preparing medicines and new medicinal substances became available.
- Herbal medicines continued to be widely used.
- Medicine preparation remained mainly the responsibility of physicians and traditional practitioners.

British Period

- During British rule, Western medicine became more common in India.
- Modern pharmaceutical manufacturing techniques were introduced.
- Hospitals and dispensaries were established in many parts of the country.
- Most medicines were imported from foreign countries.
- Pharmacy gradually became a separate profession instead of being only a part of medical practice.

Development of Modern Pharmacy

- Scientific methods of preparing medicines were introduced.
- Pharmaceutical industries started manufacturing medicines within India.
- Pharmacy education became more organized.
- Laws were introduced to regulate the manufacture, sale, and distribution of medicines.
- Professional organizations were established to improve pharmacy practice.

Present Status

- Pharmacists work in hospitals, community pharmacies, pharmaceutical industries, research laboratories, regulatory agencies, educational institutions, and clinical pharmacy services.
- Pharmacists are responsible for dispensing medicines, providing patient counseling, ensuring medication safety, and supporting healthcare teams.

Pharmacy Education in India

Basic Idea

- Pharmacy education in India provides students with the scientific knowledge and practical skills required for the safe preparation, dispensing, manufacturing, and use of medicines.
- The education system prepares students for careers in healthcare, industry, research, education, and regulatory services.

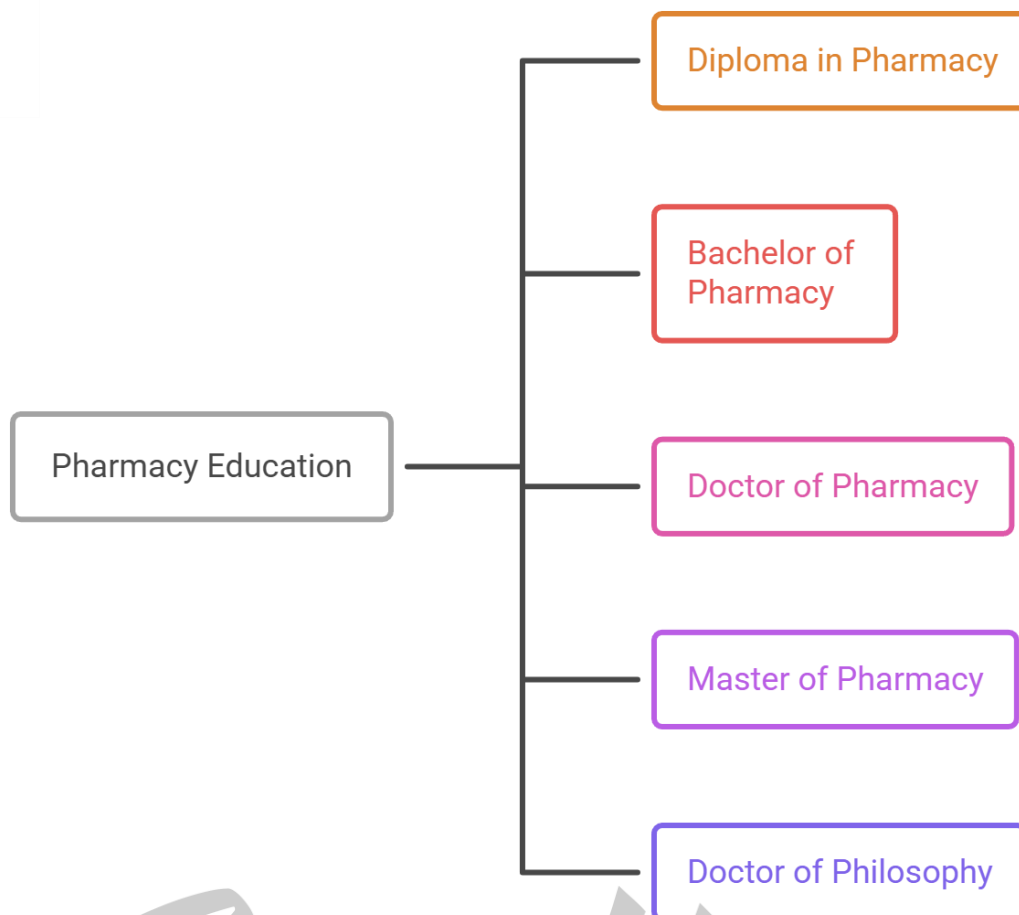
Objectives

- To provide knowledge about medicines and pharmaceutical sciences.
- To develop practical laboratory and professional skills.
- To promote ethical pharmacy practice.
- To prepare students for patient care and public health responsibilities.
- To support research and innovation in pharmacy.

