

INQUIRY REPORT
REGARDING FIRE INCIDENT IN THE FEMALE NURSING HOSTEL ON THE NIGHT
OF 06th July 2026

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CHAPTER-I

INTRODUCTION

On the intervening night of **06 July 2026** at approximately **03:00 hours**, a fire broke out in the reception/waiting area of the Female Nursing Hostel of Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS), Islamabad. The incident resulted in damage to furniture placed in the reception area, particularly three sofa sets, and caused panic among approximately seventy-eight female students residing in the hostel.

Although no loss of life or serious injury occurred, the incident exposed serious concerns regarding hostel administration, security arrangements, emergency response, fire safety measures, and compliance with the Hostel Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

Keeping in view the seriousness of the incident and the apparent administrative and security lapses, the competent authority i.e. Executive Director, PIMS has constituted an Inquiry Committee to ascertain the facts and circumstances surrounding the incident, determine responsibility, assess institutional deficiencies, and recommend corrective measures.

CHAPTER-II

CONSTITUTION OF THE INQUIRY COMMITTEE

The COMPETENT authority i.e. Executive Director constituted an Inquiry Committee vide Office Order No. 7-7/2026(Inq)/admin-IH(Coord) dated 08.07.2026 comprising the following officers:

1. Dr. Naveed Ahmed Sheikh,	Deputy Director OPD	Chairman
2. Mr. Liaqat Oghai,	Nursing Superintendent	Member
3. Muhammad Usman,	Assistant Director Security	Member

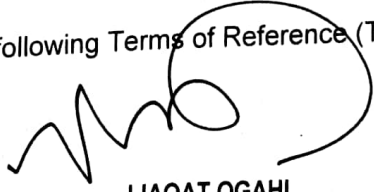
The Committee was directed to conduct a fact-finding inquiry in accordance with applicable Government rules and submit its report together with findings and recommendations.

CHAPTER-III

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Committee was assigned the following Terms of Reference (TORs):

MUHAMMAD USMAN
Assistant Director (Security)
Member


LIAQAT OGAHI
Nursing Superintendent
Member

DR. NAVEED AHMED SHEIKH
Deputy Director (OPD)
Chairman

- i. To ascertain the facts and circumstances leading to the fire incident that occurred in the reception area of the Female Nursing Hostel on the night of **06th July 2026** at approximately **03:00 hours**.
- ii. To determine the immediate as well as root cause of the incident, including verification of the reported electrical short circuit through technical assessment.
- iii. To assess the response of the Hostel Administration, Security Staff and Mess Staff, including evacuation arrangements and firefighting measures undertaken during the incident.
- iv. To assess the extent of damage caused to Government property and prepare an inventory of losses, if any.
- v. To identify negligence, misconduct or administrative lapses, if established.
- vi. To recommend disciplinary, administrative and preventive measures for avoidance of similar incidents in future.

CHAPTER-IV

BACKGROUND

- The Female Nursing Hostel accommodates approximately seventy-eight (78) students belonging to the College of Nursing (CON) and College of Medical Technology (CMT).
- According to the available information, smoke was first noticed by hostel residents at approximately **03:00 hours**. Shortly thereafter, fire was observed in the reception/waiting area of the hostel.
- The residents attempted to evacuate the building amidst heavy smoke and panic. During the course of evacuation, allegations emerged regarding the absence of security personnel, locked exit gates, delayed emergency response and deficiencies in hostel administration.
- The incident also gave rise to conflicting versions regarding the cause of fire. Initially, the occurrence was reported as an electrical short circuit; however, subsequent statements suggested that the incident might not have resulted from an electrical fault. No technical report confirming either version was produced before the Committee.

CHAPTER-V

PROCEEDINGS OF THE INQUIRY

- Immediately after constitution of the Inquiry Committee, notices were issued to all concerned officials requiring submission of written explanations and production of relevant record.
- The Committee held a number of proceedings during which written statements and oral depositions were recorded from the following persons:
 - a) Ms. Zainab Sehar, Hostel Warden
 - b) Mr. Qaiser Zaman, Cook
 - c) Mr. Saleem, Shift Incharge (Security)
 - d) Mr. Shoukat Mehmood, Security Guard
 - e) Mr. Wajid Mehmood, Security Guard
 - f) Ms. Hafza Zainab, Hostel Resident
 - g) Ms. Ishbah Ijaz, Hostel Resident
 - h) Ms. Faiza Riffat, Hostel Resident
- The Committee carefully examined all written statements, oral explanations and available documentary evidence. The Committee also compared the written statements with oral depositions wherever necessary to identify inconsistencies and contradictions.
- The Committee observed that several material facts narrated during oral proceedings were either omitted from the written statements or materially differed from the written versions. Such discrepancies have been discussed separately in the analytical portion of this report.

CHAPTER-VI

DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

MUHAMMAD USMAN
Assistant Director (Security)
Member

LIAQAT OGAHI
Nursing Superintendent
Member

DR. NAVEED AHMED SHEIKH
Deputy Director (OPD)
Chairman

In order to ascertain the actual facts and determine responsibility objectively, the Committee directed the Hostel Warden to produce the following official record:

1. Detailed incident report submitted by the Hostel Warden.
2. Incident report submitted by the Security Guard.
3. Duty rosters of:
 - a. Hostel Warden
 - b. Security Staff
 - c. Mess Staff
4. Hostel occupancy register.
5. Hostel visitor register.
6. Electrical maintenance record of preceding twelve months.
7. Previous complaints/reports regarding electrical faults or electrical hazards.
8. Fire safety inspection reports.
9. Hostel maintenance log books.
10. CCTV footage covering the relevant period.
11. Photographs of the damaged area immediately after the incident.
12. Fire Brigade/Rescue Service report.
13. Electrical inspection report prepared after the incident.
14. Any other relevant record.

