

INQUIRY REPORT

Subject: FACT FINDING INQUIRY COMMITTEE AGAINST DR. SAHIBZAD IMTIAZ AHMAD, DISTRICT SPECIALIST (MEDICINE) BS-18 / MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT DHQ HOSPITAL DIR (UPPER) FOR FAKE SUPPLY ORDERS OF MEDICINES, APPOINTMENT ORDERS OF CLASS-IV, ILLEGAL DRAWING OF PETHOLOGIST & RADIOLOGIST SHARE AND ILLEGAL USAGE OF SEHAT CARD FACILITY IN OWN PRIVATE HOSPITAL

1. Order of Inquiry

Health Department Govt of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Notification No.SOH(E-V) / 2-2 /2022 dated 02-11-2022, letter No. SOH(E-V) /1-1/2022/ Dr Sahibzada Imtiaz Ahmad dated 25-11-2022, letter No. SOH(E-V)/2-2/2023/ Dr Sahibzada Imtiaz Ahmad dated 27-02-2023 & letter No. SOH(E-V)/2-2/2023/MS/DHQ Hospital Dir (Upper) dated 27-03-2023 wherein an inquiry was ordered to probe into the complaints submitted against Dr Sahibzada Imtiaz Ahmad MS DHQ Dir Upper and to conduct inquiry under Section-12 of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Government Servants (Efficiency & Discipline) Rules 2011 (the above mentioned letters have been annexed as page # 10 to 14 & 17).

The Committee Comprised of the following members;

- i. Dr Muhammad Saleem, MS DHQ Hospital Karak – Chairman
- ii. Dr Atta Ullah Khan , Deputy Chief HSRU Health Department – Member

The committee in this regard communicated with the health department vide letter No. 4240/Admn dated 15-12-2022 and has requested for suspension of the above mentioned Medical Superintendent in order to have access to all the record. The committee then directed the MS and other staff of DHQ hospital Dir upper vide letter No. 371/Admin/DHQH/KK dated 03-03-2023 to appear before the committee on 10-03-2023 which was delayed by an application submitted by the Medical Superintendent dated 08-03-2023 and again after the directives of the health department dated 27-03-2023 the committee again directed the concerned officers / officials to appear before the committee vide letter No. 459/Admin/DHQ/KK dated 28-03-2023 to appear before the committee on 03-04-2023 & 04-04-2023 and further correspondence were made with the Sehat Card Plus Program dated 03-04-2023 & 04-04-2023 for certain required data regarding this particular inquiry (the above mentioned letters have been annexed as page # 15, 16, 18 to 21).

2. Complaint



Dir Upper Citizens including Chemists working in front of DHQ Hospital Dir Upper submitted a written complaint addressing the Secretary to Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Health Department dated 10-10-2022 wherein they have alleged certain irregularities committed by the current MS DHQ Hospital Dir Upper (Dr Sahabzada Imtiaz Ahmad). The Complainants alleged that the above mentioned MS has carried out irregularities in; fake medicine purchased orders, illegal recruitments, illegal shares been taken from laboratory & radiology and promoting his own private hospital for Sehat Sahulat Program while depriving the DHQ Hospital Dir Upper from the facilities to the general public under the Sehat Sahulat Program (Copy of the complaint is annexed for ready reference as page # 22 to 30).

3. TORs for Inquiry Committee

- a) To probe a fake medicine supply order which was shown during Kuli Kacheri of Deputy Commissioner Dir Upper (letter No. 3837-39 dated 08-12-2020) while on demand of Bank Statement, he did not provided the same to DC, being illegal transaction of money in millions from Government account of the hospital;
- b) To dig out the appointment of Class-IV during his tenure being on look after charge in the capacity of MS DHQ Hospital Dir Upper since 18-09-2017 / 22-09-2019 while appointed Class-IV illegally;
- c) To dig out the Office order dated 07-02-2020 and constituted a committee for appointment while escape representative of the Health Department which is an illegal act of omission;
- d) To probe into the illegal drawing of Pathologist & Radiologist share in millions of the hospital since long illegally despite of instructions issued by the Government vide letter dated 13-08-2021;
- e) To probe his own private hospital for referring of patients and illegal usage of Sehat Sahulat Card / facility; and
- f) To find out any other fact that may help in smoothly concluding the present inquiry on merits.

