



Identifiers & Pagination:

Year: 2026

Volume: 17

Publisher ID: 22205187.17.1

Correspondence: Taha Nazir
PhD, Researcher, Worker, and
Journalist. Thomson Reuters - ID
N-5730-2015 | ORCID ID -
orcid.org/0000-0002-5308-6798 | <https://tahanazir.com>

Citation:

Taha Nazir (2026). Unmasking
systemic corruption: Dr. Sajid
bashir's reappointment threatens
pakistan's pharmaceutical
education. Pharm Rev. Vol. 17.
2026. P. 1-7.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15644149>

Conflict of interest:

Author accepts all potential
conflict of interest.

Funding:

The authors received no direct
funding.

Ethics approval:

No ethical approval needed for
this work.

Consent for publication:

Author is agreed to publish this
article.

Editorial Article

UNMASKING SYSTEMIC CORRUPTION: DR. SAJID BASHIR'S REAPPOINTMENT THREATENS PAKISTAN'S PHARMACEUTICAL EDUCATION

Taha Nazir

1. Editor-in-Chief, Pharmaceutical Review. ISSN 2220-5187
| <http://pharmaceuticalsreview.ca> | <https://pharmaceuticalsreview.com>
2. Ex-President - Pharmacist Federation (Pakistan).
<http://pharmacistfed.wordpress.com>

[ORCID](#) | [Publons](#) | [ResearchGate](#) | [Scopus](#) | [Academia](#) |
[Linkedin](#) | [Google Scholar](#) | [Loop Frontiers](#) | [Twitter](#) |
[Instagram](#) | [Scinapse](#)

Running title: systemic corruption, pharmaceutical education,
higher education governance

Keywords: academic integrity, regulatory failure, merit-based
appointments, institutional accountability, Pakistan health
education, professional ethics

Data Source: Archives, Biographies, Databanks, Encyclopedias,
Libraries, Metadata Registries, Reports, Repositories, arXiv,
Crossref, OpenAI, Wikipedia, World Health Organization,
Zenodo.

Abstract:

This article critically examines the reappointment of **Dr. Sajid Bashir** and its broader implications for Pakistan's pharmaceutical education system. It argues that the decision reflects deeper patterns of systemic corruption, regulatory capture, and administrative favoritism that undermine academic merit, institutional integrity, and professional standards. By prioritizing personal networks and bureaucratic compliance over transparency and scholarly accountability, such reappointments risk eroding public trust, weakening curriculum quality, and compromising the future of pharmaceutical training in Pakistan. The analysis situates this case within the wider crisis of governance in higher education, highlighting the urgent need for ethical leadership, independent oversight, and merit-based reforms to safeguard academic credibility

A Persistent Scandal in Sargodha's Academic Heartland In Sargodha, Punjab—a vibrant educational hub serving over 25,000 students annually from diverse Punjabi, Saraiki, Pashtun, and Baloch ethnic communities—the University of Sargodha (UoS) is embroiled in a protracted crisis that undermines the core of Pakistan's pharmacy education system. At its epicenter is Dr. Sajid Bashir, a controversial figure repeatedly accused of systemic corruption, including financial embezzlement, credential fabrication, and administrative obfuscation. Despite mounting evidence, Bashir was reappointed to a prominent academic role and received an accolade at the 21st International Pharmacy Conference & Exhibition (IPCE-2024), held at Lahore's opulent Pearl Continental Hotel from December 29, 2024, to January 1, 2025. His ongoing influence, particularly as Principal of Lords College of Pharmacy in Lahore's industrial Kot Lakhpat neighborhood, persists amid over 50 formal complaints filed since 2012. This investigative report, spearheaded by whistleblower Dr. Taha Hussain Nazir—a distinguished pharmacologist, PhD scholar in Pharmacology, and President of the Pharmacist Federation (Pakistan)—meticulously assembles irrefutable evidence from 2012 to October 2025. It calls for swift accountability from key institutions, including the Higher Education Commission (HEC), National Accountability Bureau (NAB), and Punjab's PML-N-led government under Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif, whose administration has vowed zero-tolerance for graft in its 2024 election manifesto.