Record Produced

The Hostel Warden produced only the following documents:

- Hostel Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)
- Hostel Rules and Regulations
- List of Hostel Residents

Record Not Produced

The following documents were not produced despite repeated directions of the Committee:

- Detailed Incident Report of Hostel Warden
 - Security Incident Report
 - Duty Rosters
 - Hostel Occupancy Register
 - Visitor Register
 - Electrical Maintenance Record
 - Previous Electrical Complaint Record
 - Fire Safety Inspection Reports
 - Maintenance Log Books
 - CCTV Footage
 - Photographs of the Incident Site
 - Fire Brigade Report
 - Electrical Inspection Report
 - Any other contemporaneous record relevant to the inquiry.
- The Committee notes with serious concern that almost all primary documentary evidence required for determination of facts was unavailable.
- The failure to maintain and produce official records materially hampered the inquiry proceedings and reflects serious administrative deficiencies in hostel management.
- In the absence of documentary evidence, the Committee was constrained to rely principally upon written statements, oral depositions and the limited record made available.
- The non-production of statutory and administrative records also prevented independent verification of the statements made by various officials and adversely affected institutional accountability.

CHAPTER-VII

MUHAMMAD USMAN
Assistant Director (Security)
Member

LIAQAT OGARI
Nursing Superintendent
Member

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SUMMARY OF WRITTEN STATEMENTS (PRÉCIS OF EVIDENCE)

The Inquiry Committee examined the written statements submitted by the concerned officials, employees and hostel residents. The substance of each statement is summarized below.

7.1 Statement of Mr. Qaiser Zaman (Cook)

- Mr. Qaiser Zaman stated that on the night of the incident he was residing in the Nursing Hostel and was suffering from diarrhea. At approximately 03:00 hours, he proceeded to the washroom through the dining hall. He stated that ordinarily the dining hall door remained locked during the night and was opened by the security guard upon request; however, on the night of the incident he found the dining hall door already open while the corridor lights were switched off.
- During ablution, he heard a female student shouting that the hostel had caught fire. He immediately came out of the washroom and observed female students rushing out of their rooms in panic. He telephonically informed Security Guard Mr. Shoukat Mehmood regarding the fire and thereafter opened Gate No. 4 of the dining hall to facilitate evacuation of the hostel residents.
- He further stated that he brought buckets of water and attempted to extinguish the fire before the arrival of the security staff. Subsequently, Security Incharge Mr. Saleem and other security personnel reached the hostel and used fire extinguishers to control the remaining fire and removed the damaged sofa sets from the reception area. According to him, Fire Brigade personnel arrived after the fire had substantially been controlled and departed after inspecting the site. He confirmed that no loss of life occurred.

7.2 Statement of Mr. Saleem (Shift Incharge, Security)

- Mr. Saleem stated that at approximately 03:15 hours he received telephonic information from Security Guard Mr. Wajid Mehmood that fire had erupted in the waiting area of the Nursing Hostel. At the relevant time, he stated that he was present at the Cardiac Centre in connection with a patient.
- Upon receiving the information, he coordinated with security personnel from the Main Hospital and the Nursing Hostel, who collectively controlled the fire and secured the affected area. He stated that two Fire Brigade vehicles reached the hostel; however, by that time the fire had already been brought under control and no assistance from the Fire Brigade was required. He confirmed that approximately three sofa sets were damaged and no casualties were reported.

7.3 Statement of Mr. Shoukat Mehmood (Security Guard)

- Mr. Shoukat Mehmood stated that he was performing night duty on 06 July 2026 and was conducting routine patrol in the college area when he received a telephone call from Mr. Qaiser Zaman informing him that the hostel had caught fire.
- He immediately informed the Main Security Office and reached the hostel. According to him, fire extinguishers were used to control the fire and no loss of life occurred during the incident.

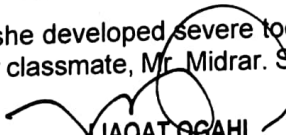
7.4 Statement of Mr. Wajid Mehmood (Security Guard)

- Mr. Wajid Mehmood stated that while performing routine patrol in the College of Nursing premises, he observed a female student sitting outside the hostel due to severe toothache. After speaking with the student, he resumed his patrol and proceeded towards the college area where he encountered three unidentified boys near the security barrier. According to him, those individuals remained engaged with him for approximately thirty minutes.
- During this period, he received a telephone call from Mr. Qaiser Zaman informing him that a fire had broken out in the hostel. He immediately rushed to the hostel along with Mr. Shoukat Mehmood and participated in extinguishing the fire.

7.5 Statement of Ms. Hafza Zainab (Hostel Resident)

- Ms. Hafza Zainab stated that she developed severe toothache at approximately 01:00 hours and arranged medicine through her classmate, Mr. Midrar. She received the medicine at approximately

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Assistant Director (Security)
Member


LIAQAT SGAHI
Nursing Superintendent
Member

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01:25 hours in the presence of Security Guard Mr. Wajid Mehmood. After taking the medicine she returned to her room and slept.

- Her statement primarily establishes that an outsider or non-resident delivered medicine to the hostel during late night hours and that the movement was witnessed by the security guard.

7.6 Statement of Ms. Ishbah Ijaz (Hostel Resident)

- Ms. Ishbah Ijaz stated that she woke up at approximately 03:00 hours to offer Tahajjud prayer. Upon leaving her room, she observed that the hostel corridor was filled with smoke. She immediately awakened her roommates and discovered that the sofa set placed in the waiting area had caught fire.
- She stated that she informed other hostel residents, after which panic spread throughout the hostel. According to her, the Hostel Warden woke up only after hearing the noise created by the students. She further stated that no security guard was present when the students attempted to evacuate the hostel.
- She stated that Mr. Qaiser Zaman opened the mess door, enabling the residents to move towards the rear lawn for safety. According to her, the security staff reached the hostel approximately seven to eight minutes after the outbreak of the fire. She further informed the Committee that theft incidents had become frequent in the hostel and requested strengthening of security arrangements.

