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Letter To Readers

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Dignity -Pharmacist verses Physician

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According a well-known thought “never guess about any person by his/her face rather his/her skill” and exactly the same thing happens with pharmacy profession. As luck would have it, a good many of the people have been judging the pharmacy profession since ages by its cover only. Being a pharmacist, I would like you all to have an insight into this article hoping everyone can cotton on the concept of a pharmacist in as much as people need to know about this profession.

On the face of it, the pharmacist is someone who has the licence to formulate and deal in dispensing drugs or compounds finally making up the prescriptions. However, this description had better not be restricted up to here for the reason that the pharmacists are on an equal footing with doctors and physicians and this is the very thing that everyone in the society ought to be on familiar terms with. When you come down to it, the primitive distinction is that the doctors train for five to six years in diagnosis and treatment with a little about the medicines used. Conversely, pharmacists get enlightened for four years especially in medicines and consequently they become experts in using drugs with its pros and cons i.e. its benefits and side-effects along with its usage with other drugs expounding upon what might and might not be consumed with what.

If truth be told, in excess of 40-50% of visits to doctors are preventable which can be resolved by pharmacists. If I say I have my family pharmacist then do not be surprised because I

know I am going to save my money and time by not going to the doctor just to ask some information about medicines. Nevertheless, a pharmacist knows a lot more about medicines than the doctor or physician. Astonished? Yes, the reason behind the above fact is that a pharmacist studies pharmaceutics which is the science and engineering at the back of all the dosage forms. Besides, they are quite aware of how different dosage forms are absorbed, distributed, metabolised, and eliminated, what we call this as product's ADME. Confidently, they have a handle on a product's pharmacokinetics which is the aftermath of a completion of a university programme in pharmacy, both at a bachelors and masters level or up to doctorate, of at least four years duration including state and federal certification exams.

A pharmacist comes to know about the identical state of disease as doctors do... the indications, the diagnosis, the laboratories and the procedures... then again the pharmacist's focus remains on the sensible selection of the appropriate and rational drug therapy which is stemmed from evidence centred guidelines of medicines. Even though a pharmacist cannot write Rx for patients and does not go to a medical school, they do have the competence of the foremost methods that are used in the development of medicines.

Despite the above fact, they can counsel the patients and make them be confirmed that the doctors prescribe the precise quantity for optimum efficacy. The pharmacist is an honourable source who has not been exploited by many and it goes without saying that pharmacists' cognize more about drugs and drug interactions than many physicians. When I utter something about my profession, every so often people asked me 'Are you going to run a pharmacy or a medical shop once I finish my course and this is where people put a full stop to their thought of this profession.

Although running a shop would be an option but this is certainly not a limit as I have said earlier, pharmacists are tutored in pharmacokinetics, biology, medicinal chemistry and other connected sciences that are only the foundation of their proficiency or skills in all 'WH-questions' of medicines such as interactions, side-effects, its elimination from the body etc. so it is obvious that they will not engage in running a pharmacy shop only. On the contrast, they are alive with enormous knowledge that can be used in exploring new innovations. Only a need is to recognize them, spot their capability which is eventually going to be benefited for no more than patients and the whole society.

Regrettably, I need to underscore some facts that have been very disheartening for almost every pharmacist who passes out of the universities and searches for a good positioned job each year. This may not be the case for every pharmacist but it should not be an

exaggeration if I say 80-90%, more or less, are begging for getting good jobs with sound salaries. Why is this in aid of?

Hopefully, until now, you might have understood that both the professions are inter-reliant. The healthcare system will not be functioned if they are not symbiotic. So it all boils down to the attention of government that we need to draw by taking care of these professions mutually. What beats me, why pharmacists are being paid below par? This is totally unfair and as a result many pharmacists are getting nothing but infuriated owing to very less salary they receive particularly for fresher which starts from Rs.7500- 10,000/-month. If this continues, no one would dare enter in this electrifying field which will obviously make our healthcare system be impaired and hence government needs to call a halt to this difference.

In my opinion or what personally I believe, people do not make most of the group of such personalities in spite of they could be a great array of information regarding medicines. No doubt, doctors or physicians are perceived as the definitive role in the healthcare system but this is not supposed to confine to them. Pharmacists are not near enough esteemed and that's why, our healthcare system will keep on resolving the glitches which is what a doctor does sooner than nip it in the bud, which is what a pharmacist can do his finest.

Of course this is the thing to be agreed with that the pharmacists are not trained in diagnosis and thus they are not capable or they do not carry any right to do a job as a doctor but on the other hand, simple and primary health complaints can be diagnosed and fixed by pharmacists who can be an initial source of the healthcare with the proviso that they understand their restrictions and can assuredly refer to the doctor.

At the same time wherever you go for an interview, Seminars/Workshops, Business meetings etc. my request to all pharmacist is to say proudly that "I AM a PHARMACIST FIRST" and then introduce yourself as an Executive or Manager or Director working for company A, B, or C.

In the nut shell, the crux of the matter does not actually remain in giving 'respect' to pharmacists but they should be given an equal importance as doctors and physicians. Being a backbone of the healthcare system they do deserve it. Respect twigs from a person's status and hence in order to respect a person first we need to understand their status, what they do and their contribution towards the society. If people look forward to seeing a pharmacist as their primary source of information regarding medicines or healthcare, I am sure, henceforth, I do not need to ask people to give respect to pharmacists