



## A Review: Role of Libraries in Pharmacy Education and Perception of Library Professional's About Their Job

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### Abstract

Libraries play a critical role in pharmacy education by providing access to a wide range of information resources and offering various services to support students and faculty. This abstract explores the multifaceted role of libraries in pharmacy education, highlighting their contributions beyond information provision. Libraries serve as spaces for study and collaboration, offering quiet study areas and collaborative workspaces where students can engage in group projects and discussions. They also provide access to technology tools and multimedia resources that enhance the learning experience. Furthermore, libraries support continuing education and professional development through workshops, seminars, and access to specialized collections. Information literacy and research skills training are key components of library services, helping pharmacy students develop the necessary skills to effectively search, evaluate, and use information resources. Libraries also play a crucial role in supporting evidence-based practice by providing access to databases and resources that contain up-to-date clinical guidelines and research articles. Overall, libraries in pharmacy education contribute significantly to creating a conducive learning environment, fostering collaboration, and promoting lifelong learning among pharmacy professionals.

### Key words:

Librarian, Education , Information, Technology, Role of libraries in Pharmacy Education

### Introduction

Education is the transformative journey that bestows or attains comprehensive wisdom, fosters growth, and cultivates individual potential. Powers of reasoning and judgment, and trains the individual for mature life. It is the result produced by instruction, training or study.<sup>1</sup> Pharmacist today face challenges to ensure access and rational use of efficacious, quality, and safe medicines and health technologies; Strengthening and harmonization of pharmacy education is essential for the development of basic medical and pharmaceutical sciences to serve the society. Libraries are pivotal in supporting and achieving the mission of higher education in

today's information world. Faculty, students and research scholars always depend on libraries and librarians. Librarians generously share their knowledge with them.

### College Libraries:

Services rendered by the college libraries can be categorized as reader services and auxiliary library services. Reader services encompass a range of offerings centered on building comprehensive reference collections, catering to users' needs by providing relevant and accurate information, and offering valuable guidance to students seeking advice. What to read, tracing periodicals and books, to assist in formulating bibliographies, to organize exhibition, to

arrange lectures and to play a role of information mediator. Auxiliary services encompass a diverse array of documentation offerings, such as maintaining current awareness lists and providing selective dissemination of information, ensuring users are equipped with relevant and timely resources. Of information, indexing and abstracting services, translation services, reprographic services, micro recording, microfilm, micro card, microfiche, and filmstrip, to work as a documentation centers and to work as a formation centers.

**In 21st century, academic libraries have undergone newer developments to support a series of new scenarios.**

- Scholarly communication and new publication and scenarios.
- Optimum use of digital resources.
- Handling heterogeneous student population.
- Managing high demand from users for traditional resources.
- Adapting to new modes of study, including ICT- based and distance learning.
- Adjusting with reduced human resources leading to enormous pressures on individual staff.

### **Pharmacy education in India**

At present, more than 1500 institutions provide several pharmacy education programmes across the country.<sup>4</sup> Nearly 100,000 students get enrolled into pharmacy colleges annually. High influx of students into pharmacy Colleges are observed at an all time. The pharmacy degree programs offered in India include: Diploma in Pharmacy (D.Pharm), Bachelor of Pharmacy (B.Pharm), Master of Pharmacy (M.Pharm), Pharmacy educational institutions in India provide students adequate knowledge and necessary skills to practice the profession of pharmacy. Pharmacy institutions provide complete knowledge of formulation, synthesis and analysis of medicinal agents, their mode and mechanism of action, adverse drug reactions, drug interactions, patient counseling techniques and adequate technical information to be exchanged with the physician and other health professionals. Concepts of community

pharmacy, quality assurance, and regulatory issues are also taught in pharmacy colleges. Pharmacy institutions focus on training student in producing medicines, ready to use in the market and to train them to act as interface between the physician and patients for achieving better health of community

### **Librarian's role in the learning and teaching context**

- Working together with faculty and other specialists for delivery of information and instruction;
- Designing instructional programs for information access;
- Teaching students and faculty how to access information, whatever its format or location and how to evaluate what they find;
- Serving as consultants on information resources, issues, and problems; Developing and implementing information policy; Creating information access tools;
- Selecting, organizing, and preserving information in all formats; serving as leaders and
- Facilitators by introducing information technologies and ensuring their effective use.

### **Result:**

The role of libraries in pharmacy education is multifaceted and goes beyond providing access to information resources. Libraries contribute to creating a conducive learning environment, offering study and collaboration spaces, and providing access to technology tools and multimedia resources. They support continuing education and professional development through workshops and access to specialized collections. Libraries also play a crucial role in promoting information literacy and research skills among pharmacy students. They support evidence-based practice by providing access to relevant databases and resources. Overall, libraries are vital partners in pharmacy education, offering a range of services and resources to enhance learning, research, and professional development.

### **Conclusion:**

The role of libraries in pharmacy education is indispensable. They serve as hubs of information, providing access to a wide range of

resources and databases that support learning and research. However, their contributions go beyond mere information provision. Libraries create an environment that fosters collaboration and active learning, offering study spaces and technology tools to enhance the educational experience. Library professionals perceive their job as information experts and advocates for information literacy. They take pride in connecting users with relevant resources, assisting with research needs, and promoting ethical use of information. Libraries are viewed as crucial partners in the educational journey of pharmacy students and play a significant role in shaping their skills and knowledge. The perception of library professionals about their

job may vary, but a common thread is their commitment to supporting education, research, and the success of students and faculty in the field of pharmacy.

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