7.7 Incident Report of Ms. Faiza Riffat (Hostel Resident)

- Ms. Faiza Riffat stated that while sleeping in her room she suddenly awoke due to coughing and suffocation caused by smoke entering the room. Upon opening the door, she observed students shouting that the hostel was on fire.
- She stated that she knocked on the doors of nearby rooms to alert other residents. Because of dense smoke and excessive heat near the main staircase, the students used an alternative staircase and reached the mess area, where Mr. Qaiser Zaman directed them to move towards the open lawn. They remained there for approximately ten to fifteen minutes before finally moving outside the hostel after the main gate was opened.

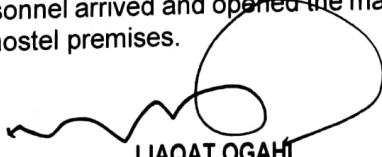
7.8 Statement of Ms. Zainab Sehar (Hostel Warden)

- The Hostel Warden explained that her responsibilities include overall management of the hostel, including maintenance, cleanliness, meal arrangements, laundry services, lawn maintenance, implementation of hostel SOPs, issuance of out-passes, management of student complaints and general supervision of approximately seventy-eight students residing in the hostel.
- She requested that the inquiry identify deficiencies in the existing security arrangements and recommend installation of CCTV cameras, fire alarm systems and other safety measures.

7.9 Incident Report Submitted by the Hostel Warden

- In her incident report, the Hostel Warden stated that she retired to bed at approximately 01:00 hours after ensuring that no abnormal situation existed in the hostel.
- At approximately 03:20 hours she was awakened by Ms. Ishbah Ijaz, who informed her that smoke had spread throughout the hostel and that fire had broken out in the reception area. She immediately came out of her room and observed flames in the waiting area.
- According to her, approximately seventy female students attempted to evacuate through the main gate but remained trapped because the gate was locked and no security guard was present.
- She stated that Mr. Qaiser Zaman brought buckets of water and attempted to extinguish the fire while simultaneously directing the students towards the rear lawn. Approximately fifteen to twenty minutes later, security personnel arrived and opened the main gate, after which the residents were shifted safely outside the hostel premises.

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Assistant Director (Security)
Member


LIAQAT OGAHT
Nursing Superintendent
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Deputy Director (OPD)
Chairman

- The Hostel Warden further stated that she initially believed the incident resulted from an electrical short circuit because security staff informed her that an LED light had fallen onto the sofa. However, after the arrival of Fire Brigade personnel, she was informed that the incident did not appear to be a natural electrical short circuit and required further investigation. She therefore clarified that her earlier report regarding an electrical short circuit had been based solely upon information supplied by the security staff.
- She maintained that despite the emergency she remained present throughout the incident and coordinated the safe evacuation of all hostel residents without any loss of life.

7.10 Comparative Assessment of Witness Statements

Upon examination of the written statements, the Committee observed that while there is substantial consistency regarding the occurrence of the fire, evacuation of hostel residents and the absence of casualties, material contradictions

CHAPTER–VIII

ANALYSIS OF EVIDENCE

8.1 Scope of Analysis

The Inquiry Committee examined the oral and written statements of the concerned officials, employees and hostel residents together with the documentary evidence produced before it. The Committee also considered the records which were specifically requisitioned but were not produced despite repeated directions.

The findings recorded in this chapter are based upon the preponderance of probabilities, consistency of evidence, corroboration among witnesses, contemporaneous circumstances and the availability of documentary support.

8.2 Documentary Evidence

The Committee considers the documentary evidence to be the most reliable source for determination of facts. However, almost all primary records required for verification of the incident were not produced.

The Hostel Warden produced only:

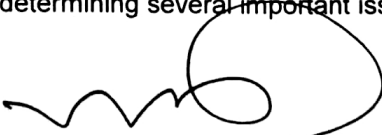
- Hostel Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs);
- Hostel Rules & Regulations; and
- List of Hostel Residents.

The following essential documents were not produced:

- Detailed Incident Report;
- Security Incident Report;
- Duty Rosters;
- Hostel Occupancy Register;
- Visitor Register;
- Electrical Maintenance Record;
- Fire Safety Inspection Reports;
- Maintenance Log Books;
- Previous Electrical Complaint Record;
- CCTV Footage;
- Photographs of Incident Site;
- Fire Brigade Report;
- Electrical Inspection Report; and
- Other contemporaneous official record.

The absence of these documents substantially restricted independent verification of facts and prevented the Committee from conclusively determining several important issues.

MUHAMMAD USMAN
Assistant Director (Security)
Member


LIAQAT OGÁHI
Nursing Superintendent
Member

DR. NAVEED AHMED SHEIKH
Deputy Director (OPD)
Chairman

The Committee is of the considered opinion that proper maintenance and production of official records is an essential administrative responsibility. Failure to maintain such records reflects weak institutional control and poor administrative oversight.

8.3 Analysis Relating to TOR No.1

Facts and Circumstances Leading to the Fire Incident

There is no dispute among any of the witnesses that:

- Fire occurred in the reception/waiting area;
 - The incident occurred between approximately 03:00 and 03:20 hours;
 - Three sofa sets were damaged;
 - Smoke spread throughout the hostel;
 - Hostel residents were evacuated; and
 - No loss of life occurred.
- These facts stand corroborated by every written statement recorded during the inquiry. However, material contradictions emerge regarding the circumstances immediately preceding and immediately following the outbreak of fire.
- The statements of Mr. Qaiser Zaman, Ms. Ishbah Ijaz, Ms. Faiza Riffat and the Hostel Warden consistently establish that security personnel were not physically present at the hostel when the fire was first detected.
- Conversely, the security staff maintain that they were conducting routine patrol in the adjoining college area and reached immediately after receiving telephonic information.
- Even if the security version is accepted, it nevertheless establishes that the guards were not positioned at or near the hostel when the emergency arose.
- The Committee therefore concludes that the initial emergency response originated from hostel residents and the cook rather than from the designated security personnel.

