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Editorial

THE DUMMY LEADERSHIP OF THE PAKISTAN PHARMACISTS ASSOCIATION: A SHADOW SYNDICATE OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, BUREAUCRATS & MAFIAS

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Running title: Healthcare system and pharmaceutical patient care.

Keywords: Dummy Leadership, Pakistan Pharmacists Association, Shadow Syndicate, Government servants, Bureaucrats and Mafias.

Note: AI tools, data banks, information repository and modern apps used for this manuscript.

Introduction

The Pakistan Pharmacists Association ([PPA](#)) claims to represent over 75,000 pharmacists (ppapak.org.pk). But we proclaim this is dummy, government controlled, and compromised body of pharmacist community in Pakistan. A particular small group of sitting and retired government officials hijacked the pharmaceutical system in Pakistan on behalf of their influences, power and authority. They are potentially protecting corruption, serving mafias and working for sitting government instead of pharmacist community, healthcare workers and pharmacy professionals.

Headquartered in Johar Town, Lahore with planned provincial branches, PPA's current leadership (elected March 2023) serves until 2025 for Centre, Punjab and Baluchistan, while elections for Sindh and KPK branches are forthcoming. But beneath this democratic façade lies a network of DRAP employees, retired health ministry staff, pharmacy educators, industrialists, and drug mafias who have allegedly hijacked the organization, turning it into a vehicle of influence rather than advocacy.

1. DRAP & Bureaucratic Manipulation of PPA Elections

- **Regulatory interference by DRAP employees:** Employees of the [Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan \(DRAP\)](#) have been accused of illegally influencing pharmacist registration processes, leadership nominations, and regulatory decisions by collaborating with unqualified candidates for elections within the PPA.
- **Retired bureaucrats dominate leadership:** The current PPA executive team includes numerous individuals with ties to the Ministry of National Health Services and provincial health departments, rather than frontline pharmacy practice. Their involvement has resulted in deliberate **delays in elections**, particularly for Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa branches, as noted by PPA itself (source).
- **Undue control of policy flow:** DRAP officials have allegedly worked behind the scenes to support certain PPA factions, exerting control over professional recognition, conference approvals, and pharmacist licensing—thus skewing democratic participation in favor of politically connected individuals.

2. Unethical Pharmacy Academia

- **Faculty lobbying for control:** Pharmacy teaching staff at several public universities are known to participate in PPA elections to secure regulatory and political leverage, rather than focusing on student development or patient care standards.
- **Credential inflation and favoritism:** According to critics and independent pharmacists, some faculty have engaged in the fabrication or exaggeration of professional credentials, enabling the rise of unqualified candidates within PPA leadership positions—particularly during international conference nominations (example).

3. Industrial Blackmail & Drug Mafia Infiltration

- **Pharmaceutical funding of corruption:** As reported by the [Pakistan Young Pharmacists Association \(PYPA\)](#), several pharmaceutical companies have allegedly funded DRAP officials and PPA factions to protect interests related to drug pricing, licensing, and product recalls.
- **Collusion in fake drug cases:** In 2017, DAWN highlighted disputes in which DRAP and PPA officials were accused of sheltering counterfeit drug manufacturers and silencing internal whistleblowers, undermining the safety of medicines on the Pakistani market (source).
- **Blackmailing industrialists:** Several industrialists are believed to have been coerced into sponsoring conferences or elections in exchange for DRAP approval of licenses, pricing privileges, or regulatory exemptions—essentially converting the PPA into a platform for commercial lobbying.

4. Case Examples and Structural Capture

1. Sindh and KPK branch elections remain suspended or delayed due to central influence, violating PPA's own constitutional mandates ([PPA Source](#)).
2. In 2023, a PHSAMoU press release featured government bureaucrats, not practicing pharmacists, steering the conversation about national health reforms—highlighting bureaucratic overreach.
3. In 2015, pharmacists protested DRAP's silence on price manipulation and spurious drugs, calling for removal of officials involved in backdoor policymaking (example).

5. Why This Matters

Area	Observed Impact
Election Integrity	DRAP-backed actors influence outcomes, violating democratic norms
Pharmacy Standards	Academic-political collusion undermines credibility and quality
Public Drug Safety	DRAP's inaction allows fake drugs and pricing scandals to flourish
Mafia-Industrial Nexus	PPA becomes a conduit for mafia lobbying, not a watchdog

The infiltration of DRAP-linked bureaucrats into PPA disrupts the legitimate growth of Pakistan's pharmacy profession.

6. Recommendations for Reform

1. **Third-party oversight** of PPA elections by the Election Commission of Pakistan.
2. **Public disclosure of DRAP affiliations** among PPA executives.
3. **Ban on ex-DRAP officials** holding office in professional associations for 5 years post-retirement.
4. **Protection for whistleblowers** exposing regulatory or pharmaceutical corruption.
5. **Mandatory pharmacist-led governance** for PPA and related pharmacy councils.

Conclusion

The Pakistan Pharmacists Association today stands not as a guardian of pharmacy professionals, but as a platform captured by **ex-bureaucrats**, **DRAP-linked regulators**, **political academics**, and **drug profiteers**. This structure silences genuine pharmacists, enables corruption in medicine regulation, and weakens public health protections.

Without urgent reforms, the PPA may continue to serve the interests of drug lobbies and retired officials, not the people of Pakistan or the pharmacists it claims to represent.



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