

Guiding Principles for Pharmacists in the Fight against HIV/AIDS in India

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Problem Statement: HIV/AIDS is a major threat to public health and it is therefore of great importance to also involve pharmacists in the fight against HIV/AIDS. The International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) realises the importance of collaborating with the WHO on this issue and is proud of the joint declaration: The Role of the Pharmacist in the Fight against the HIV-AIDS Pandemic. The joint declaration has formed the basis for the development of these guiding principles as a result of an initiative from the Community Pharmacy Section of FIP.

Objectives: To prepare and implement a set of guiding principles on how pharmacists in India can be involved in the fight against HIV/AIDS. The guiding principles should be developed in such a manner that they could be useful for other countries as well.

Design: In order to achieve the objectives a series of approaches has been developed: Provision of continuing education to practising community and hospital pharmacists; specific training modules for trainers, students and in-service pharmacists; upgrading of the curriculum at the diploma/degree level; and an implementation plan.

Setting: India has 500,000 pharmacists/chemists/druggists working in retail outlets, hospitals and government dispensaries.

Intervention: The guiding principles were developed with the help of the national working group. The Community Pharmacy Section of FIP provided the financial support. The training of pharmacists is taking place in small groups on weekends at convenient times. The training (costs USD 20 per pharmacist) is provided at no cost. The cost of training is subsidized by the Indian Pharmaceutical Association (IPA) and its branches and offshoot organizations. Pharmacists are given training in Prevention and Information; Counselling; Perils of Injectable Drug Use; Blood and Blood Products; Diagnostic tests; Safe use of anti-retrovirals (ARVs); their Doses; Quality Control; Storage; and Therapy cost.

Results: The guiding principles developed and distributed by IPA through their 65 state and local branches are being used in India. They have been presented to FIP and WHO and it is the intention to use them in other countries. Through a structured approach in Delhi 25 trainers, and 300 pharmacy students and in-service pharmacists have so far been trained. A similar approach is underway for training pharmacists in Mumbai.

Conclusions: The intervention has clearly highlighted the role of the pharmacist in a national health programme. Pharmacists have been motivated to participate in similar national programmes. Opportunity has been used to sensitize leaders and seek collaboration with medical professionals and their institutions, NGOs, and the National AIDS Control Organisation in India.

Study Funding: Community Pharmacy Section of FIP; Indian Pharmaceutical Association (IPA)

Setting

HIV/AIDS is a major threat to public health and it is therefore of great importance to also involve pharmacist in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

1997: A joint declaration between the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) was signed titled: *The Role of the Pharmacist in the Fight Against HIV/AIDS Pandemic*



