

SENATE OF PAKISTAN



REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES, REGULATIONS AND COORDINATION

ON

STARRED QUESTION NO. 83 REGARDING THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN BELOW 10 YEARS OF AGE IN PAKISTAN SUFFERING FROM ANEMIA AND STUNTING AND THE STEPS BEING TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT TO DEAL WITH THE ALARMING ISSUE, ASKED BY SENATOR SEEMEE EZDI IN THE HOUSE ON 21ST JANUARY, 2022.

PRESENTED BY

SENATOR DR. MUHAMMAD HUMAYUN MOHMAND

**CHAIRMAN
SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES, REGULATIONS
AND COORDINATION**

SENATE SECRETARIAT

Subject: **REPORT OF THE SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES, REGULATIONS AND COORDINATION**

I, Senator Dr. Muhammad Humayun Mohmad, Chairman of the Senate Standing Committee on National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, have the honour to present, on behalf of the Committee, this report on Starred Question no. 83 regarding the number of children below 10 years of age in Pakistan suffering from anemia and stunting and the steps being taken by the government to deal with the alarming issue, asked by Senator Seemee Ezdi in the House on 21st January, 2022 and referred by the House to the Committee for consideration and report.

2. The Composition of the Standing Committee is given as under:-

1.	Senator Dr. Muhammad Humayun Mohmand	Chairman
2.	Senator Prof. Dr. Mehr Taj Roghani	Member
3.	Senator Fawzia Arshad	Member
4.	Senator Dr. Zarqa Suharwrđi Timur	Member
5.	Senator Sana Jamali	Member
6.	Senator Dilawar Khan	Member
7.	Senator Rubina Khalid	Member
8.	Senator Jam Mahtab Hussain Dahar	Member
9.	Senator Bahramand Khan Tangi	Member
10.	Senator Hafiz Abdul Karim	Member
11.	Senator Muhammad Asad Ali Khan Junejo	Member
12.	Senator Sardar Muhammad Shafiq Tareen	Member
13.	Senator Syed Faisal Ali Sabzwari	Member
14.	Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination	Ex-Officio Member

3. The matter was taken up in the committee meeting held on 12th May, 2022 and final consideration was held on 1st September, 2022, the meeting was attended by the following;

1.	Senator Dr. Muhammad Humayun Mohmand	Chairman
2.	Senator Fawzia Arshad	Member
3.	Senator Sana Jamali	Member
4.	Senator Rubina Khalid	Member
5.	Senator Jam Mahtab Hussain Dahar	Member
6.	Senator Bahramand Khan Tangi	Member
7.	Senator Seemee Ezdi	Mover

4. The Director, Ministry of NHR&C, briefed the Committee that as per the directives of the Committee, the Ministry wrote a letter to PEMRA for awareness programs and shared the awareness related messages with them regarding breast feeding, family planning, micro nutrient deficiencies and complementary feeding. He further briefed that according to National Nutrition Survey 2011, stunting rate amongst children under the age of five years


was 45%, and the rate of women who exclusively breastfed their children was 38%. In 2017 another survey was conducted, and its report was published in 2018, according to which stunting rate had reduced to 40.2%, whereas, the rate of women who exclusively breastfed their children had increased to 48%. The Committee was further briefed that in a recent survey conducted in Sajawal and Thatha, where stunting rate was 40% in 2018, it has now come down to 35%. Whereas, rate of anemia which was 63%, has come down to 45%.

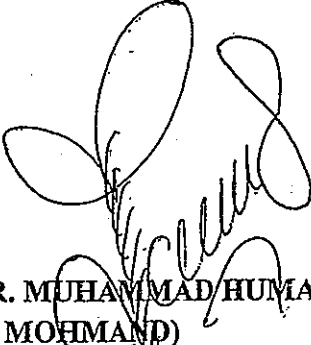
5. The Chairman Committee expressed that health system cannot improve unless the standard of Basic Health Units (BHUs) is not improved and health cards have played important role in expanding quality health services to the peripheries. He said that since the PMC regulates medical colleges, it can be made mandatory for the medical colleges to train a certain number of paramedical staff, especially the Lady Health Visitors (LHVs), in order to fulfil the criteria to be recognized by the PMC.

6. Thereafter, with the satisfaction of the mover, the Committee disposed of the matter with the following recommendations:

- The Committee recommended that it should be made compulsory for the private medical colleges to train paramedical staff, especially the Lady Health Visitors (LHVs), in order to fulfil the criteria to be recognized by the PMC.
- The Committee recommended that awareness regarding family planning should be created amongst the masses.
- The Committee recommended that food nutrition and hygiene should be taught as subjects in schools.

7. The Committee also gave approval of presentation of Report of the Committee to the House. Hence, this report is presented to the House.


(WAQAS KHAN)
Acting Secretary Committee


(SENATOR DR. MUHAMMAD HUMAYUN
MOHMAND)
Chairman Committee