



REFORMS IN MEDICAL UNIVERSITIES DURING THE NEW UZBEKISTAN (CASE STUDY OF TASHKENT MEDICAL ACADEMY)

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Abstract: This study examines the fundamental changes that have taken place in the medical education system in the Republic of Uzbekistan in recent years. This work analyzes the main changes, such as the processes of updating medical education, the introduction of new educational standards, the strengthening of the material and technical base of educational institutions, and the improvement of the medical personnel training system. The study also provides information on the prospects for the development of international cooperation in medical education and new directions of scientific and research work in this area. The results of the study are aimed at determining the place of Uzbek medical education in the world medical education system and its future development directions.

Keywords: Medical education, Uzbekistan, educational reforms, educational standards, material and technical bases, international cooperation, scientific and research work, personnel training.

After the Republic of Uzbekistan gained independence, large-scale reforms were carried out in all spheres of the country. In particular, fundamental changes have occurred in the medical sector. In the era of new Uzbekistan, the medical education system is at the center of these reforms, since the role of medical personnel training in raising a healthy nation is incomparable. Therefore, special attention is paid to improving the quality of education in medical universities, introducing modern teaching methods, and organizing educational processes based on international standards.

Resolutions of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PQ-2909 dated April 20, 2017 “On measures to further develop the higher education system”, No. PQ-2956 dated May 5, 2017 “On measures to further reform the medical education system in the Republic of Uzbekistan”, No. PQ-3151 dated July 27, 2017 “On measures to further expand the participation of sectors and industries of the economy in improving the quality of training specialists with higher education” and a number of other regulatory documents were adopted. In accordance with the Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PQ-2956 dated May 5, 2017, a working group was established to improve qualification requirements and curricula in connection with the reduction of the duration of study in the areas of medical work, vocational education (medical work), military medicine, medical preventive work, and medical biology.

The 7-year duration of the bachelor's degree (medical work) in higher medical educational institutions in the Republic of Uzbekistan not only does not meet international requirements, but also requires unjustified excessive financial resources for this education. The long-term nature of the educational process in the training of doctors has exacerbated the imbalances and problems in providing personnel in the primary health care system in some



regions of Uzbekistan. In the field of medical education, it was envisaged that the transition to an educational system in which the duration of studies in the field of medical work was reduced from 7 to 6 years, in addition to meeting the requirements of international standards, would ensure targeted spending of budget funds, and at the same time, accelerate the compensation of the shortage of medical personnel by 15%.

In Uzbekistan, 44,409 applicants applied to higher medical education institutions in the 2017-2018 academic year. Of these, 33,395 were accepted as students. Of these, 1,355 were accepted on the basis of a state grant.

On December 12, 2017, the Council of Health Workers noted a shortage of 11,000 qualified doctors to establish the activities of medical institutions in the republic. In particular, there was a shortage of 3,462 general practitioners and 8,217 specialists in narrow professions. Of the 3,197 doctors who graduated from medical institutions in 2017, 79 percent were sent to family clinics and family clinics.

On January 8, 2018, the 13th educational and methodological seminar on “Reforms in Medical Education, Problems and Their Solutions” was held at the Tashkent Medical Academy. At the seminar, Professor Sh. Boymuradov gave a lecture on “Effectiveness of Implementing Reforms in Medical Education”, Professor Kim Suk Won of Korea University gave a lecture on “The Role of Pedagogical Technologies in Teaching Master’s Students in Environmental and Human Health (Korean Experience)”, Professor B. Kholmatova gave a lecture on “Ensuring the Quality of Education in the Higher Education System: E-learning”, Professor A. Okhunov gave a lecture on “Application of Innovative Pedagogical Technologies in Medical Education”.

On January 19-20, 2018, during a visit to Surkhandarya region, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev noted the shortage of personnel, especially in the medical field, an acute shortage of general practitioners and narrow specialists in rural medical centers, rural family clinics, and multidisciplinary clinics. As a solution to this problem, he gave instructions to open a branch of the Tashkent Medical Academy in the city of Termez and create opportunities for training local personnel. The proposal was taken into account, and applicants were invited to study in accordance with the sequence of scores in the districts. 15 students were recommended for study in Termez city, 15 in Angor district, 21 in Boysun district, 44 in Denov district, 21 in Jarkurgan district, 18 in Muzrobod district, 21 in Oltinsoy district, 27 in Kyzyrik district, 34 in Kukurgan district, 16 in Sariosiyo district, 31 in Sherobad district, 12 in Shorchi district, 16 in Termez district, and 9 in Uzun district, a total of 300 students. The admission threshold was divided into districts and the scores ranged from 78.7 (Kyzyrik district) to 125.9 (Termez city). A branch of the Tashkent Medical Academy was opened in the building of the former medical college in Termez city. This branch began operating on February 1, 2018.