**THE ROLE OF THE
PHARMACIST IN
THE
FIGHT AGAINST
THE HIV-AIDS
PANDEMIC**



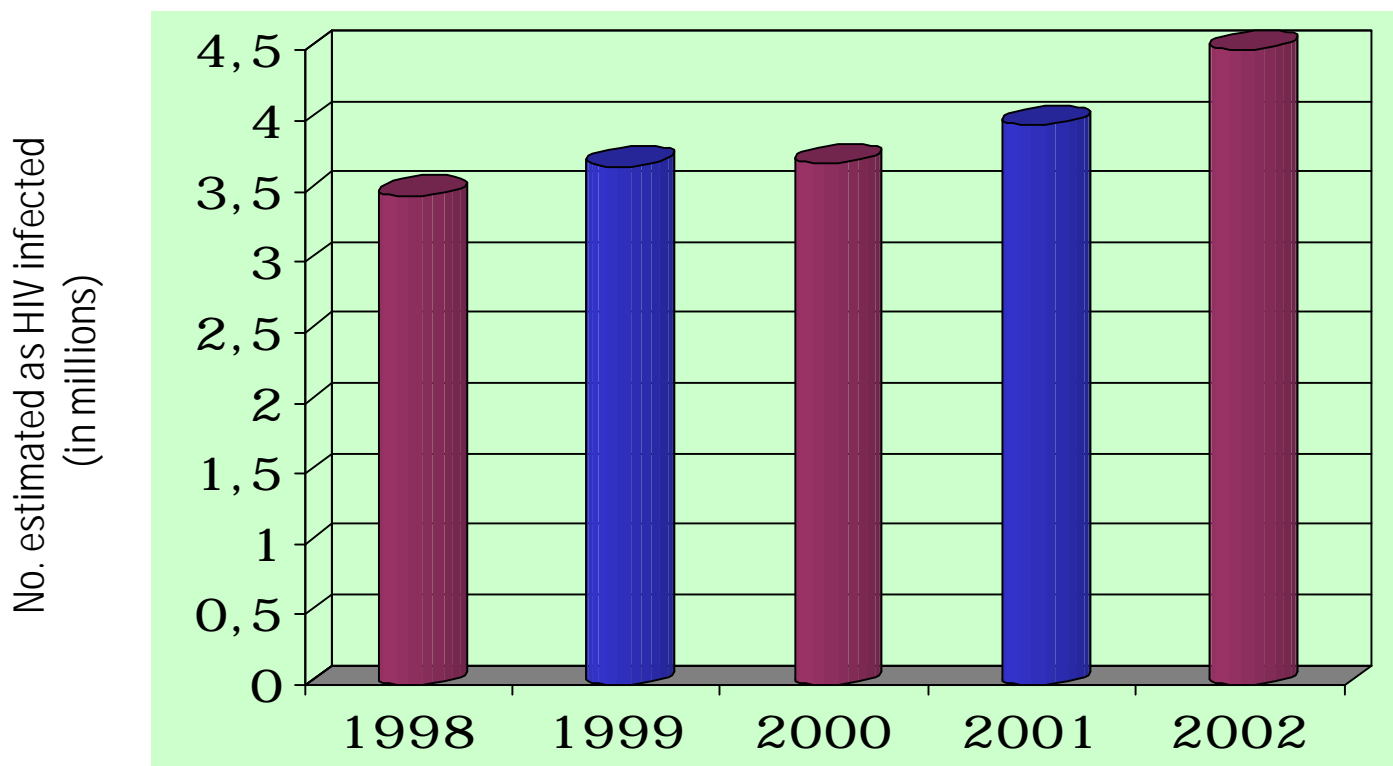
*A joint declaration between the World Health Organization (WHO)
and the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP)*

Whereas

- There are today 1.6 million reported AIDS cases, but the unofficial estimate stands at over 8 million; this means that the pandemic is the most life-

FIP and WHO believe that pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists, working with all interested parties, can help in the fight against the HIV/AIDS pandemic and against any other factor which contributes to its spread – in particular injectable drug abuse.

HIV estimates in India



Surveillance for AIDS Cases in India

RISK/TRANSMISSION CATEGORIES		
	No. of cases	Percentage
Sexual	58251	86.41
Perinatal transmission	1888	2.80
Blood and blood products	1601	2.37
Injectable Drug Users	1381	2.0
History not available	4295	6.37
Total:	67416	100.00

