

PRIORITIES OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN AND THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA IN THE FIELD OF HEALTHCARE

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This article explores the cooperation between the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of India in the field of health care. On the basis of the available literature, valuable materials from the archives of the Republic of Tajikistan, cooperation between the two countries in the field of health care has been analyzed.

From the first days of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Tajikistan and India, cooperation in the field of health care has been established. However, today this form of cooperation is not satisfactory. In the future, with the construction of communication infrastructure, there are hopes for expanding cooperation between the two countries in the field of health.

Key words: Tajikistan, India, relationships, health care, agreements, medicine.

After Tajikistan gained independence, the health care system faced many difficulties and only in 2009 reached the level of 1991 [15, p. 524]. In the first years of independence, the population of the country suffered from a shortage of medicines. Some "experienced businessmen" have taken advantage of the country's unstable situation by importing and selling substandard counterfeit medicines.

In order to improve the level and quality of medical services and on this basis bring medical services in line with international standards, thanks to the efforts of the country's government, changes are gradually taking place in the health sector. Commissioning health centers, opening medical clinics, equipping them with modern equipment, training specialists and opening modern laboratories in accordance with the requirements of the time, practical measures of the state and government in this area.

Along with regulating the situation in the field of healthcare, the Government of Tajikistan has established cooperation in the field of healthcare with foreign countries. One of these countries was the Republic of India.

The first official visit of a Tajik delegation to India took place in December 1993 and a meeting with the Prime Minister of India P.V. Narasimha Rao at the Hyderabad Palace. The Tajik delegation paid special attention to the establishment and development of the healthcare system in India, especially the pharmaceutical sector. This visit laid the foundation for further development of cooperation in the field of healthcare.

Further, during the official visit of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon from December 11 to 16, 1995, the Republic of India signed important interstate documents, the most important of which was the Agreement on Cooperation in the Field of Health.

The agreement on cooperation in the field of healthcare was signed on December 12, 1995 in New Delhi between the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Government of the Republic of India with the aim of developing cooperation in the field of healthcare, and it consists of 6 articles [4]. This agreement is being implemented within the framework of the constitutions of the two countries, taking into account the geographical proximity and historical experience, with the aim of developing a long-term plan for the development of cooperation in certain areas of medical science and the pharmaceutical industry.

In accordance with article 2 of this agreement, the parties will provide support and assistance to medical and pharmacological personnel in the field of scientific cooperation.

Articles 3 and 4 of the agreement support cooperation between industry agencies and facilitate the exchange of specialists.

At the second joint meeting of the Tajik-Indian Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation, held on July 15-16, 2005 in Dushanbe, cooperation in the field of health was discussed. The parties agreed to exchange representatives of scientists in the field of medicine to encourage cooperation [4].

In the field of cooperation in the field of pharmaceuticals, the Indian side proposed to consider the registration tax on pharmaceutical and medical products for Indian companies. The Tajik side agreed to consider the issue of registering a tax on pharmaceutical and medical products in India. The parties proposed to sign an agreement between the ministries of health of the two countries to resolve this issue.

At the third meeting of the Tajik-Indian Joint Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation from July 31 to August 1, 2006 in New Delhi, the Indian side noted that, despite the fact that the pharmaceutical sector of India is the largest supplier of medicines, competitiveness on the world market, the volume of imports of Indian medicines to Tajikistan is not up to the mark [4].

Shortening the period for registration of medicines will reduce the cost of medical services in the Republic of Tajikistan.

The Tajik side noted the elaboration of India's proposal to reduce the registration period for medicines produced in India. The Tajik side agreed that the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Tajikistan will accelerate this process after identifying coordinating agencies on this issue.

At the fourth joint meeting of the Tajik-Indian Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation, held in Dushanbe on October 10-11, 2007, cooperation in the field of pharmaceuticals was also described as insufficient. The Republic of India proposed to consider the issue of reducing the period for registration of medicines, which in turn will contribute to lower prices for medicines in the Republic of Tajikistan.

PARMEXIL Pharmaceutical Support Bureau has been appointed as the Coordinating Agency to expedite the registration of Indian medical products in the Republic of Tajikistan. The Republic of Tajikistan agreed to study this proposal.

The Republic of Tajikistan noted the existence of great opportunities for the production of medicines based on Tajik raw materials (mature juice, bentonite, mummy, bee products) and offered the Republic of India the opportunity to create

a joint venture to develop pharmaceuticals. in Tajikistan. It was noted that the exchange of views and experience between scientists, doctors and pharmacists will contribute to the development of cooperation in the field of pharmacy. The parties agreed to explore the possibility of developing programs in this area.

On November 21, 2008, the fifth joint meeting of the Tajik-Indian Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation was held in New Delhi [6, p.118].

The Commission noted the need to strengthen ties between the health departments of the two countries through the exchange of delegations of scientists, doctors, pharmacists and specialists. India proposed to consider the issue of signing a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the field of healthcare between the two sides and will send a draft of this document to the Tajik side in the near future.

The Commission noted the need to increase the import of medicines from India to Tajikistan. Considering that the reduction in the registration period for medical devices will reduce the cost of medical services in the Republic of Tajikistan and increase the import of quality medicines, the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Tajikistan has extended the registration period for Indian medicines.

For the development of cooperation in the field of pharmaceuticals and medical equipment, the Pharmaceutical Export Support Bureau PHARMEXIL was appointed by India as the coordinating body for the rapid registration of medicines in the Republic of Tajikistan.

In this regard, India has asked Tajikistan to cooperate with PARMEXIL to establish such a practice.

Paragraph 10 of the protocol of the sixth meeting of the Tajik-Indian Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation, held in Dushanbe on May 16-17, 2011, states that pharmaceutical products in India meet international standards and are 30 percent cheaper than other markets. -40%.

