

Pharmacy Act, 1948

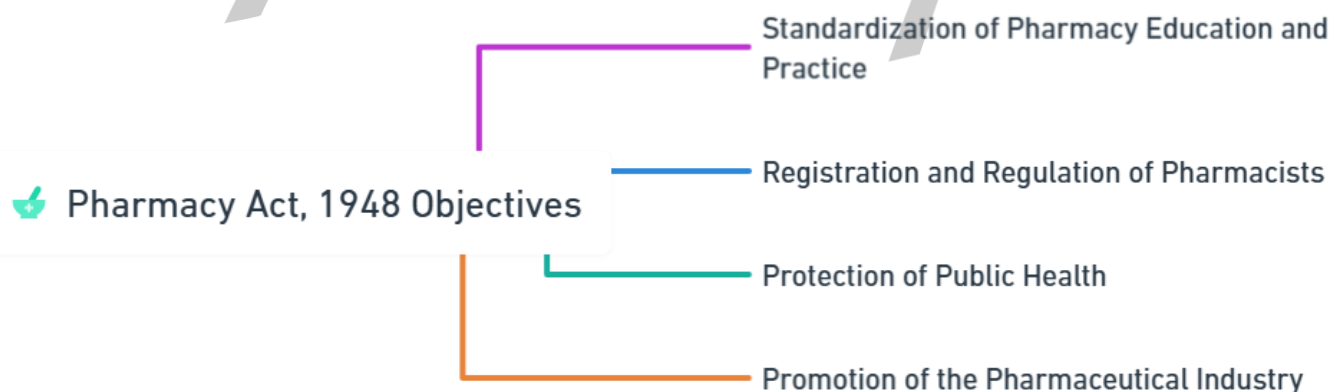
Pharmacy Act, 1948 – A Comprehensive Analysis

Introduction and Background

- The **Pharmacy Act, 1948** is a central legislation enacted by the **Parliament of India** to regulate the **profession of pharmacy** in the country.
- Prior to this Act, there were no uniform standards for the qualification and registration of pharmacists across India.
- The sale of drugs and medicines was largely unregulated, and unqualified individuals often dispensed drugs without proper knowledge or training, posing significant health risks to the public.
- This Act aims to establish professional, legal, and educational standards for pharmacists, ensuring that only qualified individuals are allowed to practice pharmacy, thereby safeguarding public health and safety.

Objectives of the Pharmacy Act, 1948

- The primary objectives of the Act are both **regulatory and developmental**.
- They aim to uplift the profession of pharmacy and safeguard consumer interests in drug use and distribution.
- Key Objectives Include:



1. Standardization of Pharmacy Education and Practice:

- Ensure uniform standards in pharmacy education and training across the country.
- Promote professionalism and ethical practices among pharmacists.

2. Registration and Regulation of Pharmacists:

- Maintain a central register of qualified pharmacists.
- Facilitate the recognition and accreditation of pharmacy institutions.

3. Protection of Public Health:

- Ensure that only qualified individuals dispense medications, thereby safeguarding public health.
- Prevent the sale of counterfeit or substandard drugs.

4. Promotion of the Pharmaceutical Industry:

- Foster the growth of the pharmaceutical sector by ensuring a competent workforce.
- Encourage research and development in pharmacy sciences.

Legal Definitions under the Pharmacy Act, 1948

These definitions are provided in **Section 2** of the Act and are critical to understanding the scope and application of the law.

1. Pharmacist

- A "**pharmacist**" means a person who is **registered** under the Act.
- Only registered individuals can legally practice pharmacy or be involved in compounding, preparing, or dispensing medicines.

2. Approved Qualification

- A qualification recognized by the **Pharmacy Council of India (PCI)** for registration as a pharmacist.
- Includes Diploma in Pharmacy (D.Pharm), Bachelor in Pharmacy (B.Pharm), etc., obtained from approved institutions.

3. Central Council

- Refers to the Pharmacy Council of India, the apex body established under Section 3 of the Act.
- It is responsible for:
 - Framing **Education Regulations**
 - Approving pharmacy institutions and courses
 - Inspecting pharmacy colleges

4. State Council

- Refers to the **State Pharmacy Council** constituted under **Section 19**.
- Maintains a register of pharmacists and handles state-level implementation.

5. Medical Practitioner

- A person registered under any law related to medical practice.
- The Act distinguishes pharmacists from medical practitioners to clarify roles.

6. Register

- A **public record** maintained by the State Council that includes names, addresses, and qualifications of registered pharmacists.

7. Registered Pharmacist

- A person whose name appears on the **State Register**.
- Only such individuals can use the title "Pharmacist" and perform duties related to the dispensing of drugs.

8. Education Regulations

- These are **standards set by the PCI** under Section 10 of the Act.
- They prescribe:
 - Minimum qualifications for entry to pharmacy courses
 - Duration and nature of courses
 - Practical training requirements

Pharmacy Council of India (PCI)

Constitution [Section 3]

- The Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) is the apex statutory body under the Act and is constituted by the Central Government.
- It consists of:

1. Elected Members

- 6 members elected by University authorities (teaching pharmacy).
- 1 member elected by the Medical Council of India.

2. Nominated Members

- 6 members nominated by the **Central Government** from among pharmacists, medical practitioners, etc.

3. Ex-Officio Members

- Director General of Health Services (DGHS)
- Drug Controller of India
- Director, Central Drugs Laboratory
- President of Medical Council of India
- President of UGC
- Director of any central institute engaged in pharmacy education/research

4. President and Vice-President



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