

Need of Pharmacy Education Unit

Community and Industry oriented Pharmacy programs like Diploma in Pharmacy (D.Pharm), Bachelors in Pharmacy (B.Pharm) and Masters in Pharmacy (M.Pharm in Pharmaceutical Sciences) are in existence since many years. Though the patient oriented M.Pharm in Pharmacy Practice program was established in India in 1997 (first time at JSS College of Pharmacy, Mysuru), still it is developing its roots. In 2008, Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) came out with six years Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D) program to develop patient oriented Pharmacy Professionals, who can work with other health care professionals in hospital wards to improve the patient care by providing various Clinical Pharmacy services. The program was initially started in 10 Pharmacy Colleges, currently there are 233 institutions offering Pharm.D and Pharm.D (Post Baccalaureate) Courses. Though it has completed a decade, still we need to achieve the purpose of introducing this course to develop Patient Oriented Pharmacy Professionals. Lack of trained faculty in this area and failure to impart the required skills among Pharm.D students are the important reasons behind this.

In this backdrop, in similar lines with Medical Education Units at Medical Institutions, Pharmacy Education Unit was established at JSS College of Pharmacy, Mysuru with the following vision and mission

Vision: to implement and promote the innovative teaching methodologies in Pharmacy Education.

Mission: to ensure the successful development, delivery, assessment, and continuous improvement of all college-specific education programs, in particular the Pharm.D program.

Aims & Objectives

As currently there are no aims set up by Pharmacy Council of India to establish Pharmacy Education Unit, we adopted the aims of Medical Education Unit defined by Medical Council of India.

Aims of Pharmacy Education Unit:

- To sensitize teachers about new concepts in teaching and assessment methods
- To develop knowledge and clinical skills required for performing the role of competent and effective teacher, administrator, researcher and mentor

- To assist teachers and students to acquire competency in communication and behavioural skills
- To update knowledge using modern information and research methodology tools

Objectives of Pharmacy Education Unit:

1. To be responsible for all educational processes
2. To ensure continuous quality improvement in teaching learning and assessment in professional education
3. Plan, implement and evaluate curricular development and faculty development in the college
4. Facilitate educational research through projects, research publication and PhD course
5. Keep the faculty updated of the current trends in pharmacy education by conducting workshops and conferences
6. To develop into an educational resource centre
7. Contribute towards policy development, feedback system, assessment, communication skills and humanities
8. To develop and implement instructional design

Methods

Objectives of Pharmacy Education Unit will be achieved by conducting following programs for students and faculty on regular basis

Programs for students:

- Induction / Foundation /Orientation programs
- Research methodology workshops
- Humanities workshops
- Interns orientation programs (for Pharm.D)
- Synopsis writing workshops
- Synopsis evaluation before submission to IEC
- Dissertation writing workshops
- Skills workshops

Programs for faculty:

- Faculty development programs on
 - Curriculum designing workshops
 - Teaching learning and assessment methodologies workshops
 - E-Learning principles
 - Research methodology workshops
 - Leadership and management
 - Communication and conflict management
 - Soft skills
- Conferences/ workshops/ guest lectures/continuing pharmacy education programs will be organized on need basis

Impact of Pharmacy Education Unit:

By imparting the skills among Pharm.D students towards patient care can benefit the patient population in hospitals and community by providing standard clinical pharmacy services. All the Pharmacy institutions across the country can establish Pharmacy Education Units in their institutions to achieve the goals set up in this project, there by improve the patient care throughout the country.