

①

The Honourable Chief Justice,
High Court of Sindh,
Karachi.

SUBJECT: INACTION OF THE GOVERNMENT MAKING A
PREVENTABLE DISEASE INTO LETHAL.

Honourable Sir,

With utmost humility and respect, the undersigned wish to bring to your kind notice that "Rubella Virus" has struck the Sujawal and Thatta Districts of the Province and that epidemic disease within short time has claimed almost lives of 48 children while many others have been suffering.

It is also submitted that Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccine can protect the children and adults from the three diseases, which vaccination the poor peoples of the vicinity cannot afford and they used to work day and night for winning bread for their family. It is to be noted that in private clinics of the area single dose of vaccine costs Rs.600/- while two doses are required for immunization. Therefore, the poor villagers/peoples who at times used to sleep without bread cannot afford to buy the vaccine for immunization and save their children.

It is also to be kept in mind that the disease may spread from person to person. Infection of the mother by Rubella Virus during pregnancy can be serious, if the mother is infected within the first 20 weeks of pregnancy, the child may be born with congenital rubella syndrome (CRS), which entails a range of serious incurable illnesses. Moreover, miscarriage occurs in up to 20% of the cases.

Sir, Rubella Virus, a highly contagious respiratory virus, has broken out in Sindh where the inoculation rates quite low and even innocent people do not have access to safe drinking water. Sindh currently has only 29 percent immunization coverage. The Virus is one of the most contagious viral infections. Therefore, if one case occurs in a population where there are many unimmunized people are residing, the disease spreads like a wildfire. Additionally, many parts of Thatta and Sujawal have no functioning vaccination centers and the Virus kills the children if they are malnourished and both the districts have very high malnutrition rates in children.

3

According to many victims of the Rubella Virus they never received any kind of vaccination while the Doctors performing duties in Government Hospitals and health care centers used to advise the victims to bring the children to their private clinics. The miseries of the people further multiplied when such doctor refused to admit serious patients but the children, not so serious in condition survive as they were provided treatment by the doctors at their private clinics. However, the doctors used to refute such allegations, which have substance otherwise.

Sir, poor villagers having no say and means also took out a procession in Sujawal against the district's health department's failure to combat the infectious disease.

Sir before many more innocents people and children succumb to the lethal virus, it is earnestly solicited to your honour to kindly look into the matter, take suo-moto action against the apathy of the Government and functionaries involved in it, place the complete record of vaccination before this Court and pass further appropriate orders expedient in the circumstances.

Thanking you.

Yours sincerely,

(Zulfiqar Ali Langah)
Advocate, High Court
Ledger No.HC-9914

Karachi, dated
the 12th May, 2014.

This application is converted into a constitutional petition. Let notice be issued to the Secretary Health, Govt. of Sindh as well as to the Advocate General, Sindh for 14-5-2014, initially, through all possible modes, attaching the copy of the petition.

*Chief Justice
12-5-2014*

*received by
Mr. Baqir (14514)
no body forward to
collect the notices
in regard of this case*