4. Inquiry Proceedings

The Inquiry Committee called upon the Complainants, the MS DHQ Hospital Dir Upper & Office Assistant vide letter No. 371/Admin/DHQH/KK dated 03-03-2023 to appear before the committee on 10-03-2023 and again called the Complainants, MS DHQ Hospital Dir Upper,



District Surgeon, One Women Medical Officer, Office Assistant, Statistical Assistant, Senior Clerk vide letter No. 459/Admin/DHQ/KK dated 28-03-2023 to appear before the committee on 03-04-2023 & 04-04-2023 along with all the relevant records and also to record their statements. The committee also contacted Dr. Ijaz Rahim Bilal Ex-Pathologist working at DHQ Hospital Dir Upper to get his views about how he has received his 25% laboratory share during his stay at DHQ Hospital Dir Upper from June to December 2019. The Committee went through all the available records submitted by the aforementioned officers/officials. The Committee also analyzed the monthly DHIS reports for 2022 of DHQ Hospital Dir Upper and the data provided by the Sehat Card Plus Program (All of the above mentioned records have been annexed for ready reference).

5. Findings

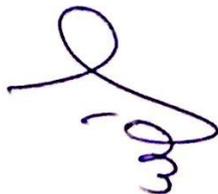
The Committee after going through all the available record from the offices of the MS DHQ Hospital Dir Upper & Sehat Card Plus Program, statements and discussions made with almost all of the concerned officers/officials in view of the given ToRs has come out with the following findings mentioned against each of the ToRs for the inquiry committee (as the complainants did not appear despite being called twice, therefore their written complaint available on the record was taken in to account);

a) To probe a fake medicine supply order which was shown during Kuli Kacheri of Deputy Commissioner Dir Upper (letter No. 3837-39 dated 08-12-2020) while on demand of Bank Statement, he did not provided the same to DC, being illegal transaction of money in millions from Government account of the hospital;

As per the available record, this seems to be a baseless allegation as no such medicine supply order has been placed rather the mentioned letter No.3837-39 dated 08-12-2020 provided to the inquiry committee was addressed to M/S Sadaqat Medicos, Dir Upper wherein certain local purchase medicines / other items were returned to the contractor due to being declared misbranded by the Provincial Drug Testing Laboratory. This seems to have infuriated the contractor and he has tried to make an issue out of it (copy of the letter is annexed as page # 31)

b) To dig out the appointment of Class-IV during his tenure being on look after charge in the capacity of MS DHQ Hospital Dir Upper since 18-09-2017 / 22-09-2019 while appointed Class-IV illegally;

As per the available record from the DHQ Hospital Dir Upper, 89 new recruitments (87 Class-IV + 02 Junior Clerk) were carried out as fresh appointments / against the deceased son /employees



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retired on medical grounds quota during the entire tenure of Dr Sahabzada Imtiaz Ahmad i.e. from 18-09-2017 till date. He along with one Senior Clerk (Muhammad Najeeb) claimed that there were 58 posts of Class-IV and same no of recruitments have been carried out but 45 appointment letters have been provided to the committee including one who has died (Mr. Saif Ali Khan). The meeting of internally constituted committee was held on 14-02-2020 to recruit 34 employees and another meeting was held 19-02-2020 to recruit further 14 employees thus making it 48 appointments in total but no record or meeting details has been provided for recruitment of the other 10 employees (the above mentioned record is annexed as page # 37 - 152).

It was revealed from the available record that total 89 recruitments were carried out in different time periods starting from 18-09-2017 and on 16-01-2023, thus the inquiry committee has been deceived through provision of incomplete record and also withholding some important record for obvious reasons. Also, it was revealed that 12 of these 89 appointees were the relatives of the MS which is a classic example of nepotism. These 12 relatives are mentioned at serial # 5, 6, 7, 12, 16, 34, 46, 60, 67, 82, 83 & 89 (all of the above mentioned record is annexed as page # 32 - 36).

