

Pharma in Tamil Nadu: A Glance

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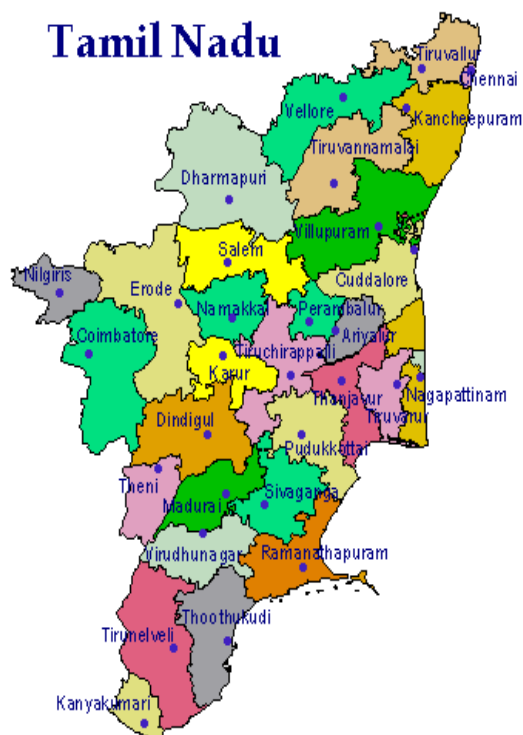
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ABSTRACT

Pharmacy is the health profession that links the health science with chemical science and it is charged with ensuring the safe and effective use of pharmaceutical drugs. Tamil Nadu is one of the well-developed States in terms of industrial development. Tamil Nadu is the fifth-largest pharmaceutical producing State in the country and accounts for 10% of the national production of pharmaceutical products in the country and nearly 487 pharma and biotech companies are housed in the State. It provides innovative, quality and affordable health care solution to masses. In this short review author provides some of the glimpses of the pharmacy profession in Tamil Nadu.

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Introduction



I. History

Tamil Nadu was ruled by three major dynasties-the Cholas in the east, the Pandyas in the central area and Cheras in the west. This was during the Sangam Age - the classical period of Tamil literature-that continued for some 300 years after the birth of Christ. The Pallava dynasty was influential particularly in the 7th and 8th centuries, testimonies to which are the monuments at Mamallapuram. In the 13th century, with threats of Muslim invasions from the north, the southern Hindu dynasties combined and the empire of Vijayanagar,

which covered all of South India, was firmly established. However, by the 17th century, due to the disintegration of the Vijayanagar Empire, various small rulers like the Nayaks ruled southern India. By the middle of the 18th century, there were frequent conflicts between the British, French, Danes, and Dutch due to their interest in these areas. The British were finally victorious, while small pockets like Pondicherry and Karaikal remained under French control. Under the British rule, most of south India was integrated into the region called the Madras Presidency. In 1956, the Madras Presidency was disbanded and Tamil Nadu was established.

Tamil Nadu after Independence

The state was later divided on the basis of linguistic lines. In 1953 the northern districts formed Andhra Pradesh. Under the States Reorganization Act, 1956, Madras State lost its western coastal districts. The Bellary and South Kanara districts were given to Mysore state, and Kerala was formed from the Malabar district, the former princely states of Travancore and Cochin. Finally, in 1968, when the Central Government imposed Hindi as the national language, the state of Madras was renamed Tamil Nadu, to reduce the resistance against this decision of the government. Today, Tamil Nadu is one of the most prominent states of India, famous for its tourist attractions and drawing innumerable visitor's to the state. Tamil Nadu is bounded on north by Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, on the west by Kerala, on the east by the Bay of Bengal, and on the south by the Indian Ocean.¹

II. Drugs Control Administration Tamil Nadu

The Drugs Control Administration was initially formed in 1976 and functioned under the control of a Joint Director of Public Health. The Drugs Control Administration, Tamil Nadu is functioning as a separate Department with effect from 26/11/1981 with the Director of Drugs Control as Head of Department, now functionally under one umbrella organisation TNFS & DA Dept., under the administration control of "Commissioner of Food Safety & Drug Administration Department."

