

**MEASURES TO ESTABLISH MODERN MEDICINE IN THE BUKHARA PEOPLE'S
SOVIET REPUBLIC**

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Annotation

This article provides a scholarly analysis of the measures aimed at forming and establishing a modern medical system in the Bukhara People's Soviet Republic. The study highlights healthcare reforms carried out in 1920–1924, the organization of a network of medical institutions, the establishment of sanitary and epidemiological services, measures to combat infectious diseases among the population, and issues related to training local medical personnel. It also examines the transition from traditional healing practices to scientific medicine, the central government's healthcare policy, and its social significance. The article evaluates the introduction of modern medicine as an important factor in the socio-economic development of Bukhara society.

Keywords

Bukhara People's Soviet Republic, healthcare policy, modern medicine, sanitation, anti-epidemic measures, medical institutions, training of medical personnel, traditional healing, social reforms.

Introduction. At the beginning of the twentieth century, political changes in Central Asia led to fundamental transformations in all spheres of social life, including the healthcare system. After the establishment of the Bukhara People's Soviet Republic in 1920, the protection of public health, the elimination of infectious diseases, and the organization of medical services based on modern standards became urgent tasks. During the previous emirate period, medical care functioned mainly within the framework of traditional healing and a limited number of military and governmental hospitals, whereas the new government defined healthcare as one of the priority directions of state policy.

In this regard, studying the measures taken to establish modern medicine in the Bukhara People's Soviet Republic is important not only for the history of medicine but also for understanding the socio-political and cultural development of the region.

In September 1920, the emir's authority in Bukhara was overthrown and the Bukhara People's Soviet Republic was established. The armed campaign of the Bolsheviks against the Bukhara Emirate and the creation of a Soviet-type system of statehood led to significant changes in all areas. As a result of the Red Army's military campaigns, the socio-economic situation in Bukhara deteriorated. Due to the devastation of peasant households, by the end of 1920 agriculture declined by 30 percent compared to 1918, and by the beginning of 1922 it had fallen by 40 percent. In the same period, cultivated areas were reduced almost twofold [1].

One of the most urgent tasks facing the government of the Bukhara Republic was the issue of healthcare. The formation of the healthcare system in the Bukhara People's Soviet Republic began in a complex and contradictory period. Certain measures were implemented to establish the healthcare system in Bukhara. Initially, a special department providing medical services to the population was created within the structure of the People's Commissariat of Education [2].

In order to improve the healthcare sector in the Bukhara Republic, measures were taken to strengthen administration and increase allocated funding. The activities of the healthcare system were coordinated with the healthcare sector of the Turkestan ASSR. Within the People's

Commissariat of Health of the Bukhara Republic, departments such as treatment, sanitary-epidemiological services, pharmaceuticals, sanitary education, organizational affairs, veterinary services, and maternal and child health protection operated. The government of the Bukhara Republic headed by Fayzulla Khojaev supported the People's Commissariat of Health and allocated significant financial resources. Doctors, feldshers, and medicines were sent to Bukhara from Russia, and they worked to eliminate many epidemic centers in Central Asia [3].

On 17 September 1920, the Turkestan Commission adopted a resolution on food supply issues in the Bukhara Republic. The document stated:

1. Food supply affairs in the Bukhara Republic shall be managed by the People's Commissariat of Food.
2. Food distribution in the Bukhara Republic shall be carried out by the People's Commissariat of Food, and property-owning groups must fulfill the state requisition (distribution) at fixed prices.
3. The food supply of the 1st Army defending the front in the Bukhara Republic shall be ensured by the People's Commissariat of Food [4].

To implement this decision, in September 1920 a special People's Commissariat of Food of the Bukhara People's Soviet Republic was established under the leadership of Mirzo Isom Muhitdinov. The scope of the commissariat's activities also included food distribution, that is, the implementation of the prodrazvyorstka policy. Problems in the food supply of the population negatively affected public health conditions. Various social and infectious diseases spread widely among the population [5].

On 11 October 1920, the government of the Bukhara People's Soviet Republic announced a decree on food distribution entitled "On Food Norms, Their Quantity and Price." The document specified the amount of food products that the population of the Bukhara regions was obliged to deliver. Such measures further worsened the living conditions of the population. Material provision deteriorated and the level of food consumption declined. As a result, epidemics frequently spread in Bukhara, causing serious suffering among the population. Infectious diseases such as malaria, typhoid fever, dysentery, smallpox, and measles became widespread [6].

