

THE PLIGHT OF THE WOUNDED HEALERS

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The authors believe in eradicating the sufferings daily endured by the common citizens of Pakistan. As consciously aware individuals, our motive should be to contribute to the society by lime-lighting its unethical norms that it has got comfortable with. Performance of random acts of kindness would bring a greater good to the society.

The society should learn to admit its helplessness and miseries as the byproduct of its own slothfulness. We as the individuals of the society have to summon ourselves to justice. There can be no good until and unless we recognize that we are accountable for the situation we dwell in: bearing the intolerable pain that wretch the cores of our being. To revitalize we have to search and find for our lost selves so we may tread the path of the phoenix. We aim to serve and be the giant wave that sweeps over the shores of injustice, inequality and discord and replenish it with brotherhood, humanity and compassion.

As the consciously aware individuals, we must voice the voice of voiceless and should learn to object to the deprivation and despair, sorrow and melancholy, agony and pain of our own kind. The authors have decided to play their roles contrary being the spectators and hence bring a situation to your kind notice.

This letter intends to highlight the dilemma faced by the university graduates with their life prospects. It deals with the graduates of various disciplines in general and the health professionals in particular.

Unfortunately the health system of our country, both the private and public sectors, like any other sector is deteriorating with every passing minute. The morbidity and mortality rates are alarmingly high and are calling for an immediate salvage action^{1, 2}. The silhouette of this situation is even more grave, darker and disheartening. It is the capitalists, the feudal lords and the corrupt leaders who are exploiting this situation by continuously popping up private health care systems for the sake of their monetary benefits.

The living conditions and standards of health care providers and patients are worsening due to the ongoing onslaught³. In private owned healthcare facilities the skilled labor including the general medical practitioners, paramedical staff and non-

medical staff are no more than the caged golden goose who are abused for their skills on humiliatingly low wages. The patients are the scapegoats who have no alternative public facilities other than to select these back straining health care systems. This drains them of their already hard earned savings. The sudden over mushrooming of privately owned Medical and Para-medical universities have produced health care related skilled labor in proportion greater to the opportunities created by the public sector. Therefore negligence in respect of quality and quantity is immensely deteriorating the health care system of Pakistan⁴.

A general medical practitioner like any other skilled worker is available in the market as a byproduct of various privately owned universities. The regulatory bodies like Pakistan Medical and dental council (PM&DC) fails to ensure one of the reasons of its existence to ensure the quality of health care practices. All sorts of medical colleges are prospering far and wide with the private owners happily licensing the students to fondle the priceless lives while the enthusiast but blindfolded parents are bearing the unbearable expenses in return of regret, anguish and depression.

After graduation a bulk of Licensed Medical Practitioners like any other university students remain jobless³⁻⁴. They are left with the only option of to be hired by the private owned institutions for their bread and butter on meager salaries to run their establishments.

The most disheartening specter to this predicament is that these graduates are unable to support their families with their paltry incomes let alone repay the expenses that their parents had invested in their education. Thus they are left with two options.

1. Leave Pakistan for any other country (Brain Drain)
 2. Accept this situation and continue to live by a morbid life
- How can a society expect him to heal its wounds while he himself lives a dissatisfied life?

World Health Organization defines health of an individual as a state of being physically, mentally and socially well. How many of our youth do we suppose are mentally and socially well?

It is unfortunate to be not empathetic with our youngsters. We have this situation that needs to be addressed urgently. Youth is the future of every nation and crippling the youth is to cripple our own selves. The patriots, those who feel the ache and significantly those who are enduring it, have to rise to the occasion. It is imperative for us to take the reins of our destinies and to decide for ourselves by ourselves.

Individual small steps towards the betterment of society shall become the gigantic stride of the nation. Let this be the guiding star in the darkest of our nights.

With this optimism, we humbly write to you and provide possible solutions noted as below:

Solution 1: Reforming the educational system of Pakistan

- a. Our educational system's stern intent is on offering the

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students with a document called degree, which does not find much use than occupying space in forgotten corners of our homes.

The educational system's objectives should be to capacitate and equip the children with necessary skills and knowledge that they can benefit from in their lives. A knowledge that may channel them and enable them to become humane and dignified humans.

- b. Specially designed courses should be introduced to elevate the youth's working skills so that our nation may prosper.

Solution 2: Need for restructuring the National Educational Regulatory Bodies: an urgent priority

National Educational Regulatory Bodies like Higher Education Commission of Pakistan, Pakistan Medical & Dental Council, Pakistan Engineering Council, Pakistan Nursing Council and the similar educational policy makers should be on the front lines to resolve the youth's educational problems and havoc that is created by the wrong educational policies.

Existing players must redesign themselves. Redesigning and revamping the core educational processes and its organizational structures, management systems and support culture is vital so that the professional and technical education providers excel at performing three discrete tasks simultaneously:

- i. To keep an eye on the required technical staff and the available job opportunities, so that an overflow in market may be avoided and hence their exploitation.
- ii. To keep a check on the privately owned institutions about any foul policies. The working policies and legislation

should be according to the constitution of Pakistan.

- iii. To maintain certain fixed package of every professional cadre all over the country in accordance to the laws and regulations of the government of Pakistan.

With the current national vibe which heralds a change in its air, with a zeal in its aura and where the dawn's scent seems inevitable. Let us all join hands and contribute by our little gestures to proclaim being the harbingers of good tidings.

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