

**CHALLENGES IN PROVIDING MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS WITH QUALIFIED
PERSONNEL IN THE FERGANA VALLEY (1992-2005)****Mamasolieva Guldonga Anvarbekovna****Senior Lecturer****Department of World History****Andijan State University****Andijan, Republic of Uzbekistan**

***Annotation.** The article highlights several critical issues faced by the healthcare system in the Fergana Valley during the early years of Uzbekistan's independence, particularly the acute shortage of doctors and paramedical personnel in the initial transition period from 1992 to 2005. This shortage posed significant challenges for delivering adequate healthcare to the growing population and addressing the needs of rural and remote areas, where the problem was most pronounced. The article provides a detailed overview of the efforts made to address this shortage, including the process of training qualified doctors and medical specialists. It emphasizes the challenges faced by medical institutions during this period, particularly with the limited resources and infrastructure available for training new healthcare professionals. In response, various reforms were introduced to modernize the medical education system, increase the intake of medical students, and ensure that they received the necessary practical experience.*

***Key words:** healthcare, problem, disease, diagnosis, independence, hospital, medical institutions, doctor, qualifications, medical personnel, specialist.*

History shows that since the 19th century, medical professionals working in healthcare have been increasingly divided into various specialized fields. This process continues today with the advancement of science.

Of course, the division of medicine into different specialties provides the opportunity to offer highly qualified medical care to patients in each area. By the mid-20th century, serious problems emerged in recruiting specialists to work as general practitioners.

There are over 10,000 types of diseases in humans, which manifest in more than 100,000 symptoms, and about 400 different laboratory tests are used for diagnosis[1. Б.37]. Thus, from the

second half of the last century, medical and economic reasons and conditions in developed countries required a shift toward training general practitioners.

The methodological basis of this research includes general scientific methods of theoretical knowledge, analysis of documents on the state of healthcare workers in the Fergana Valley, and a comparative analysis of research results regarding the provision of qualified medical personnel in the Fergana Valley.

The reduction in the number of doctors and mid-level medical staff per 100,000 population in Uzbekistan in 1990 partly led to a decrease in admissions to medical universities in the early years of independence. A certain imbalance in the regional distribution of medical workers is also observed: they are mainly concentrated in urban centers of regional capitals, while there is a shortage in rural and remote areas. Given that more than half of the population of the valley lives in rural areas, this inequality affects a significant portion of the population.

During this period, 5,945 qualified doctors worked in 125 hospitals in the Fergana region, capable of treating around 27,000 patients simultaneously. This is considered a good indicator for the republic[3].

In 1992, 257 (70 percent) of the 366 doctors assigned to the regional health administration were sent to healthcare institutions in rural areas to increase the availability of specialists in rural medical facilities to meet demand. Additionally, the chief doctors of 135 outpatient clinics were reassigned to direct medical duties. As a result, the provision of doctors to rural residents improved. As part of the professional development program, over 1,500 healthcare workers serving in rural areas were granted qualifications, with 254 doctors and 220 mid-level medical workers receiving certifications. Despite this, the overall number of qualified medical personnel remained significantly lower in the Yazovon, Dangara, and Furkat districts[4].

In the Fergana region, medical training was conducted through short-term 10-day cycles, not by specialists from the Institute for Advanced Training of Doctors, but by the Pediatric Research Institute[5].

In 2002, the number of doctors per 10,000 residents in Fergana was 23.0, and in 2003, it was 22.6.

In 2003, medical assistance in the region was provided by 105 hospitals, 416 outpatient clinics, 21 dental and medical centers, 20 emergency medical service departments, 240 rural health posts (FAPs), 6,319 doctors, and 31,909 mid-level healthcare workers, among others.

In medical institutions, there were 8,059 doctor positions, of which 7,049 were occupied by specialists. The doctor-to-population ratio in the region was 28.6 per 10,000 residents.

Since the region's bed occupancy rate is 1.4, the indicator is higher than the regional average in the cities of Fergana, Kuvasay, and Margilan, but lower in Sokh, Toshloq, and Furkat compared to the rate in Kuvay, Dangara, and Baghdad districts of Uzbekistan.

By region, the number of mid-level healthcare workers in relation to the positions held was 67.5 per 10,000 residents, which is lower than the regional average in the Uchkoprik, Toshloq, Baghdad, Sokh, and Besharik districts.

The availability of mid-level healthcare positions in the region was 114.2 percent, with 1.0 percent of positions vacant. The number of qualified doctors was 2,618, or 41.4 percent of the total number of doctors.

Of the doctors, 25.7 percent held the highest category, 71.0 percent held the first category, and 13.3 percent held the second category.

