

# My success story: a complex fusion of responsibilities & challenges

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Figure 1. Profile photograph of M. K. Iqbal (PhD., Jamia Hamdard)

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The Urban-Rural rift is one of the most significant barriers. I had no clue as to what would happen if I moved to Delhi (one of the progressive cities of modern India). I never thought how it would be to move to Delhi and I had no choice but to accept this as a challenge. It was a dilemma similar to that of thousands of kids growing in the remotest parts of India with minimalist infrastructure and diminutive educational support. Without knowing the outcomes, I had to move out with unsolicited turmoil. I was scared but motivated towards doing better and becoming an example of success.

I grew up in a rustic family with average schooling. I was the oldest of the siblings, so many uncalled responsibilities overburdened my young shoulders. It was an unasked call to do better and set an example for the coming generation. I wanted to uplift my family, so I decided to sit for the All-India Entrance Examination of Jamia Hamdard, and I luckily cracked it with an ace. I struggled with the dialectal hitches, yet I managed to train and groom myself in pharmaceutical science, and a new chapter of my life started. It wasn't easy to adjust

initially, but the campus, full of life, filled me with a lot of enthusiasm.

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I graduated with a Bachelor's in Pharmacy and then enrolled as a Postgraduate candidate Pharmaceuticals. Later I completed my Master's for almost a decade. I spent my time learning, testing and exploring my abilities. The professors taught me patience, vigilance and always aspired me to become better.

After completing the Master's, I decided to pursue my career in academics. I refuted to Meerut (a city in the western part of the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh. It is an ancient city with settlements dating back to the Indus Valley Civilisation) and joined a Pharmacy College as a teaching faculty. It was a whole new experience in a different city. My four years of teaching experience made me bold and more understanding. Teaching youth who were jam-packed with glitters of dreams and thunder if diligence compelled me to observe life from a different perspective. These four years allowed me to work on my academics beyond campus. I wrote and reviewed several research papers and published two books.

Finally, after four years of working as an academician, I once again joined Jamia Hamdard for my Doctorate, and it was a homecoming. I continued for Ph.D, and I get hands-on as a faculty member, but this time it was in Jamia Hamdard. My previous publications and experience helped me in establishing my credibility as an academician. Now, again a very different kind of a journey had started. This time I was a research scholar and also a faculty member at the same campus. It was as challenging as it was exciting. Here, I got an opportunity to research under the supervision of India's leading Academician of Pharmaceutical Science, Professor Sanjula Baboota and Professor Javed Ali. In the last couple of years during my research, I had articulated more than 25 articles, several book chapters and published a book- the involvement in the government of India program for creating e-courses for post graduate students was phenomenal. In this fight, I was not alone. My brother Ashif Iqbal (Ph.D. Jamia Hamdard), always supported and motivated my instincts.

Currently I'm working on numerous projects as ICMR-Senior Research fellow, which could be helpful in the management of diseases in under privileged countries like India. A boy who grew up in a rural society, came from a small village and was a faculty in one of the leading pharmacy schools, now a senior research fellow. It was indeed an achievement, but the journey continues. I am all ambitious and committed to doing better for the community, my family and at last, myself. The key take-home message is that hard work, faith, and a bit of patience can change the world around you. I am thankful for everything and have a clear vision to face new challenges in the future.



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