- The administration has been revamped and streamlined to function effectively. There are 14 Zonal Offices (5 in the City and 9 in the Moffasil) each headed by an Assistant Director of Drugs Control who is the Licensing Authority for the Grant / Renewal of Sale Licences in the zone. There are three posts of Deputy Director of Drugs Control and one post of Joint Director of Drugs Control. There are 15 Senior Drugs Inspectors and 146 Drugs Inspectors in the State. 3 Senior Drug Inspectors & 6 Drug Inspectors are in the Office of the Director of Drugs Control, Chennai - 6.²

- Drugs Control Department, being statutory body, the organization performs a very important role in supporting healthcare service regulations and enhancing safety of our community. As a statutory body for Drugs Control, the department distinguish the massive challenges posed by spurious /adulterated /not of standard quality drugs, selling drugs at excess pricing, misleading advertisements by some manufacturers and dealers. It is right here in Drugs Control Department, where we are equipped to meet the challenges. We monitor the quality, safety, efficiency and rational use of drugs at controlled prices, collection and supply of safe blood and blood components, scrutinizing the misleading advertisements to safeguard the interests of the unwary people. We draw samples of Drugs & Cosmetics for the purpose of test or analysis to ascertain its quality, purity and safety. We have a well-equipped statutory laboratory, to undertake the analysis. We have a dedicated work force that is known for their skill, knowledge, and professional integrity. The quality of drugs is beyond the understanding of common man. It's the responsibility of the Department to ensure the availability of quality drugs to the public and the market is free from counterfeit, spurious and substandard drugs and drugs are sold at a price not higher than the retail price marked on the container.^{2,3}

- The Intelligence Wing with a Mobile Van is under the charge of a Deputy Director of Drugs Control. There is a Legal Adviser to handle legal issues and 3 Drugs Inspectors & part of the Intelligence Wing. The Drugs Control Administration has the prime objective of ensuring the availability of quality drugs and cosmetics without any short supply to the consumers by enforcing the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules 1945, Drugs Prices Control Order 2013 and Drugs & Magic Remedies Act 1954.^{3,4}

- Qualifications
- The Qualification of Drugs Inspectors are as per Rule 49 of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules 1945.
- Duties and Responsibilities
- Rule 51 and 52 of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules 1945 prescribes the duties for Drugs Inspector in respect of Sale and Manufacturing respectively.

- The **Mobile Squad at Madurai** headed by the Assistant Director of Drugs Control is functioning to take action on the complaints relating to spurious drugs.

III. Tamil Nadu is enforcing the following Legislative measures for Regulating the manufacture and sale of drugs and Cosmetics.

1. The Drugs & Cosmetics Act 1940 and Rules 1945

The Act regulates the import manufacture, sale and distribution of drugs and cosmetics. Under this Act the quality of drugs and cosmetics is being monitored and appropriate actions against the offenders are being taken.

2. The Drugs Price Control Order 2013

Under this Order it is ensured that drugs are sold at the prescribed prices and the offenders are being monitored shortages and non-availability of drugs are brought to the notice of the manufactures concerned to effect immediate supplies of the drugs to avoid shortage.

3. Drugs And Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act 1954

Under this Act the interests of public are protected by initiating action against those indulging in publishing false and misleading advertisements of drugs besides prohibiting such advertisements.

4. Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act 1985

Action is taken against persons dealing in Narcotic drugs and Psychotropic substances in contravention of this Act. This act is being implemented strictly to prevent the misuse of drugs causing health hazards and also to prevent youth from becoming addicts.^{2,3}

- Nodal Officers for giving complaints
- Deputy Director of Drugs Control (Intelligence Wing)

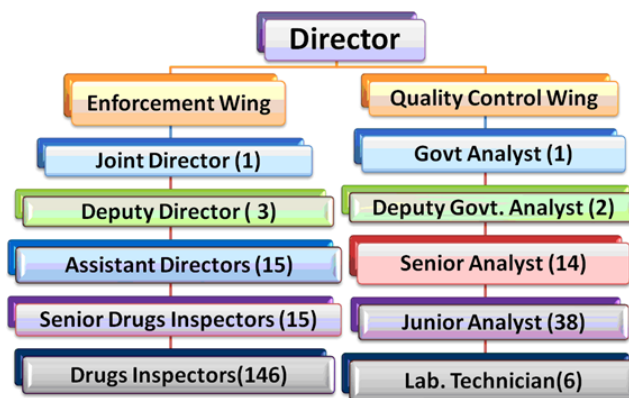
IV. Drugs Testing Laboratory

- The Drugs Testing Laboratory at Chennai - 6 was brought under the control of Drugs Control Administration with effect from 01/04/1982. The function of the lab is to test statutory samples of drugs drawn by the Drugs Inspectors under Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

Quality Control Wing

- Government Analyst
- Deputy Government Analyst
- Senior Analyst
- Junior Analyst
- Lab Technicians

