Corruption in the Government Hospitals

Anwar Ul Haque

ABSTRACT
Corruption in Government Hospitals is very common particularly in third world countries. Corruption starts from the top places. Corrupt elements in the Governments of powerful countries, World Health Organization (WHO), Local Governments, Ministry of Health, Multinational Companies, Non Governmental Organizations, Secret Organizations and powerful Media; all play their role in misdirecting the health budget of Government Hospitals toward rich and powerful and away from the poor and weak. They snatch away the big chunk of whatever little health budget is destined for the poor patients. Corrupt society leads to the appointments and assignments of corrupt, incompetent and impotent people who destroy the systems through their actions and inactions. Corruption in the Government Hospitals ravages and desolates the Pathology Department affecting its all activities! In order to have sound and blissful healthy systems there is dire need to fight materialism and greed by all sane and honest people of the society through instillation of high moral and ethical values at all levels and in all spheres of the society. This will Insha Allah improve the conditions of the Government Hospitals which are supposed to serve poor and middle class patients.

Key words: Corruption, Government Hospitals, World Health Organization, Media, Multinational Companies

Introduction
The corruption in the Government Hospitals is ubiquitous. Lack of strict accountability, lazy atmosphere and active killing of merit in appointments, promotions and purchases etc at Government Institutions provide a fertile land and soil for corruption thus severely compromising the efficiency and good organizing of the Government Hospitals. Of course the magnitude and severity of the corruption varies at different institutions and in different sections of the same hospital. While there are corrupt elements in Government Hospitals there are also honest and hard working doctors, administrators and paramedical staff; albeit in small numbers. Because of these latter variable degrees of quality care is provided to the patients. Unfortunately corrupt elements also consume the energy, resources and time of the non corrupt elements. They therefore fail to deliver their maximal potential. On the top Very Important Person (VIP) Culture promotes transfer of meager resources at Government Hospital towards high Government officers, bureaucrats and politicians. Poor patients are again the main victims of the this corruption at the Government Hospitals. The author has worked in a tertiary care hospital for about 15 years and is close to retirement. He had been educated at government institutions at undergraduate and graduate level. He has observed and actively fought various forms and intensity of corruption at the Government Hospitals. He has also carried out many inquiries. Based on his personal observations and interactions following is written with intention to reform the society and situation in the hospitals so that the optimal and best possible management and treatment could be offered to the patients.

Observations
Corruption (Fassad in Arabic) is disruption of normal and healthy systems through willful abuse of human intellect. It is a pure “human phenomenon” and not seen elsewhere in entire universe. Abuse of intellect degrades human being to the lowest of the low status where no creature can reach. In order to remain normal and to grow healthy one has to constantly purify himself. Inaction leads to dust, rust, ruin and decay. Disruption of systems translates into inefficiency, incompetency, and loss of resources and peace. This in hospital means shoddy patient care, sloppy teaching, inferior training and trashy research. Needless to say that it causes frustrations among honest and competent people as they spend lot of time fighting corruption. Why a Pathology Journal talks about corruption in the Government Hospitals? The answer is simple and straight forward; the corruption in the Government Hospitals devastatingly affects the pathology in all its dimensions and aspects. To stop human beings from
benefitting themselves and others from proper use of human intellect is a satanic phenomenon. It reflects open animosity toward humanity.

