DETERIORATION OF THE HEALTH SYSTEM, ITS EFFECTS ON PEOPLE AND ITS REMEDIAL MEASURES

Prof. S. Tipu Sultan:
Principal, Bahria University Medical and Dental College Karachi.
President, Pakistan Medical Association, Centre.
Ex-Principal, Dow Medical College
Ex-Dean Faculty of Medicine, University of Karachi
Dean, Faculty of Anaesthesia, College of Physicians & Surgeons Pakistan
• Health & education are Basic Rights of people

• Basic Health is a fundamental right of all citizens
• Pakistan Signatory – World Health Organization (WHO)
  “Health for all by the year 2000”

• Could not achieve it
• LATER ON – Health for all by the year 2015

? 

• Pakistan will not be able to achieve it
When, if ever, will we be able to achieve this?
OBJECT OF THIS DISCUSSION

• To know some facts

• To understand ground realities

• To offer some possible solutions

• The way forward
• Health is a Fundamental Right

• Education is also a Fundamental Right

• They go Hand in Hand
• Unhealthy people (Nation) cannot progress

• Illiterate (Uneducated) people (Nation) cannot progress
MAJORITY OF OUR POPULATION (80%) HAS

- No Access to Primary Health Care
- No Emergency Obstetric Care
- No Emergency Health Care
- Tertiary Care ?
SOME FACTS & FIGURES
(HEALTH – PAKISTAN) ~ 1

- Population (Pakistan) --------------- 160million
- Population below Poverty Level ------ 50million
- Fertility Rate ---------------------- 4.7%
- Life Expectancy --------------------- 63 Yrs
- Blindness in General Population ---- 2%
- Clean Water  
  Not available to majority of population
- Sewerage System  
  >60%

Source – Annual Report Pakistan Medical Association 2006
SOME FACTS & FIGURES
(HEALTH – PAKISTAN) ~ 2

- Infant Mortality Rate -------------- 80/1000 (0-1%)
- Immunization at 12 month for Tuberculosis ----------------- 78% (100%)
- Immunization at 12 month for six preventable Diseases ------ 53% (100%)
- Under Five Years Age Mortality Rate -------------------------- 103/1000 (0-2%)
- Maternal Mortality Rate -------- 340-500/100,000
  (Developed Countries 2-3/100,000)
- Home Delivery ------------------- 80% by TBA

Source – Annual Report Pakistan Medical Association 2006
SOME FACTS & FIGURES
(HEALTH – PAKISTAN) ~ 3

• Non functional BHU, RHC, THQ ---- 2400
• Number of Hospital Beds/100,000
  Population -------------------------------- 320
• One Doctor for -------------------------- 2300 people
• One Nurse (Ratio) ----------------------- 8 Doctors
  (Normal 15N - 1 Doctor)
• Specialist ------------------------------ One for 14500 people

Source – Annual Report Pakistan Medical Association 2006
SOME FACTS & FIGURES
(HEALTH – PAKISTAN) ~ 4

- Expenditure on Health of Nation
  - G.D.P. on Health (37 billion rupees – Federal + Provincial)
    - Government Sector ------------------------- 0.6% of GDP
    - Private Sector ------------------------------ 3% of GDP

- No effective program against:
  - Hepatitis C
  - HIV (>80,000)
  - Hepatitis B

- No effective campaign against:
  - Smoking
  - Gutka
  - Pan

Source – Annual Report Pakistan Medical Association 2006
WHY IS IT SO? ~ 1

• Health of people not priority
  – All Governments (Democrats, Dictators)
    • No Increase on Health Budget in last 50 years

• Education not priority

• No serious and clean regulatory body
  • Federal Health Ministry (42,000 drugs registered)
  • Provincial Health Ministry

• Rampant corruption in almost all health providing centres

• Not Strong and Autonomous PMDC
WHY IS IT SO? ~ 2

- Incompetent and Financially Corrupt Health Education Centres (Medical Universities)
- Adhoc and Short Term Policies
- Only few “Island” of Health Providers
  - Public Private Partnership Health Centres
  - Private Health Centres
  - Private Charitable Health Centres
- No Free Public Sector Health Care Centres
- 600,000 Quacks (non doctors) free to kill/Maim people
HEALTH PROBLEMS IN FOUR PROVINCES

PUNJAB

• Doctors unemployed ------------ >6000

• Majority of RHC (287) and BHU’s (2239) ----------- Not Functioning

• Punjab (34 Districts) ----------- 91 THQ + 41 DHQs

• Paramedics --------------------- Not Available in majority
## HUMAN RESOURCES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specialty</th>
<th>Minimal Requirement</th>
<th>Sanctioned Posts</th>
<th>Vacant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eye</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENT</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paediatrics</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiologist</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anaesthesetist</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surgeons</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pathologist</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urologist</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chest Physician</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orthopaedics</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gynaecologist</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SINDH

- Doctors unemployed --------------- 2500+
- Majority of RHC + BHUs -------- Not working
- THQs + DHQs Desperate need of
  - Doctors
  - Consultants
  - Paramedics
- No Policy on Transfer and Posting
- No Rule of Merit, Honesty or Competency
- Government Spending Millions of Rupees on the so called Tertiary Centres at the Cost of Primary Health Care and Emergency Health Care
- The GAME of Sanctioning Huge Amount and Shopping of Medical Equipment on Inflated Price is as usual.
N. W. F. P.

- Doctors Unemployed ------------ 2000+
- Majority of RHC + BHUs -------- Not functioning
- More than 70% of THQ + DHQs short of
  - Specialists
  - Doctors
  - Paramedics
- Acute Shortage of Faculty in New Medical Colleges
- No Public Service Commission in Last 10 Years
- Recent Earth Quake Exposed Health Care System
BALUCHISTAN

• No Doctor Unemployed due to Recent Initiative

• Out of 26 Districts, Only Loralai, Pichin, Khuzdar, Sibi and Turbat have Doctors

• All Other DHQs in need of
  - Specialists
  - Doctors
  - Paramedics

• No Primary Health Care Facility in Rural Areas
WHY WE DO NOT HAVE NATIONAL HEALTH POLICY?

• Not a Priority for Policy Makers and Health Managers
• Real Stake Holders never Consulted or Involved by any Government in last 58 Years e.g.
  - Professional Bodies
  - People Representation – Grass root
  - NGOs
• Always made by Bureaucrats away from Ground Realities (Advised by a person or vested interest group)
• Imposed Policies from Abroad or Hired Consultants are used by 5 Star Local Theorocrats
• Sycophants Surrounding Policy Makers
POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS ~ 1

• Urgent Increase Funds upto 6% of GDP for Health Care System
• Strengthening of BHU, RHC and Taluka Hospitals
• Recruitment of Midwife, Nurse, Paramedic, Doctors on Fulltime Basis with Incentives
• Introduce System of Merit, Transparency and Accountability for all Recruitment and Procurements
• Urgent Investment for clean water for all Citizens
POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS ~2

- Urgent Investment on Scientific Sewerage System for all Citizens (No Dumping in River and Sea)
- Effective Campaign against Quackery
- Strengthening of EPI Program
- Career Structure for Health Care Providers
- Strong and Autonomous Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC). No Interference from Ministry of Health
THE WAY FORWARD

• Honest Political will for Health and Education to all
• Stake Holders should be Involved Genuinely
• Appropriate Fund Allocation
• Merit should Prevail
• Accountability in True Sense
TO ACHIEVE

• Health for All
• Education for All
• Food for All
• Shelter for All
• Dignity of Job for All

These are all concerns of Health
Thank you for your attention