



College of Pharmacy  
University of Findlay, Ohio, USA

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News Letter

Light

## Higher Education Skill Development and Research Center

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### 1. Special article : Program revision in Deemed and Private Universities to meet NEP aspirations – Need of the hour

Dean and Chairperson BOS, Amrita School of Pharmacy, and Registrar, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Kochi, Kerala



Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, a deemed to be university established in the year 2003 has grown to a world-class university under the grace of the world-renowned humanitarian, Mata Amritanandamayi Devi as its Chancellor. It is ranked 7 in the university category as per NIRF India Ranking 2023 and No.1 in India in THE Impact Ranking 2023. **Amrita School of Pharmacy is a constituent school of Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham and conducts high-quality educational programs and research in pharmaceutical sciences. It is ranked 10 in the Pharmacy category as per NIRF India Rankings 2023.** Amrita School of Pharmacy is following the semester pattern for B. Pharm from 2010 and is currently following the PCI-prescribed syllabus. **The present curriculum is revisited to provide a student-centric teaching-learning process and promote Self-Directed Learning (SDL) as done internationally.** The revision is also made as per the NEP 2020 recommendations and the academic autonomy provided by the regulations of the Deemed-to-be Universities.

**There was one workshop by HESDARC, Mysuru in October 2022 which ignited a spark on our interest to revise the curriculum as per global standards and consider recommendations of NEP 2020.** There were sessions on Learning Outcomes, POs, CLOs, Assessment; Academic Flexibility; CBCS; Management Plan, Curriculum enrichment, Field projects, Internships which gave clarity and confidence to faculty in making necessary changes in the existing curriculum. One more workshop was held from 29-05-2023 to 03-06-2023 by the HESDARC team of experts to fine-tune the changes made **ensuring that the revision never diluted the PCI-prescribed curriculum but strengthened it significantly.**



## Summary of B. Pharm Curriculum Revision 2023

I. The scope of each course is modified, course outcomes are redefined as per Blooms Taxonomy, and course contents are organized by assigning hours for each topic and updating the texts and references.

II. A few courses are added in the revised syllabus of B. Pharm.

1. **Pharmacotherapeutics:** As the pharmacy practice subjects are very less in the curriculum, this course is added to 6th semester.

2. **Cultural Education** courses are included in 1st to 4th semester as per the decision of the university.

3. **Mastery Over Mind:** The course on meditation is included in the first semester as per the decision of the university.

4. **Life Skill:** Life skill courses help students develop skills that are crucial for placements & career success. These courses are included in 5th, 6th & 7th semester.

5. **Value added & skill-based courses:** These courses are included for the holistic development of the students as expected by NEP 2020. There are two categories of value-added courses – Humanities and Sciences. **Skill-based courses are practical-oriented ones to provide the necessary skills to increase the employability quotient** and equip the students with essential skills to succeed in life.

III. The order of the courses in different semesters are shuffled in order to balance the credits per semester, to have fundamental prerequisite subjects in the lower semester and core subjects in the higher semester and to assign the 8th semester completely for Advanced practice school and Research project.

IV. **The total credits are optimized by reworking practical hours, tutorial, and few theory hours by removing repeated and overlapping topics.** This was essential as the students are overloaded with a hectic timetable and also to incorporate additional electives and integrated learning as per NEP 2020.

V. Advanced Practice School and Research Project Practice school of 7th semester is strengthened by adding Advanced Practice School and Research Project



Dr. Jayashankar & Dr. B.G. Nagavi



in the 8th semester. Practice School of 7th semester is a two-month program in hospital/community pharmacy to provide students with hands-on experience in pharmacy services. Advanced Practice School and research project is a four-month program that allows students to choose specialization in the industry, hospital, or research department. **During this, students are required to identify a real-life problem in their field of specialization and conduct a research project and submit the report and thesis.**

### VI. Changes in Internal Evaluation

*In order to give more emphasis to day-to-day learning and continuous evaluation, the **weightage for internal assessment was increased by including various continuous evaluation components like MCQ tests, quizzes, assignments etc. in addition to the sessional examination.***

## 2. OPINION : When will Deemed and Private Universities exercise their Academic Autonomy & create a competitive & fair play field??