Weakening of ethical values has led to corruption all over the world. This has badly affected the health sector too including the Government Hospitals. Satanic forces do not surrender to the knowledge and high intellect of human beings; they rather use these to create all sorts of corruption, violence, terror and destruction. Man before descending to earth had been shown a practical preview in paradise what he would face on earth! He lost the paradise by succumbing to satanic temptations and deception then and on earth
he has lost many paradises too for the same reason! 5
To begin with, the health budget in the “3rd” world countries is very small. Even most part of this lean budget is stolen away! For example useless and unwarranted vaccines like Swine Flu vaccines are sold to suck the budget intended for the poor patients. 6-30. The corrupt elements use the power and stature of World Health Organization (WHO) and armaments of sophisticated media to create panic to fool Governments and public into buying these vaccines on the expense of treatments for far more common diseases such as malaria, anemia, tuberculosis and malnourishment etc. Some manufacturer of Swine Flu vaccines had become the WHO “experts” and promoted the sale of the vaccines from the platform of WHO. In order to sale these unwarranted vaccines on mass level and thus earning billions o Euros they even changed the basic definition of pandemic. 27-31 The local indigenous industries and pharmacology companies are targeted to the extent that a pharmacy producing cheaper drugs in Sudan was blatantly attacked by cruise missiles by a salesman of the powerful industries. 32
Corruption is omnipresent in health sectors. In Pakistan corruption lurks in all fields of Government and Government Hospitals. 33 Many hospital administrators are extremely corrupt and cooperate gladly with other higher, lower and at the same level corrupt elements. They for example facilitate dumping of the substandard medicines in the Government Hospitals (Figures 1-4). The medicines which should have been failed on any quality control checks and should have been discarded are allowed to be sold in the Government Hospitals. With active conniving of the corrupt pharmacology companies and the corrupt elements in the hospitals administration substandard medicines, equipments, reagents and other stuff are supplied. Corrupt elements in the departments support each other and receive huge kick backs and commissions. The “smart “administrators constitute committees comprised of majority of corrupt elements to “justify” the purchases of the supplies from corrupt companies.
Unnecessary and expensive procedures are carried out fooling patients. Fancy terms are used to grab large fees plus commissions. This type of verbal and wordy gimmickry is common in plastic surgery to get most out of Blue Cross and Blue Shield for the cosmetic procedures. There is marked increase in unnecessary cesarean sections at some institution in otherwise fit and healthy women. 34
Corrupt surgeons and other physicians perform operations in the private hospitals in the Government hospitals timings! Private hospital bills are sometimes accommodated from the budget of the Government Hospitals by creating ghost patients; of course with active collaboration of the account department. Some doctors come very late and leave early. Some are most of the time out of the country doing locum in European countries leaving their departments uncared. Some physicians are busy most of the time in WHO and related money making trips and so called courses severely affecting the supervision and performance of the departments. Unauthorized and even uninformed leaves are obtained.
Unnecessary tests and other investigations are ordered either due to poor understanding or for earning kickbacks and commissions from the laboratories. There is serious conflict of interest for those working at the Government Hospitals and simultaneously doing private practices. Many working at the Government Hospitals have no respect for their time which they mostly spend in chatting and socializing. Some even do shopping, banking and attend funerals all the time in office time.
Another grave source of huge corruption is transport where administrators use unauthorized hospital cars for their personal and their spouse’s uses. In the name of spare parts and service a large amount of money is embezzled.
Outright thefts of medicines, equipments, supplies, reagents and other items of common use are quite common in Government Hospital! Quality and quantity of these goods are compromised badly affecting the overall quality management. Medicines, blood bags and other stuff are stolen through various mechanisms e.g. supplying the goods on paper only, recalculating the same supplies and forcing the substandard equipments and reagents. Dramas of theft are created to hide the paper frauds. The medicines stolen from the Government hospitals are sold to the private chemists. Some Government officers instead of buying the medicines trade the prescription slips for buying fashion and cosmetic goods etc and bill the Government for these items as medicines! A great part of energy, time and resources of honest and competent honest elements is wasted in fighting the corruption.
At times honest and painstaking inquiries are carried out but their recommendations are hardly implemented. Sometimes inquiries were ordered to be stopped in the middle when fingers were pointing to the powerful culprits who had connections with some powerful secret organizations. The corrupt protects the corrupt! Even black and white recommendations about a culprit person that he must never be put on any post where embezzlement could be easily carried out; are not implemented! Same person is found at the same position doing the same thing for years! Blame also goes to those coward officers who are made members of inquiry committees and they give protection to the
known corrupt ignoring all evidences. So called Annual Confidential Report (ACR) is a joke. How corrupt heads will report the corruption and incompentency of their juniors? Some even blatantly refuse to even write ACRs on corrupt people or if they write they do not mention the corruption of the colleagues and subordinates thus enormously strengthening the vicious circle of the corruption. This cowardice is of course due to their weak faith and determination. The confidentiality of the report is often broken the moment report leaves the room of the writer. No matter how genuine are the remarks of the Head of the Department, the comments are sponged through connections.
The patients have to pay the price for every act of incompetency, nepotism, corruption and lack of justice. To rub the cyanide in the wounds, the International advisors and organizers are invited to give big lectures and provide training which often go nowhere and serve no purpose! Of course these “great” experts collect big bucks from the health budget. A few bones are thrown at the local people who cooperate and facilitate this agenda.
In the milieu of corruption almost everyone changes his color like chameleon. From top to bottom most get corrupted. Some steal time, some pinch energy, some nip resources, some take away material and some hard work of others! Some use Government Hospitals to shine their private practice. Some use hospital laboratories for their private patients. Some push the patients to their private clinics and laboratories for kick backs and commissions. Some write expensive medicines to get foreign trips etc. Greed kills the genuine research, quality education, strict supervision and optimal patient care.
In some affluent Middle East countries the suppliers of the doctors and paramedical staff provide grossly incompetent and inadequate number of staff pocketing the huge share of the budget. These companies hire some effective and influential person as a sleeping partner who protects them from legal actions and fetches for them the huge contracts. Organ transplantation is another area of wide corruption where middlemen take advantage of poverty of very poor people. Most money does not go to the poor donors but to the middlemen. The phenomenon is quite rampant in many countries including Pakistan and India.
The corruption is thus a big monster responsible for miseries in every sphere of patient management, training of new doctors, nurses, paramedics and research. It kills the true original research and promotes fake rubbish research such as simple statistics which even a 3rd grade student can do “on a computer. As a result trash “research papers” are created and fill the tummies of garbage journals which find no place but the garbage cans! Unfortunately this junk “research” can serve as a ladder for promotion to the of incompetent and dishonest persons to the higher faculty positions. The occupation of these positions by incompetent, dishonest and corrupt elements further promotes corruption, destruction and devastation. Needless to say that these elements are supported and protected by corrupt high officials and sometimes by several “secret” and hidden satanic corrupt organizations with fancy names and claims! There are some teachers who will not take a single lecture for years and yet nothing could be done against thanks to their powerful connections and equally weak and coward administrators!
No doubt Government Hospitals are still providing the valuable services to the poor and middle class patients. Strangely enough luxurious treatment is provided to the “VIPs” bureaucrats, politicians and other pompous influential people of the society again at the expense of poor patients. There is dire shortage of staff and relatively heavy workload on the honest and hard working doctors and paramedical staff thus depriving patients due attention and care.