Organisation Chart



Organisation of Drugs Control Administration

- Commissioner
- Director
- Deputy Director
- Zone-I Zone-II Zone-III Zone-IV
- Each Zone is headed by Assistant Director, Senior Drugs Inspector and Drugs Inspectors
- Kancheepuram Zone Tiruvallur Zone Vellore Zone Salem Zone Coimbatore Zone Madurai Zone Thanjavur Zone Trichy Zone Tirunelveli Zone Virudhunagar Zone Mobile Squad, Madurai Zone Intelligence Wing.^{2,3}

V. Pharmaceutical Industry at Tamil Nadu

- Tamil Nadu is one of the well-developed States in terms of industrial development. In the post liberalization era, the State has emerged as one of the front-runners in attracting large number of domestic and foreign investors. In 2006-2007, the manufacturing sector at constant prices contributed 20.23% to

Tamil Nadu's Gross State Domestic Product, while services sector contributed 59.1% of Tamil Nadu's Gross State Domestic Product. Government with a view to stimulate further industrial development, attract investment, facilitate new manufacturing capacity and enable global manufacturing competence and competitiveness of local industry, has announced the 'New Industrial Policy 2007' on 5 th November 2007.

- Tamil Nadu is the fifth-largest pharmaceutical producing State in the country and accounts for 10% of the national production of pharmaceutical products in the country
- The State houses units manufacturing diverse products including tablets, capsules, dry syrups, external preparations, cytotoxic drugs, vaccines, APIs, bio-pharma products, etc. The thrust areas of Tamil Nadu's biotechnology industry include healthcare, agriculture biotechnology, industrial enzymes bioinformatics, contract-research, marine and environmental biotechnology
- The State has received investment worth USD 453 million till 2013, and projects worth USD 228.31 million are at various stages of implementation
- Major players in the pharmaceutical industry in Tamil Nadu are Shasun, Arvind Remedies, Pfizer, Spic, Wochardt, TTK health care, Orchid Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals, Bafna and Innvol
- The SEZ is spread over an area of 365 hectares Denkanikotta and Hosur Taluk, Krishnagiri District, Tamil Nadu. • The proposed SEZ will have US-Food and Drugs Administration (US-FDA) compliant Bio-Pharmaceuticals facility, Clinical Research Organization (CRO), Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) certified Hospital, Poison Control Centre, Centre for Regenerative Medicine, Associated research infrastructure be it a pathology lab or state of the art Medical Imaging and Tele-Medicine Research, logistics Hub etc.^{4,5}
- There are 487 Allopathic Manufacturers and 147 Loan Licensee
- There are about 46000 retail and Wholesale outlet are in Tamil Nadu.

Blood Bank

- Total Numbers Licensed Government blood banks 85
- Licensed private blood banks 176
- Blood Banks under Central/ Government 11
- Government component centres 9
- Private component centres 67
- Designated private blood banks permitted to conduct donation camps 77
- Government blood storage centres 173
- Private blood storage centres 56
- Mobile Blood Banks 3⁷

VI. Tamil Nadu State pharmacy Council

- The Pharmacy Act 1948 was implemented in the State of Tamil Nadu from 15 April 1950 vide G.O Ms No 1247 Health

dated 5th April 1950 (published in government Gazette date 11.04.1950). The Registration Tribunal for preparing the First Register of Pharmacists was constituted from 11.04.1950 vide G.O Ms No 1236 Health dated 5 April 1950 under section 30 of the pharmacy Act

- Tamil Nadu State pharmacy Council is a statutory body constituted by the Government of Tamil Nadu under the provisions of the Pharmacy Act of 1948. The Council consists of 6 members elected by Registered Pharmacists amongst themselves, five members nominated by Government of Tamil Nadu, one member elected by Tamil Nadu Medical Council and three Ex-Officio Members.
- In addition to the main function of registration, the Council has expanded its activities into the following areas: Recognizing the growing need of up-to-date drug information by the public and healthcare professionals, the Council has started Drug Information Center in collaboration with the Director of Drugs Control Department⁷
- There are about 33 pharmacy Colleges in Tamil Nadu

Conclusion

The pharmacy education in Tamil Nadu has witnessed tremendous expansion in last one decade. We have Four thousand of pharmacists in the state. The entire details of the pharmacy related activities in Tamil Nadu are brought under one roof. From the pharmacy education, drugs control administration, pharmaceutical Industry and trade business establishment to all around development of pharmacy in Tamil Nadu from the inception of it.

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