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SPECIFIC FEATURES OF MEDICAL SERVICES IN THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

Annotation. This article examines the specific features of medical services in the Republic of Uzbekistan. The factors influencing the development of the sector are studied. Regional differences in its development are shown and statistical materials are analyzed. Suggestions are made on development opportunities.

Keywords: service, medical services, medical tourism, medical cluster, doctors, medical institutions

ОСОБЕННОСТИ ПРЕДОСТАВЛЕНИЯ МЕДИЦИНСКИХ УСЛУГ В РЕСПУБЛИКЕ УЗБЕКИСТАН

Аннотация

В данной статье рассматривается специфика предоставления медицинских услуг в Республике Узбекистан. Изучены факторы, влияющие на развитие отрасли. Указаны территориальные различия в ее развитии и проанализированы статистические материалы. Были внесены предложения о возможностях развития.

Ключевые слова: сервис, медицинское обслуживание, медицинский туризм, медицинский кластер, врачи, медицинские учреждения.

Introduction. As we all know, from the first years of gaining political independence, the Republic of Uzbekistan began to carry out comprehensive reforms in all spheres. Much attention is paid to providing the population with primary services that meet world standards, and in particular, to the education and medical sectors. In order to ensure the health of the future generation, protect

motherhood and childhood, and create favorable conditions for the physical, mental and spiritual development of children, the establishment of the “For a Healthy Generation” non-governmental international charitable fund in accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated April 23, 1993 can be considered a prelude to the reforms being carried out in this regard.

The Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PF-60 dated January 28, 2022 indicated the directions of the Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan for 2022-2026, and its IV. The priority direction called “Implementing a fair social policy, developing human capital” shows the expected changes in the development of medical services in recent years. The words of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Sh.M. Mirziyoyev “...whether it is providing people with housing, radically reforming the healthcare system, providing the population with affordable and high-quality medicines, improving trade and transport services, electricity, natural gas, drinking water supply, building kindergartens, new schools, art and sports facilities, and smooth roads - we have developed clear programs and plans for all of these and will definitely implement them” serve as a guarantee that the work that has a positive impact on the development of the above-mentioned sector will be completed within the established deadlines. The organization of medical clusters and primary medical services in the regions, the introduction of a system of medical insurance for the population, etc. will serve to further modernize medical services. [1]

In recent years, many state and non-state medical institutions have been established in our country based on world standards, providing high-quality services to the population. The observations made reveal that such processes are not the same in all administrative units. These differences in the regions of the republic are caused by a number of internal and external factors.

Analysis of the literature on the topic. Service sectors, including the geographical features of the development of the medical sector, have been studied by a number of foreign and domestic geographers. It is worth highlighting the studies of scientists from abroad such as John R. Bryson, Peter W. Daniels, Juan R.

Cuadrado-Roura, A. Kellerman, and scientists from the former Soviet Union and the CIS such as N. N. Baransky, S. A. Kovalev, V. V. Pokshishevsky, E. R. Agaev, S. M. Zhuravlev.

The analysis of this issue among geographers of the republic was considered in the scientific works of M. Nazarov (1996). In addition, this problem was also studied by A. Soliev, N. Komilova, I. R. Turdimambetov, M. Atajonov.

Economists also paid attention to issues of territorial development of medical services in their scientific research, and B. Begalov, R. Botirova, I. Ikromov, I. Ochilovs also highlighted the problems of this field in the course of revealing the characteristics of service networks. It should be noted that this problem has not been studied geographically in detail within the regions of our republic.

The methodological study of the scientific article is based on traditional research methods of economic and social geography, such as geographical comparison, cartographic, system-content, statistical.

Analysis and results. Among the sectors of the economy of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the service sector has taken its place, and in recent years, along with its share in the republic's GDP, there have been positive changes in annual growth rates. Among them, the share of trade, transport, and financial services is significantly higher, together accounting for 68.3% of the total (2023). Along with these sectors, positive changes are also observed in such sectors as education, catering, information technologies, and medical services.

As is known, medical service is a set of necessary professional actions of a medical worker (performer, service provider) to restore the health of a patient (client, consumer of services). As in most service sectors, this sector, in its formation and development, goes through periods of growth in demand, maturity and saturation, and decline in demand, starting from the stage of bringing the service to the market. It is distinguished by the following features:

- it has an individual character and cannot be reduced to a single form;

- it does not have a material form. That is, it can only be felt during the process of receiving the service;
- the inability to predict the final result;
- a significant impact on the life and health of the consumer;
- as a result, there is equal responsibility of the service provider and the consumer;
- the inability to determine the time of emergence of demand for it;
- the inability to replace it, etc. [4,8]

The development and territorial location of the industry in our republic is directly related to natural conditions, socio-economic development, demographic, transport factors. Depending on the state of natural conditions, there is a periodic occurrence of certain types of diseases and, as a result, an increase in the demand for a narrow range of medical professionals. In addition, the location of sectoral institutions providing preventive and curative medical services (for example, sanatoriums, recreation centers) is influenced by this factor. [5,6]

