

## **Impact of Clinical Community Pharmacy Training Program on Undergraduate Students' Proficiency -An Experience of a Volunteer Pharmacy Group in Karachi Pakistan**

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**Background:** Pharmacy is a noble profession serving patients for decades & pharmacists are recognized as the most accessible & trusted individuals among other health care providers. Pharmacy students are the future health care practitioners & if they are not well trained clinically in the community health needs; this will directly affect the future quality care in the community. Unfortunately limited training opportunities are available at undergraduate level & very few organizations offer such programs. The initiation of the training was a voluntary initiative by Nurturing Community Pharmacy in Pakistan (NCPPI).

**Purpose of the study:** To check the effectiveness of Clinical Community Pharmacy training program in undergraduate students & to determine the level of competency enhanced.

**Study Design:** The Training program was initially announced via official Facebook page of NCPPI in the year 2016 and since then it is being conducted twice a year during the semester breaks (i.e. summer and Winter Sessions). 600 interns have been trained through this program whilst studying in various Pharmacy schools in Karachi & 106 Expert Trainers conducted these training on voluntary grounds. Students' submit their registrations via google forms and the list of the eligible candidates for the test is subsequently announced after thorough screening of the forms received earlier. Test of all the selected students is conducted and then the students clearing the test are enrolled for the training program as per the merit list in 17 different Community Pharmacy training sites

**Method:** A prospective pre-/post-intervention study design was used to evaluate students' progress. 30-hour structured Clinical Community Pharmacy training program was developed and presented to undergraduate pharmacy students of different universities. This study was conducted at various volunteer training sites from December 2016 to December 2019. Training Program included classroom lectures, hands-on learning sessions & practical demonstration by expert volunteer pharmacy trainers. A pre-assessment questionnaire was developed using google form to assess students' current concepts about clinical community practice. After completion post assessment was done through an assessment tool. Paired T-test was used & Statistical analysis was applied using SPSS (24) and data was recorded as percentages.

**Result:** Significant improvement in students' competencies. The paired t-test comparison showed significant ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) difference between the pre- & post assessment scores. Results showed that from 2016-2019 ( $n=600$ ).

**Conclusion:** Clinical Community Pharmacy Training programs are very helpful for undergraduate students to produce clinically sound future pharmacists which in turn can play a major role in patient safety, improving public health and bridging gaps in Community care at large.