The Vital Role of Pharmacy Education in Pakistan's Diverse Society Pakistan's pharmacy sector, which graduates more than 10,000 professionals each year to serve a population exceeding 240 million—including approximately 20% from ethnic minorities such as Pashtuns in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Baloch in Balochistan—hinges on the HEC's stringent guidelines for faculty recruitment, PhD supervision, and curriculum alignment. These standards are indispensable for bolstering drug safety, pharmaceutical innovation, and healthcare delivery, in line with the Punjab Drug Act 2023 and national health reforms championed by the Ministry of National Health Services under Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) Dr. Malik Mukhtar Ahmad. However, entrenched corruption—manifesting as nepotistic hiring that privileges Punjabi urban elites over merit-based candidates from rural Saraiki or Pashtun backgrounds—erodes these foundations. The result? Underqualified pharmacists endangering patient lives in overburdened facilities like Sargodha's District Headquarters (DHQ) Hospital or Lahore's Mayo Hospital. A stark example is the collapse of the Rs. 0.8 billion drug manufacturing initiative (launched in 2005 under former UoS Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Ishtiaq Ahmad) with M/s University of Sargodha Pharmaceutical Laboratories (Drug Manufacturing License No. 000859, issued by the Punjab Drug Control Authority). After 18 years, the project faltered due to alleged procurement irregularities, depriving Punjab's underserved Saraiki regions of affordable, locally produced medications and exemplifying how such lapses exacerbate ethnic disparities in healthcare access.

Dr. Sajid Bashir's Illegal Appointment:

A Detailed Timeline of Deception Dr. Bashir's elevation to Professor of Pharmacy (BPS-21) at UoS's Department of Pharmacy—nestled on University Road along the serene Chenab River banks—grossly contravened HEC's 2009 faculty appointment criteria, which mandate at least 15 high-impact, HEC-recognized publications and unbiased evaluations from senior foreign experts. The recruitment process began with a November 1, 2009, advertisement in the Daily Jang (Lahore and Karachi editions), imposing a December 31, 2009, deadline. Yet, Bashir's pivotal publication—a cross-sectional study co-authored with Dr. Mohamed Azmi Ahmad Hassali of Universiti Sains Malaysia—falsely claimed a September to November 2009 timeline, implying post-hoc backdating to fabricate eligibility. The Selection Board meeting on March 20–21, 2012, at UoS's Administration Block suffered from quorum deficiencies, as Dr. Zahoor-ul-Hassan participated despite his deanship in Medical and Health Sciences expiring on February 18, 2012, in violation of UoS Ordinance 2002, Section 13(3). Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Muhammad Akram Chaudhary greenlit the appointment on March 22, 2012, with the Syndicate ratifying it on July 9, 2012, overlooking glaring conflicts of interest. Escalation came via a Lahore High Court (LHC) writ petition (No. 37666/2021) filed by Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ilyas Tariq of UoS's Institute of Chemistry, prompting then-Governor Punjab (and PTI affiliate) Chaudhry Muhammad Sarwar to issue Order No. GS(Univ-I)11-5/2017-25 on October 28, 2021 (following a September 16, 2021, hearing), mandating a Syndicate-led investigation into the irregularities. The UoS Registrar's office flouted this directive, prompting a probe committee's formation during Syndicate Meeting 1/2022 on September 27, 2022. Notification No. SU/Admin(HR)6464-74, issued November 7, 2022, by Deputy Registrar Syed Nasir Abbas Bukhari—a noted honest administrator—remains dormant as of October 2025, underscoring institutional inertia.

Flawed Evaluations and Rampant Financial Mismanagement Compounding the timeline's flaws are the tainted external evaluations. Prof. Severre Arne Sande of Oslo University dismissed Bashir's portfolio—dominated by low-value reports and short communications—as inadequate, falling short of the 15 requisite HEC-accredited publications and offering “non-supportive” endorsement under HEC norms. Conversely, Dr. Hassali's effusive review, as a co-author on the suspect 2009 study and holding only associate professor status, breached HEC's impartiality protocols, rendering it null. On the financial front, Bashir's purported kickbacks sabotaged the Rs. 0.8 billion UoS Pharma Labs venture, detailed in Dr. Nazir's exhaustive May 13, 2022, complaint (No. 389/631) to Governor Umar Sarfaraz Cheema (PML-N). NAB Lahore duly acknowledged this via Complaint ID NABL20220530271463 (May 30, 2022) and subsequent filings, yet no audits, recoveries, or prosecutions have materialized by October 2025—evidence of deeper complicity under PML-N's provincial stewardship, where Punjab's 2025 audit unearthed Rs. 1 trillion in sector-wide malfeasance, including educational frauds. A further proof: April 2022 purchase orders for substandard, second-hand machinery—overseen by Bashir as Dean—ballooned costs without deliverables, as exposed in Dr. Nazir's Pharmaceutical Review exposé (ISSN 2220-5187).

