

*Response from Aisha Mehnaz (J Pak Med Assoc. 2023; 73: 231-232)*

## **Paediatric Residents Training in Pakistan: Time for a Paradigm Shift**

Aisha Mehnaz

*Madam*, I fully concur with the comments made by my Physical Medicine colleague/s. Paediatric residents training need a 360 degree evaluation and change with focus on need assessment, curriculum change and revolutionary changes in training methodology, the latter should be more on-site rather than contextual. At present both the teaching and practical skills of paediatric residents in Pakistan are suboptimal. The clinical skills of our residents are particularly far from satisfactory. They particularly lack in soft skills, behavioural and developmental problems assessment, critical thinking and reasoning. In order to identify strengths and gaps in training of our residents, proper planning and discussion are needed with a view to develop strategies for addressing the gaps.

Social accountability can only be achieved by engaging concerned community and delivering health services as per their need. No reliable data on disability exist in

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Department of Medical Education, CPSP & LUMHS. Jamshoro, Hyderabad.

**Correspondence:** Aisha Mehnaz. e-mail: aishamehnaz@hotmail.com

Pakistan, it is suggested that 6.2% of Pakistan's population faces some kind of disability, and of these 43.3% are children with slight male predominance. This large population is facing varied physical, mental and psycho-social issues. Without proper infra-structure for health and psycho social rehabilitation programme, this population is going to face insurmountable problems in future, The population growth rate of Pakistan is at present a staggering over 3%, in the absence of primary health care, we expect more preventable disabilities in children and ensuing psycho-social issues in foreseeable future. As person with disabilities (PWD) are twice at risk of developing problems like depression, diabetes, respiratory problems and other health issues, which if not managed in early childhood will add to the adult pool of maladies. PWD are at present is marginalized community with limited access to education, health and suitable job. A drastic change in paediatric residency training programme around an updated curriculum, the latter based on need assessment is the need of time.