



1. MBBS Student
Dow Medical College.
2. MBBS Student
Liaquat University of Medical and
Health Sciences.
3. 4th Year MBBS Student
Dow Medical College, Karachi.
4. 4th Year MBBS Student
Dow Medical College, Karachi.
5. 4th Year MBBS Student
Dow Medical College, Karachi.
6. 4th Year MBBS Student
Dow Medical College, Karachi.

Correspondence Address:

Dr. Dua Ahmed Ali
Flat No. R-508, New Karimabad
Colony,
FB Area Karachi.
duanoorani@hotmail.com

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Dear Editor,

In this current era of countless diseases and increasing medical advancement to tackle them, the least a parent is expected to do is to vaccinate their child, unfortunately religious exemptions demotivate them to administer vaccine to their child. Other factors include religious factors, Philosophical factors¹ and concern regarding safety of vaccine.

Certain parents believe that vaccinations like mumps, measles, and rubella (MMR) lead to autism in children.² Some parents do not allow a single vaccine to be given to their child while others do trust some limited vaccines.³ It is strange to see how parents allow their child to play football despite being fully aware of the injuries that football causes which, as a matter of fact, are more common than side effects of vaccines.

Currently, science holds no proof regarding any harmful effects of vaccines against infant's immune system⁴ and no research has so far shown autism as a consequence of vaccinations like mumps, measles, and rubella (MMR).^{5,6} The damage of not getting vaccinated is greater than getting vaccinated. Unvaccinated child is at high risk of contracting vaccine preventable diseases, for example a study between years 1985 to 1992 reported that a school with unvaccinated children

Parental refusal to child's vaccination.

Dua Ahmed Ali¹, Iqra Ahmed Ali², Waniyah Masood³, Aiman Fatimah⁴, Areeba Noor⁵, Sameen Fatima⁶

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for mumps, measles, and rubella (MMR) were 35 times more vulnerable to get measles than those vaccinated.⁷

In Colorado, children not getting vaccination due to religious believes were 5-9 times more vulnerable in catching diseases than those vaccinated. Hence, to eradicate vaccine preventable diseases, vaccines should be mandatory for the school children. Furthermore. Awareness campaigns should be organized related to the benefits of vaccine among the parent population.

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AUTHORSHIP AND CONTRIBUTION DECLARATION

| Sr. # | Author(s) Full Name | Contribution to the paper | Author(s) Signature |
|-------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | Dua Ahmed Ali | Writing | <i>dua</i> |
| 2 | Iqra Ahmed Ali | Writing | <i>iqra</i> |
| 3 | Waniyah Masood | Writing | <i>waniyah</i> |
| 4 | Aiman Fatimah | Writing | <i>aiman</i> |
| 5 | Areeba Noor | Writing | <i>areeba</i> |
| 6 | Sameen Fatima | Writing | <i>sameen</i> |