

**PRESENT STATUS OF PHARMACY EDUCATION AND FUTURE PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGE OF PHARMACY PRACTICE IN BANGLADESH**

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ABSTRACT

Pharmacy is a multi-disciplinary subject composed of all aspects of drugs including its manufacturing, synthesis, quality control and quality assurance, marketing, handling, safety matters, patients care, invention, and public awareness for the rational utilization of drugs, pharmaceutical industry with its tremendous growth capacity has several job opportunities. However, the graduates who pass out do not get employment easily due to their poor training, lack of in depth knowledge of fundamental concepts and practical skills. The enhanced number of out coming graduate Pharmacists demands the need for opening the new job arenas in Bangladesh, but many prospective fields of Pharmacy profession have not yet been introduced in our country. Very recently, a few pharmacists have been employed as hospital pharmacists in few highly reputed private hospitals. Hospital, community and clinical pharmacy in Bangladesh have not been well developed due to lack of government policy. Pharmacy education in Bangladesh started its journey in 1964 after the establishment of Department of Pharmacy in the University of Dhaka. The first academic session (1964 -1965) of the department began with 24 students, including 4 female students. Pharmacy as a profession was recognized in Bangladesh after the Promulgation of Pharmacy Ordinance 1976. Initially, the academic curriculum consisted of a 3-year Bachelor (Honors) and 1-year Master of Pharmacy programs. Later on, the undergraduate program was upgraded to 4-year Bachelor of Pharmacy (Honors) degree in 1996. In 2010, the undergraduate course was further upgraded to 5-year with internship in hospitals and pharmaceutical industries in order to cope with the international Pharm. D. (Doctor of Pharmacy) program.

KEY WORDS: Preamble Pharmacy education, Pharmacists, Future prospects, Faculty, Bangladesh**PREAMBLE:**

Pharmacy is related to health sciences. It is the profession responsible for the preparation, dispensing and appropriate use of medication and which provides services to achieve optimal therapeutic outcomes. A Pharmacists job is to prepare, mix, compound or dispense drugs and medicines, ointments, powder, pills, tablets and injections on the prescription of a medical practitioner, dentist or veterinarian. In detail, they are concerned with production of pharmaceutical products, development of the methods or processes of production and quality control. Those in research concern themselves with synthesis of new drugs (what is commonly referred to as molecules), new processes, clinical testing of the effects of such drugs on animals and humans, and obtaining the required License from the drug control authorities. A pharmacist is required to explain the mode and precautions regarding the use of medicines dispensed in a hospital pharmacy prepare special formulations normally not available in the market, assist the physician in rendering necessary information about various drugs, their contra-indications, incompatibility etc. Pharmacy is a noble profession related directly to healthcare and lives of people. During the past few years, the pharmacy profession has expanded

significantly in terms of professional services delivery and has been recognized as an important profession in the multidisciplinary provision of health care. In fact, pharmacy career is more than a job. It is a rewarding profession in the health care industry. Bangladesh is one of the fast developing countries and land of 160 million peoples. Bangladesh government took revolutionized step by preparing National Drug policy, which helps the local company to increase their growth. At this moment, pharmaceutical sector of Bangladesh is 1.13 Billion dollar market. Bangladeshi pharmaceuticals industries are exporting medicines in 80 different countries. And the number is increasing day by day. Pharmaceutical industries are introducing sophisticated product like anticancer drugs, biotech product, insulin etc. There are many successful histories which made popular Pharmacy study in Bangladesh.

HISTORY OF PHARMACY IN SUB-CONTINENT AND BANGLADESH:

Pharmacy is the perhaps the oldest know profession in the Subcontinent, before the Partition of Subcontinent (i.e. India, Pakistan) traditional and herbal medicines were in

practice during the time of Mugal Emperors Apothecary shops were abundant where apothecaries (Hakims) practice and prescribe herbal drugs and foods (Modern Nutraceuticals concepts) to treat/cure minor and major ailments. However, talking particularly in context of developing a proper pharmacy profession. The foundation in Subcontinent was laid in 1870s the Madras medical college where the first initiative was taken to train students to gain skills in pharmacy practice. In 1881 a formal training of compounders / dispensers was started in Bangladesh and the first pharmacy professional Bachelor of program was started in 1937 at Banaras Hindu University. In a discussion to explore the history of pharmacy profession in Sub-Continent in 1947, there was no institute for pharmacy education in the newly born Pakistan though there were lots of thoughts to open such an institute. In response to the introduction of Pharmacy profession and its brighter aspects in abroad and development of foreign pharmaceutical companies in Pakistan, Lahore University opened pharmacy department in mid 1948 in West Pakistan (present Pakistan). From the partition of subcontinent the gradual discrimination towards East Pakistan (Bangladesh) also affected the Pharmacy Education, though a good number of students of this part were interested in Pharmacy. But they didn't get the chance.