8.4 Analysis Relating to TOR No.2

Immediate and Root Cause of Fire

The Committee carefully examined all available evidence concerning the cause of fire.

- Initially, the Hostel Warden reported that the incident appeared to have resulted from an electrical short circuit after being informed by security staff that an LED light had fallen upon the sofa.
- However, during the inquiry she clarified that this conclusion was based solely upon verbal information supplied by the security guards.
- She further stated that Fire Brigade personnel informed her that the incident did not appear to be caused by a natural electrical short circuit.

The Committee notes the following:

- a) No Electrical Inspection Report has been produced;
- b) No Fire Brigade Report has been produced;
- c) No Engineering assessment has been produced;
- d) No maintenance history of electrical installations has been produced;
- e) No photographs of the incident scene have been produced;
- f) No forensic evidence has been preserved.
- g) Consequently, no scientific or technical evidence exists on record establishing the actual origin of fire.
- h) Accordingly, the Committee is unable to conclusively determine whether the fire resulted from:
 - Electrical failure;
 - Accidental ignition;
 - Human negligence; or
 - Deliberate act.

MUHAMMAD USMAN
Assistant Director (Security)
Member


LIAQAT OGAHT
Nursing Superintendent
Member

DR. NAVEED AHMED SHEIKH
Deputy Director (OPD)
Chairman

The Committee therefore refrains from assigning any definite technical cause owing to complete absence of expert evidence.

8.5 Analysis of Security Arrangements

The evidence relating to security arrangements is highly significant. The Hostel Warden, Mr. Qaiser Zaman, Ms. Ishbah Ijaz and Ms. Faiza Riffat consistently state that:

- No security guard was present when the emergency occurred;
- Hostel residents remained inside the building during initial evacuation;
- The main gate remained locked;
- Evacuation initially took place through the mess area.

On the other hand, the security guards contend that they were conducting routine patrol duties in the college area. The Committee notes that routine patrol cannot substitute continuous security coverage of a female hostel during late night hours.

Even accepting the security guards' own explanation, they were absent from the immediate vicinity of the hostel at the time when emergency response became necessary.

The Committee further notes that the statements of the security staff differ regarding:

- exact time of receiving information;
- location of each official;
- sequence of communication;
- arrival at the hostel;
- firefighting operations.

These inconsistencies diminish the evidentiary value of their statements.

8.6 Analysis of Hostel Administration

The Hostel Warden acknowledged that she is responsible for:

- Administration of hostel;
- Implementation of SOPs;
- Hostel maintenance;
- Student welfare;
- Hostel discipline;
- Cleanliness;
- Grievance management.
- Despite these responsibilities, the following deficiencies have emerged:
- Official records were not maintained or produced;
- Visitor register was unavailable;
- Occupancy register was unavailable;
- Maintenance record was unavailable;
- Security documentation was unavailable;
- Electrical inspection history was unavailable;
- Fire safety inspection record was unavailable.

The Committee further observes that the Hostel Warden admitted during oral proceedings that the security guards remained absent from duty; however, she omitted this important fact from her written statement.

This omission materially affects the reliability of her written version.

8.7 Analysis of Mess Arrangements

The Committee notes an important circumstance highlighted by multiple witnesses.

Mr. Qaiser Zaman stated that normally the dining hall remained locked during night hours and could only be opened through security staff.

However, on the night of occurrence:

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Assistant Director (Security)
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Nursing Superintendent
Member

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- The dining hall door was already open;
- Corridor lights were switched off.
- The Hostel Warden could not satisfactorily explain:
- Who opened the dining hall;
- Under whose authority it remained open;
- Why no record exists regarding opening of the dining hall.

The Committee considers this an unexplained administrative lapse requiring separate examination.

8.8 Residence of Cook Inside Female Hostel

Evidence establishes that Mr. Qaiser Zaman was residing inside the female hostel premises. The Committee specifically examined whether any written approval existed authorizing such residence. No order, notification or administrative approval was produced.

Although the Committee appreciates the positive role played by Mr. Qaiser during the emergency, his residence inside the female hostel without documented authorization raises serious administrative and security concerns.

Responsibility for permitting such arrangement could not be explained.

8.9 Entry of Outsider During Night Hours

The statement of Ms. Hafza Zainab establishes that medicine was delivered after midnight through an outsider/non-resident student.

This movement occurred beyond prescribed visitor hours.

No visitor register exists to verify:

- entry time;
- exit time;
- identity verification;
- authorization.

The incident reflects ineffective implementation of Hostel SOPs governing visitor access.

8.10 Complaints Regarding Theft

During oral proceedings several hostel residents complained that theft incidents had become frequent. Although, no written complaints were produced before the Committee, the consistency of oral complaints indicates dissatisfaction regarding existing security arrangements.

The absence of complaint registers prevented independent verification.

8.11 Fire Safety Measures

The Committee observed the following deficiencies:

- Absence of CCTV cameras;
- Absence of smoke detectors;
- Absence of automatic fire alarm system;
- Absence of emergency warning mechanism;
- Absence of documented fire drills;
- Absence of fire safety inspection reports.

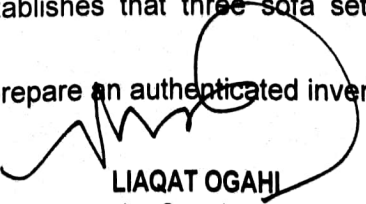
These deficiencies significantly increased institutional vulnerability and delayed situational awareness during the emergency.

8.12 Damage to Government Property (TOR No.4)

Available evidence consistently establishes that three sofa sets placed in the reception area were damaged due to fire.

