

# Footsteps of Pharmacy Act 1948

FIRDOS SULTANA

Date of Submission: 08-02-2025

Date of Acceptance: 20-06-2025

## ABSTRACT

Before independence there was no proper regulation for the profession of PHARMACY and PRACTICE OF PHARMACY. So certain members became specialist in the identification and use of crude drugs from vegetable and plant sources. Earlier physicians themselves used to diagnose the disease and treat them. There was no independent professions of medicine and pharmacy as they exist today. So Government of INDIA introduced pharmacy act in 1948 with an aim to regulate the profession of pharmacy in India.

**KEY WORDS:** Pharmacy act, Medicine, Pharmacy profession, Indian medicine.

## I. INTRODUCTION:

From the dawn of civilization, pharmacy evolved as an integral part of the health care system. In the beginning, man developed an extensive folklore of remedies which were based on experience and superstition. In every community certain members became specialists in the identification and use of crude drugs from vegetable and animal sources. Earlier physicians themselves used to diagnose the diseases and treat them. Medicine rose as an adjunct to magic. There were no independent professions of medicine and pharmacy as they exist as a separate discipline yet some physicians delegated the responsibility medicine and pharmacy as they exist today. Although pharmacy didn't exist as a separate discipline yet some physician delegated the responsibility of preparing medicines to their assistants, the apothecaries. Indian physicians, the priests, however, kept everything secret. In any case, medical treatment all over the world has always been associated with religious service and ceremony.

As per records, the earliest work in Hindu medicine was the Atharvaveda followed by Ayurveda and Rigveda. Dhanvantari, Charaka, Sushruta and Atreya are the great names in Hindu medicine. Charaka Samhita is a compendium of encyclopedia of medicine that was composed by Charaka. It is still respected in India. In the middle ages, Vagbhata (625 AD) prepared a medical compendium prose and verse and Bhava Misra (1550 AD) wrote a book on anatomy, physiology and medicine in which he mentioned the

circulation of blood, a hundred years before Harvey! He also prescribed mercury for syphilis.

At first time in India a chemist shop was opened in about 1811 by Mr. Bathgate, who came to India from East India company. Another firm Smith Stainstreet started Apothecary shop in 1821 and commenced the manufacturing in 1918. Bengal chemicals and pharmaceutical works a small factory was started in Calcutta in 1901 by Acharya prafulla ray. After that professor T.K Gajjar started Alembic chemical works in 1901

These units were not sufficient to fulfill the requirements of Indian public, during those days the medicines were being imported, but Situation was changed with the first world war. India and foreign entered in competition with imported medicine producing cheaper drugs. This leads to unhealthy competition which fill the society with sub standard and even harmful drugs.

So to control the quality of drugs, that are being imported, manufactured and sold. And to look into all those aspects directly or indirectly connected with the profession of pharmacy, specially to regulate profession and practice of pharmacy, to raise the status of profession of pharmacy in India. Government of India introduced PHARMACY ACT in 1948. Under the chairmanship of R.N CHOPRA.

To achieve the objects of pharmacy act, pharmacy council of India (PCI) was constituted in 1949 it required to reconstituted every 5 years.

Till date PCI working for the better future of pharmacy profession by designing the better education pattern under education regulation act, giving approval to open good pharmaceutical institutions and by maintaining the central register of pharmacist. It is only because of PCI that pharmacy occupies an important role in health care system and pharmacist are uniquely qualified. The contribution of pharmacist to health care is based upon a body of knowledge and expertise acquired from his education followed by a formal period of pre-registration practical experience. From this basic education and pre-registration training, students acquire a broad understanding of the scientific principles and techniques of the pharmaceutical sciences and the ability to keep pace throughout their careers with developments in medicine and pharmacy.

On 28th March, 2023 Government of India, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has constituted an Expert Committee of 16 persons including the Chairman. The terms of Reference of the Expert committee are:-

- (a) To review Pharmacy Education;
- (b) To review the Pharmacy Act, 1948; and
- (c) To make recommendations for restructuring of the Pharmacy Council of India.

