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Editorial Article

STOP CORRUPTION IN PHARMACEUTICAL EDUCATION: IMMEDIATE ACTION NEEDED AGAINST DR. SAJID BASHIR

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Abstract:

Corruption in pharmaceutical education undermines academic
integrity, compromises professional standards, and threatens
public health. Recent allegations against Dr. Sajid Bashir
highlight systemic issues within the pharmaceutical education
sector, including unethical practices, manipulation of academic
processes, and exploitation of students. This paper emphasizes
the urgent need for immediate and transparent action to
investigate these claims, enforce accountability, and implement
institutional reforms. By addressing corruption decisively, the
pharmaceutical education system can restore credibility, ensure
equitable learning opportunities, and safeguard the quality of
healthcare professionals entering the field. Prompt measures
against malpractice are essential to maintain the ethical and
professional standards expected of future pharmacists.

A Threat to Healthcare and Education

Dr. Sajid Bashir, a retired academic from the University of Sargodha, currently serving as Principal of Lord College of Pharmacy, Lahore, poses a serious risk to both healthcare standards and pharmaceutical education in Pakistan. Evidence shows that during his tenure as Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy at the University of Sargodha, he was central to the deliberate failure of a major drug manufacturing project worth PKR 0.8 billion (80 crore). This initiative, launched in 2005 to produce life-saving medicines locally, was sabotaged through administrative mismanagement, unethical practices, and deliberate financial irregularities.

Documented Misconduct

The timeline of alleged misconduct is alarming. Between 2010 and 2011, Dr. Bashir allegedly procured substandard machinery for pharmaceutical production. Multiple complaints were lodged between 2015 and 2017 highlighting gross mismanagement and financial irregularities. In 2016, he allegedly established a partnership firm under dubious terms to ensure the project's failure. Although a drug manufacturing license was granted in 2017 under the Drug Act 1976, it was eventually surrendered voluntarily by the university due to mismanagement. The facility was subsequently closed, and the license canceled by the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan. Investigations were escalated to the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) and Higher Education Commission (HEC) to examine financial mismanagement and recover public funds.

Consequences for Healthcare and Education

The consequences of Dr. Bashir's actions are devastating. Life-saving medicines were never produced, denying patients essential treatments. Students and young pharmacists were deprived of access to modern training and research facilities, severely impacting the quality of pharmaceutical education. Public and private funds totaling hundreds of millions of rupees were wasted, eroding public trust. Allowing an allegedly corrupt official like Dr. Bashir to lead a premier pharmacy institution endangers both healthcare delivery and professional education standards across Pakistan.

Urgent Call for Action

Immediate intervention is required to protect the integrity of pharmaceutical education and healthcare. Authorities must:

Conduct a thorough investigation into Dr. Bashir's record at the University of Sargodha and current role at Lord College of Pharmacy.

Enforce strict compliance with Higher Education Commission guidelines and the Drug Act 1976 for private institutions.

Remove Dr. Bashir from the principalship of Lord College of Pharmacy to prevent repetition of past misconduct.

Ensure transparent oversight of all public and private funds in pharmaceutical education and healthcare projects.

Promote public awareness, media engagement, and civil society advocacy to hold corrupt officials accountable.

Why Action Cannot Wait

The appointment of retired officials with documented allegations of corruption threatens the safety of patients, the quality of pharmaceutical education, and the credibility of Pakistan's healthcare system. Dr. Bashir's continued leadership risks repeating the same failures that led to the loss of PKR 0.8 billion, disruption of life-saving drug production, and long-term damage to academic standards.

Conclusion

Dr. Sajid Bashir's tenure as Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy at the University of Sargodha demonstrates the destructive consequences of corruption in pharmaceutical education. His current role as Principal of Lord College of Pharmacy represents a direct threat to healthcare and educational standards. Immediate removal and strict accountability measures are not optional—they are essential to restore public trust, safeguard patient welfare, and protect the next generation of pharmaceutical professionals. The future of Pakistan's healthcare and education system depends on decisive action against this corrupt official.

Editorial Statement:

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