However, the Committee could not prepare an authenticated inventory of losses because:

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Assistant Director (Security)
Member


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Nursing Superintendent
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Deputy Director (OPD)
Chairman

- No assessment report was produced;
- No stock register was produced;
- No condemnation report was produced;
- No valuation of damaged property was produced.

Consequently, financial loss to Government could not be accurately quantified.

8.13 Overall Appreciation of Evidence

After evaluating all oral and documentary evidence, the Committee reaches the following conclusions:

- i. Fire unquestionably occurred in the hostel reception area.
- ii. Hostel residents were successfully evacuated without loss of life.
- iii. Immediate evacuation was primarily facilitated by hostel residents and Mr. Qaiser Zaman before effective security response.
- iv. Security personnel were not available at the hostel at the initial stage of the emergency.
- v. Documentary record essential for verification of facts was either not maintained or not produced.
- vi. The precise technical cause of fire could not be established owing to absence of expert evidence.
- vii. Serious administrative deficiencies existed regarding record management, visitor control, fire safety and hostel supervision.
- viii. Significant contradictions exist among the statements of security personnel regarding their deployment and response.
- ix. The Committee finds sufficient evidence of administrative negligence and institutional weaknesses; however, there is insufficient technical evidence to attribute the fire itself to any specific individual or to conclude that it resulted from an electrical short circuit or deliberate human act.

Accordingly, the Committee proceeds to determine responsibility only for those lapses which stand established on the basis of credible evidence available on record.

CHAPTER-IX

ASSESSMENT OF WITNESS CREDIBILITY

9.1 Principles Applied

The Committee has assessed the credibility of each witness on the basis of the following well-recognized parameters:

- i. Internal consistency of the witness's statement.
- ii. Corroboration by independent witnesses.
- iii. Consistency with surrounding circumstances.
- iv. Presence or absence of documentary support.
- v. Conduct of the witness before, during and after the incident.
- vi. Whether the witness had any apparent motive to conceal or distort facts.

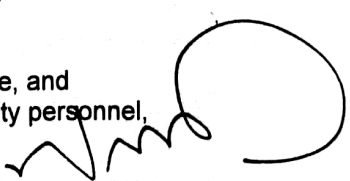
No witness has been disbelieved merely because of minor discrepancies. However, material omissions, contradictions and inconsistency with independent evidence have been taken into account while assigning evidentiary value.

9.2 Mr. Qaiser Zaman (Cook)

Mr. Qaiser Zaman's statement remained substantially consistent throughout the inquiry. His account regarding:

- Hearing the noise of students,
- Informing the security guard,
- Opening the mess exit,
- Assisting in evacuation,
- Using water to control the fire, and
- The delayed arrival of security personnel.

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Assistant Director (Security)
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LIAQAT OGAHT
Nursing Superintendent
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DR. NAVEED AHMED SHEIKH
Deputy Director (OPD)
Chairman

is independently corroborated by the statements of Ms. Ishbah Ijaz, Ms. Faiza Riffat and, to a considerable extent, the Hostel Warden.

- The Committee also notes that his conduct during the emergency appears to have been prompt and proactive. There is no material contradiction between his written statement and the surrounding circumstances.
- However, his statement regarding the Fire Brigade's opinion that the fire was not caused by an electrical short circuit cannot be accepted as conclusive because no written report from the Fire Brigade has been produced.
- Accordingly, the Committee considers his testimony reliable regarding the sequence of events and evacuation but accords limited evidentiary value to his observations concerning the technical cause of the fire.

9.3 Mr. Saleem (Shift Incharge Security)

- Mr. Saleem admitted that he was not present at the hostel when the fire started and reached the site only after receiving telephonic information.
- His statement is therefore based primarily upon events occurring after the initial outbreak.
- Although his statement regarding damage to three sofa sets is corroborated by other witnesses, his account does not satisfactorily explain why no security personnel were available at the hostel during the initial emergency.
- The Committee also notes that his version differs from those of the Hostel Warden and hostel residents regarding the timing of the arrival of the security staff.
- His testimony is therefore considered only partially reliable.

9.4 Mr. Shoukat Mehmood (Security Guard)

- Mr. Shoukat Mehmood stated that he was conducting patrol duty in the college area when informed of the incident by Mr. Qaiser Zaman.
- His statement admits that he was not physically present at the hostel when the fire broke out.
- Although there is no independent evidence disproving his claim of patrol duty, there is equally no documentary evidence, such as duty logs, patrol registers or deployment records, to support it.
- The Committee further notes that his statement is inconsistent with the Hostel Warden's oral deposition, wherein she alleged that both security guards remained absent from duty.
- His testimony therefore carries only limited evidentiary weight.

9.5 Mr. Wajid Mehmood (Security Guard)

Mr. Wajid Mehmood stated that before the incident he encountered a female student receiving medicine and later remained occupied for approximately thirty minutes while dealing with three unidentified male students near the security barrier.

The Committee finds several deficiencies in this explanation.

- Firstly, no entry exists in any visitor register because no such register was maintained or produced.
- Secondly, no incident report regarding the presence of unidentified male students was prepared.
- Thirdly, his explanation itself establishes that he remained away from the hostel during a substantial period immediately preceding the fire.

Consequently, his statement indirectly supports the allegation that the hostel remained without immediate security coverage.

The Committee therefore finds his explanation unsatisfactory.

9.6 Ms. Hafza Zainab (Hostel Resident)

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Chairman

Ms. Hafza Zainab's statement relates only to the receipt of medicine during late night hours. Her statement is straightforward and internally consistent.

Importantly, her statement corroborates that an outsider / non-resident entered the hostel premises beyond the prescribed visiting hours and that this movement occurred in the presence of Security Guard Mr. Wajid Mehmood.

The Committee considers her testimony reliable for this limited purpose.

9.7 Ms. Ishbah Ijaz (Hostel Resident)

The Committee finds the statement of Ms. Ishbah Ijaz to be one of the most significant pieces of evidence.