As per the available record, the above mentioned appointments were made without observing any codal formalities i.e. no advertisement was published in the newspapers, no waiting list is available or being provided to the Inquiry Committee, no letter is available in the record to determine that whether any letter has been written to the Health Department/DGHS for nominating their representative in the DSC. It also needs to be mentioned here that the Honorable Peshawar High Court Mingora Bench in order sheet dated 02-03-2020 in WP No. 409-M/2020 and again on 05-05-2021 in another WP No 530-M/2021 directed respondent No. 3 (MS DHQ Hospital Dir Upper) that he shall not fill any post of Class-IV till final outcome of the judgment and similarly District Accounts Officer Dir Upper vide letter dated 22-09-2020 and again on 16-11-2020 communicated to the MS regarding certain observations in these recruitments but despite of all these facts the MS concerned continued with all his illegal acts in this matter. Hence the aforementioned appointments were made in absolute violation of the laid down procedures and existing rules & regulations (all of the above mentioned record is annexed as page # 153 to 193).

- c) **To dig out the Office order dated 07-02-2020 and constituted a committee for appointment while escape representative of the Health Department which is an illegal act of omission;**

This is absolutely true that an internal 03 member recruitment committee was constituted vide MS DHQ Hospital Dir Upper office order no 563-66/F-01 dated 07-02-2020 comprising of Dr

Sahibzada Imtiaz Ahmad (MS DHQ Hospital, Dir Upper), Dr. Khalid Khan (DMS Admn DHQ Hospital Dir Upper & currently working as DHO Dir Upper) & Dr. Hanif Ullah (Medical Officer at DHQ Hospital, Dir Upper) and no correspondence has been made with the Health Department /DGHS for any ban relaxation or requesting for assigning departmental representative in this regard (all of the above mentioned record is annexed as page # 37 to 41).

d) **To probe into the illegal drawing of Pathologist & Radiologist share in millions of the hospital since long illegally despite of instructions issued by the Government vide letter dated 13-08-2021;**

The MS Dr Sahibzada Imtiaz has admitted to the inquire committee that he has taken the said shares but has said that till the issuance of the letter dated 13-08-2021 he was un-aware that the MS cannot take the shares of pathologists or radiologists. However the question arises that why he has continued to take the 25% Pathologist & Radiologist share since the aforementioned letter being addressed (cc) to the MS DHQ Dir Upper in response to his query on the matter. This infers that all of this was done knowingly even before and after the issuance of the above mentioned letter. Also, he remained at odd with Dr. Ijaz Rahim Bilal who was working as Pathologist at DHQ Hospital Dir Upper from June to December 2019 and the MS was in no mood to give him the share, therefore the Pathologist has to approach the Health Department for his due share and the Health Department vide letter dated 30-07-2019 issued directives to the MS to give shares to the above mentioned Pathologist. As per the hospital revenue collection record, Dr. Sahibzada Imtiaz Ahmad MS DHQ Hospital Dir Upper has pocketed Rs. 11,510,139/- since September 2017 till February 2023 in lieu of 25% Pathologist & Radiologist shares (the above mentioned record is annexed as page # 194 to 241 & 310 to 318).

e) **To probe his own private hospital for referring of patients and illegal usage of Sehat Sahulat Card / facility; and**

The inquiry committee analyzed data received from the Sehat Card Program (SCP) / State Life Insurance Corporation (SLIC) of the Ikhlas Surgical Center (Private Hospital) Dir Upper and data provided by the DHQ Hospital's (Surgical records/ DHIS data). The main findings are given as under;

- i. The Ikhlas hospital's empanelment /agreement document with the SCP is being signed by the Owner Dr Sami Ullah (Surgeon at DHQ Hospital) with co-signatures of Dr Sahibzada Imtiaz (MS DHQ Hospital Dir Upper) and Mr Ibad Ullah (brother of Dr Sami Ullah) (copy of the agreement is enclosed as page # 242 to 254)



