

[PMA asks Sindh govt to bind medical graduates to serve in their hometowns](#)

[Faiza Ilyas](#) November 17, 2018

KARACHI: Sharing concerns over severe maternal and child malnutrition in the country particularly in Sindh, the Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) suggested on Friday at a press conference that the government in its efforts to overcome doctors' shortage should bind medical graduates to serve in their hometowns for at least two to three years.

The presser was organised at the PMA House.

Speaking on malnutrition, PMA secretary general-central Dr Qaiser Sajjad said the situation was worrisome in the country and could deteriorate if the government did not take any special measures to ensure that food with sufficient nutrition was within the reach of disadvantaged sections of society.

“Persistent economic instability has been a source of constant increase in the prices of basic commodities in our country, making dignified existence difficult for the masses.

“The government must focus upon this and help the poor buy food at half the price through ration cards and improve nutritional quality of staple products, for instance, fortifying wheat flour with iron for reducing anaemia and improving iron status in population,” he recommended.

Highlighting Sindh's health challenges, he said it was unfortunate that the government had been in power for more than a decade, but failed to demonstrate its interest in public health.

‘Quality’ and food authority

“Poor governance is reflected by the intervention of the Supreme Court in every matter of public interest. That is one case in point. The health crisis the [area] has been facing for some years is not over yet, indicating flaws in government efforts,” he observed.

It (the government), he suggested, should revisit its strategy and see where gaps existed in critical areas, such as mother and children nutrition, antenatal care, health and family planning services and access to clean drinking water.

Dr Sajjad also shared the association's concerns over adulterated food and the Sindh Food Authority (SFA). The latter lacked necessary tools to address the mammoth challenge assigned to it, he remarked while being appreciative of the positive steps being taken by the Punjab Food Authority.

“Here, it sprang into action only after the tragic death of two children who reportedly ate contaminated food at a restaurant. A number of eateries have also been raided following the incident, but what would they do in the absence of proper training and laboratories to analyse food samples?” he asked.

One major neglected area in this sector pertained to the food being sold outside schools. “That’s directly affecting health of our children. But, no one seems to be bothered.”

Uniform standards

Raising issues confronting the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC), the PMA said persistent official negligence and vested interests of various groups in the council had greatly harmed medical education in the country.

“We were expecting a good change after the dissolution of the PMDC, but the present state of PMDC affairs is creating a lot of interest and disillusion in the medical fraternity across the country,” said Prof Mohammad Ashraf Nizami, president PMA-central, demanding dissolution of the PMDC ad-hoc committee and formation of a true representative council with elected members through an ordinance.

A PMA delegation, he pointed out, had also met President Dr Arif Alvi and Federal Health Minister Aamir Mehmood Kiyani on this subject and both had assured the association that soon required steps would be taken to bring a positive change.

He underscored the need for a dedicated strategy to address issues plaguing health and education sectors and said that “while it’s good to have devolution of powers under the 18th Amendment, standards (in health and education sectors) should be uniform across the country”.

To a question regarding manifold increase in the fee of private medical charges, it was explained that the association condemned it and had asked the government to go for a legal review.

On the working of Sindh healthcare commission, PMA office-bearers called for proper publicity of the commission so that people should know about its operation, its contact details and report quacks.

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PMA concerned over new fee structure

by PPI ,

KARACHI: Pakistan Medical Association (PMA), a representative body of doctors, has expressed concern over the new fee structure of private medical colleges and has urged Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) and the federal government to review fee structure of medical institutions.

These reservations were expressed by PMA Centre President Dr Muhammad Ashraf Nizami while addressing a press conference on Friday along with Secretary-General Dr SM Qaisar Sajjad, Treasurer Dr Qazi Muhammad Wasiq, PMA Karachi President Dr Khalil Mukaddam and PMA Karachi General Secretary Dr Abdul Ghafoor Shoro.

Professor Ashraf Nizami said that PMA has always raised voice against an increase in fees for admission in medical colleges and it categorically rejects new fee structure. He said that PMA has always stressed upon the need to resolve the issues of PMDC on a priority basis. The negligence of the governments and the vested interest groups in PMDC have destroyed medical education in the country.

“We were expecting good change after the dissolution of PMDC but the present state of the affairs of PMDC is creating a lot of unrest and disillusion in the medical fraternity across the country. We believe and demand that the government should immediately dissolve the ad-hoc committee and a true representative PMDC should be formed with the elected members after promulgation of an ordinance. We believe that the new government in Pakistan will give top priority to health, medical education, training and research in the country,” he added.