If the socio-economic development of countries leads to a qualitative improvement in the type of service under study, then the transport factor is of great importance for the development of almost all sectors of the intangible sector in different regions. In the development of medical services, the demographic factor is distinguished by its great influence. In it, the number of the population, its age and gender composition, and the characteristics of its demand for services are the cause of the formation of demand from service recipients (clients). With the increase in the material well-being of the population, new forms are emerging in the types of services provided by the network, and an increase in demand for them is observed. Among them, in particular

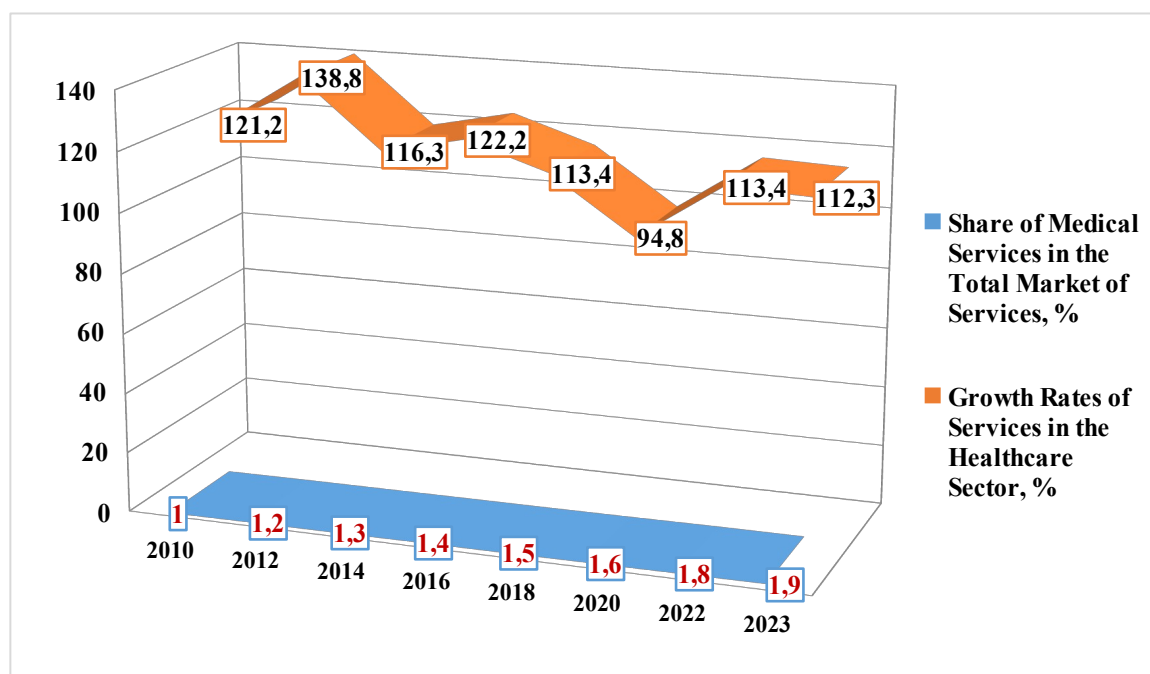
- providing assistance to patients in a hospital or at home;
- receiving laboratory and diagnostic examinations, medical and health procedures at home;
- renting certain types of medical equipment to the population;
- organizing home treatment;

- providing patients with separate rooms, televisions, telephones, etc. at their request;

- the demand for preparing special meals at the request of patients and others is growing.

According to 2023 data, this type of service accounted for 1.9% of all services provided in the Republic of Uzbekistan. The analyzed statistical indicators show that this industry is experiencing periodic growth [9]

1-Table. Changes in the provision of medical services during 2010–2023, in percentage terms



The data in the graph confirm the above statements. It shows that 2020 was not a relatively successful period in the sector. Statistical indicators show that this situation occurred not only in medical services during this period, but also in many other intangible sectors. For example, in the transport sector, which creates almost a quarter of services in our republic, between 2019 and 2020, the share of total services decreased by almost 4% (28.2% in 2019 and 24.3% in 2020), while growth indicators decreased from 106.7% to 91.4%.

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When examining the volume of healthcare services in the regions of the republic between 2010 and 2023, the republican indicators increased by 33.4 times during the studied years. Among the regions, the highest growth was observed in Jizzakh (42.2 times), and the lowest in Bukhara (22.1 times). In addition, the Tashkent city (39.9 times), Syrdarya (37.9 times) and Khorezm (37.8 times) regions also had high periodic growth indicators of medical services. This is primarily due to the reforms being carried out in the healthcare sector in these regions.

Conclusions and recommendations. Medical services are one of the areas of our republic's economy that have been developing rapidly in recent years. This is due not only to the growth indicators in the sector, but also to the ongoing modernization process in it. The increase in the share of employees who are improving their qualifications in leading countries of the world, the provision of modern medical equipment and facilities in the sector today create the opportunity to use new methods of treatment. This has led to the recognition of Uzbekistan as a major medical service center in Central Asia and contributes to the development of medical tourism.

In addition, the strategic objectives set for 2022-2026 to create medical clusters in Namangan, Fergana, Syrdarya, Kashkadarya, Navoi, Tashkent regions and Tashkent city and the creation of a separate enterprise for technical service of medical equipment and its 13 regional branches on a republican scale will serve the development of the sector.

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