

# [ Dengue; ~~and~~ ~~the~~ ~~Government~~; and Health Sector of Pakistan ]

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Dengue Fever is a viral-borne disease ~~caused~~ <sup>spread</sup> by mosquitoes causing deaths of millions of people in some regions of the world. Its is mainly ~~caused~~ <sup>transfer agents</sup> by Aedes Aegyptis mosquitoes carrying Dengue Virus. These mosquitoes transfer the virus through biting, into the blood of human beings. Consequently, it causes infection and may prove fatal in some cases. According to WHO report of March 2023, 400,000 deaths worldwide are caused due to Dengue. Most of these deaths occur in the regions of Africa, South Asia and Central Asia. The death toll given by WHO is horrifying and demands immediate attention of governments across the globe for its preventions.

Several governments have issued a list of precautionary measures that can be used for prevention of Dengue. They have issued instructions for the surveillance of this disease and its vector. They have also launched several awareness programs. The Government of Pakistan has already released a set of instructions in 2021 focusing on personal protection, safe use of insecticides, Dengue larval control and community - based approaches to prevent this deadly disease. These instructions not only prevent infections but also reduces the pressure on health sector and hospitals incapable of handling large ~~amounts~~ number of patients.

The health sector of Pakistan is incapable of dealing with a large number of Dengue patients because of insufficient funds, lack of modern technologies and facilities, and unavailability of

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advanced medication and healthcare. In <sup>Pakistan</sup> ~~2021~~, number of <sup>Dengue</sup> patients that arrived to hospitals ~~in Pakistan~~ were 48,906, <sup>in 2021</sup> (WHO, 2021) ~~according to WHO~~. The admission of such a huge number of patients compared to incapable health system and mismanaged hospitals increases the chances of fatalities. Moreover, spread of infection also increases due to collective wards and lack of insecticidal spraying in the hospitals. Therefore, number of modern medication and facilities should be provided to the hospitals.

Pakistani hospitals require specific facilities to counter the disease of Dengue. Those facilities include provision of separate department and buildings for <sup>Dengue patients</sup> in Summers, every year. Additionally, loads of Dengue related medication, insecticidal sprays and modern machinery to identify the cases swiftly, are also required. Most importantly, Vaccines for Dengue should also be provided to prevent child deaths. In some scenarios, specific funds can also be allocated by the government for areas widely affected by Dengue.

Finally, it can be said that Dengue is a deadly disease causing hundreds of thousands of deaths each year, thus requiring special attention of the governments. In Pakistan, the cases of dengue are more than the limits of healthcare system; therefore, a set of instructions must be provided for people to prevent this disease. Additionally, government should allocate some funds for the hospitals and also provide them with modern medications, vaccines, equipment and infrastructure to help lessen their burden and to decrease death tolls across the Pakistan and across the world.