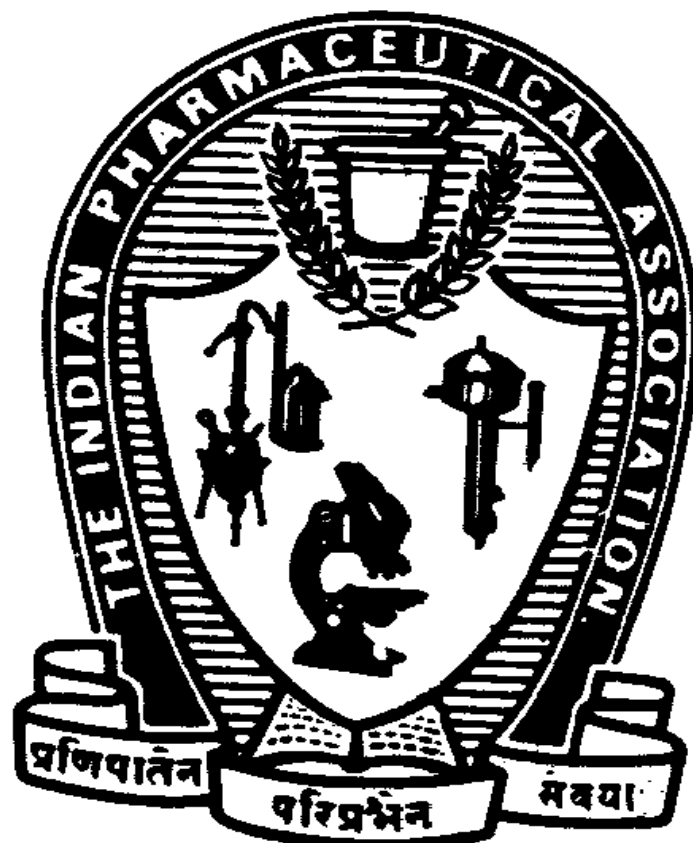
Ref. as reported to NACO India as on 29th February 2004

Age group	Male	Female	Total
0 - 14 yrs	1562	990	2552
15 - 29 yrs.	14823	8243	23066
30 - 44 yrs.	29293	7864	37157
> 45 yrs.	3718	923	4641
Total :	49396	18020	67416

AIDS CASES IN INDIA	Cumulative	Feb. '04
MALES	49396	3314
FEMALES	18020	1317
Total	67416	4631

Indian Pharmaceutical Association (IPA)

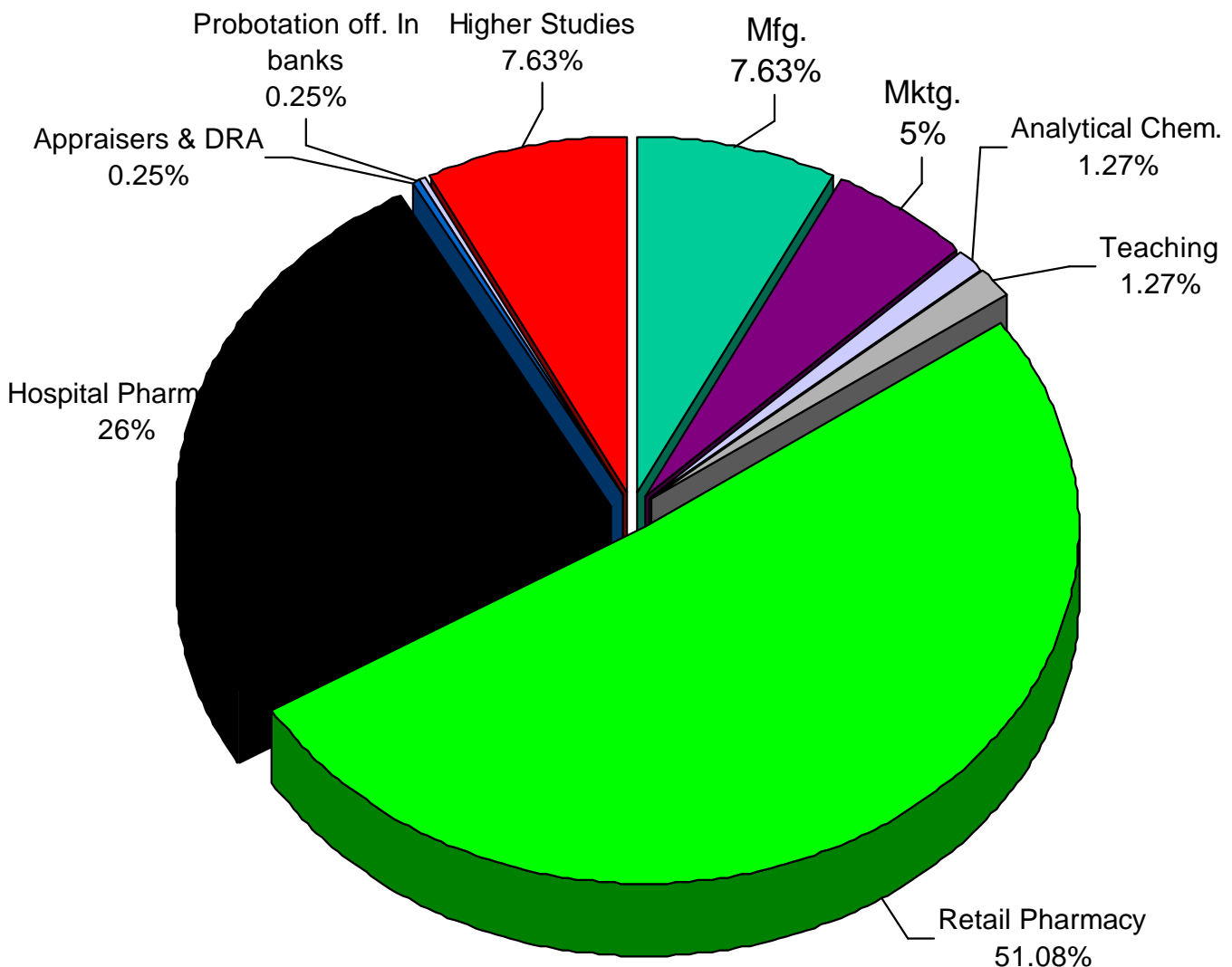
- IPA has 65 local and state branches
- 10,000 Members: Pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists
- Active member of FIP, SEARPharm Forum, Commonwealth Pharmaceutical Association (CPA), International Pharmaceutical Students Federation (IPSF) and the Federation of Asian Pharmaceutical Associations (FAPA)



