

Dr. Atmaram Pawar



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Atmaram Pawar is Vice-Principal and Head Pharm.D. programme at Bharati Vidyapeeth University, Poona College of Pharmacy, Pune (India). Having earned the basic pharmaceutical education he has nurtured a career in academics since 1992 at his alma mater. He has actively pursued research in the area of particle engineering and novel drug delivery system, such as development of the novel technique 'Crystallo-Co-Agglomeration' (CCA), application of novel carriers for development of a platform technology, 'floating-pulsatile drug delivery system (FP-DDS)', nanophytomedicines etc. He has undertaken various interdisciplinary projects with NCL Pune, BARC, Mumbai and Polygenetics Inc California, USA. He has to his credit, 02 patents and 52 peer reviewed research papers.

Since its inception, the pharmacy curriculum in India has been industry oriented. In view of promoting the concept of patient care he has made attempts to incorporate patient focused aspects in teaching through books "Modern Dispensing Pharmacy". With the support of Maharashtra State Pharmacy Council and Maharashtra State Chemists & Druggists Association. he has authored a pioneer book for Retail Pharmacists "Handbook for Community Pharmacists". He has been designing programmes to reach out to the society to explain and uplift the image of pharmacy profession. In the wake of this, Dr. Pawar published a pioneer book in Marathi "Aushadhe Ghetana", its Hindi edition "Dawayinya Lete Samay" and also has performed a stage mono-act show about patient counseling. He has delivered about 180 invited lectures including a symposium speech at 62nd IPC 2010.

For the innovative teaching methods, community pharmacy and Pharma research, he was awarded the "Pharmacy Teacher Award - 2005-06" by 54th Indian Pharmaceutical Congress Trust, Pune, Outstanding Teacher Award 2010-11 of Bharati Vidyapeeth Deemed university, "Prof. B.M. Mithal Memorial Award, 2008" of IJPER "MPA Pharmacist Award 2009"

by Maharashtra Pharmacists Association, Mumbai, Best research paper awards at IPA convention Delhi, March 2009, International Symposium on The Future Vision & Challenges in Pharmacy Profession, Jaipur 2010 and 5th International Annual Conference on Clinical Pharmacology, Mumbai 2011.

Implementation of WHO-GPP via Continuing Education Programme: Changing Community Pharmacy in India

In 1992, the FIP developed standards for pharmacy services under the heading Good Pharmacy Practice (GPP) in Community and Hospital Pharmacy Settings. In the 35th meeting of the WHO Expert Committee these guidelines turned out more formal. This document meant to provide a framework within which each country can decide reasonable aspirations and proceed to set its own standards under the relevant headings.

The Indian pharmaceutical industry is now the third largest in the world in terms of volume. Implementation of cGMP since 2006 is a routine practice here to assure the quality of manufactured medicines. However, patient care remained sidelined. The retail pharmacies are still perceived as mere 'Shops' for sale of medicines without the allusion of good practice.

There are numerous reports about prevalence of low standard and counterfeit pharmaceuticals which victimize the developing countries more specifically, which demands up gradation of pharma services, a concept very much in line with that of GPP. Recently in February 2011, PCI resolved to adopt the WHO-GPP in community and hospital pharmacy setting. IPA through its CPD has launched campaign for implementation of GPP. This appreciable effort by IPA steered the Government of Sri Lanka to come up with GPP guidelines for its country. Since 2007, the Maharashtra State Pharmacy Council, with support of Chemists & Druggists Association happened to be proactive and introduced the CEPs for updating the knowledge of their member pharmacists. Till date more than 85 such CEP have been conducted in different parts of Maharashtra state and in other states.

The CEP is helping change in attitude from the 'product oriented approach' to a 'patient oriented approach'. It has initiated various activities like DOT therapy in Mumbai. Moreover, it led to participation of more than 50 Chemists from different strata of Indian society at FIP 2011, the first time they attended international forum. The CEP received huge assistance from pharmacy academic institutes and Universities who extended their support in the form CEP centres and expert faculty. These collective efforts are envisioned to bring about pharmaceutical

care the GPP way, the practical way to achieve objectives of VISION 2020 of pharmacy profession.