

Review of: "Health System Reform: Decentralization of Health System in Pakistan"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

(1) The main text of this paper has mentioned that the government of Pakistan has made some historic decisions aimed at unifying the vision of equitable health access and providing adequate healthcare services to all citizens. Hence, it is recommended to describe in detail a list of decisions made by the government of Pakistan that successfully unified the vision of equitable health access and provided adequate healthcare services to all its citizens.

(2) The main text of this paper has alluded to the numerous challenges faced by the country's healthcare system, including insufficient funding, inadequate healthcare workforce and infrastructure, less focus on preventive health, and inequitable distribution of resources. This paper also proposes that it is essential to address these challenges by performing a comprehensive policy analysis, with a focus on increasing healthcare funding and allocating resources that are based on equity. Hence, it is next recommended to propose a method of determining whether the level of healthcare funding and resource allocation that is based on equity has actually increased after the implementation of a series of measures (in response to the results obtained from a comprehensive policy analysis). This is to ensure that the comprehensive policy analysis has indeed successfully overcome the challenges of insufficient funding and inequitable distribution of resources.

(3) This paper mentions the 18th constitutional amendment, which has been passed in Pakistan, and brought significant changes to the country's healthcare system by decentralizing health services delivery to the provinces. As a result, the provinces are now responsible for planning, implementing, and managing healthcare services in their respective regions. However, this paper also mentions that devolution of power from provincial to local governments remains unfulfilled, leading to a crisis in governance at the local level. Hence, it is recommended to propose a list of empowerment measures that should be taken by the government of Pakistan to ensure that decentralization of health services delivery to each of these provinces will be successful.

(4) This paper mentions that the 18th constitutional amendment has created an opportunity to analyze the health sector of Pakistan from past to present and to recommend substantial decisions for the future. Hence, it is recommended to

propose a list of indicators for analyzing the health sector of Pakistan, which can either be gross or net. Moreover, it is also recommended to suggest a list of indicators that are leading (i.e., point toward possible future events), as well as lagging (i.e., confirm a pattern that is in progress), and also coincident (i.e., clarify the state of the economy).

(5) This paper mentions that health sector reform involves new roles for the government. In order for the government to fulfill these roles properly, a clear understanding of the current situation is required through situational analysis to estimate the existing capacities of the system. This analysis helps to identify potential obstacles to reform so that they can be addressed. Since reform shall involve long-term, intentional, and essential modifications in the healthcare sector, and such modifications can also have overlapping effects on sectors such as education or public welfare, hence, it is recommended to conduct a thorough situational analysis to estimate the existing capacities of the health sector (in order to identify all the potential obstacles to health sector reform as well as any other overlapping effects of health sector reform on the other sectors (such as education, public welfare, etc.).