

Opinion Paper

NEP 2020: NODAL TRAINING CENTRES FOR PHARMACY PROFESSIONALS

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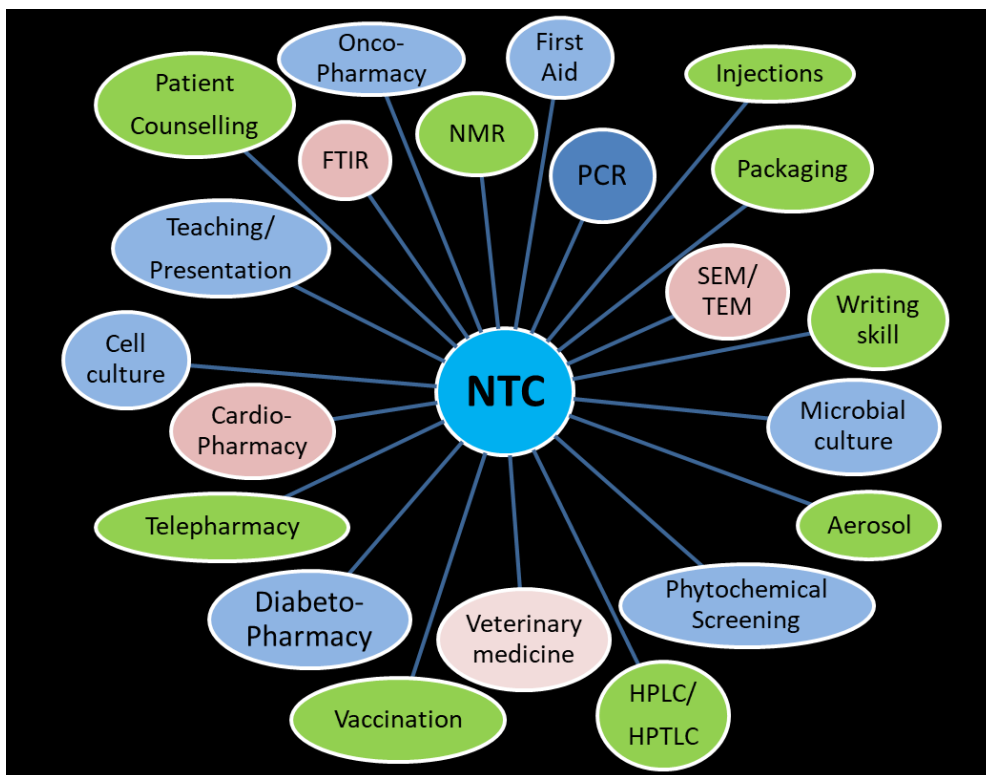
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The career of our future generation now will be structured as per the strategies of the National Education Policy, 2020 (NEP 2020). The existing education policy and various regulations framed by regulatory authorities have made piles by placing conditions/norms one after another in order to maintain quality in education, research and practice. Such norms implemented from time to time in relation to the process of evaluation, maintenance of quality, management of learning objectives, etc., have supported the academic scenario depending on the need, more precisely the global need. However, these norms have not helped satisfactorily to fulfill the requirements coping with the development in science and technology. The structure with existing standards has not helped in the increase of enrolment and total intellectual development.

The NEP 2020 is envisioned to eliminate the obstructions and the structure is already made available to all. The structure and plan associated with the teaching, training, and research could be successful if we accordingly plan right now for the development of infrastructural facilities and the development of training modules for pharmacy professionals. We need to bring all those pharmacy professionals to the stream and at the same time, we also need to motivate them to participate in programmes organized for total development. Total development shall be the developments coping with the need and ability for extemporized skillful performance.

It is, however, a time-consuming process but can be expedited by creating/establishing a cluster of Nodal Training Centres (NTC) throughout the country to train up pharmacy professionals effectively within a short period of time. The trained pharmacy professionals will be updated with the knowledge and skill as per their service or professional requirements. The period of such training organized in these NTCs may be short but should be frequently organised. Very

specialized and specific training courses would help to develop skill and the professionals would be able to deliver expected service effectively.



**Fig 1: Schematic representation of typical training modules
(Other branches may design as per their requirements)**

These NTCs should serve as the training center for all pharmacy professionals, other paramedical staff, and all such professionals, which require the knowledge and skill in medications e.g. fire brigade staff, etc. People interested in vocational training also could be included. Such NTCs would train up all interested people as strategized in NEP 2020 effectively within short periods. This would perhaps be difficult for normal academic institutions, and hence, setting up NTCs is important, which would function independently. These NTCs will specifically look into the specialized subjects and will be helping to produce professionals in the true sense. Pharmacists, for example, would be specialized in handling drugs and medication to cardiac, diabetic, cancer patients, etc. Such specialized pharmacy

services will eliminate the risk factors associated with the administration of drugs. Medication errors, adverse drug reactions will be reduced. In the same line, specialized instrument handling and interpretation can also be incorporated. This will help researchers to interpret their experimental findings. At present, most researchers in the field of pharmacy, need to seek help from experts for interpretation of reports generated from instruments e.g. NMR, MASS, etc. Researchers, as per their requirements, can join such training programmes, which will be short and specific, and will help in the interpretation & understanding of their research findings.

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