



Pakistan Association of Clinical Psychologists (PACP)

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29.7.21

Statement by PACP on NOOR MUKADAM CASE

Pakistan Association of Clinical Psychologists (PACP) would like to express extreme concern and distress over the brutal murder of Ms. Noor Mukaddam by the so-called 'Mental Health Professional', who was also serving in a renowned setup called "Therapy Works". PACP and all its members empathise with the bereaved family of the victim: Ms Noor and condemns the heinous act of the murderer: Mr. Zahir Jaffer.

Unfortunately, its very disappointing that despite putting up this issue at different Forums, this type of Quackery is being conducted at various places. Few months ago, PACP Executive Members even had a meeting with the Honorable Federal Minister Education with a detailed description about the difference between a Qualified / Certified Clinical Psychologist and just a Psychologist. But, its so tragic that repeated applications to look into this grave and sensitive difference was completely ignored by the respective authorities. We wonder how many Quack-Psychologists have been produced so far by "Therapy Works" and have been appointed in different esteemed setups. There is no count how many lives are continuously being ruined and are disregarded. There may be many 'Noors' who are still sufferer in silence.

Pakistan Association of Clinical Psychologists (PACP) has been the pioneer to get approved the Ethical Code of Conduct for Practising Clinical Psychologists and this Code of Ethics has been introduced and implemented in Health Department of Punjab through Official Notification (Diary No. 586; 9.10.20, dated 19.10.2020). PACP wants to ensure that this Code of Ethics also implemented in all Clinical and Academic Setups both in Public and Private.

The initiative taken by Government of Paksitan in collaboration with UNICEF to launch the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Program (MHPSS) is very promising for both Mental Health Professionals, including Clinical Psychologists and Psychiatrists. The mushrooming growth of Fake Rehabilitation Centres and Private Institutes offering Certification, Diplomas, and Degrees in the field of Clinical Psychology without having qualified and trained Head/ Professors to run these programs are quite alarming and disappointing for genuine professionals who are unheeded at all Government Forums and Selection Boards. Unfortunately, Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan has closed its eyes to such programs which are producing such Quacks particularly offered by Private Sector Institutes and Universities for their commercial goals. These institutes have been given Accrediation for these programs by HEC without any proper scrutiny. These institutes are producing alleged Clinical Psychologists like mushrooms to practise and augment human suffering.

No Organization or Institute should have the permission to provide Training / Certification to students of BS (Hons.) unless they fulfill the Criteria of a Clinical Psychologist (mentioned in PACP, Code of Ethics).



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The murderer of Ms. Noor Mukhaddam had his Training as a Counselor in this so-called Setup called "Therapy Works" and also worked: Treating Individuals, Conducting Educational Activities and Motivational Lectures at renowned Forums to attract rich clientage and students.

Pakistan Association of Clinical Psychologists (PACP) urge the public as well as Law Enforcement Agencies, Educationists, Policy Makers, especially the Higher Education Commission (HEC) who is completely ignoring what havoc is being played in Public Sector Universities in producing Clinical Psychologists. Furthermore, the Role as well as the difference between a Trained / Certified Clinical Psychologist and a mere Psychologist who has no specialization in Clinical Psychology is regrettably ignored by the Government Inductions and Selection Boards.

The sad incident of Noor's murder needs serious attention by the Government and Educational Policy Makers to clearly differentiate and identify the Role of Mental Health Professionals: Psychiatrists and Clinical Psychologist. There needs to be a Licensure Body like in other civilized countries for Psychiatrists and Clinical Psychologists, who can limit their boundaries to exercise their profession following their respective Code of Ethics.

Moreover, it is requested that though the "Therapy Works" has been presently sealed but it is important that Government Agencies and the Policy Makers cancel all the previous Certificates produced / issued by "Therpay Works" to prevent further such disasters through these quacks – so called Trained Professionals by them in order to ensure that NO more Quackery continues in Pakistan.

It is requested that Governmental Agencies, Authorities and Policy Makers kindly ensure the inclusion of Qualified / Certified Clinical Psychologist in their Mental Health Forums and Mental Health Policy Making not to include just Psychologists (keeping in mind the marked difference between the training of a Clinical Psycholgist and a Psychologist) as well as the induction of a clinicl Psychologist need to be done on MERIT not on Political Basis recognizing the related sensitivity of the Issue.

Hoping for a serious response considering the impct of it on the human suffering.

Sincerley yours

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