

**Government of Pakistan
Benazir Income Support Programme**

**Press Release
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BISP INKS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH DOCTHERS
MARVI APPEALS NON-PRACTISING FEMALE DOCTORS TO JOIN HANDS WITH
BISP AND DOCTHERS

Islamabad (): A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between BISP and Docthers today at BISP Secretariat. The MoU was signed by Director General BISP Dost Ali Shah and Co-Founder & COO Docthers, Dr. Sara Khurram in the presence of Minister of State and Chairperson BISP, MNA Marvi Memon, Co-Founder & CDO Docthers, Dr. Iffat Zafar and BISP officials. The purpose of MoU is to provide poor BISP beneficiaries with quality healthcare with minimum expense.

Docthers is an organization which connects home based qualified female physicians to underprivileged populations via nurse-assisted video consultations in 9 Tele-Medicine Centers across Pakistan. 5 Tele-Medicine Centers are located in Karachi while 3 are in Hafizabad, Mansehra and Dhadhar respectively. Under this MoU, Docthers will provide healthcare to BISP beneficiaries at concessional rates in all of its centers.



Director General BISP Dost Ali Shah and Co-Founder & COO Docthers, Dr. Sara Khurram signing MoU between BISP and Docthers. Minister of State and Chairperson BISP, MNA Marvi Memon is also present. (Dated: December 08, 2016)

During the MoU signing ceremony, it was informed that according to The Pakistan Medical & Dental Council Statistics-2015, every year 14,000+ women graduate from medical schools but only 50% practise. Out of the 70,000 licensed female physicians, barely 9,000 are practising doctors. As per Pakistan Health & Demographic Survey, 2012-13, 120 million Pakistanis fall below Poverty Line out of which 90% have little or no access to quality healthcare.

On the occasion, Chairperson BISP appealed all of 61,000 non-practising female doctors to come forward and assume an active role towards improving health conditions in the country. She said that they can benefit from the platform of Docthers and contribute towards the welfare of society

from their homes. She added that their contribution will also help BISP beneficiaries as 5.3 million beneficiaries across Pakistan need quality healthcare.

The Minister also appealed the philanthropists to support Docther for setting up more Tele-Medicine Centers. She stated that we wish to see at least one Tele-Medicine Center in each district of the country so that all BISP beneficiaries, on equal basis, get advantage of the cheap and quality healthcare at concessional rates.

It was also discussed during the meeting that in the pilot phase of the cooperation between BISP and Docther, three more Tele-Medicine Centers will be established in Quetta, Gilgit and Muzaffarabad in order to maximize the number of BISP beneficiaries benefitting from this initiative. Based on the success of the pilot phase, the cooperation will be extended to the other parts of the country.

Dr. Sara Khurram informed that services of Docther include online consultations with general physicians, lab collection, free basic dispensary items, mini dispensary on discounted rates, medical camps and other value added services. Diseases dealt by Docther include hypertension, diabetes, dermatology, mental health, anemia, gastro intestinal diseases, ENT infections, OBS/gyne, malnutrition in children and pediatric services.