- ii. Multiple letters shared by the SCP Program / official correspondence with the Ikhlas Hospital and the MS DHQ Hospital highlighted the low standards of services & warnings for closure of the private facility (copies of letters are enclosed as page # 255 - 278).
- iii. Further , the SCP's correspondence for activating the Sehat Card Facility at the DHQ Hospital shows that the DHQ Dir Upper was "one of the few DHQs" in the province where the Sehat Card Facility remained in-activated for long, obvious reason being the parallel private hospital (Ikhlas Surgical Center) co-owned by the MS Sahibzada Imtiaz and the Surgeon Dr Sami Ullah (copies of the letters are enclosed as page # 255 to 278)
- iv. This is pertinent to mention here that a Provincial Inspection Team's (PIT) Inquiry was conducted dated 12-08-2022 on the issue of non-empanelment of the DHQ Hospital Dir Upper. The PIT in its report has established that the MS DHQ Dir Upper was the main hurdle in bringing the DHQ Hospital on Sehat Card empanelment, reasons being vested interests of the MS DHQ Hospital Dir Upper (co-owner of Ikhlas privat hospital). The PIT recommended disciplinary actions against the MS DHQ Dir Upper and subsequently the Dr Sahibzada Imtiaz was issued with a **Charge Sheet** dated 02-11-2022, (copy of the PIT report and Charge Sheet are enclosed as page # 279 to 289).
- v. The data of surgical operations conducted in the Ikhlas hospital when compared to the DHQ Hospital's in year 2022 shows that the Surgeon Dr Sami Ullah conducted 773 operations in the Ikhlas hospital vs only 321 surgeries in the public DHQ Hospital in one year i.e. year 2022, (copy of the data is enclosed as page # 290 & 291).
- vi. The SCP / SLIC data for the one year (2022) shows that 1829 appendectomies (70%) were conducted out of the total 2602 surgical procedures in the Ikhlas hospital. In merely one month (September 2022) a total of 330 surgical operations were carried out where 247 were appendectomies that come to 75% appendectomies. Every day throughout the year 2022, an average of 7 - 10 appendectomies were conducted where other surgeries were found in negligible numbers. Ironically, many instances were found, where the surgeon carried out appendectomies of 3 to 4 children of the same family in the same month (data record of SCP/SLIC is enclosed as page # 292 to 309).
- vii. Though the Hospital's Empanelment was suspended on 05-12-2022 along with other 48 hospitals for low standards of services by the SCP Program, however in the last 04 days of the hospital's operation i.e. 1-4 December 2022 a total of 36 cases were operated upon, all of them appendectomies (data record of SCP/SLIC enclosed as page # 292 - 309).
- viii. In this context, a little literature search was carried out by the Inquiry Committee to have an idea regarding prevalence of appendicitis in a population and need for appendectomies



thereof. The Global studies reported that Appendicitis cases consume only 1.2% of all hospital discharges in a routine standardized surgical care. (Reference; "Appendicitis--a study of incidence, death rates and consumption of hospital resources"). Published on line; Postgrad Med J. 1984 May; 60(703): 341-344).

ix. Whereas the Ikhlas Medical Hospital claimed PKR 30 million for appendectomies only in one year (2022) which is around 70% of the total hospital cost being incurred via the Sehat Card Facility at the hospital.

f) To find out any other fact that may help in smoothly concluding the present inquiry on merits;

No further comments are required here as most of the aspects of the assigned TORs 'a' to 'e' have been covered in detail.

6. Conclusion

The findings of the inquiry infers to gross irregularities in the conduct of official business by Dr. Sahibzada Imtiaz Ahmad MS DHQ Hospital Dir Upper. The 89 recruitments (including 12 relatives) carried out by the MS since 18-09-2017 till date were / are without following any of the set procedures, codal formalities or any law and standing rules of the Government. Furthermore, he has taken Rs. 11,510,139/- since September 2017 till February 2023 in lieu of the 25% Pathologist & Radiologist shares without any right or justification which has resulted in financial loss to the public exchequer.

In view of the findings regarding the Sehat Card Program (SCP), it can be safely concluded that the DHQ Hospital Dir Upper has been used as a launching pad / picking point for referring patients to the private hospital (Ikhlas Medical Center) owned by the Surgeon Dr Sami Ullah and the MS Dr Sahibzada Imtiaz Ahmad. Further it is noted that the Sehat Card facility at Ikhlas hospital was grossly misused for un-due profit by conducting seemingly inappropriate surgeries mostly appendectomies (70%). From the data of Sehat Card of Ikhlas Hospital Dir Upper for the year 2022 it seems that an epidemic of appendicitis was erupted in Dir Upper and if the intervention of Ikhlas Hospital continued an entire generation of young population in district Dir Upper would be roaming around without a human organ called "appendix".

The above state of affairs warn a further probe / deep dive into the surgical records of Ikhlas Medical hospital Dir Upper and health status of the patients by conducting a Clinical Audit in order to ascertain the appropriateness of surgeries, validation from the reported families and children by examining the surgical scars, whether the surgeries were performed at all or just reported using the CNICs.



