

DEVELOPMENT OF THE TRAINING SYSTEM FOR SECONDARY MEDICAL PERSONNEL IN THE FERGANA VALLEY DURING THE YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

Mamasoliyeva Guldona Anvarbekovna

Teacher of the Department of World History,
Andizhan State University

Abstract: *This article analyzes the developmental stages and historical transformation processes of the training system for secondary medical personnel, considered an integral part of the healthcare system of Uzbekistan, in the Fergana Valley during the years of independence.*

Keywords: *Fergana Valley, independence period, secondary medical personnel, medical education, nursing practice, medical colleges, technicum, systemic transformation, healthcare system.*

The efficiency of any national healthcare system and the quality of medical services provided to the population are primarily determined by the supply of qualified medical personnel. Since the early years of the independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the fundamental reform of the healthcare sector – particularly the development of its primary care tier (rural physician clinics and family polyclinics) – has become one of the priorities of state policy. In this process, the core workload and responsibility devolved upon secondary medical personnel, including nurses, midwives, and paramedics (feldshers).

Following Uzbekistan's achievement of independence, attention towards this sector intensified significantly. In the Fergana region alone, 22,810 secondary medical professionals were employed in 1991. By 1993, the number of operating vocational medical schools in the Republic reached 44. By 1995, a total of 246,124 mid-level medical specialists across all fields were active throughout the country¹.

¹ Fayzullaev, T., and A. Sarimsoqov. Socio-economic development of independent Uzbekistan. Namangan, 2012, p. 143.

In the same timeframe, the healthcare infrastructure of the Namangan region was supported by a workforce of over 16,500 mid-level medical specialists².

The Code of Ethics and the Professional Oath, adopted by the Association of Secondary Medical and Pharmaceutical Personnel of Uzbekistan in 1998, served as a foundational daily guide for the duties and practices of active healthcare professionals and nurses throughout the Republic³.

The capacity of secondary vocational school graduates to provide primary health care was cast into doubt due to the narrow scope of their knowledge, the misalignment of curricula and syllabi with the operational needs of primary health care institutions, and the near-total exclusion of clinical hours from the training programs for feldsher-laboratory technicians and sanitary feldshers⁴.

In 1998, the calculated demand for adolescent care nurses in the Namangan region stood at 123.5 staff units, of which 118.25 positions were allocated, resulting in an overall staffing sufficiency rate of 95.9%. However, several administrative areas fell significantly below this regional average. Specifically, the staffing sufficiency rate was recorded at a mere 19.4% in the Uychi district, 24.7% in the Namangan district, 26.8% in the Chortoq district, 44.5% in the Kosonsoy district, 47.9% in the Yangiqo'rg'on district, 50.5% in the To'raqo'rg'on district, 55.6% in the Mingbuloq district, 58.3% in Namangan city, and 82.5% at the regional adolescent dispensary. During this timeframe, a total of 468 secondary medical professionals were active within the region's existing Rural Medical Points (SVPs), with only 21.7% of them holding professional certification categories⁵.

By 2000, the healthcare network of the Andijan region comprised 70 hospitals, 287 independent outpatient polyclinics, 4 maternity hospitals, 83 Rural Medical Outposts (QVAs), and 124 Rural Medical Points (QVPs). A total of

² Namangan Regional State Archive, Fund 908, List 1, File 335, Page 6.

³ Akhmedova, D. I. Nursing. Tashkent. 2015. pp. 13–14.

⁴ Central State Archive of Scientific-Technical and Medical Documents of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Fund M-372, List 1, File 406, Page 161.

⁵ Namangan Regional State Archive, Fund 908, List 1, File 335, Page 33.

21,891 secondary medical professionals were employed across these healthcare institutions. Notably, the staffing density of secondary medical personnel reached 100% per 10,000 residents⁶.

In 2005, certified secondary medical personnel numbered 10,246, accounting for 31.9% of the total mid-level healthcare workforce. This indicator varied significantly across sub-regions; in the Uchko‘prik, Farg‘ona, Dang‘ara, Furqat, and O‘zbekiston districts, the average certification rate stood at 42.4%, surpassing the regional average. Conversely, in the Yozyovon district, as well as in the cities of Farg‘ona and Qo‘qon, the average rate was noticeably lower, hovering at 24.0% and falling below the regional baseline⁷.