Pharmacist Deployment in India

Total registered pharmacists ca. 500,000
Community : Population ca. 2.85:1000
Hospital/CGHS : Population ca. 1.45:1000

Diploma/intake 356/21100
Degree/intake 201/10980
PG/intake 30/680



Background

Focal theme of 62nd National Pharmacy Week 2000:
"Pharmacists Sharing responsibilities in Fighting AIDS"

- Pharmacists Experienced enthusiasm
- Created visibility at a national level
- Raised self esteem and confidence
- Isolation to team work
- Ready for a larger role in creating information and prevention of HIV/AIDS at a national level



Development of Guiding Principles

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

FOR PHARMACISTS

The joint declaration formed the basis for the development of Guiding Principles.

First phase (2000-2002)

- President, IPA nominated as observer developing countries by Community Pharmacy Section FIP (FIP-CPS)
- National Working Group prepared the document: “Guiding Principles for pharmacists - HIV/AIDS in India”
- The Guiding Principles were prepared in such a manner that they could be useful for other countries as well
- FIP-CPS Provided financial support

Second phase (2002-2004)

- Implementation of the Guiding Principles in India

Implementation

In order to achieve the objectives a series of approaches have been developed:

- Provision of Continuing Education to In-service Community and Hospital pharmacists
- Specific training modules for trainers, students and in-service pharmacists
- Upgrading the curriculum at the diploma and degree level

Implementation plan

- Guiding Principles (GPs) distributed by IPA through it's 65 branches
- GPs presented to FIP and WHO
- GPs distributed to member associations in developing countries through FIP Community Pharmacy Section
- Training programmes
- Training in small groups on Sundays
- Training (cost USD 20 per pharmacist) is provided at no cost
- Cost of training subsidized by IPA, it's branches and offshoot organizations