This is the most welcome step taken by the Central Government in the interest of health and happiness of the country. However, the task ahead is not so easy it is a precarious journey lies ahead to further strengthen and maintain this achievement. It must be appreciated that human resource development in pharmaceutical sciences and technology deserves special attention and the nation is grateful to the Central government for the timely action to revamp not only pharmacy education but also the law governing it and the authority regulating the education.

## II. CONCLUSION

The **Pharmacy Act of 1948** is a landmark legislation in India that laid the foundation for the regulation of the pharmacy profession. It ensures that only qualified individuals are allowed to practice pharmacy, thereby safeguarding public health through the proper dispensation of medicines. By establishing the **Pharmacy Council of India (PCI)** and enabling the formation of **State Pharmacy Councils**, the Act has helped in standardizing pharmacy education and maintaining ethical standards in the profession. Overall, the Act has played a crucial role in professionalizing pharmacy practice in India and continues to evolve to meet the changing needs of healthcare and pharmaceutical services.

## III. RESULT

The **Pharmacy Act, 1948** led to several significant outcomes that shaped the pharmacy profession in India:

1. **Standardization of Pharmacy Education:** The Act established minimum educational qualifications for pharmacists, leading to uniform standards across the country.
2. **Formation of Regulatory Bodies:** It resulted in the creation of the **Pharmacy Council of India (PCI)** and **State Pharmacy Councils**, which regulate pharmacy education and practice.
3. **Legal Recognition of Pharmacists:** Only those registered under the Act can legally practice as pharmacists, enhancing the professional status and accountability of the field.
4. **Public Health Protection:** By ensuring that only qualified individuals handle and dispense

medicines, the Act contributed to improved drug safety and public health standards.

5. **Improved Professional Ethics and Conduct:** It set a framework for ethical behavior and professional conduct in pharmacy practice.

In essence, the Act professionalized and regulated pharmacy practice in India, aligning it with global healthcare standards.

## References

- [1]. Law of Drugs, Medicines and Cosmetics" by K.K. Singh: This book provides an in-depth analysis of the Pharmacy Act 1948, along with other relevant laws and regulations.
- [2]. "Pharmaceutical Jurisprudence and Ethics" by Dr. S.P. Agarwal: This book covers the Pharmacy Act 1948, its history, objectives, and key provisions.
- [3]. India Code: Pharmacy Act, 1948: This official government website provides the full text of the Pharmacy Act 1948, along with its amendments and notifications.
- [4]. Lawsisto Central Acts: Pharmacy Act, 1948: This website offers a detailed overview of the Pharmacy Act 1948, including its objectives, key provisions, and amendments .
- [5]. "The Pharmacy Act, 1948" by S Swapnil Fernandes: This presentation provides an overview of the Pharmacy Act 1948, its history, objectives, and key provisions, including the roles of the Pharmacy Council of India and State Pharmacy Councils.
- [6]. "Pharmacy Act 1948" by Ganesh Shevkar: This presentation covers the constitution and functions of the Pharmacy Council of India, education regulations, and registration procedures for pharmacists in India .
- [7]. *The Pharmacy Act, 1948*. Act No. 8 of 1948, Government of India, 1948. Ministry of Law and Justice. Available at: <https://www.indiacode.nic.in>
- [8]. **The Pharmacy Act, 1948**, Act No. 8 of 1948, enacted on 4th March 1948, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. Published in *The Gazette of India*. Available at: <https://www.indiacode.nic.in>
- [9]. Government of India. (1948). *The Pharmacy Act, 1948 (Act No. 8 of 1948)*. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Retrieved from <https://www.indiacode.nic.in>
- [10]. Dr.S.PAgarwal.The pharmacy act,1948 (ed).Pharmaceutical jurisprudence and Ethics.Fifthedition.NewDehli.Birla publication.2000 PP.24-35.