

Study on the pharmacies situation and management in neighboring countries

M. Berekati Goodarzi¹, G. Radmand², F. H. Shirazi^{3,*}, A. Ardami¹

¹*School of Pharmacy, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran*

²*National Research Institute of Tuberculosis and Lung Disease, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran*

³*Pharmaceutical Sciences Research Center, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran*

Background and Aims: Understanding others experiences in pharmacy system is very much needed and beneficial for the improvement of pharmacy system in different countries. That is why a comparative English questioner based study has been assigned to survey the pharmacy situation in neighboring countries of Iran. Each country has its own regulation and there is no clear measurement of their adaptation that is why this study may result in understanding various systems and their possible customization for our country.

Methods: A questioner covering various issues such as ownership, opening requirement, personnel condition and capabilities, medication supply system, pharmacy related and pharmacy doctor related activities in pharmacies have been assigned, evaluated and corrected by International Federation of Pharmacists, and distributed to the pharmacy societies of all under study countries. Results were analyzed by SPSS software.

Results: Almost in all countries the process of pharmacy establishment is limited to the pharmacists, and the license is issued by the governments in many countries. There are various regulations for the control of pharmacies distribution in the area in these countries. Regulations exist in regard to the minimum requirements for opening a pharmacy. There are opening hour related restrictions in about half of under studied countries. Pharmacists' salary is also a private issue in half of countries with mutual agreement between him/her and the owner of the pharmacy. OTC medications are obtainable in ordinary shops as well in some countries. Pharmacist's activity obligation also covers drug interactions, dose calculations, medication ordering, OTC consultation and guidance with patients, pharmacy management and perhaps patient.

Conclusions: Comparison of these regulations and duties in regional countries among similar economic and cultural countries might provide a good hint for the improvement of domestic system, which will be discussed in the congress.

Keywords: Pharmacy; System; Iran; Neighboring countries