



Dr. Nazar Sherani, an Immunization Hero & the Pride of Pakistan:

A Polio-Affected Medical Officer's Heroic Journey Combating 12 Vaccine Preventable Diseases with a Prime focus on Polio Eradication

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Dera Ismail Khan, population consisting of 1.2 million. One of the most security compromised areas because of Taliban armed forces insurgency an extremism that is never coming to an end in this rough terrain village. Accordingly a 78 km distance from district D.I. Khan is located a high-level risk area called Darazinda in the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province.

This case study originates from a team deployed by the Federal Directorate of Immunization (FDI), Ministry of National Health Services Regulations & Coordination (MoNHSR&C) during the Reaching the Unreached Activity (RUR) from 17th July to 24th July 2023 for monitoring routine immunization. Bravery never ceases despite the inevitable fear, as the EPI focal person Mr. Ali Muhammad hosted and along with the Federal teams mutually conducted a supportive supervision by assessing quality of several technical factors including vaccination coverage, utilization of community support and resources, complying all essential guidelines and protocols.

Phantom of tragedy occurs within the small discrete village of Darazinda an extremely courageous doctor residing Dr. Syed Nazar Sherani as a Deputy District Health Officer informs his ironic fate of being infected by poliomyelitis virus by birth in 1995 as an infant a very young, feeble age when he was just 11 months old. His parents refused vaccination because they were illiterate and lacking knowledge about the protection of vaccine. However, this did not stop Dr. Nazar from achieving and pursuing his career dreams. He achieved his dream goal of becoming a doctor, graduated with a higher education qualification in medicine and surgery (MBBS) from Chandka Medical College Larkana, Sindh Pakistan. The motion of life did not end right there for Dr. Nazar on one hand fighting a constant battle against this disease, on the other hand also the social stigma of misconceptions and refusals persisting within the community. A school of thought narrowing in depths of darkness and belief by the society secluded from the notion to end the disease with cure of medicine. By own experience transmission Dr. Nazar convinced the community shedding light and a vision that polio vaccine

is vital and essential for every child's survival. The vaccine is a cure to help every newborn to be able to chase their dreams as well play, learn, dance and sing. Generation of youth to be educated and explore avenues of medicine and the innovations in science. Dr. Nazar main ultimate vision is to eradicate polio virus in Pakistan to encourage all people to get vaccinated decrease of the morbidity and mortality caused by the 11 other Vaccine Preventable Diseases: Childhood Tuberculosis, Diarrhea, Diphtheria, Hepatitis B, Measles, Meningitis, Pertussis (Whooping Cough), Pneumonia, Tetanus, Typhoid and Rubella.



In November 2022, the turnover of the situation began when at UC Morga people 800 children refusals and community boycotted polio vaccine campaigns; therefore, Dr. Nazar conducted a door-to-door campaign and convinced these children about importance of vaccine to which they all gradually believed and accepted. In Union Council Mogul Kot majority of parents were refusing however 500 community people accepted the vaccine and did not fear or cast any doubts. Then Dr. Nazar and his team climbed in the high-rise peak mountains in the scorching sun to Union Council Bahrain convincing 700 children during campaigns which all community began to change their perspective and believed in the noble cause that vaccines serve to protect, to save precious lives. Brought motivation to not feel to be left out and avail the free of cost services.



Impact and Lessons Learned from the inspiring life of Dr. Nazar Sherani reflects dedication and innovative strategies had resulted in a drastic impact on the fight against polio in KPK. The moral lesson underscores the importance of local engagement, cultural sensitivity, and leveraging personal experiences to drive change. His efforts have not only contributed to the reduction of polio cases however also inspired a new generation of healthcare workers to end the facade of misconception in connection with the 12 vaccine preventable diseases. Dr. Nazar Sherani's journey as a polio-affected medical officer in KPK, Pakistan, exemplifies the power of determination, empathy, and community engagement in the battle against a formidable disease. His work ethic serves as a testament to the potential of individuals to drive positive change, even in the event of adversity.
