



Pharmacy Periodicals in India – A Review by Research

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Abstract

The first issue of Pharmacy Journal in India – The Indian Journal of Pharmacy was published in December 1894, however it was defunct after 3 years. The Modern Pharmaceutical Journalism in India was Pioneered by Mr. Premnath Bazaz, who started the Eastern Pharmacist in 1958 and equal contribution was by Dr. AK Patni, who edited Indian Drug since its inception published by IDMA. Today there are nearly 175 Pharmacy Journal published in mostly English (and also in Marathi, Hindi & Bengali) by 5 different categories of publishers in India. The PCI has set out official Journals – seven - for D. Pharm Course and No. 20 for B. Pharm Degree Course, and minimum 2 international Journals for each discipline of specialization at M. Pharm, Ph.D. and Pharm. D Courses structure in India this article brings out short History and progress of Indian Pharmacy Periodical as on today.

Keywords: First Issue; IJP;ID;175 Journals; 75 Publishers;5 Categories; PCI directories

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Introduction

In India the modern pharmacy education is taught at 5 different levels after 12 std. pass, as follows

- 2 year's Diploma in Pharmacy
- 4 years Degree – B. Pharm
- 6 years Post Graduate – M. Pharm Course (With Various Specializations)
- 6 years Pharm.D Course
- Further 2-3 years research study for PhD Degree with submission of thesis, University wise

There are three Govt. agencies which control and approves pharmacy educational activity in India – PCI (Pharmacy Council of India – for D. Pharm, B. Pharm and Pharm. D), then AICTE (All India Council of Technical Education for D. Pharm and B. Pharm) and respective State Universities to control M. Pharm and PhD Studies.

The PCI has recommended various Indian Journals for the Course wise studies in India. Table 1, 2, 3 indicates the Journals prescribed for various courses, as per SIF for Diploma and Degree Studies courses. However there is no mention of any Journal for the subject's like- Anatomy and Physiology, Biochemistry and Clinical Pathology, Drug Store and Business Management, Pharma Chemistry 1 and 2, Pharmacognocny and Pharma. Jurisprudence (Forensic Pharmacy), all for D. Pharm Course Subjects.

PCI has recommended a total of 20 Journals for Conduct of D. Pharm & B. Pharm Course singly or combined

- For M. Pharm Courses - at least two International Journals for each specialization (Table 3)
- For Pharm.D Course – PCI Directs – two International Journals in Pharmacy Practice, Containing Data Drug Information.

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The various publishers at National level, nearly 70 have come out, now with newer Journals and they can be contacted by emails for their Journal Subscription – Table 4 Gives their names – Emails – and Journal Names with frequency and subscription Rates.

History

The 1st Pharmacy periodical named as “Indian Journal of Pharmacy” (Monthly) was published by Bristowe and Bennett Company, Volume 1 No. 1, on 8th January 1894, from Calcutta and it contend monthly record of the chemical, drug and allied News from India Burma , China and Japan. It was edited by Mr. Roger S. Cheu, M.D. MSC (Appendix A). The 2nd Periodical – “Drug News” was published from Bombay in 1936 under the editorship of J.T. Martin. This monthly Journal dealt with retail business, manufacturing techniques and standard marketed products. The other Journal letter on the “Pharmaceutics Journal” was started by Dr. E. Leiser from Calcutta in 1938 however all the above Journals are now defunct. Under the leadership of Prof. M.L. Schroff and under the banner of UP state Pharmacy Association, “The Indian Pharmacist” monthly was started from 1936 however this journal is also defunct.

IPA's Contribution – In the modern period, the first scientific Pharmacy Journal – the Indian Journal of Pharmacy, was published in 1939 by Indian Pharmaceutical association and is still continuing on regular basis. In Hindi the ‘Bheshaj Patrika’ was started by Prof. GP Srivastava which later on became – ‘Beshajam’, but it became soon defunct because of limited patronage.

Associations Journals

Today almost every national Pharmacy Association has started bringing out both scientific and Journal Periodicals such as news bulletin or newsletters, however the credit goes to IPA who started IJPS as scientific Journal since 1936.

Pharmaceutical Journalism

Modern Developments

After the independence establishment of Pharmacy Council of India in 1948, under Pharmacy Act 1948 real modern pharmacy education started in India. And therefore the publications of Pharmacy periodicals took momentum. As on today there are 5 types of publishers, publishing over 170 periodicals per year –

- Various Pharmacy Associations' publications such as IPA, APPI, APTI, IPGA, IPS, IHPA, AICDO and others.
- Govt. Publications from NISCAIR, CIMAP,
- Pvt. Publications such as AKINIK, BAZAZ, KONGPOSH, INVENTY, PHARMA INTELLIGENCE ETC.
- Govt. Research organizations such as Halffkine Institute, CDRI, NIPER
- Institutions publications – Conducting B. Pharm, M. Pharm and PhD courses (also from students contribution)

“The credit of starting the modern Pharmaceutical Journalism in India goes to Mr. Prem Nath Bazaz, who started the Eastern Pharmacist in 1958 and later joined by his sons which were closed down in the year 2001.

Equal contribution was by Dr. A.K. Patni who edited Indian Drug on regular Monthly basis – from Jan 1960 onwards, and which is the official publication of India's oldest and largest association named – Indian Drugs Manufacturers' Associations, Head Quarter – Mumbai.”

Directories & Bibliographies

Apart from regular monthly Journals the first annual directory ‘Trade Directory – All India Chemist and Druggist and stores trade directory’ was published in 1933 by Dr. Reshmia and company, Bombay. Another directory mentioning the products of all manufacturing concerns – price list of all pharma concern's, was released in 1945 by Kimber and company. Both the directories enjoyed good Patronage and seeing this success, after Independence, different directories were published.

New Mysore medical and pharmaceutical directory was published in 1958 similarly the Pharmaceutical directory on India, which dealt with all aspects of professional activities in India, was published. The IPA's well documented – All India Pharmaceutical Guide in 1962 was published. M/s. Kongposh Publications, New Delhi is regularly publishing annually, the Indian Pharma Reference Guide which is commonly known as the Bible of Indian Pharmacy Profession and is accepted by all the branches of Pharmacy Profession.

Education Field

The APTI (Association of Pharmacy Teacher of India), established and started by Prof. M.L. Schroff and has started publishing quality Pharmacy Books specially written by noted Pharmaceutical Historian, Prof. Harkishan Singh and who received Padmashree Award in 2016 by Govt. in India.

Similarly the author has compiled on behalf of APTI – ‘Directory of Pharmacy Teachers of India’, in 1980 and which is under revision now. The author has also compiled and published in 1981 – The Bibliography of Doctoral Theses in Pharmaceutical Sciences – Indian Universities – 1951 – 1979’. Now there is a regular column – PhDs awarded by most of the

Pharmacy periodicals and it is a regular feature of the weekly – University News, which publishes the Ph.D awarded under different categories under University wise.

Multilingual Journals

While all the Journals in pharmacy are in English, some Journals were published and still going on in Hindi and Marathi languages in combination with English. for example Garg Publications – Pharma News, Pharma Darpan, Medical Darpan Health Today, Medicare News (In English and Hindi), and in Marathi plus English – Drug Information Bulletin, a quarterly published by Maharashtra State Pharmacy Council, Mumbai. The earlier “Bheshaj Patrika, in Bengali and Hindi was published from Calcutta but it soon became defunct.

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