Extensive Peer-Reviewed Documentation of Corruption Dr. Nazir's prolific scholarship—spanning over 20 articles in the peer-reviewed Pharmaceutical Review (ISSN 2220-5187)—serves as a forensic chronicle of Bashir's malfeasance. For instance, “An Amazing Character Revealing the Fundamental Factors Hurting Health Standards...” (DOI: 10.52182/22205187.13022021) links Bashir's 2024 IPCE award to protracted academic sabotage. “The Corruption of Dean Pharmacy, University of Sargodha Needs Attention...” (DOI: 10.52182/22205187.7122018), amplified through 2024 Instagram reels and YouTube videos, explicitly urges NAB intervention. The 2025 piece “The Deceiving Champion and Hero of Corruption Is Awarded in 21st IPCE-2024” dissects Bashir's Lords College tenure and a June 2024 affiliation scam with the University of the Punjab, where substandard approvals allegedly favored cronies. “An Amazing Case of Irregularity, Corruption, and Illegality...” (DOI: 10.52182/22205187.612023) verifies quorum breaches with archival board minutes. “Concealment of Facts and Hiding Information...” (August 2023, ResearchGate) unveils UoS's suppression of Governor orders via tampered correspondence (e.g., Registrar's letter No. SU/Admin(E-I)/14146, November 4, 2021). Supplementary analyses, such as “Pharmacy Council of Pakistan, Pharmacy Discipline and Pharmacist Community” (DOI: 10.52182/22205187.07112021) and “An Ideological Compliance to Establish the Real State of Pakistan” (DOI: 10.52182/22205167.25062020), indict the Pakistan Pharmacist Association (PPA) for enabling such governance failures, often under the shadow of bureaucratic mafias tied to PML-N influencers.

Relentless Institutional Complaints and Global Escalations Dr. Nazir's crusade encompasses over 50 meticulously documented complaints from 2013 to 2025, traversing multiple fora: To Governor Punjab, 17 submissions (e.g., No. 375/623 on December 23, 2021, alleging fact concealment; No. 417/677 on October 3, 2022, seeking Rs. 0.8 billion recovery) languish unheeded under PML-N's Governor Baligh ur Rehman, contrasting PTI's Sarwar's proactive 2021 mandate. The HEC received five key cases (e.g., No. 05-48/HEC/A&C/2010/6938 on April 20, 2016, flagging initial irregularities; No. 399/641 on June 23, 2022, referencing NAB referrals), yet Chairman Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad's office has issued no binding directives. NAB Lahore logged 17 acknowledgments (e.g., No. NAB(L)/L51402022/CVC/2022 on November 30, 2022, probing financial trails), but resolutions stall amid political pressures. Internally at UoS, 20 Right to Information (RTI) Act 2013 requests and grievances (e.g., September 9, 2013, on authority misuse; No. 421/683 on October 31, 2022, demanding Syndicate directives) spotlight biased teaching loads disadvantaging non-Punjabi faculty. Internationally, filings to Transparency International's Berlin Secretariat and Karachi chapter, alongside Anti-Corruption Legal Advice Centre (ALAC) Karachi (e.g., No. 427/689 on December 11, 2022), underscore Pakistan's dismal 133/180 ranking on the 2024 Corruption Perceptions Index, with pharmacy education cited as a vulnerability.

Political Patronage, Ethnic Disparities, and Institutional Blind Spots Since PML-N's February 2024 ascent in Punjab, provincial audits have spotlighted Rs. 1 trillion in irregularities,

encompassing education sector embezzlements that PTI parliamentarians, including opposition leader Malik Riaz, decry as shielded cronyism—epitomized by UoS’s unresolved scandals despite CM Maryam Nawaz’s high-profile anti-corruption drives, such as the 2025 Punjab Accountability Initiative. Governor Rehman’s reticence diverges sharply from PTI’s Sarwar’s enforcement push, fueling accusations of partisan favoritism. Ethnically, Punjabi-centric networks—prevalent in PML-N’s Lahore base—systematically sideline Saraiki activists like Dr. Nazir from Sargodha’s heartland, curtailing avenues for Baloch pharmacists in Quetta or Pashtun scholars in Peshawar, thereby perpetuating inequities in professional representation. Compounding this, HEC’s September 12, 2025, Syndicate approvals for UoS faculty hires—overseen by current Vice Chancellor Dr. Qaisar Abbas—bypassed active probes, as flagged in Dr. Nazir’s contemporaneous RTI filings, mirroring a December 21, 2024, curriculum review meeting that glossed over Pharm.D. standards amid the turmoil.

The Human Toll:

Consider Aisha Khan, a fictionalized archetype of a young Saraiki woman from Multan’s rural fringes, enrolling at Lords College under Bashir’s purported mentorship only to endure diluted curricula that ill-prepare her for rotations at Lahore’s Mayo Hospital, where medication errors could prove fatal. Dr. Nazir’s filings, such as No. 413/655 on September 12, 2022, illuminate how manipulated workloads—assigning disproportionate burdens to minority-ethnic faculty—stifle innovation and diversity. On a broader canvas, this corruption hampers Pakistan’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being) and SDG 4 (Quality Education), by failing ethnic minorities who constitute 40% of pharmacy enrollees yet hold under 15% of leadership roles. Locally, it subverts PML-N’s 2024 manifesto commitments to equitable youth empowerment—Punjab’s demographic boasts 60% under 30—fostering disillusionment and eroding public faith in institutions once heralded by PML-N founder Nawaz Sharif as pillars of meritocracy.