Regulatory Body

- The Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) regulates pharmacy education in India.
- PCI prescribes educational standards for pharmacy courses.
- PCI approves pharmacy institutions that meet the required standards.
- PCI maintains uniform educational quality throughout the country.

Levels of Pharmacy Education



1. Diploma in Pharmacy (D.Pharm)

- This is generally a two-year diploma course followed by practical training.
- It prepares students for community and hospital pharmacy practice.
- It is the minimum qualification required for registration as a pharmacist in many situations.

2. Bachelor of Pharmacy (B.Pharm)

- This is generally a four-year undergraduate degree program.
- Students study pharmaceutical chemistry, pharmacology, pharmaceutics, pharmacognosy, and pharmacy practice.
- Graduates can work in industry, hospitals, research, regulatory affairs, and marketing.

3. Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D)

- This program focuses mainly on clinical pharmacy and patient care.
- Students receive extensive hospital-based clinical training.
- Graduates participate in medication therapy management and patient counseling.

4. Master of Pharmacy (M.Pharm)

- This is a postgraduate degree with specialization in different pharmacy subjects.
- Students gain advanced knowledge and research experience.

5. Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

- This is the highest academic qualification in pharmacy.
- Students perform original research and contribute to scientific knowledge.

Subjects Studied

- Pharmaceutics
- Pharmaceutical Chemistry
- Pharmacology
- Pharmacognosy
- Pharmaceutical Analysis
- Biochemistry
- Microbiology
- Clinical Pharmacy
- Hospital Pharmacy
- Pharmacokinetics
- Pharmaceutical Jurisprudence

Practical Training

- Students perform laboratory experiments.
- Students receive industrial training.
- Students undergo hospital and community pharmacy training.
- Students participate in seminars, projects, and research activities.

Pharmaceutical Industries and Organizations: Evolution

Basic Idea

- The pharmaceutical industry in India has evolved from small-scale medicine preparation to one of the largest pharmaceutical industries in the world.
- Continuous scientific progress, government support, and technological development have contributed to this evolution.

Early Stage

- Medicines were mainly prepared by traditional practitioners using natural materials.
- Modern pharmaceutical manufacturing was limited.
- Most medicines were imported from foreign countries.

Beginning of Indian Pharmaceutical Industry

- Indian companies gradually started manufacturing medicines within the country.
- Pharmaceutical production increased after independence.
- Government encouraged domestic medicine manufacturing.

Scientific Advancement

- Research laboratories were established.
- Modern manufacturing equipment was introduced.
- Quality control systems improved.
- New dosage forms such as tablets, capsules, injections, and syrups became widely available.

Expansion

- Many private and public pharmaceutical companies were established.
- Generic medicine production increased significantly.
- Export of medicines to other countries expanded.
- Biotechnology and advanced drug development became important areas.

Current Situation

- India is one of the world's largest producers of generic medicines.
- Indian pharmaceutical companies supply medicines to many countries.
- The industry continues to grow through innovation, research, and global collaboration.

Pharmaceutical Industries and Organizations: Development

Basic Idea

- Development refers to the continuous growth and improvement of the pharmaceutical industry through research, manufacturing, education, regulation, and technology.

Factors Responsible for Development

1. Scientific Research

- Continuous pharmaceutical research has led to the discovery of new medicines and improved drug formulations.

2. Technological Progress

- Modern manufacturing technologies have improved production efficiency and medicine quality.
- Automation has reduced manufacturing errors.

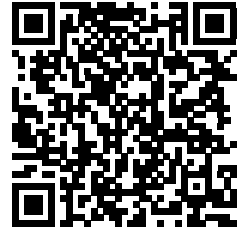


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