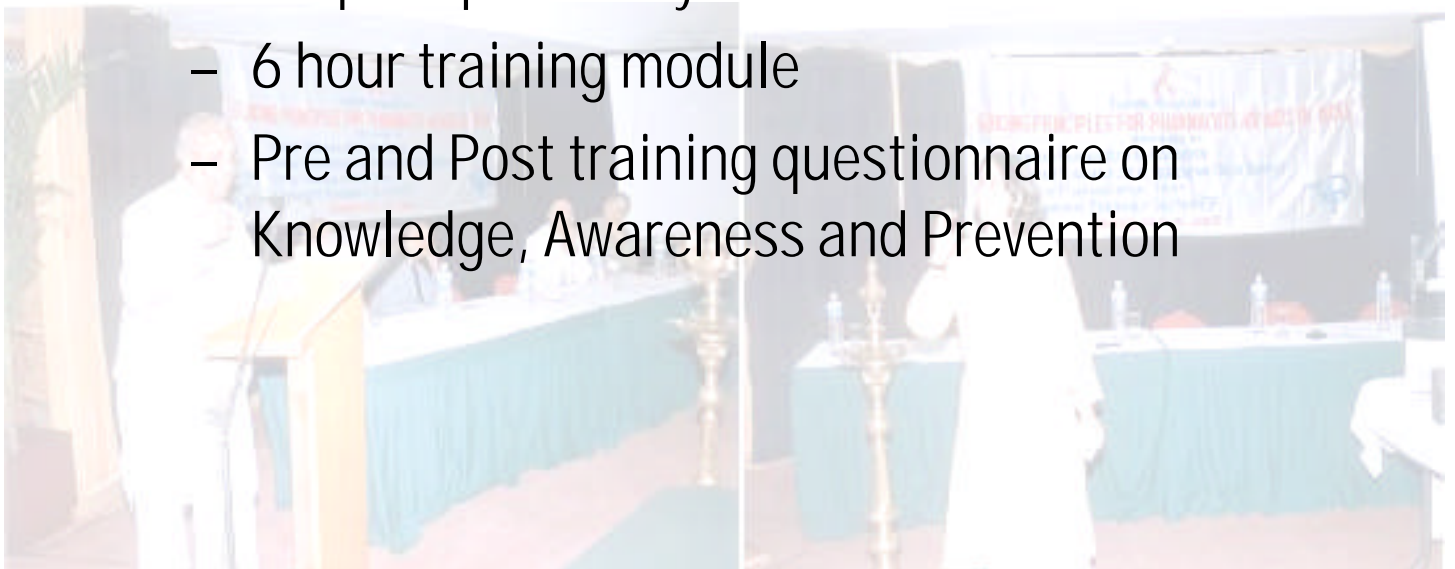
Training (1)

Training Topics

- Prevention and information and counselling
- Perils of injectable drug users
- Safe use of blood and blood projects
- Diagnostic tests
- Safe use of ARVs, and,
- Doses, quality control, storage and therapy cost

