# Table of Contents

1. Foreword ............................................................................................................. 3
2. Background........................................................................................................ 4
   - Policy Statement on Vaccination................................................................. 5
   - Policy Statement on Education................................................................. 6
   - Policy Statement on Economy................................................................. 7-8
4. Summary............................................................................................................. 9
MQM Policy Statements on Vaccination, Education and Economy under COVID-19

Foreword

The paper depicts the policy strategies of Muttahida Quami Movement Pakistan (MQMP) on vaccination, education and economy under covid-19. These policies are shared at working session of the MQM Policy Wing held on Thursday 25th February, 2021 in Karachi. The Participants of the session were nominated by the Party Senior Deputy Convener, Mr. Aamir Khan.

The session was attended by more than 20 party representatives. In the session, Syed Faisal Subzwari, Former Leader of the Opposition Sindh and Member Central Coordination Committee MQM Pakistan, presented the MQM policies on Vaccination, Education and Economy post COVID-19 pandemic.

The Policy document was a result of a meticulous and consultative process, a thorough and comprehensive document in which multiple members of the party aided with their experiences and professional skills. MQM Pakistan’s two young party members conducted Grass-roots policy forums in Hyderabad and Mirpurkhas followed by other GPFs in other cities also helped us in representing the narrative of urban Sindh voters amid covid-19 socio-economic predicament.

This policy document was endorsed by Senior Leadership, the full quorum session of Central Coordination Committee Muttahida Quami Movement Pakistan. Syed Faisal Subzwari shared press release on this policy document with media.
Background

As Pakistan grapples with a global pandemic of coronavirus, any socio-economic response to COVID-19 is incomplete without informed policy input by political parties. In order to facilitate political parties to update their policies on management of the impact of coronavirus based on citizens’ input, PILDAT, as a friend of political parties, began to work with eight (8) key political parties including the MQM-P. The aim of engagement has been to facilitate and assist political parties by activating their own structures to document policy statements on Vaccination, Education and Economy under COVID-19.

In November 2020, PILDAT conducted Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with Women and Young Politicians from various political parties to collect their informed perspectives on issues relating to COVID-19. Similarly, virtual meetings with the Women and Young Politicians from the political parties including MQM - P were held to brief them on the system of policy forums as practiced by the Conservative and Labour Parties of the United Kingdom (UK) and how the system can be adapted by Political Parties in Pakistan. Following the focus group discussions and briefings, PILDAT facilitated 16 young and female politicians belonging to 8 political parties including MQM - P to conduct 16 Grassroots Policy Forums (GPFs) in different areas of Pakistan to collect citizens’ perspectives on Coronavirus-related issues faced by them. Following this, PILDAT organized a Joint Meeting of Policy Wings of 8 Political Parties to share policy recommendations from Focus Group Discussions and Grassroots Policy Forums with the parties. The policy input from all these initiatives was shared with the members of the MQM Policy Wing as well for their consideration and possible incorporation in the party’s policy documentation on Vaccination, Education and Economy under COVID-19.
**Statements on Vaccination, Education and Economy under COVID-19**

As the second wave of COVID-19 has already hit Pakistan and we all know the intensity of this viral infection disease. The numbers, both in Pakistan and the world are surpassing previous records. A comprehensive policy to tackle both the health and economic effects is required to be taken by the government. At a time when the world is optimistically looking forward to positive effects of upcoming vaccine administration, any country lagging in this race is likely to pay the price in human casualties. A diversion of resources is urgently needed to cope with this threat.

**Policy Statement on COVID-19 Vaccination**

**Vaccine Attainment:**
COVID-19 Vaccine should be acquired by the Federal Government from various sources around the world. There should be a Joint Venture between Public and Private Institutions for procurement.

**Vaccine Management:**
In First Phase, Pakistan should give the Resolution in UNO to have Free Covid-19 Vaccine from WHO as they are providing Polio Vaccines to the Third World Countries, beside this Pakistan should work for Local Manufacturing of the Vaccine too.
It should be managed into Three Different Layers.

a) **Federal Government** should develop the consortium between National Disaster Management Authority, Provincial Government, Local Government (*If Elected Local Government bears the office*) and different pharmaceutical organization. They will identify the requirement of the Vaccine on Provincial Level. They can ask different Pharmaceutical Organization and their Data to identify the Vaccine requirement as per the population and resources. Vaccine in First Stage should be given as per the World Health Organization advice.

b) **Provincial Government** should announce the Local Government Election and delegate this power to the Mayor of the City District and empower the whole local government system (Mayor and Commissioner) to identify the exact quantity of the vaccine as per the Population.

c) **Local Government** – After having the election, LG should take part at this front and identify the required quantity of the Vaccine. Union Council’s offices and their staffs can be used to extract the data for vaccine and execute it as per the WHO and NDMA policy.

**Domestic Production:**
Government should take this initiative and ask different pharmaceutical organization for R&D and preparation of the Vaccine in Pakistan. Government should give subsidies rates to the manufacturers.