STRIDE:

Prof. Dr. Abdul Jabbar strongly felt the necessity of Pharmacy Education when he was adopting higher degree in abroad and tried to admit some students in Lahore University every year. But only 2 to 4 students got the chance among the 10 to 15's though they were truly qualified. Meanwhile Dr. A.Jabbar got a fellowship in San-Francisco School of Pharmacy, USA for one year in 1960 and Biochemistry was established as separate department. Dr. Kamaluddin Ahmed was selected as Chairman. Coming back Dr. A. Jabbar with Dr. Kamal started again to set up a platform for pharmacy. Afterwards Dr. A. Jabbar and Dr. Kamal interacted with the University administration to start the Pharmacy education. Prof. Mahmud Hossain as Vice Chancellor passed the proposal and sent to Planning Commission. At last with their reference Planning Commission was bound to approve the proposal in late 1962. After the approval by Planning Commission raise the questions of syllabus, teachers, associates, chairman, place etc. The syllabus was taken as the syllabus of London School of Pharmacy, which was worldwide, recognized for Pharmacy at that period. It was decided to take class in the class rooms of Biochemistry Department, which is situated in the Carzon Hall. Pharmacy department was started as 3

years professional B.Pharm degree in 1964, it was converted into 3 years B.Pharm (Hons) degree in 1965 due to protest from the students. In 1967 the first B.Pharm batch passed out (pharmadu.net). Department of Pharmacy started its journey in 1964. With 20 students and with a few teachers and fewer physical facilities, lecture rooms, labs and utilities. 1964 to 1966, Both the Dept of Biochemistry and the Dept of Pharmacy were virtually sharing the same class rooms and labs. Same batch of teachers use to teach the pharmacy and biochemistry under graduates. Prof Kamaluddin Ahmed was the first Chairman of the Dept. of Pharmacy and Dept. of Biochemistry. Prof A. Jabbar became the chairman of the Dept. of Pharmacy in 1966. In 1969 the Department first started its M Pharm Course for thesis students, limited to 3 to 4 students. Others were not allowed to pursue their M Pharm degrees. In 1st Feb'1969 a group of young talented teachers (AKAC, SNK and BKD) joined the dept. and took the maximum load of theoretical and practical classes in Pharmaceutical Chemistry, Physical Pharmacy and Microbiology. In 1970 the B.Pharm graduates got the chance to do Pharm both in the thesis and non thesis groups.

REGULATION OF PHARMACY EDUCATION IN BANGLADESH:

Bangladeshi universities are affiliated with the University Grants Commission (UGC), a commission created according to the Presidential Order (P.O. No 10 of 1973) of the Government of the Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh. However, since pharmacy is a professional subject, the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh promulgated Pharmacy Ordinance (No. X111) in 1976 and set up Pharmacy Council of Bangladesh (PCB) under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. From then the pharmacy courses are designed and controlled by the PCB. To ensure quality teaching and to meet the high professional standard of the pharmacists, PCB initiated 'A grade' registration examination system for the pharmacy graduates of different universities in 2005. Pharmacists having 'A' grade registration are eligible to practice pharmacy in Bangladesh. It is to be mentioned here that in USA, UK or other European countries, and in most of the developed and developing countries, all the graduates in pharmacy must qualify in the Pharmacy Licensing Examination. Those who pass the pharmacy licensing examination are allowed to practice pharmacy. This licensing examination is very essential to maintain and improve the standard and quality in pharmacy practice and to develop professionalism among the pharmacists. The Pharmacy Council of Bangladesh (PCB) is an Autonomous

Organization under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. It was established under the Pharmacy Ordinance, Ordinance No. X111 of 1976. The Main objective of the Pharmacy Council of Bangladesh is to regulate the practice of Pharmacy throughout Bangladesh. Pharmacy Council of Bangladesh (PCB) is an Autonomous Organization that can provide scope for the graduate pharmacists. The council can be considered as the controlling authority of pharmacy education and practice. Recently, 8 pharmacists are working in PCB with advanced level of performance. The pharmacists working in this field ensure the highest standard of quality required for pharmacy training and practice in different academia. The Main objective of the Pharmacy Council of Bangladesh is to regulate the practice of Pharmacy throughout Bangladesh. . In addition to this the pharmacy council performs the following activities