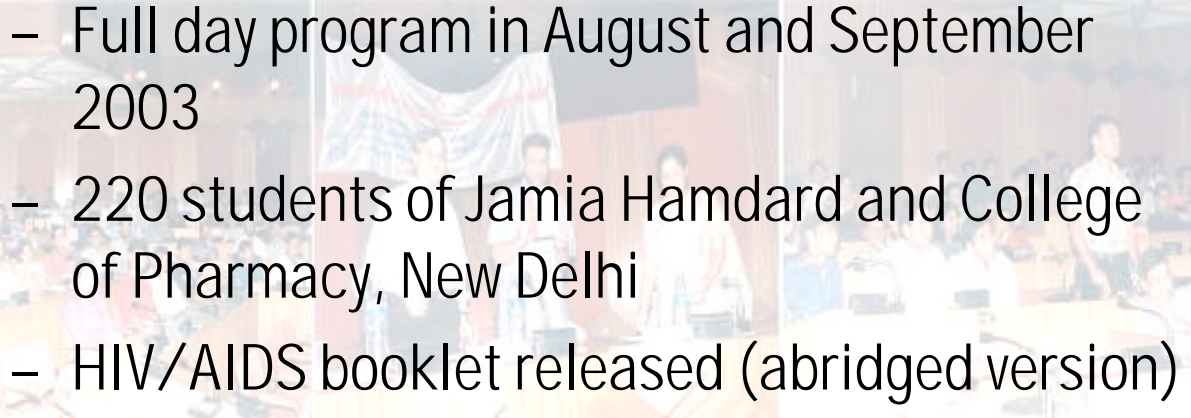
Training the Trainers in July 2003

- National Working group conducted training
- 30 volunteer trainers from industry, regulatory, academics, community and hospital pharmacy
- 6 hour training module
- Pre and Post training questionnaire on Knowledge, Awareness and Prevention

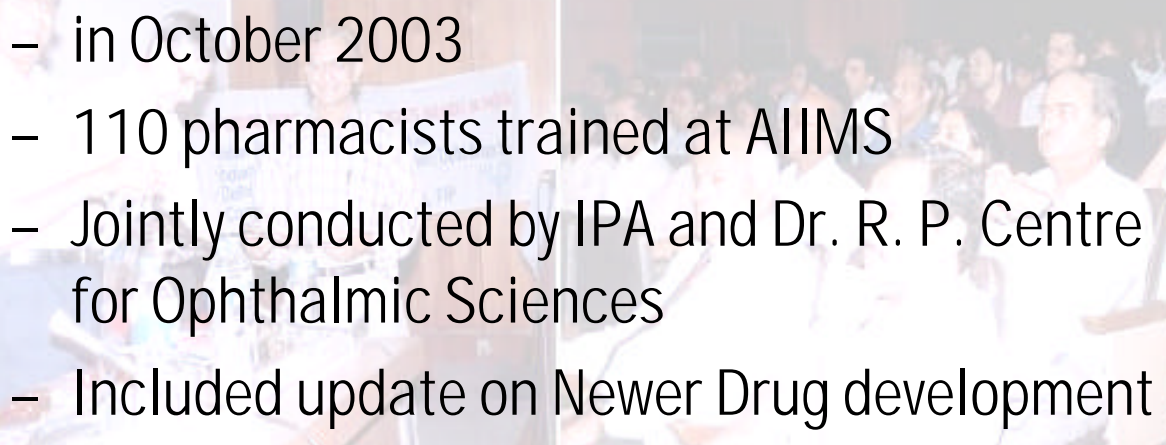


Training (2)