Qualified mid-level medical workers numbered 10,242, or 32.0 percent of the total number of mid-level medical workers, compared to 31.7 percent in the previous year. Of these, 28.0 percent of nurses held the highest category, and 71.5 percent held the first category.

In 2003, 1,214 doctors (18.7 percent of the total number of doctors) and 3,989 mid-level healthcare workers (12.6 percent of the total number of mid-level workers) underwent advanced training.

In 1992, a systematic effort began to improve the qualifications of doctors working in maternity hospitals and women's clinics providing perinatal care. A 10-month training program was held in the region for 58 obstetricians-gynecologists, 184 pediatricians, 28 neonatologists, and 90 general practitioners. Additionally, over the course of the year, one obstetrician-gynecologist and one pediatrician were sent to Kiev for training[2].

In 2005, the healthcare system in the Fergana region had 4,649 medical positions in polyclinics, which accounted for 58.4% of the total number of medical positions. In the outpatient and polyclinic system, the staffing level for medical positions was 85.5%, with a fill rate of 1.3.

In the region, 6,185 doctors, 32,119 mid-level healthcare workers, and other personnel provided medical assistance in 94 hospitals, 423 outpatient and polyclinic facilities, 20 dental and medical centers (DSENM), 19 emergency medical service departments, and 190 rural health posts (FAPs).

The number of doctors per 10,000 residents was 21.9 in 2004 and 21.6 in 2005. This indicator was higher in the cities of Kokand, Margilan, and Fergana, but in the Fergana, Sokh, Toshloq, and Baghdad districts, the doctor-to-population ratio was half the regional average.

The availability of mid-level medical personnel was 112.3 per 10,000 residents. This figure was higher in Kokand, Furkat, Kuvinsky, and Rishtan districts, but lower than the regional average in Fergana city, Sokh, Yazovon, Uchkoprik, and Baghdad districts.

In healthcare facilities, there were 7,965 medical positions, of which 6,985 were occupied. Since the staffing level for doctors in the region was 87.7%, it was below the regional average in the cities of Kuvasay, Toshloq, Sokh, Fergana, and Akhunboboev districts.

The region's employment rate was 1.4. This figure was higher than the regional average in the cities of Kuvasay, Margilan, and Fergana, as well as in the Fergana and Yazovon districts. In contrast, it was lower than the regional average in the Baghdad, Buvayda, Toshloq, Uzbekistan, Uchkoprik, Furkat, and Dange districts.

The number of mid-level healthcare workers per 10,000 residents in the region was 64.8, which was higher than the regional average in Uchkoprik, Toshloq, Baghdad, Sokh, Yazovon, Uzbekistan, and Altaryk districts.

The employment rate for mid-level healthcare positions in the region was 98.1%, with 0.9% of positions vacant. In some districts, this figure fell below the 1.0% norm. For example, in Kuvinsky, Rishtan, and Baghdad districts, more than one employee was hired for the same position.

The number of qualified doctors was 3,176, or 51.4% of general practitioners. Of these, 991 doctors held the highest category (16% of the total number of doctors), 2,123 held the first category (34.3%), and 62 held the second category (1.0%). The proportion of qualified doctors was higher in the city of Kokand, Altaryk, Dangara, and Furkat districts, but lower than the regional average in Sokh, Rishtan, Akhunbobaev, and Yazovon districts.

Qualified mid-level healthcare workers numbered 10,246, or 31.9% of the total number of mid-level healthcare workers. This figure was higher than the regional average in Uchkoprik, Fergana, Dangara, Furkat, and Uzbekistan districts, but lower than the regional average in Yazovon district, Fergana city, and Kokand. Although this indicator increased by 18.7% in regional institutions, it was almost halved compared to the regional average: 4,568 senior medical workers, or 14.2% of the total number of mid-level medical workers, and 5,636 first-class medical workers, or 17.5%.

In 2005, 1,224 doctors (19.8% of the total number of doctors) and 4,197 mid-level healthcare workers (13.0% of the total number of mid-level workers) underwent advanced training[2].

Despite the good results achieved in 2005, an analysis revealed several shortcomings in certain district, city, and regional institutions. Regarding staffing levels, the provision of medical personnel in some districts and cities was significantly lower than the regional averages. The doctor-to-population ratio was 21.6 across the region, but in the Fergana district it was 10.1, in the Sokh district it was 9.5, in the Toshloq district it was 10.7, and in the Yazovon district it was 11.3, which was twice as low as the regional average.

One of the main problems in the system was the shortage of doctors and mid-level medical staff during the initial transition period. Various difficulties arose in training qualified doctors or medical specialists. In turn, population growth will impact the demand for medical personnel. In the years of independence, considering the overall demand for personnel, a system for targeted medical staff training was established.

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