Discussion

Corruption is ubiquitous in Government Hospitals all over the world. It is more common in the so called 3rd world countries where systems are very weak. The Government Hospitals are directly affected by the prevailing situation in the society. Many countries despite claiming to be free are not free and are under control of special interest groups and neocolonial rulers. The policies and budget of these countries are therefore directed in the best interest of the rulers and certainly not in the best interest of the poor people who turn to the Government hospitals for their treatment. The institutions are built by human beings and not by cement and bricks. The loot and plunder requires a culture of incompetency and corruption at all levels particularly at top levels. The moral and ethical forces would definitely resist the abuse of power and authority and hence the sophisticated thieves and robbers encourage nepotism, incompetency and moral decay at all levels and in all spheres of the society. What a sharp contrast between true Muslim led golden age and the new dark ages now!
What is the solution? The answer is simple i.e. the ethical and moral fabric of the society must be strengthened. The moral immunity status of the society and individuals needs to be fortified and enhanced at every step from very early age at home. In the primary and high schools honesty, truth, trust, courage and selflessness should be inculcated. All stakeholders i.e. parents, teachers, health workers etc. must play their
active role to fight the menace of corruption and to stand in front of corrupt elements. We have to actively fight all those forces and media who are injecting vulgarity and corruption of the mind in the youth and old through cartoons, vulgar movies and create frustration of the minds. Divine religious guide particularly unadulterated Islam in its final and totally protected form is a very effective weapon in fighting corruption. It is therefore no surprise to see the corrupt elements in media and elsewhere targeting and defaming these moral and ethics building forces. We can't and must not please all people particularly the corrupt, incompetent and robbers. Quran lays down four criteria of success: A) True faith, B) Righteous deeds, C) Active spread of truth and D) Helping each other in patience and perseverance (105). We must have all these virtues to be successful. Without actively engaging in cleaning the society and supporting and encouraging each other on the difficult path of spreading truth, our faith and our personal good works will not make us a successful person. How tragic is to leave the world as a failed person!