Her statement is detailed, spontaneous and substantially corroborated by the statements of Mr. Qaiser Zaman, Ms. Faiza Riffat and portions of the Hostel Warden's statement.

Her account regarding:

- First noticing smoke,
- Awakening other students,
- Absence of security guards,
- Delayed arrival of security staff,
- Opening of the mess door by Mr. Qaiser,
- Evacuation through the rear lawn,

is corroborated by multiple independent witnesses. No material contradiction affecting the substance of her testimony was identified. The Committee therefore accords high evidentiary value to her statement.

9.8 Ms. Faiza Riffat (Hostel Resident)

Ms. Faiza Riffat's statement is confined to the evacuation process. Her account regarding:

- Smoke entering hostel rooms,
- Panic among residents,
- Use of an alternate staircase,
- Movement through the mess,
- Assistance provided by Mr. Qaiser,

is consistent with the evidence of other hostel residents. She does not attempt to speculate regarding the cause of fire or assign blame to any individual. The Committee therefore considers her testimony reliable.

9.9 Ms. Zainab Sehar (Hostel Warden)

- The Hostel Warden's evidence consists of both a written statement and oral deposition. The Committee observed that certain material facts disclosed during oral proceedings were omitted from her written statement.
- Most notably, during oral examination she stated that Security Guards Mr. Wajid Mehmood and Mr. Shoukat Mehmood remained absent from duty on the night of the incident.
- However, this allegation does not appear in her written statement.
- Similarly, she initially attributed the incident to an electrical short circuit but later clarified that this conclusion had merely been based upon information supplied by security personnel and not upon any technical inspection.
- The Committee accepts her explanation that she relied upon information available at that time.
- Nevertheless, the omission of material facts from her written statement reduces its evidentiary value.
- At the same time, her statement regarding delayed arrival of security staff stands corroborated by several independent witnesses.

MUHAMMAD USMAN
Assistant Director (Security)
Member


LIAQAT OGAHI
Nursing Superintendent
Member

DR. NAVEED AHMED SHEIKH
Deputy Director (OPD)
Chairman

The Committee therefore considers her testimony partly reliable.

9.10 Comparative Credibility Assessment

Based upon the entire evidence, the Committee assigns the following relative evidentiary value:

Witness	Evidentiary Value	Reasons
Mr. Qaiser Zaman (Cook)	High	Consistent, corroborated by multiple independent witnesses, no material contradiction.
Ms. Ishbah Ijaz (Student)	High	First eyewitness, detailed account, substantially corroborated.
Ms. Faiza Riffat (Student)	High	Independent corroboration of evacuation sequence and smoke conditions.
Ms. Hafza Zainab (Student)	Moderate	Reliable for limited issue of unauthorized late-night access.
Ms. Zainab Sehar (Hostel Warden)	Moderate	Corroborated on several facts but weakened by material omissions and inconsistencies between oral and written versions.
Mr. Saleem (Security dept)	Moderate	Relevant only to post-incident response; absent at outbreak of fire.
Mr. Shoukat Mehmood (Security dept)	Low to Moderate	Statement unsupported by documentary evidence and inconsistent with other witnesses regarding immediate availability.
Mr. Wajid Mehmood (Security dept)	Low	Explanation regarding prolonged absence from the hostel is unsupported by record and does not satisfactorily account for the lack of immediate security response.

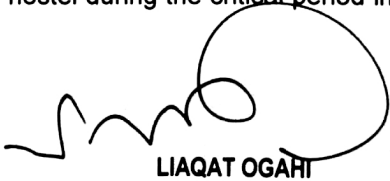
9.11 Effect of Missing Documentary Evidence

- The Committee considers it necessary to observe that the credibility assessment of several witnesses has been adversely affected by the complete absence of contemporaneous official records.
- Had the Hostel Administration maintained and produced the duty rosters, visitor register, occupancy register, patrol records, CCTV footage, Fire Brigade report and Electrical Inspection Report, several disputed facts could have been independently verified.
- The absence of these records compelled the Committee to rely primarily upon oral testimony and surrounding circumstances.
- This failure itself constitutes a serious administrative lapse and has materially impaired the ability of the Committee to conclusively determine all disputed issues.

9.12 Conclusion

- Upon an overall appreciation of the evidence, the Committee finds that the statements of the hostel residents and Mr. Qaiser Zaman are mutually corroborative and constitute the most reliable account of the incident.
- Conversely, the statements of the security personnel contain material inconsistencies, are unsupported by documentary evidence, and do not satisfactorily explain the absence of effective security coverage at the hostel during the critical period immediately preceding and following the outbreak of the fire.

MUHAMMAD USMAN
Assistant Director (Security)
Member


LIAQAT OGAHT
Nursing Superintendent
Member

DR. NAVEED AHMED SHEIKH
Deputy Director (OPD)
Chairman

- The evidence also establishes significant deficiencies in hostel administration, record maintenance, visitor control and emergency preparedness, all of which contributed to the institutional failure observed during the incident.

CHAPTER-X

FINDINGS AND DETERMINATION OF RESPONSIBILITY

10.1 Introduction

Having carefully examined the documentary record produced before the Committee, the written statements of the concerned officials, the oral depositions, and the surrounding circumstances of the incident, the Committee records its findings on each Term of Reference separately.

The findings are based on the **preponderance of evidence** and not on conjecture or suspicion. Wherever documentary or technical evidence was unavailable, the Committee has refrained from recording definitive findings beyond what is reasonably established by the available evidence.

FINDINGS AGAINST THE TERMS OF REFERENCE

TOR-I

To ascertain the facts and circumstances leading to the fire incident.