Providing the medical sector with modern-thinking, deeply knowledgeable, and responsible qualified personnel has become an urgent issue on the agenda. To this end, the opening of the Termez branch of the Tashkent Medical Academy in 2017 and the Fergana branch in 2018 has been of great importance in the field of medical personnel. Also, the duration of study for bachelor's degrees and "medical prevention" was set at 6 and 5 years in accordance with international standards. Based on the problems of providing medical institutions in the regions with qualified doctors, 1,180 and 1,548 target quotas were allocated in 2017 and this year, respectively. As a result, the need for general



practitioners in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, Khorezm, Bukhara, Navoi, Syrdarya, Andijan, and Kashkadarya regions was partially covered.

Medical workers are laborious and honorable professions that require constant work on themselves and constant improvement of their professional skills. The results of the work of medical workers have a direct social impact and are not limited to the health of any one person, but also affect the development and stability of society. The future of the state and society in some sense depends on the level of knowledge of medicine and doctors and the provision of quality medical services to all segments of the population. It also depends on the full coverage.

By 2018, medical personnel were trained in 7 higher medical educational institutions and their branches in Uzbekistan. In the 2017-2018 academic year, 2 thousand young doctors who graduated from bachelor's degrees at these higher educational institutions were hired. 4 thousand 395 young men and women were admitted to medical institutes as students.

In the 2018-2019 academic year, the total number of students at the medical faculty of the academy was 2,230, of which 659 received education on a grant basis and 1,571 on a fee-based contract basis. The mastery and quality indicators in the higher courses were higher than in the lower courses. The decrease in motivation among students to learn, the increased contract fee, and students transferred from other universities showed that it is necessary to start studying on time, increase the responsibility of teachers and students, and use non-traditional teaching methods and innovative pedagogical technologies in teaching. The overall mastery indicator for the faculty was 65.3 percent (92.7) and the quality indicator was 52.0 percent (66.6). In the 2017-2018 academic year, 366 students studied at the Faculty of Medical Prevention, and in the 2018-2019 academic year, 278 students studied.

Students of the Faculty of Medical Pedagogy mastered the basics of pedagogy at the Department of Pedagogy and Psychology and in medical colleges of Tashkent. Pedagogical practice was conducted in these medical colleges. Students acquired the necessary practical skills for a teacher in colleges.

The resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On measures for the further development of the system of medical and pharmaceutical education and science" of May 6, 2019 was significant in that it was aimed at raising the work being carried out in the field to a new level and improving the qualifications of medical workers. Starting from 2020, it is planned to hold annually the Ibn Sina International Medical Olympiads in clinical sciences among students of medical and pharmaceutical higher educational institutions and medical colleges, as well as the Ibn Sina International Scientific Competitions among young scientists, using extra-budgetary funds.

In the field of medical education, Uzbekistan has established cooperative relations with more than 20 foreign higher educational institutions. In accordance with the memorandums concluded between the countries in this regard, a group of young people from Uzbekistan studied at leading foreign medical universities. The Tashkent State Dental Institute has opened the "Dentistry" department of the Moscow State Medical and Dental University and the "Biomedical Engineering" department of the Turin Polytechnic University in Italy. Starting from the 2019-2020 academic year, the Tashkent Pediatric Medical Institute has launched a joint program with the Ilsan Hospital of the Inje University of the Republic of Korea in the "Traumatology and Orthopedics"



master's degree program. An agreement on cooperation has also been signed with the St. Petersburg State Pediatric Medical University in Russia. In short, the reforms aimed at bringing the healthcare system in Uzbekistan in line with world standards during the years of independence have led to the need to provide the sector with qualified personnel. The reduction in the admission quota of medical institutions has also exacerbated the problem of a shortage of doctors in the regions.

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