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Bangladesh Pharmaceutical Journal  
C/o. Bangladesh Pharmaceutical Society  
22 Dhanmondi R/A, Road 2, Dhaka-1205, Bangladesh  
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## Updating Pharmacy Curricula

Pharmacy curricula evolved to meet the need of the society for a profession dedicated to the service of patients with respect to formulation and dispensing of medicines. Over the centuries, this simple task has eventually widened the spectra to shoulder the responsibilities that include the areas of invention, discovery, research, development, clinical trials, studies, formulation, manufacturing, storage, distribution, dispensing and regulation of medicines, medicinal substances and any other substances that primarily come in contact with it. The spectra further embraced the veterinary products, cosmetics, toiletries, nutraceuticals, supplements, excipients, packaging materials etc.

The vast expansion of the pharmacy profession has subsequently generated different specialties areas to ensure more focused services to the people. Accordingly, different universities across the globe have adjusted their undergraduate and postgraduate curricula to match the need of the profession.

In Bangladesh, the pharmacists were only focused to the manufacturing of medicines until end '70s when one or two pharmacists started taking up pharmaceutical marketing as career. From the '90s onward the marketing jobs have appeared to be the most lucrative to most of the pharmacists. The vast arenas of community pharmacy, hospital pharmacy and clinical pharmacy remain as the pivotal sectors for the absorption of pharmacists for the next hundred years.

Now is the time for the universities offering pharmacy courses in Bangladesh to update their curricula to meet the need of the country and also to prepare the pharmacists for availing of the opportunities of the coming days. The same matter was also emphasized by the Vice President of the Pharmacy Council of Bangladesh in a recent meeting with the Chairpersons of the departments of Pharmacy of the public and private universities in Bangladesh.

With the establishment of about thirty universities that are offering Pharmacy courses, it has become a matter of paramount importance to bring in the uniformity in the curricula and also to safeguard the standard of pharmacy education. We are positive that the respective universities and the Pharmacy Council of Bangladesh will do the needful in this regard and that would obviously be the sooner the better.