Finding

The Committee finds that:

- i. A fire broke out in the reception/waiting area of the Female Nursing Hostel between approximately 03:00 and 03:20 hours on the intervening night of 06th July 2026.
- ii. The fire originated from the sofa set placed in the reception area.
- iii. Smoke rapidly spread through the hostel corridors causing panic amongst the residents.
- iv. Approximately seventy to seventy-eight female students were present inside the hostel.
- v. Evacuation commenced immediately after the fire was noticed by hostel residents.
- vi. The initial response was undertaken by hostel residents and Mr. Qaiser Zaman, Cook, before the arrival of the security staff.
- vii. The fire was substantially controlled before the Fire Brigade reached the hostel.
- viii. No loss of human life or serious injury occurred.

Accordingly, TOR-I stands answered.

TOR-II

To determine the immediate and root cause of the incident including verification of the reported electrical short circuit through technical assessment.

Finding

The Committee is unable to determine the precise technical cause of the fire.
The reasons are as follows:

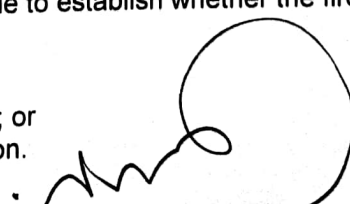
- No Electrical Inspection Report was produced before the inquiry committee.
- No Fire Brigade report was produced.
- No forensic examination of the scene was carried out.
- No photographs of the original scene were preserved.
- No damaged electrical fittings were produced before the Committee.

The initial assumption regarding electrical short circuit was admittedly based only upon verbal information supplied by security staff and not upon any technical examination. Similarly, the alleged opinion attributed to the Fire Brigade could not be verified because no written report was produced.

Accordingly, the Committee is unable to establish whether the fire resulted from:

- Electrical failure;
- Accidental ignition;
- Negligence of any individual; or
- Deliberate human intervention.

MUHAMMAD USMAN
Assistant Director (Security)
Member


LIAQAT OGAHI
Nursing Superintendent
Member

DR. NAVEED AHMED SHEIKH
Deputy Director (OPD)
Chairman

Therefore, TOR-II remains inconclusive owing to absence of technical evidence.

TOR-III

To assess the response of the Hostel Administration, Security Staff and Mess Staff.

1. Finding regarding Hostel Administration

The Committee finds that the Hostel Administration demonstrated serious administrative deficiencies. The following facts stand established:

- Statutory records were either not maintained or not produced;
- Visitor management system was ineffective;
- Maintenance records were unavailable;
- No documented fire safety mechanism existed;
- No CCTV surveillance system existed;
- No emergency evacuation protocol was documented;
- No fire drill record was available.

Although the Hostel Warden participated in evacuation after becoming aware of the incident, overall administrative preparedness was found to be inadequate.

2. Finding regarding Security Staff

- The evidence establishes that security personnel were not immediately available at the hostel when the emergency commenced.
- The explanations furnished by the security guards regarding routine patrol do not satisfactorily justify the absence of effective security coverage at a female hostel during late night hours.
- Material contradictions exist regarding:
 - deployment;
 - movement;
 - communication;
 - arrival time;
 - sequence of response.

The Committee therefore concludes that the emergency response by the security staff was delayed and fell short of the expected standard of vigilance.

3. Finding regarding Mess Staff

The conduct of Mr. Qaiser Zaman is distinguishable from that of other witnesses. The evidence consistently establishes that he:

- Informed security personnel;
- Opened the mess exit for evacuation;
- Attempted to extinguish the fire;
- Assisted hostel residents throughout the emergency.

The Committee appreciates his prompt response.

However, the Committee also notes that his residence inside the Female Hostel could not be supported through any written authorization.

This administrative irregularity requires separate examination by the Competent Authority.

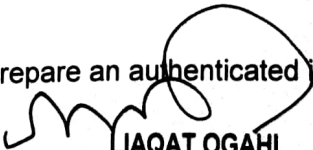
TOR-IV

To assess the extent of damage caused to Government property.
Finding

The available evidence establishes that three sofa sets placed in the reception area were extensively damaged.

However, the Committee could not prepare an authenticated inventory because:

MUHAMMAD USMAN
Assistant Director (Security)
Member


LIAQAT OGAHI
Nursing Superintendent
Member

DR. NAVEED AHMED SHEIKH
Deputy Director (OPD)
Chairman

- Stock registers were not produced;
- Condemnation proceedings had not been initiated;
- Valuation reports were unavailable;
- Assessment by Engineering Wing was not available.

Consequently, the exact financial loss to Government could not be determined. TOR-IV therefore stands answered only to the extent that Government property sustained damage, while the precise value remains

CHAPTER-XI

RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations of the Committee are divided into disciplinary, administrative and systemic measures with a view to fixing responsibility for the established lapses and preventing recurrence of similar incidents.

A. DISCIPLINARY RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1 Hostel Warden

The Competent Authority may consider initiating disciplinary proceedings against Ms. Zainab Sehar, Hostel Warden, on account of the following established lapses:

- i. Failure to maintain mandatory hostel records including visitor register, occupancy register, maintenance records and other official documentation.
- ii. Failure to enforce Hostel SOPs regarding visitor management, documentation and administrative control.
- iii. Failure to maintain proper administrative supervision over the hostel.
- iv. Failure to produce official records requisitioned by the Inquiry Committee.
- v. Failure to ensure adequate fire safety preparedness and emergency documentation.

11.2 Security Staff

Departmental proceedings may be initiated against Security Guards Mr. Wajid Mehmood and Mr. Shoukat Mehmood for:

- i. Failure to maintain effective security coverage of the Female Hostel during night duty.
- ii. Delayed emergency response.
- iii. Contradictory and inconsistent explanations regarding their deployment.
- iv. Failure to maintain vigilance expected from officials entrusted with security duties.

11.3 Shift Incharge (Security)

The role of the Security Shift Incharge may also be examined departmentally for failure to:

- i. Properly supervise deployment of subordinate security personnel.
- ii. Ensure effective monitoring of patrol duties.
- iii. Maintain proper incident reporting and post-incident documentation.

B. ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

11.4 Record Management

The Hostel Administration shall maintain the following registers in prescribed formats:

- Occupancy Register.
- Visitor Register.
- Daily Occurrence Register.
- Maintenance Register.
- Electrical Maintenance Register.
- Fire Safety Register.
- Complaint Register.
- Security Occurrence Register.

MUHAMMAD USMAN
Assistant Director (Security)
Member


LIAQAT OGAHI
Nursing Superintendent
Member

DR. NAVEED AHMED SHEIKH
Deputy Director (OPD)
Chairman

The above records shall be periodically inspected by the competent supervisory officer.

11.5 Visitor Management

Visitor entry shall be strictly regulated.

- No outsider shall be permitted entry beyond prescribed visiting hours except in genuine emergencies after written authorization and proper entry in the visitor register.
- Identity verification of every visitor shall be mandatory.

11.6 Hostel Security

The existing security deployment should be reviewed.

- Dedicated security personnel should remain physically present at the Female Hostel throughout the night rather than relying solely on roaming patrols.
- A written patrol log, duly signed by the duty officer, shall be maintained.

11.7 CCTV Surveillance

High-definition CCTV cameras with night vision capability should be installed at:

- Main entrance.
- Reception area.
- Hostel corridors.
- Mess entrance.
- Emergency exits.
- Boundary wall approaches.

Video recordings should be preserved for at least ninety days.

11.8 Fire Safety

The Engineering Wing shall conduct a comprehensive fire safety audit of the hostel. The following minimum facilities should be ensured:

- Smoke detectors.
- Fire alarm system.
- Emergency warning system.
- Emergency lighting.
- Clearly marked escape routes.
- Functional fire extinguishers.
- Fire hose reels where required.

The equipment should be inspected periodically and inspection records maintained.

11.9 Electrical Safety

The entire electrical system of the hostel should undergo inspection by qualified electrical engineers. Annual electrical safety certification should be made mandatory. All electrical maintenance should be documented.

11.10 Emergency Preparedness

A written Hostel Emergency Response Plan should be prepared:

- Mock evacuation drills should be conducted at least twice every year.
- All hostel staff, security personnel and residents should receive orientation regarding emergency evacuation procedures.

11.11 Hostel Infrastructure

Emergency exit routes should remain unobstructed at all times:

- The Committee further recommends that the circumstances under which the dining hall remained open during prohibited hours be separately investigated and responsibility fixed.

MUHAMMAD USMAN
Assistant Director (Security)
Member

LIAQAT OGAHI
Nursing Superintendent
Member

DR. NAVEED AHMED SHEIKH
Deputy Director (OPD)
Chairman

11.12 Residence of Male Staff

- The Competent Authority should examine the legality and administrative basis under which Mr. Qaiser Zaman was residing within the Female Hostel premises.
- If no lawful authorization exists, alternative accommodation should be arranged in accordance with institutional policy while ensuring uninterrupted mess services.

11.13 Outsourcing of Mess Services

- If considered administratively feasible, the Competent Authority may undertake a separate feasibility study regarding outsourcing of mess services through a transparent procurement process in accordance with the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) instructions.
- If outsourcing is not considered appropriate, the mess should be brought under a clearly defined institutional management and monitoring framework with proper contractual, financial and administrative oversight.

11.14 Security Audit

A comprehensive security audit of all residential facilities under PIMS, including the Nursing Hostel, Doctors' Hostel and Female Doctors' Hostel, should be conducted to identify deficiencies in physical security, access control and emergency preparedness.

11.15 Verification of Night-Time Movement

The reported movement of four MLT students near the hostel during the relevant hours should be verified through a separate fact-finding exercise to determine whether any institutional rules or hostel regulations were violated.

11.16 Complaints of Theft

The Committee notes recurring verbal complaints regarding theft within the hostel. The administration should investigate these complaints, strengthen access control measures and ensure that all future complaints are formally recorded and investigated.

C. MATTERS NOT ESTABLISHED

The Committee specifically records that the following allegations could not be established on the basis of the evidence available:

- i. That the fire resulted from an electrical short circuit.
- ii. That the fire was intentionally caused by any identified individual.
- iii. That any hostel employee deliberately facilitated the occurrence.
- iv. That any hostel resident was responsible for igniting the fire.

Accordingly, no disciplinary action is recommended on these issues unless further technical or forensic evidence becomes available.

CHAPTER-XII

CONCLUSION

- The Inquiry Committee concludes that the fire incident of 06th July 2026 exposed significant administrative and institutional weaknesses in the management of the Female Nursing Hostel.
- Although the prompt actions of hostel residents, the Hostel Warden after being alerted, and Mr. Qaiser Zaman prevented loss of life, the inquiry has established deficiencies in record maintenance, administrative supervision, security deployment, visitor management and fire safety preparedness.
- The Committee is satisfied that administrative negligence and supervisory lapses have been established against certain officials. However, owing to the absence of technical and forensic evidence, the Committee is unable to determine the precise origin of the fire or attribute responsibility for its ignition to any individual.
- The Committee is therefore of the considered view that disciplinary proceedings may be initiated only in respect of the administrative and supervisory lapses established in this report, while the

MUHAMMAD USMAN
Assistant Director (Security)
Member

LIAQAT OGAHI
Nursing Superintendent
Member

DR. NAVEED AHMED SHEIKH
Deputy Director (OPD)
Chairman

systemic recommendations contained herein should be implemented on priority to strengthen institutional safety, governance and accountability.

Submitted for consideration and orders of the Competent Authority i.e. Executive Director, PIMS.

MUHAMMAD USMAN
Assistant Director (Security)
Member


LIAQAT OGAHI
Nursing Superintendent
Member

DR. NAVEED AHMED SHEIKH
Deputy Director (OPD)
Chairman