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The rants of an undergraduate pharmacy student: A reflection

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this reflection is to help all the newly admitted students who have just started their undergraduate academic career in a pharmacy institute and are in utter depression and still figuring out the whereabouts of undergrad pharmacy or trying to get acquainted to the pharmacy educational atmosphere.

Keywords
Reflection, rant, undergraduate, pharmacy, student

LETTER TO EDITOR

January 20, 2014, is the day that has given me a new perspective on my life, and my first step towards my professional career. It's the day when I entered the pharmacy world of education and joined Ziauddin University. I feel a new rhythm of my life is going through me, making me more curious, the curiosity is obvious because I am now starting my professional degree in pharmacy.

It is a very noble health care professional career that I am about to experience. Later, I can imagine, it will really differentiate my upcoming life from the previous one, as it will build up a sense of duty towards the betterment of health care. This career would not only allow me to stand tall in the pharmaceutical industrial sector, but also into hospitals and clinics which will offer me the opportunity to come in direct contact with patients, physicians and other health care professionals.

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Although still early days, it has been a life changing experience for me so far. Previously, I was not as focused on my career and thus was not as productive as I should have been but now since I stepped into my professional education of pharmacy, the thirst for gaining more knowledge increased day by day. Initially, I noticed my obsession to become more productive, since I was not, and as I moved on with my career it was becoming harder to tackle the ever newly encountered issues of this novel undergrad life. Subsequently, I questioned myself how I was going to face the rigors of this curriculum? Unlike my previous education, pharmacy education has a greater difficulty level and it is quite tough to acquaint to the first atmosphere of professional university life.

At first I realized that I am not alone here, there are other students too whom are working hard and this feeling of having fellow compatriots in the same groove motivated me as I witnessed my colleagues working hard. Hence this feeling incited the will and fueled my think tank with determination to go all-out and tackle this rigorous curriculum. It seems that I have developed a hunger for knowledge. Now my objective is to as much knowledge I can get and utilize it in a positive way for the betterment of mankind.

In due course, now having experienced the mind boggling curriculum, I can recall there were certain events which funneled my thoughts and shaped my goals. When I was about to take my first internal exam I was baffled and nervous but at the sight of the result of my first professional exam I was happy to witness my progress.

I significantly improved my understanding level and developed ability to be more focused towards my objectives and I have gained knowledge in a more effective way of learning. However, I have not sufficiently improved my ability to do my work on time and this makes me feel I am not punctual and this should be improved upon. Most importantly I have learned that a good student is one who not only gains knowledge but also confidently answers all the queries and also takes part in extracurricular activities.

Furthermore, I have learned that creating a good will relation with others is beneficial and developing my social and communication skills is important. This knowledge which I am getting is essential for me as a learner and as a practitioner. My professional career has reoriented my life style and given me a new objective and a sense of responsibility which has enhanced my way of intellectual thinking. Because I didn't have research skills and that much knowledge it was difficult to think scientifically and generate a thesis, and I know that I will have to now work on my research skills and promote myself to a level where I can actually generate a thesis and work as a professional research worker.

As a next step I need be more punctual with my work and complete my given tasks on time. To take part in research work, I will need to enhance my knowledge and develop critical thinking.

Most important, before anything, we need to be a true human being to groom ourselves to work as successful professional in field of allied health care.

Author Contribution

The article is based upon Muhammad Nehal's reflective report which was supervised and edited in the form of a manuscript by Atta Abbas.

Author Information

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CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

The authors declare no conflict of interests exists.

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