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## **Letter to the Editor**

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## Efficient resource management for cost effective healthcare at Jinnah postgraduate medical centre

Sir.

Jinnah Post graduate medical Centre (JPMC) is on the biggest public hospitals of Pakistan, serves 1.2 million patients annually, 4,38,000 patients examined in the emergency department alone. Most of health services & treatments are low cost at JPMC and affordable for everyone. However, over the past few years the number of patients in emergency as well as Outpatient department has substantially increased causing stress on physical, human and financial resources. The number of patients has increased by two folds in the last decade.<sup>2</sup> These number are continuously increasing and over burden to available infrastructure is a hindrance in the way of quality medical care. A study conducted in the department of chest medicine of JPMC revealed that among 120 tuberculosis patients, almost 50% (60) died during hospitalization. Delayed treatment, absence of smear records were among the major prognostic factors.<sup>3</sup> Limited resources coupled with poor management results in compromised health care.

Researches have concluded that the functional environment and mental state of a health care provider has a direct effect on the quality of medical care a person receives. The current fleet of postgraduate trainees and house officers are not enough to manage huge number of patients at JPMC and the doctors are under severe workload. Even after managing competitive work environment these young doctors are not paid with a reasonable salary, including numerous who remain unpaid for many months sometimes due to delayed funding to hospital. This has led to multiple protests each year repeatedly causing unavailability of doctors and patients returned untreated. Eventually, the patients have to suffer and pay the cost poor hospital management and unheard pledges of doctors.

In the past, programs like Millennium Development Goal DG program, vertical programs and Public Private Partnership (PPP), Basic Health Unit (BHU's) and services and timely allocation and disbursement of financial resources so that the work force can be facilitated, patients can be taken care of in a hygienic and favorable environment and all the developmental funds can be put to a better use. Rural Health Centers (RHC's) been implemented in order to increase the quality of health care. But due to their limited resources have been

unable to play a pivotal role in improving the quality of health care in major public hospitals country wide.<sup>5</sup>

The lack of finances and government's minimal input in maintaining the Jinnah Hospital has resulted in the shutdown of Pakistan's only research center of road accidents which was situated in JPMC. This is a big loss as the efficient system this department is credited for installation of a proper traffic surveillance system all over the city of Karachi.

There is an immediate need of financial help in JPMC so that the work force can be facilitated, patients can be taken care of in a hygienic and favorable environment and all the developmental funds can be put to a better use. It is required that efficient management practices be implemented including optimum scheduling of doctors and health support staff timings, strict quality control of health.

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