HESDARC Mysuru during the interactions with several private universities, deemed to be universities and autonomous colleges in the country in the last six years, learnt that, **academic autonomy is not explored to the fullest extent, unlike administrative and financial autonomies given to above universities.** Almost all the pharmacy institutions of above category follow Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) regulation and syllabus very sincerely and religiously **without realizing that they have responsibility to design their own syllabus and assessments.** Some states are worried that their graduates may not be registered by the respective state pharmacy councils. But there are ample evidences of few institutes in the country are changing their syllabus frequently based on the need of the time. **It is only the question of conviction, courage and taking initiatives to change for the better.**

National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 on the other hand has identified several challenges in higher education **including limited faculty and academic autonomy, over regulation,** less emphasis on the development of cognitive skills and learning outcomes; **an ineffective regulatory system and suboptimal governance and leadership of HEIs.** NEP 2020 also aspires that graduates of tomorrow are innovative, creative and develop problem solving skills. **NEP 2020 mentions that revamping curriculum, pedagogy,**

assessment, and student support for enhanced student experiences are the needs of the day

It is obvious that to realize the aspirations of NEP 2020, DU's, PU's and Autonomous colleges have responsibilities and challenge the faculties and work as a team **to evolve vibrant curriculum which is learner centric & learning centric than the current teacher and content oriented.** HESDARC researched and observed that within the existing acts of Private (PU)& Deemed to be Universities(DU), Autonomous colleges(AC) and PCI, **there is an opportunity waiting to be explored collaboratively with all stakeholders, to take higher education to international standards through faculty empowerment and autonomy.**

There are at least about 200 institutions of Pharmacy in Govt & private sector, under DU, PY & AC's, **who can be role models and harbingers of most needed change in teaching & learning through need based, learner centric, flexible curriculum with CBCS, electives and optional exits.**

Professional regulatory bodies, as envisaged by the NEP 2020 shall be standard setting bodies. PCI should introspect and prescribe a set of broad PO's under 3 streams, for the Pharmacy programs especially diploma and degree programs and **empower the DU's, PU's and autonomous colleges to design, develop and implement the curriculum.**



**Dr. SABITA**, Kochi



**Dr. Ramesh B**, Bellur

This was the topic of discussion on 17 & 18 March 2023 at NITTE University Mangaluru, in which 4 Universities, 3 autonomous colleges, KSPC nominee and HESDARC, Mysuru participated and debated elaboratively. 18 experts from different southern states participated actively in the 2 days event. It was agreed at Mangaluru that DU's and PU's to work hard to realize the most needed change in the coming years



#### **4. Dr Kadam, Chancellor- Bharati Vidyapeeth (Deemed University) honoured by HESDARC Mysuru on 28 July 2023**

**Meeting and Honouring Prof. Dr Shivajirao Kadam on 28 & 29 June 2023 at hote Radisson Blue, Mysuru**

WE had the good opportunity and honour of meeting and honouring Prof. Dr Shivajirao Kadam – Chancellor, Bharati Vidyapeeth (Deemed to be University), Pune on 28 & 29 June 2023 at hotel Raddison Blue, Mysuru. **He also released the July-Sept 2023 issue of HESDARC's Newsletter "Belaku" or "Light", in presence of DA Gundurao, Prof. Shivananad, Mr Gowda all from KSPC- Bengaluru, Dr Burande- Pune and Dr Jayashekar from Trivandrum on 29 June 2023**

During the one-to-one discussion I had on 28 June with Prof Kadam, we briefed him about the contributions of HESDARC since 2016-17 in the areas of Faculty Development Programs (FDPs) and transformations made in few institutions and universities to raise their standards, quality and performance through training, enlightening and empowering of faculties pharmacy and other programs

