

Failure of Polio Eradication in Pakistan.

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Pakistan is one of the three countries where poliomyelitis is still considered as an endemic viral infectionⁱ. In every round of National Immunization day (NIDs) over 30 million children are immunized for polio by Expanded Program on Immunization with the support of multiple multinational donors and private sector. ii In every campaign over 6000 permanent centers and more than one million outreach and mobile vaccination sessions provides immunization services with the support of more than 10,000 vaccinators and approximately 6000 lady health visitors (LHVs)iii. Despite the utilization of huge amount of resources Pakistan fail to eradicate the polio resulted international communities imposed a travel ban on Pakistan in 2013.iv Literature review suggested multiple reason for failure in eradication of polio, some are discussed below.

Policies and Management on immunization are an unstable due to frequently change by the government officials resulted in delay and disrupt the health budget, policy. planning, effective strategies implementation, and evaluation". Corruption initiates low quality in the, finance, human resources, and materials which result implementation failures in the health policies and programs against polio vi. In addition to above factors unsatisfactory management skills, low pay scale of staff, lack of incentives, insufficient resources, and supervision are the major determinant of eradication of polio in Pakistan.

Difficulty to reach in population residing in remote and far flung areas from health facilities is one of the important determinants of vaccination failure. The identified factors for poor access are inadequate mobility, lack of incentive and inflexible working worker of vaccinator team. Pakistan house hold demographic survey 2006-07 concluded that half of the children are not immunized living in remote area, the majors factors were limited resources and difficulty to reach BPIs center.

To maintain the quality and efficacy polio Vaccine should be store under the range of 2 to 8 centigrade for one to 3 month in cold chain system. Unfortunately in Pakistan, the cold chain system is not up to the mark the main reason are electricity fall down, lack or malfunction of cold chain equipment at health facilities, poor knowledge and practices of vaccination team regarding

importance of cold chain^{vii}.

Staff Shortage and unavailability of trained motivated staff for polio campaign is another identified barrier. Most of the vaccinators and paramedics are ghost or absent staffs, so absenteeism and ghost the most serious concern for polio immunization activities. Due to staff shortage, it is a common complaint about the health care workers that they do not work: properly and do not maintain professional attitude and behaviors which enhance the negative behavior of the parents towards immunization^{viii}.

Poor knowledge and misconception among parents regarding Immunization is an important barrier for polio immunization. Some of the local religious leader take the advantage of poor knowledge of parents and develop misconception about the vaccines like "vaccine it is not in Islam and it is not recommended that to vaccinate the children and those who die from these diseases will be martyrs"

Polio activities activists showed resistant and banned the BPI workers to function in Taliban controlled areas and have also discouraged local population from availing the services. They claimed that these types of campaigns are used by the intelligence agencies to gather data against them and it was shown in the case of Osama bin Laden^{ix}

The government needs to modify the policies and plan effective strategies with media and religious leader to increase awareness against negative propagandas. Furthermore, a strong encouragement is required for continue funds to increase staff, resources, and community participation through different strategies⁷.

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