SCOPE AND ACTIVITIES:

- 1.** Approve examinations in pharmacy for the purpose of qualifying persons for registration as pharmacists
- 2.** Prescribe the subjects in which approve examinations shall be held.
- 3.** Approve the course of study and practical training in pharmacy for the purpose of admission to approval examinations;
- 4.** Prescribe the condition and procedure for admission of candidates to and approved examination;
- 5.** To lay down the standard of teaching to be maintained by the institutions conducting the approved courses of study;
- 6.** Prescribe the equipments and facilities to be made available to the students;
- 7.** To recognize degree or diploma in pharmacy for the purpose of registration as pharmacist;
- 8.** Undertake inspections of institutions which conduct any course of study in pharmacy and of the teaching imparted and examinations held by them;
- 9.** Prepare and maintain registers of pharmacists and apprentices in pharmacy;
- 10.** To register pharmacists and grant certificates of registration;
- 11.** Hold examinations for the purpose of registration as pharmacists; and

12. Undertake such other activities as it may be empowered or required to do by the council under this ordinance.

PHARMACY EDUCATION IN BANGLADESH:

The education and training of pharmacists should be based on their attainment of educational objectives that correspond to the professional tasks relevant to the country concerned and to their roles, functions and responsibilities in health teams. The learning experiences, and the methods of evaluating the knowledge, skill and attitudes involved in satisfactory practice performance, must be relevant to the components of professional competence. Pharmacy is a multidisciplinary subject which comprises many subjects of different disciplines. Here, all the subjects are categorized mainly into three major disciplines: (i) pharmaceutical chemistry, medicinal chemistry and drug discovery, pharmaceutical analysis, etc (ii) pharmaceutical technology, bio pharmaceuticals, etc and (iii) pharmacology, clinical pharmacy, hospital pharmacy, etc. All these subjects are taught in the undergraduate program. However, to further upgrade the teaching and learning in order to meet the increasing demand of pharmacists both nationally and internationally, Course in pharmacy law, ethics and practices make a vital contribution to the role of pharmacists in the rational use of drugs and in the prevention and management of drug abuse.

The education in Pharmacy was first introduced in the country in 1964 with the establishment of the Department of Pharmacy in the University of Dhaka. Recently the Department has been expanded to a Faculty comprising of three new Departments. For about 25 years the Dhaka University had been the only institution offering Pharmacy courses until establishment of a "Pharmacy Section" in Jahangirnagar University. The Section was expanded to a full-fledged Department within a few years of its establishment. Until now; there are seven public universities (Table 1) and twenty two private universities (Table 2) offering the undergraduate courses in Pharmacy. To promote pharmacy education, new pharmacy departments will establish soon both public and private universities. However, all these departments are suffering from lack of space, class rooms, laboratory facilities and specialized equipment's and more importantly qualified faculty members.

Table 1: Pharmacy Education in Public Universities (Accreditation)

Sr. No.	Name of University	Location	Estd of Pharmacy Department	Approved No of Seats
1.	University of Dhaka	Dhaka	1964	70/Yr
2.	Jahangirnagar University	Savar	1985	55/Yr
3.	University of Khulna	Khulna	1997	37/Yr
4.	University of Rajshahi	Rajshahi	1993	45/Yr
5.	Noakhali Science and technology University	Noakhali	2006	50/Yr
6.	Science and technology University of Jessore	Jessore	1010	35Yr
7.	Science and technology University of Gopal jonj	Gopal goanj	2011	35/Yr

PCB: Pharmacy Council of Bangladesh. After the promulgation of Pharmacy Ordinance 1976, the PCB became the official authority of the government to regulate and accreditate the pharmacy Education in Bangladesh

Table 2: Pharmacy Education in Private Universities (Provisional Accreditation)