The acquisition of professional certification categories by secondary medical personnel was conducted in accordance with the decree of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 'On the Approval of the Regulation on the Attestation of Medical and Pharmaceutical Personnel and the Awarding of Professional Categories.' The regulation, developed on the basis of this decree, outlines the specific procedures and norms for continuing professional development. According to these guidelines, professional categories can be awarded based on the application of nurses holding a degree in 'Higher Nursing Affairs,' as well as secondary medical or pharmaceutical workers, for either one of their specialties at their primary or part-time place of employment, or separately for each of them.

By 2010, the healthcare institutions of the Farg‘ona region employed 37,621 secondary medical workers. While the regional staffing density stood at 121.3 specialists per 10,000 residents, this figure was significantly higher in the city of Qo‘qon and the Quva, Rishton, and Furqat districts, averaging 129.4. Conversely, the indicator fell below the regional average in the So‘x, Yozyovon, and

⁶ Archive of the Presidential Administration of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Fund 4141, List 15, File 178, Page 24.

⁷ Current Archive of the Farg‘ona Regional Health Department.

Uchkoʻprik districts, as well as the city of Fargʻona, averaging 73.7. Within the curative and preventive institutions under the Fargʻona Regional Health Department, there were a total of 18,824 mid-level medical staff units available, of which 18,780.25 positions were occupied by 22,889 physical individuals⁸.

It is worth emphasizing that mid-level medical personnel undergo professional development and specialization courses every three years at the Republican Center for Professional Development and Specialization of Secondary Medical and Pharmaceutical Personnel, as well as its regional branches. The Nurses Association of Uzbekistan facilitates continuous professional development, lifelong education, and retraining programs for nurses. Furthermore, it coordinates the activities of secondary medical educational institutions and healthcare facilities to ensure the delivery of high-quality nursing care. Additionally, a standardized performance evaluation system for community (patronage) nurses was officially introduced in 2014⁹.

In 2015, the number of active secondary medical personnel in the healthcare facilities of the Fargʻona region reached 41,384. While the regional staffing density averaged 118.6 specialists per 10,000 residents, notable geographic disparities persisted. Specifically, in the city of Qoʻqon and the Rishton and Quva districts, the metric averaged 147.3, significantly exceeding the regional baseline. Conversely, in the city of Fargʻona and the Soʻx and Oltiariq districts, this indicator fell short of the regional average, hovering at an average of 76.2 specialists¹⁰.

In 2020, the healthcare institutions of the Andijan region were allocated 18,013.75 secondary and 7,296.75 junior medical staff positions, which were occupied by 17,997.0 secondary medical workers and 7,271.75 junior medical

⁸ Current Archive of the Fargʻona Regional Health Department.

⁹ Seul Ki Choi, Bo-Eun Km, Chin-Kang Koh, Salima Kasymova. Nursing Education in the Republic of Uzbekistan. Occasional Research Paper 2020-04. – P. 58.

¹⁰ Current Archive of the Fargʻona Regional Health Department.

personnel, respectively. Among the total secondary medical workforce, 13,032 professionals held professional certification categories, distributed as follows: 6,521 held the highest category, 2,795 held the first category, and 3,716 held the second category. Throughout the year, 2,983 secondary medical workers underwent continuing professional development courses, accounting for 9.9% of the total mid-level medical workforce¹¹.

In conclusion, during the period under study, the secondary medical education system in the regions of the Fergana Valley underwent profound structural phases throughout the years of independence. The transition to the medical colleges' framework within the scope of the National Program for Personnel Training, and subsequently to the network of Public Health Technicums named after Abu Ali ibn Sino, brought medical education closer to international standards. Throughout this process, the high demographic density and the significant share of the rural population in the Fergana Valley served as the primary institutional drivers. The establishment of Higher Education Nursing programs under the auspices of the valley's higher medical education institutions – namely, the Andijan State Medical Institute and the Fergana Medical Institute of Public Health – marked a revolutionary milestone in the field. Consequently, the nursing profession transitioned from its traditional status as a mere physician's assistant (an executor) into an autonomous discipline capable of independent clinical reasoning, healthcare organization, and palliative care management. During these years, the systematic expansion of the training capacity for secondary medical personnel played a decisive role in enhancing the quality of primary and preventive healthcare, ensuring early disease detection, and maintaining epidemiological stability, even across the remote rural districts of the region.

¹¹ Current Archive of the Andijan Regional Health Department.