Further the professional & ethical responsibilities of the involved surgeons and hospital management need to be fixed and rectified. The possible adverse effects on health of the children and population exposed to the seemingly inappropriate surgical operations need to be assessed and also to gauge the magnitude of loss of the tax payers' money being allocated by the Government for the welfare of people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the observations and findings of this inquiry report, the inquiry committee recommends the following:

1. Disciplinary proceedings under the E&D Rules 2011 may be initiated against all the 03 members internal recruitment committee constituted vide MS DHQ Hospital Dir Upper office order no 563-66/F-01 dated 07-02-2020 comprising of Dr Sahibzada Imtiaz Ahmad (MS DHQ Hospital, Dir Upper) who acted as Chairman, Dr. Khalid Khan (the then DMS Admn DHQ Hospital Dir Upper & currently working as DHO Dir Upper) as member & Dr. Hanif Ullah (Medical Officer at DHQ Hospital, Dir Upper) for violating all set procedures and rules in recruiting 89 employees (87 Class-IV + 2 Junior Clerk) from time to time at the DHQ Hospital Dir Upper.
2. Disciplinary proceedings under the E&D Rules 2011 may be initiated against Mr. Muhammad Najeeb working as Senior Clerk (BPS-14) at the DHQ Hospital Dir Upper for concealment of facts regarding the total no of recruitments carried out and the no of appointment letters issued for being the sole custodian of the record.
3. 89 employees who were illegally appointed during the entire tenure of the current MS DHQ Hospital Dir Upper Dr. Sahibzada Imtiaz Ahmad may be dealt as per relevant rules.
4. It is further recommended that the financial loss incurred to the public exchequer with regards to Rs. 11,510,139/- which has been illegally taken by the MS DHQ Dir Upper since September 2017 till February 2023 in lieu of the 25% Pathologist & Radiologist shares and were without any justification may be recovered from Dr. Sahibzada Imtiaz Ahmad MS DHQ Hospital Dir Upper.
5. Auditor General Office Khyber Pakhtunkhwa / DG Audit may be approached in order to carry out a comprehensive audit of the office of the MS DHQ Hospital Dir Upper from the Financial Year 2017-2018 till the current Financial Year 2022-2023 in order to assess and gauge the total financial loss incurred to the public exchequer by the current MS Dr. Sahibzada Imtiaz Ahmad.



6. In view of the possible criminal negligence in conducting inappropriate appendectomies via Sehat Card it is recommended that a further inquiry may be conducted through appropriate health professionals i.e. Clinical Audit of Surgical Operations conducted in Ikhlas Medical Center Dir Upper in Year 2022.
7. The SCP Program may conduct a Clinical Cum Financial Audit in order to validate the procedures (by examining post-surgical scars of appendectomy patients) and take measures for possible recovery of the incurred cost (total PKR 30 million). Also remedial actions may be considered in favor of the affected patients who might have post-surgical health issues because of the interventions by Ikhlas Medical Hospital.
8. The department may ensure that the Ikhlas Hospital's Sehat Card empanelment is suspended via the SCP KP & SLIC until the reported gross negligence and irregularities are validated and rectified.
9. The Ikhlas Medical Center Dir Upper registration with KP HCC may also be suspended with immediate effect, until the above mentioned clinical audit is concluded, in order to avoid further possible damages to the people of the district.
10. The PMDC / CPSP may be communicated through a formal letter from this department for suspension of Licenses / Certifications of Surgeon Dr Sami Ullah (BS-18 Surgeon at DHQ Dir Upper) until the clinical audit report of the surgeries/appendectomies being conducted by him in Ikhlas Surgical Center in year 2022.
11. Further it is recommended that the services of Dr. Sami Ullah (District Surgeon, BPS-18) may be suspended at the DHQ Hospital Dir Upper with immediate effect until the findings of above mentioned clinical audit in order to avoid any possible mis-diagnoses / surgical interventions in the public sector hospital (DHQ Dir Upper) in the best public interest.


17/04/2023
Dr. Muhammad Saleem
Chairman Inquiry Committee/
MS DHQ Hospital Karak


17/4/2023
Dr. Atta Ullah Khan
Member Inquiry Committee/
Deputy Chief HSRU