In the autumn of 1920, the spread of typhoid and smallpox epidemics in Bukhara accelerated the establishment of the People's Commissariat of Health. Initially, healthcare was under the jurisdiction of the People's Commissariat of Education and was headed by the enlightener, poet, and statesman Abdulvohid Burhonov. On 31 October 1920, based on Resolution No. 94 of the Council of People's Commissars on the establishment of the Central Sanitary Commission, the activities of the "Hovzolsihat" Commissariat (the People's Commissariat of Health) were launched. Its structure included departments for children's health headed by Yu.I. Khait, sanitary-epidemiology led by the physician Qori Muhammad Amin, and pharmaceuticals headed by Frimmerman [7].

In 1921–1922, by order of the Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars, medicines for malaria treatment were distributed free of charge to rural areas of the republic. A special regulation "On the Central Administration for Public Health Protection" was drafted and personally signed by F. Khojaev. The regulation included provisions on importing medicines, opening centers to combat infectious diseases, organizing health posts for soldiers, building pharmacies, and establishing children's health centers. Medicines were purchased through the export of cotton, wool, karakul pelts, licorice, and intestinal raw materials. Various medicines and hospital equipment purchased from Germany were delivered under the supervision of the health authorities. Among them were two malaria stations and equipment for pharmacies to be opened at hospitals. In 1923, 1,500 needles were delivered [8].

From December 1923, the People's Commissariat of Health of the Bukhara People's Soviet Republic became known as the Central Health Administration. Its first head was Khoja Hakim Fakhriddinov, and the deputy was feldsher I. Eydelnant. Members of the collegium included G. Urbach, A. Ananyev, Dmitrescu, and Galkin. The administrative structure consisted of departments for medical treatment, sanitary-epidemiology, pharmaceuticals, maternal and child protection, and sanitary education [9].

In 1920, the first outpatient clinic was opened in Bukhara; in 1921, the second outpatient clinic and a feldsher station were opened in Vobkent. Pharmacies were established in Bukhara and Kogon. In 1921, a central pharmaceutical warehouse was opened in Bukhara. In the same year, a conference was held at which A. Trofimov's plan on sanitary measures was presented. At a meeting of commissariat representatives, Trofimov also delivered a report on the threat of cholera, and an emergency commission headed by physician Sobolev was formed to develop measures against the disease. In Karshi, the organization of state medical services began with the opening of an outpatient clinic in October 1921, and a year later an anti-malaria station was launched in the city [10].

At that time, mainly medical personnel of European origin worked in the Karshi city hospital. Among them were surgeon Kudinova, therapist F.Z. Konstantinova, gynecologist Lebedeva, ophthalmologist N.V. Pugonina, venereologist Antonova, and dentist K.A. Lvova. The hospital had 20 beds for internal diseases, 22 for surgery, 5 for gynecology, and 10 for infectious diseases. Although certain measures were taken in the young Bukhara Republic to develop healthcare, many problems remained unresolved. This was primarily related to the political and economic situation in the republic. Economic difficulties in various sectors hindered the large-scale organization of healthcare services. Moreover, there was a shortage of qualified specialists capable of organizing and managing the healthcare sector in Bukhara. As a result, the system was established without strict planning and in a rather disorganized manner [11].

Six percent of the state budget was allocated to the People's Commissariat of Health of the Bukhara People's Soviet Republic, which was insufficient to meet the needs of the population. Sanitary organizations and preventive institutions were hardly established. Communication between the central health authorities and regional units remained weak. Measures to protect motherhood and childhood were also implemented. In August 1921, a special decree of the Council of People's Commissars on this issue was issued. According to the decree, pregnant women engaged in physical labor were granted six weeks of leave before childbirth and six weeks after delivery [12].

Measures to protect public health in Bukhara were carried out alongside public awareness campaigns among the population. Construction of new medical posts and pharmacies was undertaken in cities and villages. Newly established hospitals provided inpatient medical care. Patients suffering from various infectious diseases frequently sought treatment. With the increase in diseases and the deterioration of public health indicators, the demand for qualified medical personnel, medical posts, and pharmacies grew significantly [13].

These measures led to both positive changes and negative consequences. The increase in the number of hospitals, greater attention to public health, the opening of pharmacies, and the influx of medicines can be considered positive developments. However, given the conditions of the period and the prevailing environment in the country, Soviet social policy, the population's lack of knowledge of languages other than the local one, and distrust toward outsiders limited the use of medical institutions and doctors' services. The narrow and unsanitary streets of Bukhara, along with poor sanitary conditions, became major centers for the spread of diseases. Unsatisfactory sanitary and hygienic conditions negatively affected medical work in the Bukhara Republic.

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