

SIX YEAR OLD DOCTOR OF PHARMACY EDUCATION IN INDIA - A *CRITICAL STUDY*

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ABSTRACT

The past few decades witnessed many scientific developments and achievements in the areas of Hospital, Clinical and Community pharmacy services through out the world. The Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D) degree, is a professional doctor degree in Pharmacy focusing on hospital, community and clinical pharmacy activities. It is a global program in pharmacy education and is very much similar to professional degrees like Doctor of Medicine (MD) in USA. The first effort to introduce Pharm. D in India was initiated in Trivandrum in 1999 when University of Kerala approved the syllabus and regulations, framed by K. G. Revikumar, the head of Hospital and Clinical Pharmacy, of Trivandrum Medical College. The program could not be started for certain reasons. Later in 2008 the Pharmacy council of India (PCI) managed to introduce a six year regular Pharm D and the three year post baccalaureate Pharm. D in India. By 2013 November, the PCI had given approval to over 140 institutions covering states like Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, UP and Punjab for starting Pharm. D in India. The first batch of regular Pharm. D will graduate by the end of 2014. The strengths, weakness, opportunities and threats (SWOT) of Indian Pharm. D are critically and scientifically analysed and evaluated in this study paper.

KEYWORDS: Doctor of Pharmacy in India, Pharm. D in India, Indian Pharm. D Education