**We discussed the potential of BVP deemed to be university to raise its NIRF rankings and NAAC performance through systematic need analysis, design & delivery of FDPs to achieve desired transformation in the University especially in the pharmacy programs.** Review and standardization of the B Pharm & Curriculum is the need of the hour, we emphasized in the light of NEP 2020, aspirations of the BVP and future needs of the students and society. Many universities in the country are following PCI curriculum which has several challenges such as heavy workload for students & faculty, CBCS, Electives and Practice school related and other issues. **HESDARC suggested that BVP can lead in Maharashtra & the country with its rich legacy, senior faculties and your great leadership.**

He accepted and appreciated the suggestion

**Dr Kadam informed that he will take personal interest and do the needful in this direction.**

**What can be done at BVP COP Pune through HESDARC Mysuru**

1. Train faculty (about 30 to 36) with hands on experience on Bloom's Taxonomy and learning Outcomes: PLOs, DLO's and CLO's and write and vet at 3 levels



2. NAAC Criterion 1 based FDP on Curriculum Design, Development and Implementations
3. Review, Consolidate, Standardize B Pharm Regulation and Curriculum to meet NEP 2020, PCI aspirations, faculty feedback and students immediate and future needs
4. Submit to BOS of the college and seek approval of the same in University Academic council & other bodies and get approval of PCI and implement in a time bound manner

#### 5. Dr Montukumar Patel- PCI President honoured by HESDARC Mysuru on 6 July 2023

Dr Patel was honoured at College of Pharmacy, Sri Adi Chunchanagiri University on 6 July 2023 on behalf of HESDARC Mysuru for taking the leadership of PCI, New Delhi. Dr Patel was honoured with Mysuru Petha, Shawl, Garland and a book on “**Young World Rising**” by Rob Sakowitz. **Discussions were also held on the topic of providing more autonomy for competent deemed and private Universities to design their own syllabus to meet aspirations of National education Policy 2020, future needs of pharmacists and feed from stakeholders.** He was briefed about the efforts of few universities in this direction with HESDARC encouragement & mentoring **and that they need support and hand holding of PCI.** PCI president was also briefed about the report submitted by HESDARC in 2020 after the review of 63 reports submitted by the pharmacy colleges who conducted Continuing Education Programs (CEP) for the faculties and the way forward to strengthen the CEP with better and advance planning, digitization, need-based and focussed themes for the CEPs. The discussions were very positive and encouraging. **We hope PCI initiates in the future to make pharmacy higher education competitive with dynamic regulations and curriculum and creates a level playing field to perform & excel in teaching, learning and assessments** by the most deserving and competent universities to meet national and international standards.



#### 6. Dr Chandrashekar Shetty Honoured on 80th Birthday by Dr Nagavi, HESDARC, Mysuru



Dr. Shetty was VC of Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Karnataka during earlier part of 2000's. I had the opportunity to work with Dr Shetty in the Syndicate and other bodies of the university. Dr Shetty is known for his simple and strict methods of dealing with humane approaches. He was VC of other universities for over 20 years. HESDARC had the golden opportunity of implementing several FDP programs in Adichunchangiri University (ACU) Belluru, Mandya from 2018 till date.

**Dr Shetty is a very good teacher, researcher and administrator with social commitments.** I had the golden opportunity of attending Dr Shetty's 80th birthday celebrations in Bengaluru. **The**

**occasion is also called Sahasra Chandra Darshana ( 1000 moon sighting),** which happens on 80th birthday. The program was attended by his students, colleagues of the past & present and employees and dignitaries. **HESDARC wishes Dr Shetty and family a happy and healthy future and prays for their well being.**

#### Quote for the Quarter

Sometimes we are  
**tested,**  
not to show our  
**weakness,**

but to  
**discover our**  
**strength.**

