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**POSITION STATEMENT RE PNDS RD TEST**

In view of repeated concerns and queries received, as Principal, RLCK CHE and as Chairperson PANAP, for the benefit of all concerned, I would like to declare that that the RD test that is being conducted by PNDS is no longer endorsed by RLAK CHE or as former collaborator of PANAP as effective, valid and reliable test for estimating the eligibility of nutrition graduates for working as entry level dietitian-nutritionists.

The test mechanism and sample test was developed by RLCAK CHE before PANAP was formed as a part of its development of dietetic in Pakistan program. On the request of Dr. Salma Badaruddin, the senior most member of PNDS College formed a collaboration named PANAP to work further on the development of similar criteria for other Human Nutrition Professionals. Responsibility of taking test was given to PNDS for assertion of impartiality towards graduates from all institutions.

The test content as well as mechanism of administration both needed to be enhanced with the emergent development in the field and test taking mechanisms. Collaborations with experts and quality assurance was within the purview of PNDS that apparently has not been done. The lack of update in contents or mechanisms and absence of befitting expertise in the team is evidenced from information shared on PNDS website. Extent of validity of additional complaints about the quality of questions and evaluation cannot be ascertained due to lack-of-response and non-cooperation from PNDS RD Committee.

The collaboration named PANAP is practically non-existent and had officially ended. Accordingly, RLAK CHE is not responsible for deterioration in quality test contents or its administration. For any sincere organization, in the best interest of profession and beneficiaries and public health, the most befitting action would be to discontinue the use of an outdated system as it reduces the possibilities of providing safe and effective care to beneficiaries.

As principal RLAK CHE, expert in the field and as former chairperson of PANAP, for the guidance of test takers and employers **I would like to share my expert opinion that due to reasons mentioned above differentiation between applicants on the basis of PANAP RD test being administered by PNDS that was developed under my leadership ten years back, may not be fair in most cases.**

**Dr. Rubina Hakeem**

PRINCIPAL RLAK CHE

Chairperson PANAP (2009-2011)