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# Establishment of Qualified Medical Care for the Population in the Health Care System of the Southern Regions during the Years of Independence

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#### **Abstract**

This article analyses the reforms in the health care system of the southern regions of Uzbekistan in the first years of independence and their results.

**Keywords:** health care, sanitation, hygiene, improvement of medical care, development of sports.

During the years of independence, special attention was paid to health care in rural areas. This is due to the fact that in the first years of independence, a sharp decline in living standards caused serious difficulties in maintaining the health condition of the population. Poor access to clean drinking water in rural areas, unorganized removal of household waste, non-compliance with the rules of sanitation and hygiene have led to an increase in infectious diseases among the population. Only in the Termez region in 1993 about 40 people were diagnosed with the diagnosis of "plague" and 29 people were found as carriers of the plague. In addition, 14 cases of typhoid and 18 cases of paratyphoid have been reported.

In 1992-1993, the death of young children from diphtheria was widespread in the villages of the Surkhandarya region. Unfortunately, despite the fact that sufficient funds were allocated to the health care system from local budgets, most of them remained unused. Only in the Kashkadarya region, 66.4 million soums of funds allocated for health care for 9 months of 1995 were not used.

In order to prevent such cases in the healthcare system and provide qualified medical services to the population, the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On the State Program for Reforming the Healthcare System of the Republic of Uzbekistan" dated November 10, 1998 became an important factor in the formation of a comprehensive system of maternal and child health that meets modern requirements and provides qualified medical services. In accordance with this document, a system of modern medical care for the provision of primary medical care was created in the country. This system covered a network of rural medical centres and urban family polyclinics.

This program has significantly improved the quality of medical services provided to the population. Medical transport has been allocated to the majority of rural medical stations. Mass vaccination campaigns were carried out in 1996 and 2001 to protect the rural population from diphtheria. In 2008 alone, 184 children's sports facilities and 26 rural medical stations were built throughout the country [3]. In the healthcare system of the Surkhandarya region, medical services were provided to the population by 389 medical institutions, 241 rural medical centres, 1 urban medical centre, 72treatment and preventive care establishments.

Despite the fact that the government of the republic has done a lot to develop the healthcare system, the existing defects and shortcomings in this area have caused reasonable objections from the

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population. For example, in 2010-2012, 67 medical institutions in the Surkhandarya region needed major repairs and reconstruction, and most of them did not provide for the needs of engineering networks. In particular, in Sherabad, Sariosi and Kyzyrik districts, the incidence rate was higher than the average for the region, and in some cities and villages there was an acute shortage of medical specialists and special medical transport.

Due to the lack of funding for medical facilities in Kashkadarya region, little attention was paid to rural areas. In 2009, 84% of the 678 feldsher-obstetric stations counted, 60% of the 177 rural outpatient clinics and almost 80% of the 43 rural hospitals did not have sufficient facilities. 150 clinics were not provided with telephones. In Kamashinsky, Chirakchi, Shakhrisabz and Yakkabag districts, only 70-75 percent of medical institutions were provided with pediatricians and general practitioners due to negligence. As a result, various diseases among the population increased from year to year. The situation with maternal and child mortality has also become extremely serious. The situation was especially difficult in the Yakkabag, Kasbi, Nishan and Dekhkanabad regions. In these areas, the incidence was 9–11 percent per 10,000 populations.

The difficult situation in the health care system of Surkhandarya and Kashkadarya regions caused concern. In this situation, the Government of the Republic has taken a number of practical measures. In particular, in 2012, a new building was built for a medical association in the Kamashinsky district of the Kashkadarya region, where construction and repair work was carried out in the amount of 3 billion 450 million soums. The hospital, covering a total area of 6.5 hectares, had a diagnostic, laboratory, emergency department, surgical department, gynecological and obstetric complex, and physiotherapy and treatment departments. In the therapeutic department itself, it was possible simultaneously accommodate 325 people in the departments of neurology, cardiology and therapy. In the medical unit medical equipment worth 1 million dollars was installed. In addition, 5 rural hospitals, 16 rural health centres, and a tuberculosis dispensary were organized to serve the 240,535 people living in the district. In 2012, 47,371 women of childbearing age underwent medical examinations and received the necessary counselling and referrals to restore their health.

