

President Dr. Arif Alvi chaired a meeting of Senate of the Health Services Academy (HSA), Islamabad



During the meeting, the President said:

- Health-related institutions and relevant stakeholders should consider incorporating Boy Scouts and Girls Guides in the emergency health care system by providing them comprehensive training to provide timely first-aid in emergencies to the affectees around the country
- There is a need to establish mental healthcare infrastructure in Pakistan and existing mental healthcare facilities should be strengthened on an urgent basis. The incidence of mental diseases in Pakistan is 24% whereas there are only 2000 experts in this field
- Unfortunately, people who suffer from mental health diseases are prone to violence and irrational behaviors and in extreme cases commit suicide or cause serious injuries to others, including their loved ones. Unfortunately, suicide incidents are increasing in Gilgit-Baltistan
- There is a need to identify the root cause of this serious behavior and to set up an effective healthcare system to address psychological and mental health issues faced by the people of the area
- There is an urgent need to expeditiously launch an Artificial-Intelligence-based mobile app and web-based helpline to provide immediate counselling to persons seeking mental health-related counselling
- Pakistan should also launch two-year high-quality training courses for nurses and paramedical staff to meet the pressing demand of our healthcare system
- Management of the Health Services Academy should create an exclusive set-up to keep its accounting and books transparent, verifiable and credible to seek foreign funding from donors to finance its operational and academic needs
- As per the demand of the market, universities/institutions should also offer Associate Degree Courses of two years in various disciplines to expeditiously meet the shortage of skilled human resources faced by the private sector
- Universities should offer courses through online and hybrid modes of learning to increase the number of graduates and to bring more youth into the education system of the country