Speaking on this occasion, PMA Centre Secretary-General Dr SM Qaisar Sajjad said that malnutrition has become a common problem in Pakistan. He said that major nutritional problems are low birth weight due to poor maternal nutrition, protein-energy malnutrition, anaemia, and iodine deficiency. He informed that national dietary guidelines for better nutrition have also been prepared to provide nutrition-related information for healthy living to the masses. The food fortification strategy has also been revised to take sustained action for overcoming micronutrient deficiency.

He said that common reasons of malnutrition in Pakistan are insufficient or imbalanced nourishment, poor sanitary conditions and hygiene practices, high poverty rate, political and economic instability, the burden of refugees and internally displaced people, lack of political will and leadership, implementation and questionable sustainability of health programmes.

Dr Qaisar Sajjad recommended the government to create a sense of ownership, capacity-building and skill development of the people at all levels, development and use of nutritional surveillance system, cross-sectoral linkages (multisectoral approach), entire healthcare system will be made resilient to disasters (climate change, natural disasters, disease outbreak, etc).

He said that food adulteration is a serious threat to the health of the people of Pakistan. Every edible product like water, milk, meat, juices, biscuits, flour, chilli powder and many others are not fresh and pure but adulterated, he added.

“Animals fodder is adulterated, vegetables are grown and washed with chemically contaminated water at a time with industrial waste and fruits are ripened with chemicals,” he said.

He said that a recent incident took place in Karachi in which two children died due to food poisoning after consuming substandard food. PMA is very much concerned and offers condolences to the aggrieved family, he added.

“We should learn a lesson from such incidents and make our food departments answerable for every kind of adulteration and quality of food items. We should make our food authorities more functional with having food laboratories and proper human resource to check adulteration and maintain the quality standards,” he further said.

He demanded that food departments should work on priority and regular basis to monitor and check every requirement regarding the purity of food. Every food item that is soled weather in market or streets should be registered, he concluded.

<https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2018/11/16/pma-concerned-over-new-fee-structure/>

The Nation

PMA concerned at malnutrition

November 17, 2018

OUR STAFF REPORT

LAHORE - Expressing concerns over increase in disease burden due to malnutrition and adulteration, Pakistan Medical Association has demanded the government to play due role in safeguarding the health of the masses.

Addressing a press conference here Friday, PMA office bearers demanded early elections of Pakistan Medical and Dental Council to enable the watchdog to fulfill the responsibility of ensuring quality of medical education. President PMA Centre Dr Ashraf Nizami said that low birth weight due to poor maternal nutrition, anemia, and iodine deficiency were big challenges.

Flanked by Dr Qaisar Sajjad, Dr Qazi Wasiq, Dr Khalil Mukaddam and Dr Abdul Ghafoor Shoro, he urged the government to create a sense of ownership and develop nutritional surveillance system.

Dr Nizami said that food adulteration was a serious threat to the public health. “Every product like water, milk, meat, juices, biscuits, flour, chili powder and many others are not fresh and pure but adulterated. Vegetables are grown and washed with contaminated water at time with industrial waste.

<https://nation.com.pk/E-Paper/lahore/2018-11-17/page-14/detail-7>

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Our Correspondent

‘Malnutrition, adulteration major issues’

LAHORE: Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) has highlighted three important issues of malnutrition, food adulteration and affairs concerning Pakistan Medical and Dental Council that directly affect healthcare in country.

While speaking at a press conference here on Friday, PMA office bearers said the foremost socio-economic problems faced by Pakistan was malnutrition. Major nutritional problems are low birth weight due to poor maternal nutrition, protein energy malnutrition, anaemia and iodine deficiency. National dietary guidelines for better nutrition have also been prepared to provide nutrition-related information for healthy living to the masses. The food fortification strategy has also been revised to take sustained action for overcoming micronutrient deficiency.

PMA Centre President Dr Muhammad Ashraf Nizami, Secretary General Dr S M Qaisar Sajjad, Treasurer Dr Qazi Muhammad Wasiq, PMA Karachi President Dr Khalil Mukaddam and General Secretary Dr Abdul Ghafoor Shoro were present on the occasion.

They said reasons of malnutrition in Pakistan included; insufficient or imbalanced nourishment, poor sanitary conditions and hygiene practices; population growth; high poverty rate; political and economic instability; burden of refugees and internally displaced people; and lack of political will and leadership, while implementation and sustainability of health programs are under question mark.

They recommended that the government needed to create a sense of ownership; do capacity-building and skill development of the people at all level; development and use of nutritional surveillance system; cross-sectoral linkages (multisectoral approach); entire health care system will be made resilient to disasters (climate change, natural disasters, disease outbreak).

“Food adulteration is a serious threat to the health of people of Pakistan. Basic edible products like water, milk, meat, juices, biscuits, flour, chili powder and many others are not fresh and pure but adulterated,” they said.

