

# Review of: "[Commentary] Decentralization — “The Fundamental Challenge in the Pakistan Is the Decentralization of Health Care”"

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[Commentary] Decentralization — “The Challenge in Pakistan Is the Decentralization of Health Care”

## Strengths:

The authors address an important issue to improve health services in Pakistan. Decentralization can strengthen health systems, but only if there is implementation, quality assurance, and accountability at the local level.

In the section on Institutional Capacities, this sentence is very strong. “A political or stakeholder analysis should also be carried out so that potential obstacles to reform can be identified and negotiated. “

Conclusions are valid, but need editing for clarity.

## Concerns/Recommendations:

- 18th amendment listing is not easy for health readers to understand.
- Population figures are out of date. There are many grammatical errors.
- This sentence does not make any sense: “Approximately 1,142 hospitals, 5,499 pharmacies, 5,438 basic health units and 671 maternity and child health centres compared to 1,113 hospitals, 5,413 pharmacies, 5,571 basic health units and 687 maternity and child health centres for 192 million people. (Health Policy Papers, 2015)”
- References for this statement should be updated: “Pakistan bears the heavy burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases, unfortunately ranking 22nd in tuberculosis infections and 6th in endemic diseases such as polio. (UNICEF, 2015) reported that around 60,000 children are inaccessible to vaccination, as 306 wild poliovirus cases were reported in Pakistan in 2014 from 44 districts, representing 86 percent of all cases reported globally.
- In the section, “Institutional Capacities”, this sentence does not make sense: “ Later phases of reform should remain until then.”

