

HEALTHCARE ISSUES IN UZBEKISTAN

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Abstract: *In this article, the policy of protecting the health of mothers and children and protecting them by the state in the Uzbek SSR is disclosed. The reasons and consequences of the increase in the death of mothers and children during this period are highlighted on the example of the regions of the Fergana Valley. A number of factors, such as low allocation of budget funds for health care, increasing number of children in the country and its encouragement by the government, are the causes of the death of mothers and children.*

Key words: *collective farm, maternity hospital, anemia, infectious diseases, "reconstruction", obstetrician, infant mortality*

In the Uzbek SSR, there were many shortcomings in the protection of mothers' and children's health. In particular, in the early 1960s, there were insufficient medical institutions in the rural areas of the Fergana Valley or they did not perform satisfactorily. Only by the end of the 1960s, this problem was solved by building a number of medical institutions in the villages. For example, in 1962-1963, 3 collective farm maternity hospitals were closed due to lack of midwives in Kuva, Altiariq and Pop regions of Fergana region.

In 1962, 5 percent of births in the villages of Fergana region took place at home without medical assistance. The construction of maternity wards in the collective farm "Lenin" of the Kuva region and in the collective farm "Leningrad" of the Pop region has been planned. Most collective farm maternity hospitals are closed all year round. For example, only 3 children were born in the maternity hospital in 1963 in the Yangiabad section of the "Hamza Hakimzoda" collective farm in Kuva district, but 53 children were born at home in this section this year. Also, in 1963, not a single delivery was accepted in the maternity hospital of the "Pobeda" collective farm of this region. All women gave birth to their children at home.[1]

Attracting pregnant women to hospitals was in an unsatisfactory situation, this figure was 19% in Okhunboboyev district and 16% in Pop district. In addition, in Okhunboboyev, Pop and Kuva regions, preventive medical examination of pregnant women has not been established. As a result, many mothers died. For example, 13 mothers died during childbirth in Okhunboboyev region in 6 months of 1963.[2]

There were also a number of shortcomings in the work of protecting the health of mothers and children. It has become natural for village women to give birth at home at a high level. In 1952, 70 percent of women in Kosonsoy district of Namangan region had their

eyes lit at home, while in Pop district it was 65 percent.[3] This situation increased in the following years. In 1959, 3924 babies were born in the city of Andijan, of which 2873 were born in maternity hospitals. Only 73.2 percent of pregnant women died in maternity hospitals, and the rest at home. In 1958, 0.13 percent of women who gave birth died, and in 1959, it was 0.22 percent. [4]

In 1962-1963, 48 percent of maternal deaths in Andijan region occurred due to inadequate medical care provided to them before childbirth, increased morbidity, and women's lack of timely treatment.[5] Seminars on protection of life and health of mother and child were held within district, region and republic. In it, a number of works were carried out on the issues of women's place in society and health care.[6]

The work of registering pregnant women and placing them under medical supervision was very slow. Registration of pregnant women in Andijan region in 1963 was 28 percent.[7] The origin of this situation was greatly influenced by insufficient sanitary promotion work among the population, lack of staffing of paramedics-midwives stations.

In 1963, 43374 women were born in Andijan region, 64 of them died due to various reasons. For every 1,000 women who gave birth, 1.5 maternal deaths occurred.[8] In this period, having many children was a sign of pride and all mothers had at least 5-6 children. An average of 60,000 women gave birth in Andijan every year. However, in order to solve the demographic problem, the government called mothers to have many children and gave them titles and medals. However, they did not think about whether their health could bear it. Therefore, the main concern in health care was to protect the life of mother and child.[9]

As many as 15-16 children were born in some rural families due to the lack of education among women on issues such as childbirth and pregnancy prevention. When the demographic indicators of Andijan region were analyzed, it was found that child mortality decreased significantly in the 1970-1980s. It can also be explained by the fact that it decreased by 9 percent. However, starting from 1983, the birth rates began to increase again and in 1986 reached the results of the initial period.[10] The increase in the birth rate in Andijan region can be explained by the measures of financial incentives adopted by the government in 1981-1982.

The high birth rate in Uzbekistan served as the main factor in the increase in anemia, and this disease is often caused by low quality food and chronic blood loss. 84 out of every 1000 women who gave birth in the Union, and in Uzbekistan, 254 suffered from anemia.[11] 1/3 of the women suffering from anemia in the Union were accounted for by Uzbekistan. Of the 698,300 anemic women registered in the former USSR in 1989, 235,400 were women from Uzbekistan. did.[12]

In 1980, the maternal mortality rate in the Union was 56.4 per 100,000 women giving birth, ranking among the highest in the world. It was 13.1 in Italy, 12.9 in France, 10.7 in Great Britain, 9.8 in Australia, 9.2 in the USA, 8.2 in Sweden, 7.6 in Canada. In 1985, there were 0.61 deaths per 1,000 women who gave birth in Uzbekistan, and in 1989, it increased to 0.66.[13]

The USSR was at the top among developed countries in terms of child mortality. For example, in the USSR in 1980, 27.3 out of 1000 newborns died due to various reasons. This indicator was 13 in the USA and FRG, 8 in Great Britain, GDR and France, 4 in Sweden, and 5 in Japan. In 1970, the death of children under one year in Uzbekistan reached 12,200, in 1980 it reached 25,300, and in 1987 it reached 32,700. Child mortality was especially high in rural areas. In 1987, 9,100 children died in cities and 23,600 in rural areas.[14]

During the years of "Reconstruction", a number of social problems, in particular, the issue of child mortality, were raised. Children's mortality was especially high in Fergana Valley regions compared to other regions of the republic. There were many reasons for the origin of this problem, such as the condition of water facilities, living conditions, and the quality of food.[15]

In addition, among the rural population of Fergana Valley, there are solid foundations of traditional lifestyle: the coexistence of several generations, the prestige of elders, the relationship between mother-in-law and daughter-in-law, the desire to have many children, etc. During this period of analysis, it was found that most women of childbearing age (92%) plan to have 4-5 children, a specific psychological stereotype has been formed to realize these goals in 5-7 years. It turned out that in 25% of cases the interval between births was less than 1.5 years.[16]

According to research, child mortality can be reduced by 50% when the birth interval is 3 years. Another factor affecting this was the well-being of the family, that is, the per capita income was up to 30 rubles. First of all, this is reflected in the quality of nutrition of the family, including pregnant and lactating women.

In terms of infant mortality, the Uzbek SSR was in a pitiful situation compared to other countries. In some regions, the death rate among children under the age of 1 was extremely high.

In conclusion, it should be said that during this period, the quality of medical services to the population was not established. This was caused by insufficient funds allocated by the former union to eliminate problems in the health care system, as well as deficiencies in personnel training. Under the influence of industrial waste and the use of toxic chemicals in agriculture, various infectious diseases have increased among the population, which has had a worse effect on the work of providing medical services.

Vaccination and prevention against infectious diseases was not carried out in an orderly way, in most cases it was not provided sufficiently materially. Only since the 1970s, the work of building medical institutions in rural areas and providing them with medical personnel has been intensified. However, the main problems in the field of health care were not solved in the Uzbek SSR until 1991. As mentioned above, the situation in the medical system of the republic was worse than in other Soviet republics. This increased the number of deaths among the population from poor quality medical services.

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