They showed concern on the recent incident that took place in Karachi, in which 2 children died due to food poisoning after consuming substandard food. They offer condolences to the grieved family. We should learn lesson from such incidents and make our food authorities more functional to check adulteration and maintain the quality standards.

They said PMA has always stressed upon the need to resolve the issues of PMDC on priority basis. The negligence of the governments and the vested interest groups in PMDC has destructed the Medical Education in the country. We were expecting good change after the dissolution of PMDC but the present state of the affairs of PMDC is creating a lot of unrest and disillusion in the medical fraternity across the country.

November 17, 2018

PMA concerned over new fee structure

KARACHI: Pakistan Medical Association (PMA), a representative body of doctors, has expressed concern over new fee structure of private medical colleges and urged Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) and federal government to review fee structure of medical institutions. These reservations were expressed by President PMA Centre Dr Muhammad Ashraf Nizami while addressing a press conference here Friday along with Secretary General PMA Centre Dr SM Qaisar Sajjad, Treasurer PMA Centre Dr Qazi Muhammad Wasiq, President PMA Karachi Dr Khalil Mukaddam and General Secretary PMA Karachi Dr Abdul Ghafoor Shoro. Prof. Ashraf Nizami said PMA has always raised voice against increase in fees for admission in medical colleges and it categorically rejects new fee structure. He said PMA has always stressed upon the need to resolve the issues of PMDC on priority basis. The negligence of the governments, and the vested interest groups in

PMDC have destructed the medical education in the country. "We were expecting good change after the dissolution of PMDC but the present state of the affairs of PMDC is creating a lot of unrest and disillusion in the medical fraternity across the country. We believe and demand that government should immediately dissolve ad-hoc committee and a true representative PMDC should be formed with the elected members after promulgation of an ordinance. We believe that the new government in Pakistan will give top priority to health, medical education, training and research in the country" he added. Speaking on this occasion, Secretary General PMA Centre Dr SM Qaisar Sajjad said malnutrition has become common problem in Pakistan. He said major nutritional problem are low birth weight due to poor maternal nutrition, protein energy malnutrition, anemia, and iodine deficiency. He informed that national dietary guidelines for better nutrition have also been prepared to provide nutri-

tion-related information for healthy living to the masses. The food fortification strategy has also been revised to take sustained action for overcoming micronutrient deficiency.

He said common reasons of malnutrition in Pakistan are; insufficient or imbalanced nourishment, poor sanitary conditions and hygiene practices, high poverty rate, political and economic instability, burden of refugees and internally displaced people, lack of political will and leadership, implementation and sustainability of health programs are under question mark? and population growth Dr Qaisar Sajjad recommended government to create a sense of ownership, capacity-building and skill development of the people at all level, development and use of nutritional surveillance system, cross-sectoral linkages (multisectoral approach), entire health care system will be made resilient to disasters (climate change, natural disasters, disease outbreak etc). —Agency

<http://regionaltimes.com/17Nov2018/3.jpg>



November 17, 2018

مفاد پرست ٹولے نے پی ایم ڈی سی کو تباہ کر دیا، ڈاکٹر قیصر سجاد

کراچی (اسٹاف رپورٹر) پاکستان میڈیکل ایسوسی ایشن کے جنرل سیکریٹری ڈاکٹر قیصر سجاد نے کہا ہے کہ مفاد پرست ٹولے نے پی ایم ڈی سی کو تباہی کے دہانے پر لاکھڑا کیا ہے، حکومت سے مطالبہ کیا کہ فوری طور پر اینڈ ہاک کمیٹی کو برطرف اور صدارتی آرڈیننس جاری کیا جائے، محکمہ خوراک کو فعال بنانے کے لیے غذائی لیبارٹیوں کے قیام اور مناسب افرادی قوت کی فراہمی کو یقینی بنانا جائے تاکہ ملاوٹ پر قابو پایا جاسکے، ان خیالات کا اظہار انہوں نے پاکستان میڈیکل ایسوسی ایشن ہاؤس میں منعقدہ پریس کانفرنس سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے کیا، اس موقع پر انکے ہمراہ پی ایم اے سینٹر کے صدر ڈاکٹر محمد اشرف نظامی، خازن پی ایم اے ڈاکٹر قاضی محمد وثیق، صدر پی ایم اے کراچی ڈاکٹر خلیل مقدم، جنرل سیکریٹری پی ایم اے ڈاکٹر عبدالغفور شورو بھی موجود تھے۔

https://www.express.com.pk/epaper/PoPupwindow.aspx?newsID=1105890269&Issue=NP_KHI&Date=20181117



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