The most influential person of all times i.e. Mohammad (PBUH) has his house only about 100 sq. feet. Despite being the ruler of the Arabia with supreme respect in the hearts of his followers he had no possessions. He did have 16 swords reflecting his uncompromising struggle against corruption, tyranny and false gods. Great patron of education and sciences like Ma'moon Rashid, Mehmoed Ghaznawi and Salahuddin Ayyubi had no greed. They spent freely and profusely on educating and research institutes. Their inner strength created a just, peaceful and encouraging atmosphere for genuine research beneficial to all human beings and entire mankind. There had been many reforming movements in the history of mankind. Most important of these had been the true messengers of All Mighty Allah who through divine books worked hard to inculcate the high moral and ethical values and remove immorality and corruption from the society. The prominent messengers of Allah included Adam, Noah, Ibrahim (Abraham), Ismaeel (Ishmael), Ishaque (Isaac), Ya'qoob (Jacob), Youssuf, (Joseph), Moosa (Moses), Dawood (David), Sulaiman (Solmon), Issa (Jesus) and last and the final Mohammad (peace be upon all of them). They met variable worldly successes. Nations who did not adopt morality and ethics doomed e.g. nation of Noah and Loat etc. Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) got the highest success and regarded as the most influential person of all time. By strengthening the ethical and moral values the Last Prophet (PBUH) in his short prophetic life of only 23 years changed the world all together in the most positive way. With divine book i.e. Quran in his hand and by becoming a walking Quran through his actions, he lifted Muslims to the highest moral, ethical and just level; a paradise on earth as bible predicted was established with almost zero corruption and zero crime .

Quran provided the stimulus to observe, work hard, discover, honesty, peace and selflessness which was a prerequisite to carry out the marvelous, splendid, stunning, astonishing and creative original work in all fields of life and science. This was with Quranic morality, courage, vision and wisdom which led them to lay down the foundations of all modern sciences. They pulled Europe out of darkness and led them to renaissance and industrial revolution.

We have to follow the same path regardless of the outcome. One wonders if the staff was appointed on pure merit, strict accountability is carried out; honest and hard workers are rewarded while wicked and dishonest are punished and the stolen health budget by ultra smart thieves is used for the benefit of the suffering patients how great would be the impact! Certainly many Government Hospitals would do wonders if corruption is rooted out.

## Conclusion

Corruption in Government Hospitals badly erodes the healthcare of the poor and middle class patients who can’t afford luxurious treatment at private hospitals. Lack of morality and ethics in the society helps this degradation and benefits those who eat away lion’s share of the health budget destined for poor patients. In order to provide high quality medical care we have to fight corruption in all its shades at all levels and in all spheres. For bringing healthy change the doctors and other educated people of the society have to play their active role. Freedom of expression, honest and fair evaluation and strict continuing accountability must be put in place. We must actively engage in life long active war on corruption, which is the worst form of terrorism as it steals away health, peace. tranquility and overall well being of the patients and the people. Eradication of corruption can sharply improve the performance of the Government Hospitals which will not only be good for the common patients but also for the VIPs who may end up at the Government Hospitals at any stage of their lives!

