

The NGDS Pilot Project: Dealing with a Complex System

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The NGDS (National Growth and Developmental Standards for the Pakistani children) Pilot Project was initiated in 1998 under the directives of Governor Sindh/Chancellor, University of Karachi (Fig. 1). Anthropometrical data



Fig. 1. Insignia of University of Karachi

(standing height, sitting height, weight, mid-upper-arm circumference, shoulder width) have been collected in 4-11-year-old children studying in institutions run by the Armed Forces of Pakistan. In addition, the children were screened for anemia, cardiac problems and presence of spinal curvatures. Their posture and gait has also been observed. Those showing signs of trunk deformities, especially scoliosis, are asked to come for a moiré examination. Organization of the NGDS Pilot Project necessitated dealing with a complex system, viz. University of Karachi, Government of Sindh, the Armed Forces of Pakistan, the institutional administration, the institutional health team, families of the students and teachers of the schools (Fig. 2). Efforts were made to communicate with each at the

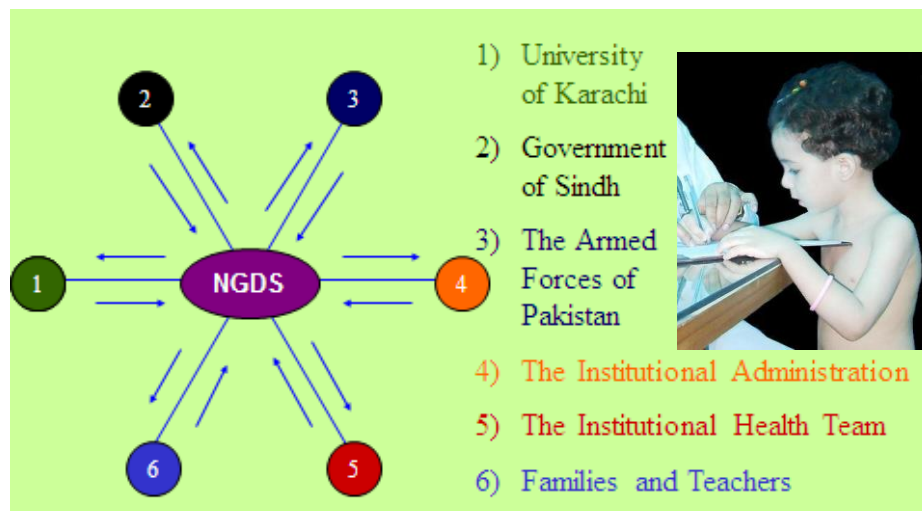


Fig. 2. Organization of the NGDS Pilot Project meant dealing with a complex system

appropriate level, making the project relevant to the particular needs of that body/individual. Information regarding educational background and profession of parents was used to devise communication strategies.

Keywords: Armed Forces of Pakistan • Gait • Mid-upper-arm circumference (MUAC) • Posture • Shoulder width • Sitting height • Standing height • Weight • Trunk deformities

Web address of this document: <https://www.ngds-ku.org/Presentations/Complex.pdf>