

SENATE OF PAKISTAN
House of the Federation



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

ON

**POINT OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE RAISED BY SENATOR
ATTA UR REHMAN IN THE SENATE SITTING HELD ON 20TH JUNE,
2025, REGARDING A LARGE NUMBER OF MBBS GRADUATES
FAILING MEDICAL OFFICER EXAM IN KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA**

PRESENTED BY

**Senator Amir Waliuddin Chishti
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 ON THE POINT OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE RAISED BY SENATOR ATTA UR REHMAN IN THE SENATE SITTING HELD ON 20TH JUNE, 2025, REGARDING A LARGE NUMBER OF MBBS GRADUATES FAILING MEDICAL OFFICER EXAM IN KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA

I, Senator Amir Waliuddin Chishti, Chairman Standing Committee on National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination have the honor to present, on behalf of Committee, this report on a point of public importance raised by Senator Atta ur Rehman in the Senate sitting held on 20th June, 2025, regarding "A large number of MBBS Graduates failing Medical Officer exam in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa", referred to the Committee for consideration and report.

2. The composition of the Committee is as under:-

1. Senator Amir Waliuddin Chishti	Chairman
2. Senator Syedaal Khan (Deputy Chairman Senate)	Member
3. Senator Muhammad Ahad Khan Cheema (Minister for Economic Affairs)	Member
4. Senator Tallal Badar (Minister of State for Interior)	Member
5. Senator Abdul Qudoos	Member
6. Senator Syed Masroor Ahsan	Member
7. Senator Liaqat Khan Tarakai	Member
8. Senator Mohammad Humayun Mohmand	Member
9. Senator Irfan-ul-Haque Siddiqui	Member
10. Senator Ahmed Khan	Member
11. Senator Fawzia Arshad	Member
12. Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination	Ex-officio Member

3. The Committee took up the matter in its meeting held on 08th July, 2025 which was attended by the following Members along with the mover:

1. Senator Syedaal Khan (Deputy Chairman Senate)	Member
2. Senator Tallal Badar	Member
3. Senator Irfan-ul-Haque Siddiqui	Member
4. Senator Masroor Ahsan	Member
5. Senator Mohammad Humayun Mohmand	Member
6. Senator Fawzia Arshad	Member
7. Senator Atta Ur Rehman	Mover
8. Minister for National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination	Ex-officio Member

4. Senator Atta-ur-Rehman remarked that in the past, there were only one or two medical colleges, whereas now, numerous colleges can be found, even on the same street. He raised a critical question about the criteria that are currently being used to establish a medical college or university.



5. President PMDC stated that there are existing standards and bylaws in place. He highlighted that we have now introduced stricter standards, as the previous ones were found to be lacking. These new regulations have been specifically crafted to rectify those deficiencies. With the rise in the number of colleges, we implemented a moratorium on January 5th, halting the establishment of any new institutions until we evaluate the current colleges and enhance their standards. Another significant issue we've encountered is the shortage of faculty. To address this, we've established a three-year moratorium focused on prioritizing quality over quantity in education. Our standards match those of any Western country, so there's no need for concern. We've incorporated many of the latest developments, including new specialties and state-of-the-art equipment. When prospective students apply to a college, they first review all available resources before making their decision.

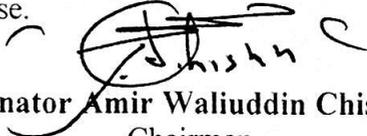
6. Senator Irfan-ul-Haque Siddiqui noted that Senator Atta-ur-Rehman raised an important issue regarding the clustering of five colleges in a confined area. It's crucial to remember that these institutions are set to operate only with the required permissions and approvals from the relevant authorities. Furthermore, there are concerns about the quality of private sector colleges currently in operation. Are they equipped with a complete faculty? Are their classrooms well-maintained? Do they have the necessary equipment and facilities for effective operations? These are the standards that need to be evaluated.

7. The Minister for NHR&C acknowledged that concerns of the Members are valid; the current situation is far from ideal. If our previous standards were sufficient, there would be no need to establish new ones. I fully accept responsibility for this issue. We're working diligently to address past mistakes, training 21,000 new doctors each year. It's alarming to see so many children not receiving admissions here, with approximately four hundred million dollars being funnelled annually to Central Asian countries—not including Iran and others. Some colleges there are merely offering paper degrees with little substance to their education. Unfortunately, when these students return, their skills often fail to meet the standards expected of a qualified medical professional, resulting in significant financial losses for their families. Our policy involves the PMDC testing all candidates coming from abroad, and alarmingly, 99.99% of them are not passing.

8. Senator Mohammad Humayun Mohmand pointed out that while we have implemented the MDCAT as a filter, there hasn't been a corresponding measure to assess the quality of education being provided. He expressed concern over the discontinuation of the NLE in 2022, emphasizing the necessity of reinstating it. In response, the President of PMDC noted that the exam had unfortunately been removed from the Act in 2022, although it was an essential tool for gauging the competencies of medical graduates. He announced plans to reintroduce the exam in the upcoming council meeting, with the intention of applying it nationwide, and asked for the committee's support in this endeavour. The Chairman of the Committee highlighted an optimistic perspective, stating that the establishment of new medical colleges, provided they meet the necessary standards, could enhance the availability of patient beds in hospitals and significantly reduce the expenditure of approximately 400 million dollars that students currently spend abroad for education, only to come back with inferior qualifications.

9. After an in-depth discussion, the committee decided to conclude the matter. They also granted permission for the report to be presented to the House.


(Naeem Akhtar Bhatti)
Secretary Committee


(Senator Amir Waliuddin Chishti)
Chairman