*We thank Miss Sehris Sarfraz and Sumbal Wahid (M.Phil bio Chemistry Dept, Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad) for their help in computer search. We deeply thank Miss Gul-e-Nargis for providing us pictures of substandard drugs.*
References

1. Qur'an: Surah Teen (95: 1-8)
2. Qur'an: Surah Ash Shams (1-10)
3. Qur'an: Surah Baqarah (2: 31-36)
7. Macrae F and Borland S. Swine flu taskforce's links to vaccine giant: More than half the experts fighting the 'pandemic' have ties to drug firms By dailymail.co.uk http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1243034/Swine-flu-taskforces- links-vaccine-giant-More-half- experts-fighting-pandemic-ties-drug- firms.html#ixzz18np5RlRa
10. The ‘false’ pandemic: Drug firms cashed in on scare over swine flu, claims Euro health chief dailymail.co.uk
11. The swine flu outbreak was a ‘false pandemic’ driven Swine flu vaccine supplier has to pay back millions US pharmaceutical giant Baxter accused of overcharging Medicaid programmes...www.guardian.co.uk
13. H1N1 swine flu hoax falls apart at the seams (NaturalNews) The great swine flu hoax of 2009 is now...http://info-wars.org/2010/01/21/h1n1-swine-flu-hoax-falls-apart-at-the- seams/
15. BMJ Exposes WHO Corruption | Health | Epoch Times 12 Jun 2010 ... Dr. Margaret Chan, the director-general of the WHO, delivered the notice of a flu pandemic, which was wildly overblown. www.theepochtimes.com › Health › Western Medicine
16. Mega Corruption Scandal At The WHO Swine Flu and WHO corruption; When no mass wave of human deaths from Avian Flu materialized and after Roche, maker of Tamiflu and GlaxoSmithKline had banking...www.rense.com/general88/megawho.htm - Cached - Similar
17. “WHO Scientists Corruption Scandals Appear Endemic” by F. William ... 11 Jan 2010 ... Further information of official WHO corruption has emerged as people begin to look more closely at the unselected officials wielding so much ...www.financialsensearchive.com/editorials/engdahl/2010/0111.html - Cached
41. Download this Brief from: Benefits and drawbacks of per diem: do allowances distort good governance in health sector.november 2009.U4(29)
59. The worrying connections between Margaret Chan, Michael Repacholi, Bernard Veyret and the mobile phone manufacturers: http://www.next-up.org/pdf/Mobile_phones_and_real_pandemics_05_01_2010.pdf
64. F. William Engdahl. www.engdahl.oilgeopolitics.net/Swine_Flu/Flu_Pope/flu_po_pe.html
65. Most recent books in French: Pétrole, une guerre d’un siècle : L’ordremondialanglo-américain (JeanCyrilleGodfroyéd., 2007) et OGM: semences de destruction : L’arme de la fain (JeanCyrilleGodfrey
67. TweedeKamer der Staten-Generaal (Lower Chamber of the Dutch Parliament,) Martin Ensink, in "Holland, the Public
69. European Parliament will investigate the WHO and the "pandemic" scandal:
76. www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/science/article2632660.ece
82. GATT: General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs, created in 1947.
   http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/General_Agreement_on_Tariffs_and_Trade
83. IMF: international Monetary Fund, created in 1944.
84. LON: League of Nations, created in 1919, in the aftermath of the First World War.
86. http://www.theepochtimes.com/n2/content/view/37268/
89. Bhallia S. Child dead, broke father struggle to clear dues. The Hindustan Times(Chandigarh Ed.),2009 Jan 1-3 (Col.6).
91. Two arrested for impersonation in PMT of Baba Farid University of Medical Sciences, Faridkot. Times of India (Chandigarh Ed.). 2009 Jan15:1.
93. Tribune News Service. Dr Dhilliwal gets five-year RI. The Tribune [Internet]. 2009 Mar 4 [cited 2009 Aug 31]; [about 1 screen].
96. Singh V. Five newborns were burnt alive. The Sunday Tribune. 2009 Feb1:1(col.2).
97. Sharma R. Head of Medical Council of India removed for corruption. Student BMJ [Internet]. 2001 Dec 15 [cited 2009 May 21]; 323(7326):1385
98. http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/extract/323/7326/1385
100. India kidney trade. TED Case Studies; Case number 240[Internet],[cited 2009 May 21]. Available from: http://www1.american.edu/TED/KIDNEY.HTM


105. Quran Surah Al-Asr (93: 1-3).