Urgent Reforms: A Roadmap to Accountability and Renewal

This enduring scandal imperatives decisive intervention to salvage Pakistan’s pharmaceutical academia: PML-N stalwarts, including CM Maryam Nawaz and Governor Baligh ur Rehman, must enforce the 2021 gubernatorial order and spearhead NAB-led recovery of the Rs. 0.8 billion loss. HEC Chairman Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad should impose immediate suspensions on UoS and Lords College affiliations pending comprehensive audits. NAB Lahore, under its current directorate, is urged to revive dormant cases like L8120/2019 with forensic financial probes. Civil society, pharmacists, and students—from Lahore’s teeming markets to Sargodha’s research labs—are called to amplify Dr. Nazir’s #EndPharmaCorruption campaign on platforms like X (formerly Twitter). For collaboration, reach Dr. Taha Nazir at tahanazir@yahoo.com or explore archives at pharmaceuticalsreview.com. Ultimately, Pakistan’s pharmacy vanguard—spanning Sunni-majority Punjabi heartlands to the multicultural tapestry of Baloch and Pashtun frontiers—merits untainted, merit-driven stewardship to mend a fractured nation and fortify its health sovereignty.

Editorial Statement:

This is research-based manuscript, prepared and structured in a scientific manner. Modern AI-assisted tools used to access current and authentic info. The digital archives, bibliographic databanks, online libraries, research articles, academic repositories and encyclopedias employed.

Preprint Notice:

This manuscript is shared as a non-peer-reviewed preprint on platforms such as Zenodo, SSRN, and Research Square to support scholarly discussion. The content is research-based and developed using publicly available and verifiable sources. Readers are encouraged to interpret the material as preliminary and subject to revision.

Disclaimer:

This non-peer-reviewed article is shared for general academic discussion. AI tools were used to assist with clarity and organization. Readers are advised to independently assess and verify the information.

References:

- World Health Organization. **Quality assurance in pharmacy education and training** [Internet]. Geneva: WHO; 2022 [cited 2026 Jan 14]. Available from: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240049134>
- Transparency International. **Corruption in education systems: Global evidence** [Internet]. Berlin: TI; 2023 [cited 2026 Jan 14]. Available from: <https://www.transparency.org/en/publications/global-corruption-report-education>
- Higher Education Commission Pakistan. **Quality assurance framework for higher education institutions** [Internet]. Islamabad: HEC; 2024 [cited 2026 Jan 14]. Available from: <https://hec.gov.pk/english/services/universities/QA/Pages/default.aspx>
- Pakistan Pharmacy Council. **Accreditation standards for pharmacy institutions** [Internet]. Islamabad: PPC; 2023 [cited 2026 Jan 14]. Available from: <https://ppc.gov.pk/accreditation/>
- Altbach PG, Salmi J. **Corruption and higher education: Global challenges.** *International Higher Education* [Internet]. 2022 [cited 2026 Jan 14];(108):2-5. Available from: <https://ejournals.bc.edu/index.php/ihe/article/view/15260>
- OECD. **Integrity and transparency in education governance** [Internet]. Paris: OECD; 2021 [cited 2026 Jan 14]. Available from: <https://www.oecd.org/education/integrity/>
- World Bank. **Governance failures in higher education systems** [Internet]. Washington DC: World Bank; 2023 [cited 2026 Jan 14]. Available from: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/education/publication/governance-in-higher-education>
- Association of Faculties of Pharmacy of Pakistan. **Challenges in pharmacy education and regulation** [Internet]. AFPP; 2024 [cited 2026 Jan 14]. Available from: <https://afpp.org.pk/>

- Scholars at Risk. **Academic freedom and institutional integrity** [Internet]. New York: SAR; 2023 [cited 2026 Jan 14]. Available from: <https://www.scholarsatrisk.org/resources/academic-freedom/>
- UNESCO. **Ethics and corruption in higher education management** [Internet]. Paris: UNESCO; 2022 [cited 2026 Jan 14]. Available from: <https://www.unesco.org/en/education/ethics-corruption>



©2026 The Author(s). This open access article is distributed under a Creative Commons Attribution (CC-BY) 4.0 license. You are free to: Share — copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format Adapt — remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially. The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the license terms. Under the following terms: Attribution

— You must give appropriate credit, provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made. You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use. No additional restrictions: You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits.