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The Aga Khan Health Services

International Newsletter

No. 44 January 1991

Third AKU Convocation First Graduates of Nursing Degree Programme

The Convocation of The Aga Khan University (AKU) in Karachi is an annual event, yet the third one held on 19 November 1990, had several special features. It was the first time that degrees and diplomas were conferred upon 88 doctors and 116 nurses in a joint ceremony.

His Highness the Aga Khan presided as Chancellor of the University, which was also attended by Mr. Mahmoud A. Haroon, Governor, and Mr. Jam Sadiq Ali, Chief Minister of Sindh.

For the first time AKU awarded Baccalaureate degrees in Nursing—the only programme of its kind in Pakistan. Fifteen mid career nursing graduates included seven nursing teachers, one senior community health nurse, an acting director of nursing services, one clinical nurse specialist and five mid-level managers in a variety of hospital nursing positions. The Baccalaureate programme was given special significance because it places nursing in the mainstream of the academic community, and gives credence to the worth and value of nursing as a profession among equals in the health care system. Equally important, it enhances the status and image of women who choose to pursue nursing as a long term career.

In his Convocation address, His Highness said, "This magnificent dedication to the cause of higher education in an international University in Pakistan reflects itself all the way through the University from its faculty to its students, from its donors to its administration. To all of

you, I express my gratitude and admiration, for in the seven short years since it was chartered in 1983, this University has made admirable (Contd. on page 4)



His Highness awarding AKU's Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing to Ms. Ann Fernandez.



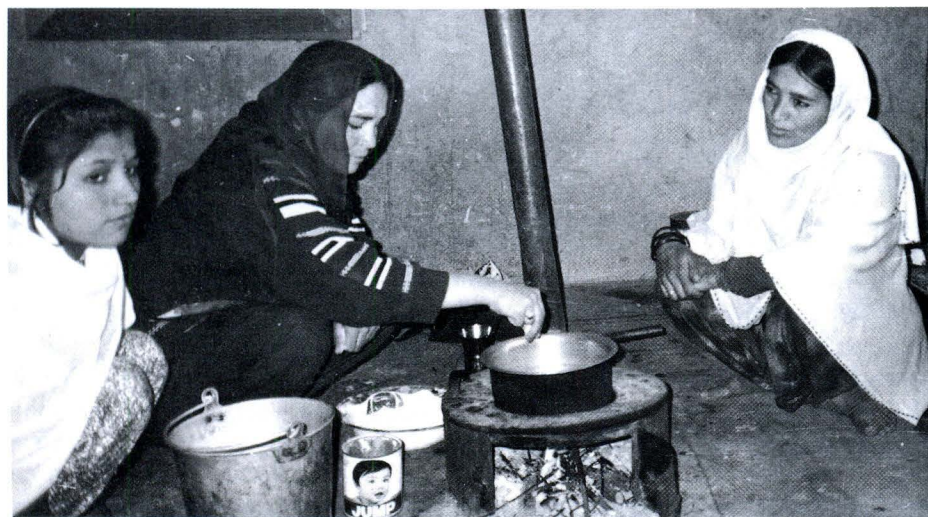
Valedictorian Dr. Adnan Ali Hyder, who received six merit awards. (L to R front row) Dr. James W. Bartlett, Mr. Mahmoud A. Haroon, Governor of Sindh, His Highness the Aga Khan, Mr. Jam Sadiq Ali, Chief Minister of Sindh, and Mr. Shamsh Kassim-Lakha.

Seminar on Women in Health and Development

A highlight of the 1990 Convocation of The Aga Khan University in Karachi was the International Seminar on "Women in Health and Development", held on November 14-15. This theme was particularly appropriate as the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation had declared 1990 as the "Year of the Girl Child". Participants in the seminar included men and women with long standing interest in the subject. Besides Pakistan, representatives from Bangladesh, Indonesia, South Africa, Britain and the United States, made presentations to an enthusiastic audience of 450 people. The three sessions of the seminar focused on different aspects of the status and role of women in developing countries and the Muslim world. (Contd. on page 5)

Research on Diarrhoeal Disease in Gilgit Valley in Pakistan

Nestled in the Gilgit Valley of the Karakorum mountains is Oshikhandass, a village of 4000 people. Here The Aga Khan University (AKU), in collaboration with the Womens' Organisations of Oshikhandass and the Aga Khan Health Service, Pakistan (AKHSP) started a project in July 1989 to study diarrhoeal disease in children under five. Joint funding was obtained from the Applied Diarrheal Disease Research Project at the Harvard University Institute of International Development and AKHSP. The objectives of the study were to develop a surveillance system for diarrhoea, to strengthen local microbiological capability, and to develop guidelines for the management of dysentery by paramedical workers.



Ms. Zohra and Iqbal Bano (centre), Diarrhoea Workers, showing a mother how to make wheat based ORT in her home.

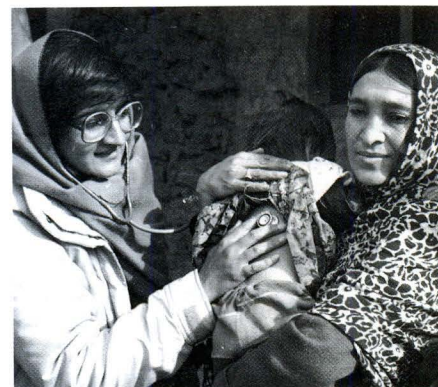
The Womens' Organisations (WOs) were eager to participate as they recognised diarrhoea to be a major cause of illness and death amongst their children. The five WO identified 12 educated young women to work as a team with the project staff including a lady health visitor, nurse, doctor, microbiologist and computer research administrative assistant. Two nurses from AKU's School of Nursing: Ms. Mumtaz Moghul and Zeenat Keswani, participated in the project. Dr. Zeba Rasmussen, Assistant Professor in the Departments of Medicine and Community Health Sciences at AKU, was the principal investigator.

A baseline survey conducted in July 1989, showed that only one quarter of mothers knew how to make ORS correctly using sugar salt packets, that 24% of the 677 children under five years were malnourished, and a few were severely malnourished (see box).



Dr. Salma Badruddin, Nutritionist from The Aga Khan University in Karachi, visiting a house in a remote village in Gilgit Valley, to discuss with the mother foods available in the home, which could be incorporated into the child's diet.

Dr. Badruddin is undertaking a study in collaboration with AKHSP, to understand beliefs and practices related to child feeding during diarrhoea. She is also analysing the nutritional composition of locally available food, so that appropriate child feeding practices, which are affordable and culturally acceptable, can be recommended to the mothers.



During a weekly supervisory visit, Dr. Zeba Rasmussen examines a one year girl suffering from fever, cough and diarrhoea.



A Diarrhoea Worker taking a rectal swab from a child with diarrhoea in order to determine pathogens by stool culture.

The under-five children were visited once a week by "diarrhoea workers"; if they were ill with diarrhoea, they were assessed for dehydration, ORS was given, a stool sample taken, and if necessary, they were referred to the field doctor/nurse/LHV.

The research team found a marked seasonal variation in diarrhoea incidence, with almost no diarrhoeal in the cold winter months and many episodes in the summer. About 15% of the episodes were dysenteric, involving bloody diarrhoea. Only 15% of the children had almost half of the episodes of diarrhoea. Worms were common both in children with and without diarrhoea: almost half of "well" children had worms, especially *Ascaris* or roundworms. During the summer, water testing in several parts of the village showed significant contamination (high coliform counts), indicating that water was unfit for human consumption.

As a result of the research, the village is now launching a piped water scheme with a water filtration plant provided by The Aga Khan Housing Board for Pakistan. A study to look at children at high risk of developing diarrhoea is also being planned.



Karim Jan

Oshikhandass Diarrhoea and Dysentery Project workers listen as lady health visitor DilAfroz reviews causes of death in children under five. The workers' tasks include anthropometry, weekly surveillance of diarrhoea in children under five, clinical assessment of dehydration and health education of mothers.

The Aga Khan University Medical Centre First Residency Programme Completed

When The Aga Khan University Medical Centre (AKUMC) opened in October 1985, junior physicians were recruited to help with patient care. Every effort was made by the faculty to train them and improve their skills. In Medicine, under the leadership of Dr. Camer Vellani, then Chairman of the Department of Medicine, Drs. Zeba Rasmussen, Peter Barrett, Abubakar Sheikh, and their team, gave form and structure to this activity and a recognizable post-graduate training programme emerged by 1987.

After completion of the house job, three years of steadily increasing responsibility under the supervision of attending physicians provided a solid foundation in general internal medicine. The first of what will be a continuous and growing stream of Pakistani trained physicians is now emerging from this programme. Drs. Saleem Abubakar and Abdul Jabar have completed the programme

and qualified as MRCP (London). Drs. Arif Aziz, Rana Haquee, Ahmed Zubari and Naheed Zia have served for three years and are working at The Aga Khan University Hospital (AKUH) either preparing to take the MRCP exam or planning further study abroad. Dr. Zaigham Abbas is attaining the FCPSP (Fellowship College of Physicians and Surgeons of Pakistan). He is planning to take advanced subspecialty training at AKUH in its growing division of gastroenterology.

In the Surgery Department, under Dr. Farhat Moazam as Chairperson and Drs. Mushtaq Ahmad, Jamsheer Talati and various other faculty members, a structured post-graduate training programme was initiated in 1986. House officers who had already worked at AKUH for 1-2 years were recruited at level two of a five year programme. In October 1990, the first four residents graduating from the programme were Drs. Philomena Drago, Saleem Ahmad, Farhat Abbas and Zafar Nazir. All four are joining the AKUH faculty as junior instructors in surgery and Dr. Nazir has also recently attained FCPS (Pakistan). They, and the many who will follow them, are helping to achieve one of AKUMC's primary objectives—to provide excellent medical training for Pakistanis and preparing clinicians for careers of service to the country.

In addition to medicine and surgery, Residency Programmes are offered in Obstetrics/Gynaecology, Paediatrics, Anaesthesiology, Radiology, Pathology and Community Health Sciences. Initial efforts at seeking recognition of the programme from the Royal College of Surgeons at Glasgow have met with success and negotiations are also under way with other international post-graduate institutions.

The Story of Little Malika and Her Grandmother

Two year old Malika was one of the few third degree malnourished children in Oshikhandass village. One day she became very ill with vomiting and watery diarrhoea.

The field team visited Malika's home and tried to encourage her to drink oral rehydration salt solution, but she retained nothing. She was near death and needed to be taken to the hospital 15 miles away. Malika's mother could not go with her as she had to take care of other sick siblings, so Bibi Zulekha, the child's 40 year old grandmother, volunteered to take Malika in a jeep to the doctor. Malika was hydrated with intravenous fluid, where she continued having diarrhoea. Her grandmother had wrapped the child in a towel but that too became soaked as did her own clothes. There were no diapers; soap and water were not easily accessible, and so Bibi Zulekha did not wash her hands as she cared for the sick child.

They returned home late at night. A few hours later Bibi Zulekha developed severe diarrhoea and vomiting. By morning she was hard to

arouse and severely dehydrated. Her husband in desperation hired an old jeep available in the village as a "taxi" and took her to the hospital. After several litres of intravenous fluid, Bibi Zulekha woke up, and after five days she was discharged from the hospital.

The family recalls that she was not well at home, although the diarrhoea did not reoccur. She became weaker, "swollen", developed difficulty in breathing and died exactly one week from the time she first became ill.

The Diarrhoea team went for condolence to Bibi Zulekha's home the next day. As they entered, Malika's mother began to weep uncontrollably. She knew her mother had died after caring for little Malika. She said, "She was our strength. She took care of us all. Now she is gone". Malika, in her usual scrawny malnourished state, smiled in recognition as she saw the team. She offered them her half eaten crust of fermented bread.

This story highlights the many factors that contribute to the prevalence of diarrhoea: water, hygiene, sanitation, nutrition and ready access to well trained and equipped health care staff so that illness, when it occurs, can be properly managed.

Third AKU Convocation

(Contd. from page 1)

progress. And it has done so at times in difficult circumstances”.

Referring to the status of women, His Highness said, “Just as health care and medical education are critical beacons in the struggle of a community to achieve its highest potential, the status of women and the professions they serve are decisive criteria. They cannot be realised without the full participation and leadership of qualified and creative women. The way that a community, or a nation, excludes or enables

Regarding future development of the Medical Centre His Highness said, “A major expansion programme for the School of Nursing has been determined which will provide lecture halls, laboratories and faculty offices for the newly instituted baccalaureate programmes. A comprehensive cardiology programme incorporating a new cardiac catheterisation laboratory and the introduction of sophisticated cardiovascular surgery has been established. At the Medical School, plans are well underway for new faculty offices and research

relationship, AKU’s School of Nursing has benefited greatly from McMaster’s innovative work in nursing education and community health. Fifteen nurses from different institutions in Pakistan have graduated from McMaster with Baccalaureate degrees to-date, and an additional 32 nurses have completed a six-month work-study programme in Canada. Funding for this programme was provided by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). Dr. Andrea Baumann, the Associate Dean of McMaster University’s School of Nursing, had especially flown to Karachi to present the degrees to them.

Dr. James W. Bartlett, Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, said in his



The medical graduates taking their oath

women to fulfil its most vital tasks, bespeaks its failure or success. There is neither democracy nor meritocracy in a society that excludes half its members”.

Highlighting the role of The Aga Khan University Medical Centre as a “turning plate” of the Aga Khan Health Services, His Highness said, “I note with happiness the increasing role of this University which is now involved with the Aga Khan Health Services in Bangladesh, India, Kenya and Tanzania. At the same time, it is expanding its relationship with public and private sector health institutions here in Pakistan. By acting as an intellectual base for this expanding Network, the impact of the University is being enlarged in education, service and research”.

laboratories. The long term programme for the development of sports facilities which will be used both for post-operative and rehabilitation purposes, as well as for sports by students, faculty and staff has been agreed, and will be implemented incrementally. Discussion is well advanced on accelerating research programmes for the students and faculty, and finally, and most important, it is possible that the University will create an Institute for Educational Development”.

Yet another feature of the programme was the presentation of the Bachelor’s Degrees in Nursing by McMaster University to eight graduates of that University trained under a special arrangement between McMaster University and AKU. Through this close working

address that 1990 has been a year of challenge and growth for AKU. A dedicated, innovative faculty, though still small for its increasing responsibilities has maintained high standards and scholarly stature.

He added, “The Aga Khan University Hospital (AKUH) has significantly enlarged and improved its services, with more to come in the months and years ahead. As a teaching hospital, AKUH plays a key role in the training of both nursing and medical students. The welfare fund of the Hospital provides accessibility for needy patients, and this year (1990) 12,000 patients will benefit”.

The Convocation was attended by senior government officials, academicians and parents of the graduates.

Seminar on Women

(Contd. from page 1)

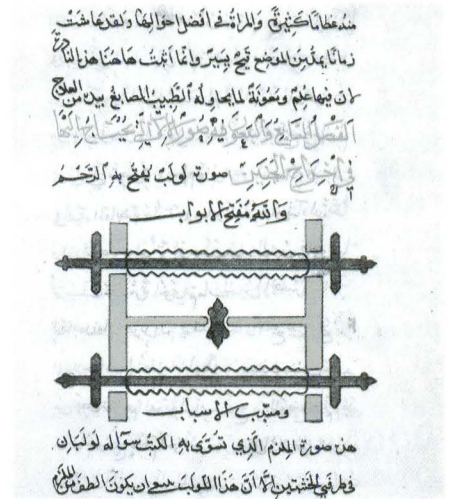
The mood for the seminar was set by the keynote address of Dr. Lucie Kelly, Professor of Public Health and Nursing at the Columbia University in New York, which was entitled "Women's Special Heritage". The next session was devoted to women in health and education. Among the notable participants, Professor Sadiqua Jafarey, a leading gynaecologist of the city, presented sobering data on maternal mortality based on her experience at the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre. She informed the audience that Pakistan has a maternal mortality rate of 7/1000, approximately 100 times greater than that in the developed countries. Ms. Anita Ghulam Ali, a renowned educationist of Pakistan, shared with the audience information on the current status of female literacy. Dr. Mary-Jo Good, Associate Professor of Social Medicine at the Harvard School of Medicine, emphasized the role of appropriate research as a tool for

Surgical Instruments in Islamic Medical Manuscripts

Abu'l-Qasim (1000 A.D.), a surgeon and gynaecologist from Cordova, invented numerous surgical instruments which he depicted in his textbook on medicine. These practical inventions had a decisive influence on instrument-making in Europe right up to the Middle Ages. They include a wide range of complex contrivances for major surgery and obstetrics, to delicate appliances for dental work. For instance, he created many devices for removing dental tartar, whose basic concepts have survived in a large number of the instruments in use today.



Small and large saws for cutting through bones in amputations.



A speculum used for opening the entrance to the womb'.



Dr. James W. Bartlett addressing the concluding session of the seminar. L to R: Dr. John Bryant, His Highness the Aga Khan and Dr. Riffat Hassan.

Ameer Tariq

understanding and solving health problems facing the women and children of the Third World.

In the session dealing with the "Role of Women in Economic Development", Begum Tahrunnesa Abdullah, Joint Director of the Bangladesh Integrated Rural Development Programme and a recently appointed Member of the Board of Trustees of The Aga Khan University, presented information on the economic development activities of women in her country. Ms. Ann Duncan, author of the World Bank report on women in the non-formal economic sector, presented data on

the often "invisible" women of Pakistan. She showed how women are made invisible because they are not formally counted in the labour force.

"The Role and Status of Women in Muslim Societies" was the topic for the third session. The opening talk by Professor Karrar Hussain, former Vice Chancellor of the Balochistan University, dealt with South Asian perspectives on the evolution of the role of women over the last several decades. Other noteworthy speakers included Dr. Nurhayati Prihartono, Professor of Epidemiology from the University of Indonesia, and Dr. Salman Nadvi, Chairman of

Islamic Studies at the University of Durban in South Africa.

Ms. Asma Jehangir, a lawyer and human rights activist, spoke on the effects of the current law on women. Dr. Riffat Hassan, Chairman of the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Louisville, Kentucky, highlighted the impact of religion on the position of women in Islamic cultures. She directed attention to the importance of interpreting verses of the Holy Quran in the light of justice and equality.

His Highness the Aga Khan attended the concluding session, in which Dr. John Bryant, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Community Health Sciences, summarized the issues highlighted by the participants of the seminar. He concluded his remarks by suggesting that The Aga Khan University should form a task force to examine the issues in greater detail and consider the steps necessary to advance this important cause.

Community Launches Health Programme in Aga Khan Baug in India

Aga Khan Baug (AKB), a resettlement colony for 1,800 deprived population, established in 1983, is situated in Versova, a rapidly developing periurban area of Bombay. Various members of the community approached the Aga Khan Health Service, India (AKHSI), to establish a dispensary in the Complex so that curative services could be available at their door-step.

Mrs. Nargis Kabani, Director of AKHSI, Convenor of the Maternal and Child Care Centre at AKB and former Chairperson for the Local Health Board of AKHSI for North Bombay, who as a volunteer has been associated with the health activities in AKB since its inception, said that, "AKHSI was able to persuade the community leaders to assess the health needs of the community as a preliminary step before deciding on the need for a dispensary".

She explained that on the advice of AKHSI, volunteers from the community set out to enumerate the existing curative services available locally. Until that time the residents had not realised that there were five private medical practitioners, AKHSI dispensary, a homeopathic hospital and a Municipal Hospital in the nearby vicinity, where they could avail of the services at affordable prices.

The community was then guided in discussing the objectives and functions of a dispensary and compared them to those of a typical health centre. Having realised that curative services were already available in the area, and that other services which would help them to prevent illness and improve their health, were lacking, they decided that a health centre would be the right choice.

By January 1988, twelve energetic and enthusiastic young persons were recommended by the local leaders and designated as Community Health Volunteers (CHVs), to form the link between the community and the health centre that would be established. A training workshop was conducted by AKHSI to prepare the CHVs for their work.

Some time later, under supervision of AKHSI, the CHVs conducted a baseline survey of the population in order to understand their demographic and health profile. When they shared the survey results with the community, everyone realised that only 50% of children had

completed immunisation for their ages, and that antenatal care was generally taken only after seven months of pregnancy.

Besides, it became clear that malnutrition and communicable diseases, especially TB and skin infections, were prevalent in the community and that 20% of the population was addicted to tobacco, alcohol or other drugs.

The CHVs, assisted by AKHSI, held community meetings to discuss an appropriate pricing policy for the proposed health services to be given through the newly established Maternal and Child Care Centre of AKB, to make them financially (Contd. on page 8)

Community Health Workers Bring Hope of Improved Health to Mountain Dwellers in Hunza

The only access to Chupursan Valley in Hunza is a 270 km. cliff hugging road. Although it provides a very scenic route, it is nevertheless a hazardous track. Against the backdrop of the majestic mountain peaks and frozen waterfalls, this quaint valley of 2000 habitants of farmers and shepherds, living at 12,000 feet above sea level in Northern Pakistan, with temperatures below -10 centigrade, held their first certificate presentation ceremony on December 11, to mark the completion of the training programme for 7 Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs) and 15 Community Health Workers (CHWs).

Three weeks after the training programme, Bibi Nimo, a mother of 10 children said, "We live high up in the mountains and it is inaccessible in winter months when the snow falls. We get up to nine feet of snow and it is

impossible to get help from outside. CHWs are very useful because they live in our village. They look after our needs right here in the village, and help in emergencies. The women of (Contd. on page 7)



Dr. Inam Yar Baig, Senior Field Director of AKHSP for Northern Areas, thanking guests who had travelled for miles to attend the programme for honouring the TBAs and CHWs on completion of their training, and also appreciating the dedication of the doctors and LHVs for providing training.

Sneha Rema

—A Graduate of Nursing Degree Programme

In November 1990, The Aga Khan University graduated its first class of Baccalaureate prepared nurses. The 15 graduates were the first in Pakistan to earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. This follows a two year post-RN course of university studies.

The graduates of the programme were from several institutions throughout Karachi, and have returned to a variety of leadership positions, including Ms. Sneha Rema who is the Acting Director of Nursing at the Karachi Adventist Hospital.

Q. *What attracted you to the B.Sc. Nursing Programme?*

S.R. I was interested in furthering my education, but there did not seem to be any possibility in Pakistan. When I finished my general nursing I thought it was the end. Three years ago I heard that AKU was introducing a Baccalaureate programme and I felt this was my chance! When I saw in the newspapers that applications were being invited, I quickly applied.

Q. *How did you cope with the stresses of being a student again?*

S.R. I was determined to do it. The first semester was like taking the rust off my brain, bit by bit, and repolishing it. I tried to stay on schedule, especially with the assignments.

Q. *What are your feelings when you think back on the programme?*

S.R. I feel it was a most worth while investment in furthering my career. People and even the doctors look with admiration at my B.Sc. N pin, and ask, "Where did you graduate?" and I say, "AKU." I am proud of my degree and my pin.

Q. *You are presently acting Director of Nursing at the Karachi Adventist Hospital and also Director of Nursing Services. How has this programme helped you professionally?*

S.R. Every day I have to make decisions and solve problems. I also have to make unpopular decisions. For example, formerly our department supplies were not systematically logged, consequently we were losing considerable money. So I introduced a system by which all departments must maintain a record

of supplies, so that whatever they use for the patients can be replenished. In the beginning there was much skepticism, but now the system is working, and the head nurses are very happy. As a result of the programme I have a much better understanding of the management of nursing services.

Q. *How do you manage change?*

S.R. Managing change involves handling people. Today my new knowledge has given me the confidence to demonstrate how change will result in benefit for all, rather than getting defensive as I would have two years ago. Skills in communication, interpersonal relationships, and management are gained not just through one management course, but over the entire two-year graduate programme. One of the strengths of the programme is that students also learn about teaching/learning principles, administration and management skills, and community health nursing. This prepares the graduates to work in a variety of settings.

Q. *What is the significance of the Degree Programme for Nursing in Pakistan?*

S.R. Attracting nurses from all over the country, upgrading their skills and then encouraging them to go out and work in different hospitals to implement new ideas, is bound to have a positive impact on the nursing profession in Pakistan. Our knowledge is much more advanced than it was in the diploma programme.

Q. *Do you find a change in the attitude of doctors and other health*



professionals towards you?

S.R. Just getting a degree is not enough, you have to demonstrate its value at the work place. For example, doctors usually think that nurses are only capable of carrying out their orders and nothing more. If we can properly apply our knowledge to patient care, then I'm sure we can create a new image of the nursing profession.

Mountain Dwellers

(Contd. from page 6)

our village cannot travel like men, so the health workers trained by the Aga Khan Health Service, Pakistan (AKHSP) in the village are a real blessing.

"Recently my sister was expecting and went into labour in the middle of the night of December 25. She was in labour for more than eight hours but was unable to deliver. Everyone in the house was getting very anxious, and there was much commotion and crying. They called me and I did not know what to do. Then it struck me to go and get the TBA, who lives about a mile away from my house. My son and I went to get her and we returned with her within an hour, and shortly thereafter she delivered the baby. It was a beautiful little girl, and the mother was also safe and sound. The TBA placed the new born baby on a plastic sheet. This was something new—people like me were placed on dirt and manure when we were born, but our children are put on a clean plastic sheet. We pay only Rs. 50 (about US \$ 2.5) to the TBA for each delivery. With great relief I finally went to bed".

The Aga Khan Hospital, Nairobi Health Minister Inaugurates New Casualty Department

The new Casualty Department of The Aga Khan Hospital in Nairobi was recently inaugurated by Mr. Mwai Kibaki, Minister for Health, Government of Kenya. The facility was upgraded and expanded at the cost of KShs15 million to provide timely and effective service to patients.



Dr. Faya (second from right), Director of Ambulatory Care and the Nursing Manager (left), explaining to Minister Kibaki the patient flow system at The Aga Khan Hospital in Nairobi.

The new Casualty has the capacity to handle up to 600 patients a day, with support of 24 doctors, and paramedical staff. Initially, it will be serviced with a complement of 17 full time doctors. It now has double the capacity of the old casualty and offers the following facilities:

- 16 Examination Rooms.
- 2 large interconnected Resuscitation Rooms.
- 4 Dressing Rooms.
- A Patient Observation Bay, where four patients can be observed simultaneously.
- A Plaster Room.
- A Casualty Pharmacy.
- A Counselling Room where patients with serious illnesses will be counselled.
- Special toilet for disabled and wheel-chair patients.
- Utility areas for linen and staff lockers.

The most innovative feature of the Casualty is the improved speed of patient flow and processing. The Patient Service Department which provides the initial contact with patients is developing a system to cut down the number of patient contacts

and waiting time. The capacity for admissions and appointment areas has also doubled. Most functions including billing, admissions, transfers and discharges are being computerised. Patients' files from Medical Records will be transported by an electric hoist.

During the tour of the Casualty Department, Mr. Kibaki expressed his satisfaction with the Hospital's progress and services. He commended the medical and nursing staff for "promptly attending to emergency cases without first asking for money".

Press Commentary

STAR

Karachi, November 22, 1990

Dream Come True

"...In an education parched society like that of Pakistan, the oases of learning centres like The Aga Khan University offers a much-sought after haven...."

DAWN

Karachi, December 27, 1990

Drug, Poison Information Centre Set-Up

"For the first time, a drug and poison information service has been established in the city (Karachi) to provide information on drug-related problems.

"The service has been set up at The Aga Khan University Hospital by the Department of Pharmacy to provide an organised base for specialised information on drugs and poisons to meet the needs of the medical and para-medical staff and general practitioners....

"It will collect data on incidence of poisoning, common poisons, poisoning management and availability of management information. It will also accumulate, compile and disseminate information regarding drug usage patterns in the Hospital to assist the Pharmacy and Therapeutic Committee and chiefs of services in monitoring drug therapy...."

"The service will provide information on drug related problems, i.e., drug availability, foreign drugs, drug usage, drug dosage, cautions, contra-indications, teratogenicity, pharmacokinetics, bio-availability, drug interaction, poison, poisonous substances and poisoning management.

Aga Khan Baug

(Contd. from page 6)

sustainable. The community, having been involved in the determination of its own health needs from the beginning, understood the value of the services and expressed willingness to pay, not only for curative care, but also for the preventive and promotive services. The fee structure they evolved included built-in incentives to encourage early registration of pregnant women for antenatal care and of infants in the growth monitoring and immunisation clinics and disincentives for late registration.