In May 2015, in cooperation with the International Charitable Foundation "Soglom Avlod Uchun" and the State Joint Stock Company "Uzbekistan Temir Yollari", "Health Train" was sent to Surkhandarya and Kashkadarya regions. During the event, the population living in remote areas of Surkhandarya and Kashkadarya regions, including war and labor veterans, members of low-income families underwent in-depth medical examinations and received social support. More than seven hundred people were examined in Uzun and Sariosi districts and the necessary recommendations were given to patients with an identified disease. About a dozen wheelchairs were distributed. During the event, those in need of social assistance and the disabled, medical and social institutions were provided with food, wheelchairs, clothes, medicines, medical equipment, plumbing, school supplies in the amount of 845 million soums .

A study conducted by deputies of the Oliy Majlis in 2018 in the Kashkadarya and Surkhandarya regions revealed that the population of remote areas has not yet felt the cardinal changes in the field of medicine, the results of reforms in practice. It turned out that the system of primary health care in rural areas, the material and technical base of district central hospitals and the level of staffing did not meet modern requirements. There were many shortcomings in the work carried out for the protection of motherhood and children. For the first nine months of 2018, 108 maternal deaths were registered in the country, unfortunately, the highest rate in Samarkand (14) and Surkhandarya regions (14). Although in 2018 the number of cases of hepatitis and pulmonary tuberculosis in the country decreased by 20%, negative rates remained in the southern regions. In order to prevent the

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spread of infectious diseases, the President of Uzbekistan instructed to allocate 10 billion soums by the end of 2018 for the vaccination of children aged 0-18 years in the Kashkadarya region against viral hepatitis.

Our government has taken all measures to further improve the health care system in remote areas of the country. In 2019, the Surkhandarya branch of the Republican Specialized Scientific and Practical Medical Center of Oncology and Radiology, at the expense of the loan of the Islamic Development Bank, received gamma-therapeutic radiotherapy equipment in the amount of 590.0 thousand US dollars, 2 types of modern laboratory equipment in the amount of 64.0 thousand US dollars were delivered by the Global Fund to the regional tuberculosis dispensary. 105 medical equipments of 14 types were delivered in the amount of 1.0 million US dollars to the regional perinatal center and Denov, Sherabad, Shurchi, Baysun and Kumkurgan interdistrict perinatal departments; Surkhandarya branch of the Republican Specialized Center of Urology and its departments in Denau, Sherabad and Kumkurgan regions received medical equipment, such as a mobile X-ray, an operating kit, ultrasound, and an operating table. 14 district and city medical associations of the region was equipped with \$1 million worth of medical equipment.

In accordance with the Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers dated December 22, 2010 "On Approval of the Program of Measures for the Creation and Restoration of Playgrounds for 2011-2015", various activities were carried out in rural areas in 2012 for the physical and spiritual development of children. More than 2 million people participated in the massive sporting event. At the same time, public organizations, industrial enterprises, private entrepreneurs and farms in the villages of Surkhandarya and Kashkadarya regions carried out exemplary work on the restoration and organization of playgrounds, their re-equipment. As a result of these efforts, 2,795 sports centers have been improved, 744 playgrounds have been reconstructed, and 279 new playgrounds have been created in rural areas of the southern regions.

During the years of independence, large-scale activities have been carried out in rural areas aimed at further developing the national wrestling, which has stood the test of centuries, at increasing its prestige in the world, and many international tournaments have been held. Therefore, in the villages, together with the public charitable foundation "Mahalla" and state and public organizations, the republican contests "Mahallamiz pahlavonlari" were organized. Rural youth took part in these competitions with great interest. This is evidenced by the fact that in 2011 more than 130 thousand boys and girls from rural areas of Surkhandarya and Kashkadarya regions took part in the competitions, among which dozens of talented young wrestlers were identified. It is noteworthy that the number of mahallas that organized the tournament in 2011 increased by 685 compared to 2010, and the number of participants increased by 32,000 people. An important factor in further increasing its prestige was the fact that all stages of the competition are held in modern sports complexes.

In conclusion, it should be noted that over the years of independence, the promotion of sports in the southern regions, the Ministry of Culture and Sports, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Health, the Women's Committee, the Children's Sports Development Fund, the youth movement "Kamolot", the sports competitions "My dad, mom and I am a family of athletes", organized by the National Television and Radio Company of Uzbekistan, took a special place. The objective of this event is to develop sports among the population and increase the level of disease prevention. In accordance with the Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers dated December 22, 2010 "On Approval of the Program of Measures for the Creation and Restoration of Playgrounds for 2011-2015", various activities were carried out in rural areas in 2012 for the physical and spiritual development of children. More than 2 million people participated in the massive sporting event. At the same time,

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