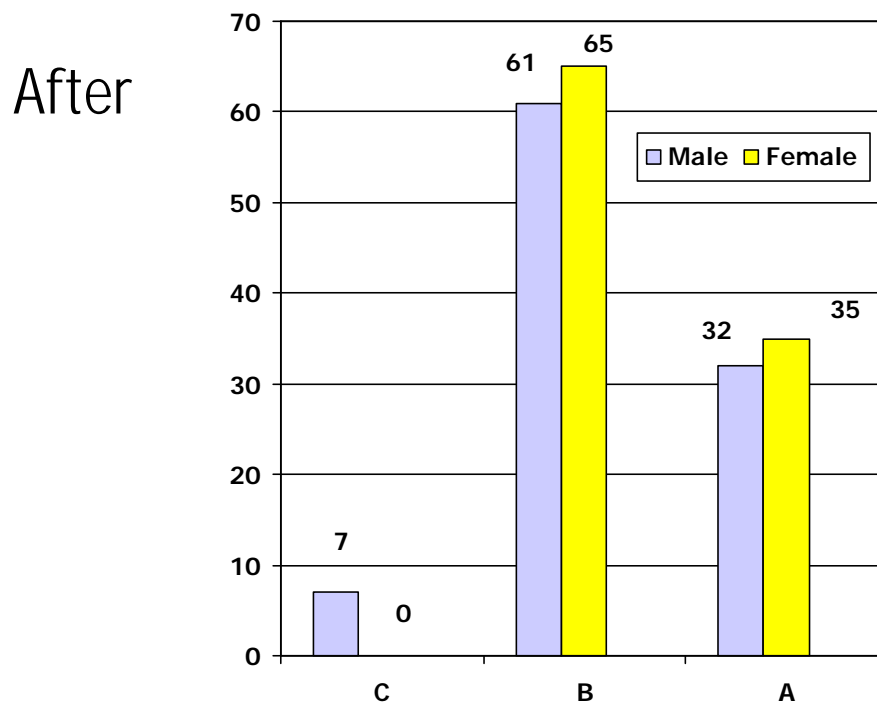
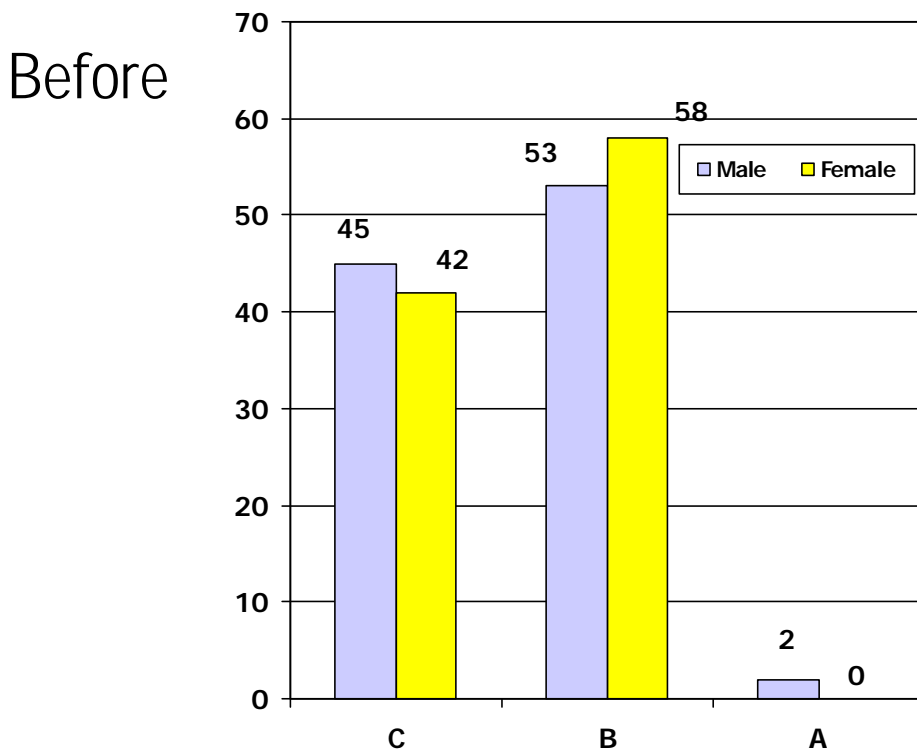
Training of Pharmacy students

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- Full day program in August and September 2003
 - 220 students of Jamia Hamdard and College of Pharmacy, New Delhi
 - HIV/AIDS booklet released (abridged version)
 - Training material : Guiding principles
 - Pre and Post Training questionnaire

Training of Hospital & Community Pharmacists

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- in October 2003
 - 110 pharmacists trained at AIIMS
 - Jointly conducted by IPA and Dr. R. P. Centre for Ophthalmic Sciences
 - Included update on Newer Drug development for AIDS
 - Pre and Post Training questionnaire

Knowledge Assessment



Group "A" – scored > 75%

Group "B" – scored 50-75%

Group "C" – scored < 50%

Conclusions

- Pharmacists are important as Human Resource for Health in National Health Programme
- Pharmacists motivated to take part in similar National Health Programmes
- Leaders sensitized on the role of pharmacist
- Collaboration with medical professionals and their institutions, NGOs and NACO in India
- Pharmacist involvement can strengthen the outcome of WHO's 3 by 5 strategy

More information

FIP Community Pharmacy Section

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