Sr. No.	Name	Location	Estd of Pharmacy Department	Approved No of Seats
1.	University of Science and Technology, Chittagong	Chittagong	1994	50/semester
2.	The University of Asia Pacific	Dhaka	1996	50/semester
3.	Gono Biswabidyalay	Savar	1998	50/semester
4.	Stamford University	Dhaka	2003	50/semester
5.	Manarat University	Dhaka	2003	50/semester
6.	State University of Bangladesh	Dhaka	2003	50/semester
7.	East-West University	Dhaka	2003	50/semester
8.	Northern University	Dhaka	2003	50/semester
9.	Southeast University	Dhaka	2003	50/semester
10.	University of Development Alternative	Dhaka	2002	50/semester
11.	Primeasia University	Dhaka	2003	50/semester
12.	North South University	Dhaka	2005	50/semester
13.	Bangladesh University	Dhaka		50/semester

14.	Atish Dipankar University of Science and Technology (ADUST)	Dhaka		50/semester
15.	Dhaka International University	Dhaka	2006	50/semester
16.	BGC Trust University of Bangladesh	Chittagong	2006	50/semester
17.	International Islamic University, Chittagong	Chittagong	2006	50/semester
18.	Southern University Bangladesh	Chittagong	2006	50/semester
19	Daffodil International University	Dhaka	2009	25/semester
20	World University of Bangladesh	Dhaka	2008	50/semester
21	Brac University	Dhaka		50/semester
22	ASA University	Dhaka		50/semester

In all private universities students are being admitted in Pharmacy Graduates are coming out from private and 270 summer and spring semesters by 50 students each from public universities per year. Still some pharmacist semesters. According to table 1&2; by the approval of PCB almost 524 pharmacy graduate remain unemployed due to yearly approximately 2700 students are admitted for job crisis in pharma industry and also their poor training, B.Pharm courses, some of them are drppedout with the lack of in depth knowledge of fundamental concepts and time. An estimated data resulted that at present 1660 practical skills.

Table 3: Preliminary educational requirement of Entry in pharmacy education

Course	Grade	Entry level education	Duration	Regulation
D. Pharm	C	10 years	3 months	PCB
D. Pharm.	B	10 years	3 years	PCB
B. Pharm.	A	10+2 years	4years	UGC, PCB
M. Pharm.	A	B. Pharm.	1years	UGC, PCB
Pharm. D	A	M. Pharm. B. Pharm	1years	UGC, PCB

Table 3: Entry requirements B. Pharm (Hons) must have those who have completed secondary school certificate Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Mathematics in the pre- (SSC) in science group are eligible to get admission into 3- university level and 3-year diploma in pharmacy courses; year diploma in pharmacy course ('B' grade)

Table 4: To ensure quality teaching and to meet the high professional standard of the pharmacists, PCB initiated 'A grade' registration examination system for the pharmacy graduates of different universities in 2005. Pharmacists having 'A' grade registration are eligible to practice pharmacy in Bangladesh An estimated data of accommodation of Pharmacy Graduates which are coming out from private and public universities in Bangladesh per year.at present employment of pharmacists in

Sr. No	Types of work	Number(approx.)
1	Pharmaceutical industries	730
2	Pharmaceutical marketing	290
3	Teaching in Universities	190
4	Research organization	23
5	Higher education in abroad	30
6	Job in abroad	70
7	Others	73
	Total	1406

OTHER PHARMACY COURSES IN BANGLADESH, THE PCB ALSO REGULATES 3-YEAR DIPLOMA OF PHARMACY COURSES:

Three public Institutes and thirteen private institutes are also offering 3-year diploma in pharmacy courses. Those who have completed secondary school certificate (SSC) in science group are eligible to get admission into 3-year diploma in pharmacy course. The PCB provides 'B' grade registration to the students who are passed the 3-year diploma in pharmacy course. Since, PCB directly regulates the curriculum and examinations of this course, no separate examination is arranged to provide registration. Moreover, PCB also regulates pharmacy certificate course. Those, who have passed SSC in any group can take 3-month special courses are categorized as 'C' grade pharmacists by PCB and they usually work in community pharmacy or run their own pharmacies.

INTRODUCTION OF 5-YEAR PHARMACY PROGRAM:

