

# Community Pharmacy and Public Health Initiatives

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## DESCRIPTION

Community pharmacy treatment has been impacted by the growth of South-East Asian healthcare and health systems. Community pharmacies in the area have worked hard over time to broaden their services beyond dispensing to include increasing involvement in public health issues. 21 studies from five different countries that met the inclusion criteria were found using searches in Scopus, EMBASE, MEDLINE, and PubMed for publications published between January 2000 and December 2014. The results demonstrated growing interest in studies concerning pharmacy service delivery and public health initiatives. Overall, the evaluation discovered that the provision of various health services in pharmacies was widespread; nevertheless, the majority of public health initiatives looked to be shoddy in execution, had few supporting data, and had not been proven to be industry-wide sustainable. This shows that the abundance and quality of pharmacy services offered in the area have not changed considerably over the previous 14 years, and that in order to change this situation for the better, fundamental policy reforms are required [1,2].

The main discovery of this study was that a diversity of pharmacy public health services have been explored in the area and may be categorized into seven areas as shown in the findings. Positively, it appears that South-East Asian pharmacy practise is developing in ways that are consistent with the global setting and that are similar to those of industrialised nations. However, the research also showed up few information about the present efficacy, effectiveness, generalizability, and sustainability of such programmes [3].

The majority of the studies that were examined were not intended to provide strong evidence, indicating that much of the research was still proof-of-concept rather than knowledge translation. Interventions to enhance practise typically had very modest effectiveness where RCTs were conducted. Instead of being actively guided by strong, evidence-based health policy, the agenda for public health practise in pharmacy has remained at the level of vision.

The study found that private pharmacies in Africa, Central and South America, and Asia (including Thailand, Vietnam, and Indonesia) played a significant role in the supply of pharmaceuticals and had the potential for making significant contribution to primary care and public health. However, both assessments also made clear how inadequate the quality of services provided in pharmacy [4].

## CONCLUSION

Through the development of the introduction of new services in both pharmacy and public health practise, initiatives have been undertaken over the past 14 years to broaden the scope of community pharmacy practise in South-East Asia. The rate of this increase, meanwhile, has been somewhat modest, and there isn't much solid data to back up pharmacist engagement in public health. Progress has been hampered by a number of significant internal and external challenges to the pharmacy environment, including a lack of awareness, a lack of confidence, a lack of public approval, and a lack of supporting policies. There is still a lot of room for community pharmacies to expand their reach into public health programmes, but doing so will need deliberate, well-thought-out action to remove the obstacles shown by this research. To realise the significant potential of community pharmacy as a viable resource for the delivery of public health services, these efforts should rely on a coordinated strategy to change in both public perceptions and the regulatory environment.

## REFERENCES

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