

U.S. Department of Education

Staff Analysis  
of the  
Report Submitted by

**Pakistan**

Prepared January 2004

Background

At its March 1997 meeting, the National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation (NCFMEA) determined that the standards of accreditation used by Pakistan's Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) to accredit medical schools offering programs leading to the M.D. (or equivalent) degree were comparable to the standards of accreditation applied to M.D. programs in the United States. The NCFMEA, which reevaluates all countries' accreditation standards every six years, again reviewed the comparability of Pakistan's accreditation standards to those used in the United States in March 2003. The NCFMEA reaffirmed its prior determination that PMDC's standards were comparable to the standards of accreditation applied to M.D. programs in the United States, and the Secretary informed the PMDC in a letter dated May 23, 2003.

The Secretary's letter also included the NCFMEA's request that Pakistan submit a report by December 1, 2003, providing information on the accreditation activities of the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council during 2003 and a schedule of its upcoming accreditation activities for the December 2003 – December 2004 period. The Secretary's letter also specifically requested more detailed information on the following two items: "(1) what policy, if any, the Council has pertaining to a medical school's humane treatment of animals that are used in medical research, and (2) what policies the Council has to deal with circumstances where the private interests of a faculty or staff member may conflict with that person's official responsibilities."

Pakistan submitted a report, dated December 31, 2003, and it is the subject of this analysis.

Summary of Findings

Based on its review of the report submitted by Pakistan's Medical and Dental Council, Department staff concludes that Pakistan has provided some of the

information requested by the NCFMEA. The PMDC was particularly specific in providing information pertaining to its accreditation activities and the accredited status of its schools. It was less specific in providing additional information pertaining to the individual revisions it made to the regulations and curriculums. The Committee may want to request that the PMDC provide more specific information about the revisions it has made to its regulations and curriculums. It may also want to consider making a second request for the missing information on the two items the NCFMEA requested in the Secretary's letter and deferring acceptance of this report until it reviews the country's response.

### Staff Analysis

The country reported on the following categories of information as requested by the NCFMEA:

#### Current status of medical schools

Currently, the PMDC reports that in the public sector, 18 medical schools are recognized and six are provisionally recognized. In the private sector, one medical school is recognized, while 24 are provisionally recognized.

#### Overview of accreditation activities

The PMDC conducted 25 inspections of medical/dental institutions in 2003. Of the 25, the PMDC:

- Extended permanent recognition to one school for five years,
- Provisionally recognized nine schools for one year,
- Provisionally recognized one school for two years,
- Extended provisional recognition to five schools for one year, and
- Did not recognize one school.

As of December 31, 2003, there were:

- Three schools under consideration for extended permanent recognition,
- Four schools under consideration for extended provisional recognition, and
- One school with an unclear status. This school appeared to be under consideration for an extension of provisional or permanent recognition.

### Laws and Regulations

The PMDC reported that there have been no changes in the laws in Pakistan relating to the accreditation of the country's medical schools. It also reported that it made changes/updates to its regulations in the following areas:

- The establishment of new medical/dental institutions in Pakistan,
- The appointment of teachers/examiners in undergraduate and postgraduate medical/dental institutions, and
- The inspection of medical/dental colleges and attached teaching hospitals.

### Standards, Processes and Procedures

The PMDC reported that there were no major changes to its accreditation processes and procedures. However, the PMDC reported that its accreditation processes and procedures were "improved and updated in 2003." The PMDC listed revisions in the following areas:

- The curriculum for the Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) course,
- The curriculum for Bachelor of Dental Science (BDS) course, and
- The guidelines for recognition of medical/dental journals,

### Schedule of upcoming accreditation activities

The PMDC reported that it has 20 accreditation reviews scheduled for 2004.

The PMDC did not respond to the Secretary's requests for more detailed information on the following two items: "(1) what policy, if any, the Council has pertaining to a medical school's humane treatment of animals that are used in medical research, and (2) what policies the Council has to deal with circumstances where the private interests of a faculty or staff member may conflict with that person's official responsibilities."