In Bangladesh, more than 95% opportunities for pharmacists are prevailing in pharmaceutical industries. However, in USA, Australia, Canada and the Middle East, pharmacy profession is highly patient care oriented, and they have much more opportunities in hospitals, clinics and community pharmacy sectors (Ghilzai and Dutta, 2007; Babar, 2005; www.bapibd.com). Those who have only Pharm. D. [Doctor of Pharmacy, which is actually a graduate program like MD (Doctor of Medicine), DVM (Doctor of Veterinary Medicine), etc] or equivalent degrees, are now eligible to practice in hospitals and clinics in USA and other developed countries as well as in the Middle East. It is to be mentioned here that, after 2003, our graduates with the 4-year B. Pharm. (Honors) degree are not allowed to sit for the pharmacy registration

examination in the USA. Therefore, to improve the undergraduate courses to global standards and to prepare our students for the changing trends so that they can work in global environment, introduction of Pharm. D. program is highly essential and a prime need. Several Indian universities, under the guidance of Pharmacy Council of India, have already introduced Pharm. D. program from the academic year 2008 (Ghilzai and Dutta, 2007). In Pakistan, Pharm. D. course has been introduced from 2005 after the recommendation of Higher Education Commission of Pakistan (Babar, 2005). Thailand and Singapore have also introduced Pharm. D. course recently. In Japan, Pharm. D. course has been introduced from 2006. Similarly, the universities in KSA, Qatar, UAE have also introduced Pharm. D. programs (Babar, 2005; www.bapibd.com; Ahmed and Hassali, 2008; Jamshed et al., 2007). The syllabus of the Pharm. D. program of different universities around the world and submitted a proposal on 8 April 2008 to the Dean of the Faculty to upgrade the present 4-year B. Pharm. program to 5-year Pharm. D. program with internship in hospitals. The proposal was approved by the academic committee meeting and subsequently faculty meeting and was sent to the highest authority of the university of Dhaka for approval. On 25 August 2010, the Academic Council of the University of Dhaka approved a 5-year B. Pharm. program from the academic session 2010-2011 instead of the Pharm. D. program. We hope the learned members of the Academic Council will reconsider our proposal soon and approve the name of the 5-year B. Pharm. program to Pharm. D. as per the international standard. Although, University of Dhaka has introduced the 5-year B. Pharm. program, neither the PCB nor the other university authorities has taken the initiative to upgrade the existing 4-year B. Pharm. (Honors) program

Table 5: Overall job scopes of pharmacist

Sr. No.	Type of Institution	Area of employment
1	Manufacturing industries	In Production, Quality Control (QC), Quality Assurance (QA), Product Development(PD), cGMP Training, Warehouse, Drug Research and Invention, and Technical Services Department (TSD).
2	Pharmaceutical Marketing	Product Management Department (PMD), Medical Services Department (MSD), Sales Promotion/Medical Promotion, Clinical Services, Training for field forces, and International Marketing (IM) departments.
3	Drug Regulatory Affairs	In pharmacy council, drug super
4	Pharmacy Council of Bangladesh	Pharmacy Council of Bangladesh (PCB) is an Autonomous Organization that can provide scope for the graduate pharmacists
5	Drug Testing Laboratories (Dhaka and Chittagong)	
6	Huge opportunities in abroad	Retail pharmacist, research, and teaching
7	Community Pharmacy	Different private and public pharmacy to dispense and compounding drugs according to doctors prescriptions
8	Clinical Pharmacy	
9	Retail & Chain Pharmacy	Public pharmacy to dispense and compounding drugs according to doctors prescriptions
10	Research & Development in Pharma industries, educational and research institutes	Research for new drug molecules, Novel Drug Delivery Systems, Improved Healthcare, Clinical aspects, etc
11	Adverse drug (ADR)reaction monitoring	In the hospital
12	Bulk compounding and dispensing in hospital setup	In the hospital

PROBLEMS TO BE FACED FOR NEW PHARMACIST:

• Job crisis in the Pharmaceutical industries: Few years ago, students of pharmacy got job during final year of their bachelor degree. The number of pharmacy graduate increasing day by day. After that student finishing bachelor degree got job after the bachelor course. Now a days, number of pharmacy students became so high that even

they are not getting job after their master degree. Besides, job sector for the pharmacist also increased but not sufficient. They are working in Product Development, Quality Assurance, Quality Control, Production, Marketing, Sales, Training, Regulatory Affairs, Commercial department etc. Few years ago, many pharmaceutical company assigned chemist to perform laboratory work but now