**Role of Basic Health Units:**
Government should use B.H.U for COVID-19 Vaccination and Union Council Offices. These Union Council Offices should be operational 24/7 for the public. They should be directly linked with NADRA system.
Policy Statement on COVID-19 Education

In the month of January 2021, government decided to reopen the schools periodically. MQM wants to give some noticeable points in the policy statement on Covid-19 on education.

Consortium between Private Sector & Government Schooling systems:
As per the Article 25 - A of constitution of Pakistan, government must ensure that every child should be enrolled in primary school.

a. For Government Primary Schools
This is the right time for the Government to handle and create the base line for the Primary Students all over the country. In First Phase, we need to develop the basic Course Outline for the Primary Students. PTV and Radio Pakistan should telecast lectures to facilitate areas without internet. Beside this, all Lectures can be uploaded on YouTube and other Digital media Platforms. All Tele-Communication Organizations, can give the backup of these videos on their platforms.

b. For Government Secondary Schools
State should ask different Multi National Company’s to come forward and take the responsibility of the Learning Management System for Government Schools. For the betterment of the Education System, Government must launch their own Educational TV Channel, Radio Channel, YouTube Channel, Web Broadcasting, etc. they should cover all the aspects for delivering the lectures.

c. For Private Primary & Secondary Schools:
All Private schools should follow the Standard Primary Education Policy in their schools. This is the responsibility of Provincial Government to implement this policy in Private School’s too. In this situation, we all know Private Sector Schools has raised their Fees Annually by 10 % at least. This 10% reflects the inflation rate from the economy. So, Government should give Tax Exemption to the basic necessities for Schools and at least 25% of waiver in Annual fee.

d. For Higher Education
HEC and other state universities have already purchased their Learning Management System and they are now offering the Online, Hybrid and on Campus Classes. I.T. Companies should work on IT infrastructure in Pakistan. After that, we will be able to have maximum downloading speed without any connectivity issue of the internet.
Policy Statement on COVID-19 Economy

1. After having 73 years of Pakistan, we are still in the situation where our economy is still in striving position but as per International Researchers and Economist, still we have a hope to recover our economy by taking some big measures.

2. Pakistan’s economy is based on Agriculture, Textile and Service Industry. As we all know Covid-19 hit the economy almost all over the World. But still, we have positive side to work on our Economy by taking precautionary measures.

3. In First Phase, state should provide Masks, Gloves, Sanitizers and Antibacterial Soaps in fewer prices. State should give subsidy to the manufacturers and create the Team on Local Government Base who can control and check on the prices of these items in open market. Price Controlling authority should underline the Mayor and its constituent Union Councils.

4. Due to Lockdown, overall retail business goes down and due to this public suffers allot. So MQM does not want to have Lockdown in the city and if it required somewhere then Smart Lockdown is the only option for specific time period.

5. State should promote Cottage industry in Pakistan as it is the only way out for the better economy.

6. State should take precautionary measures in those services and industries which are numbered in essentials of our country.

7. These are the places where the management of the unit is responsible for the all the Covid-19 measures and Govt. officials can enter any of the premises to find out the Execution of the S.O.Ps.

8. MQM – Pakistan appeals to the State Bank of Pakistan to make some alteration in the policies for Micro Finance Bank in order to give Easy Loans to the Small Medium Enterprises and Sole Proprietors.

9. Encourage local manufacturers and exporters by subsidizing duty and internal trade.

10. Encourage foreign investments – Which will ultimately raise employment and reduce dependency.

11. Subsidized utilities, vegetables and fruits and free provision of ration to slum areas or claimant areas accordingly where necessary.

12. Home delivery service of rations and utilities by the owners of utility stores, super stores and markets should be provided. As in these places maintaining social distancing is a difficult task to very extent.

13. Proper implementation of SOPs - Shops (tax payees) was closed but carts (bribers/opportunists) were provided relief.

14. Thumb impression campaign should run by the Government to overcome lapse in Ehsaas Program (Involving UCs). Or debit cards should be given against the CNICs which will reduce the operational costs.

15. Free Quarantine Centers far away from the city area and free ICUs should arranged by the government.

16. State should offer hassle free loans for online businesses and digital market.

17. 50% provision of salary for unemployed individuals during covid19.

18. Minimize the tax on huge amounts of transactions and arrange free online transaction network.

19. Encourage online account opening services - CDM machines, HBL Konnect, Easy paisa, Jazz Cash.
20. Relief in electricity bills up to 50% - 60% and encourages solar panels and wind panels for the same purpose.
21. Provide relief to suburbs' farmers - Free seeds and fertilizers or free fuel for the tractors and machines used in agriculture or subsidized brokerage so that the farmer and consumer both not suffer.
22. Subsidized Vaccination for cattle and pesticides for crops.
Summary:

In a nutshell, we may say this without having the empowerment of the Local Government in the country, Execution of the S.O.Ps cannot be performed as per the requirement. Local Government Election should be held in Pakistan at earliest. Our efforts in the field of Information Technology can play a vital role in the betterment of our Economy & Education.

Citations:

*1- Elected Local Government be placed
*2- Census Data has discrepancy so we can use the basic Data from NADRA.