pharmacist start to replace chemist from pharmaceutical industry. Pharmacists are also working in veterinary industries. Today new job area for Bangladeshi pharmacist is Hospital Pharmacist and Clinical Pharmacist. Their working place is the hospital and deals with the patients and help the doctors to prescribe medicine. Thus error in prescribing wrong medicine and miss-dose also reduced. New opportunity in another sector is cosmetic industry. Bangladesh is a land of medicinal plants. Thus, herbal medicinal industry also developing day by day. Some giant groups focusing their concentration in herbal industry. So, the demands of pharmacist in herbal industry are increasing day by day. Though food is one of the important part of our daily life, one of the main cause of disease development is food habit. But pharmacist is not part of this industry. Pharmacist should develop their career in food industry. Teaching of pharmacy is increasing now days, so pharmacy students are coming to teaching profession. Many pharmacist of Bangladesh has been migrated to different countries of the world and working there successfully. The pharmaceutical sector of Bangladesh has developed in the manufacturing of finished pharmaceutical products; the API and Excipients based industries have not yet remarkably advanced in this country. So, Bangladeshi Pharmacists have job scope limited to pharmaceutical finished products manufacturing industries. At present, industrial jobs also are saturated or will saturate soon. Therefore, getting entrance of new Pharmacists to Pharmaceutical Industries become quite tough or have narrow scope for new Pharmacists and also the Problems to be faced for new pharmacist if having poor training, lack of in depth knowledge of fundamental concepts and practical skills.

- Eligibility Problem of Bangladeshi Pharmacists in abroad:

- Eligibility challenge of Pharmacists to work in APIs and Excipients manufacturing industries:

- Jobs of Pharmacists in abroad becoming tough day by day:

UPDATING OF KNOWLEDGE AND SKILL OF PHARMACISTS:

Introduction of five years Pharm D courses giving more emphasis on the practice of pharmacy, pharmaceutical care, rational use of medicine, outcome studies to improve health care services, Internship program should be redesigned and period of internship be increase to 4-6 months in hospital/ retail pharmacy/ industries depending on the field of specialisation. Training in clinical trials methodology involving new molecules/ old molecules in new formulations be given to the graduates. Use of molecular biology techniques in health and pharmacy to be

given proper emphasis. Pharmacogenomics should be properly taught and researched upon. Adverse drug reaction monitoring should be introduced in the course curriculum. Administrative and social pharmacy should be taught with proper emphasis. A holistic approach to health care involving all the issues and disciplines be included in the course curriculum.

STEPS TO BE TAKEN AND WILL IMPACT FOR FUTURE OF PHARMACY PROFESSION IN BANGLADESH:

Pharmaceutical care will be an important component of health care as the awareness of adverse drug reaction, pharmacogenomics and pharmacoconomics and socioeconomic factors associated with health and diseases are being recognized. Rising longevity will increase dependence on medicines and hereby on the pharmacists. Regulatory affairs and Drug Administration will play more important role in the country. Waiver of WTO (world trade organization) regulations and restrictions has given an important opportunity to export drugs to develop and developing countries. Countries own drug consumption will see a phenomenal increase with the rise in purchasing power of the people. So the pharmaceutical industries will witness a rapid increase in growth resulting in more demand of manpower in the industries. In order to keep pace with the changes and societal need, several initiatives have been taken by amending rules and regulations and recent introduction of Pharm D course. Some other good proposals are there which includes updating course curriculum and need of refreshers course for renewal of registration. Policy makers should be more active in framing and implementing suitable Rules and Regulations considering contemporary societal needs and following points also be implemented soon:

1. Introduction of Hospital Pharmacy – The sooner the better for the betterment of public health:

2. Appointment of Pharmacists in every Upazila as Drug Super and Drug Inspector:

3. Emphasis should be given on Community Pharmacy practice:

4. Pharmacists should work as Drug Promoters:

5. Internship program of B. Pharm. (Hons.) students should be at least for 6 months:

6. Qualifying examination for the issuance of professional registration by the Pharmacy Council of Bangladesh:

7. Active role of BPS and PGA can make the future prospects of Pharmacists come in true:

CONCLUSION:

Pharmacists have the expertise in drug management and dispensing, monitoring of drug-drug interactions, and clinical research. Moreover, reschedule of dosage regimen to individual patient can only ensure the rational prescribing and use of medicines and this is the prime task of clinical pharmacists. It is really unfortunate to mention that no pharmacists at present are doing these jobs, because there is no position for hospital pharmacists in Bangladesh. Therefore, in every year huge numbers of patients are suffering from different abnormalities and toxicities due to irrational use of drugs and medicines and even many patients are dying due to drug intoxications. The practice of pharmacy in Bangladesh will become ever more important as in the developed and developing country with more potent drugs coming to the market. Pharmacy is a very important profession, which deals with the manufacturing, handing, proper utilization, dispensing, and administration of life saving drugs. Thus, the role of Pharmacists will never be ended as long as drugs will exist in this world.

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