Hence, the increase in Indian exports should have logical consequences. In this regard, the activities of pharmaceutical companies in Tajikistan were considered satisfactory, and the Commission considered the import of Indian pharmaceutical products in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Tajikistan.

During the visit of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon to India on September 3, 2012, the prospects for the development of cooperation in the field of health were highlighted. Issues related to the current state and further development of multifaceted cooperation between the two countries, including in the health sector, were discussed at a meeting between President Emomali Rahmon and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, and then at official negotiations with the participation of large delegations of the two countries [12].

Then, 6 new documents on cooperation were signed, one of which was an agreement between the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Tajikistan and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of the Republic of India on cooperation in the field of health and medicine. In order to strengthen all-round relations under the Connect Central Asia policy, India wants to implement a number of new projects in Tajikistan, including the establishment of medical centers. At the same time, another major development project that India agreed to was the construction of an Indian hospital in Tajikistan [1].

On the basis of mutually beneficial cooperation, the President of the Republic of Tajikistan E. Rahmon met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of India Sushma Svarazdar on September 11, 2014 and, among other things, held a constructive conversation on the development of cooperation in the field of health[14].

On October 8, 2014, President E. Rahmon visited the military unit 07017 of the Ministry of Defense, located in the Kushaniyon region. On the territory of the military unit, a new industry-wide military hospital of the Khatlon garrison was put into operation, called the Hospital of Tajik-Indian Friendship [3]. The hospital was

built with funds from India, equipped with modern equipment and has a capacity of fifty beds. The hospital has 73 specialists from India who have been working for two years and training their Tajik colleagues to work with the equipment. The installed equipment is manufactured in India and meets international standards. The hospital has three floors and consists of a dental, gynecological, pharmaceutical and surgical department. A special building is allocated for the preparation and storage of medicines. The hospital has two ambulances and two surgical vehicles. The hospital is provided with an uninterruptible power supply, a separate transformer and a generator.

At joint meetings at government and industry levels, healthcare professionals exchange views, which is one of the factors in the development of the industry. Based on this, on November 27, 2015, the first meeting of ophthalmologists of the Republic of Tajikistan began its work at the State Complex "Kokhi Vahdat", which was attended by Satish Mishra, Acting Head of the WHO Office in Tajikistan and Bushan Punani, Chairman of the Association of the Blind of the Republic of India [11].

Modern ophthalmology in Tajikistan is a non-invasive surgery, a method of using stem cells and polymer implants, which allows you to restore a building without replacing an organ. In recent years, a modern surgical treatment in the field of ophthalmology has been developed that completely heals blind patients in a matter of minutes.

On December 14-18, 2016, during the regular visit of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon to the Republic of India and meetings with President P. Mukherjee, Vice President M. Ansari and Prime Minister N. Modi also discussed a wide range of bilateral, regional and international issues including health projects [8]. And also, on June 24, 2016, the President of the Republic of Tajikistan E. Rahmon on the sidelines of the next SCO summit with the Prime Minister of India N. Modi discussed the implementation of specific joint projects and programs in all spheres, including healthcare, as a priority and useful area of relations [10].

One of the areas of study is the pharmaceutical industry in India. Cooperation in this area can bring good results. The Republic of Tajikistan has extensive cooperation with the Republic of India in the field of pharmacy. Currently, there are 89 Indian companies operating in Tajikistan, which have registered more than 904 names of medicines and medical devices, which occupy more than 30% of the pharmaceutical market in Tajikistan [9].

The revitalization of Indian medical clinics in Tajikistan and the provision of medical care to the population of Tajikistan is another area of development of cooperation between the two countries in the field of health. On April 12, 2017, the Indian Medical Clinic and the VEDANTA Diagnostic Center opened in Dushanbe, where Tajik patients underwent free medical examinations for the first two weeks. In this clinic, leading Indian doctors Amit Gupta, Amit Bushan Sharm, Rohit Nayar, Akshey Kumar Saxena conduct consultations and take medications for Tajik patients. However, according to patients, their services are more expensive than in Tajikistan.

There is also an exchange of experience between doctors from Tajikistan and India. On August 28, 2017, a young doctor A. Ehsonov, who completed an internship in India, underwent an operation to replace a prosthesis at the Istiklol State Institution in Dushanbe [7]. Specialists from India also took part in the operation. Carrying out complex operations in the country is a sign of the high professionalism of Tajik doctors and significantly alleviates the problems of patients.

From 6 to 11 September 2017, experienced Indian doctors from Delhi visited Balkh Hospital for eye surgery. In the hospital, such operations as retinal detachment, cataract, hemophthalmos, pterygium, etc. are performed without incisions and pain. With the help of a laser. Doctors of the Republic of India performed over 600 cataracts in three years at Balkh Hospital.

A large group of Tajik specialists have been trained and retrained in India. Today, industry experts continue to successfully operate on children's hearts. More

than 3,000 children and adolescents recover in the country's rehabilitation institutions every year [5].

From October 25 to November 4, 2017, on the direct initiative of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan in Dushanbe, heart surgeries were performed free of charge for children and adolescents under 18 years of age with heart disease [13]. More than 23 leading specialists in the field of cardiovascular surgery from 13 countries, including India, took part in operations to perform heart operations and improve the health of children and adolescents under 18 years of age with heart diseases.

The creation of an online center between hospitals of the Republic of Tajikistan and hospitals in India was one of the main issues discussed at the meeting of the Governor of Khatlon region D. Gulmakhmadzoda with the Ambassador of India to Tajikistan Somnath Gosh, the second secretary of the Indian Embassy in Tajikistan Shuban Krishen and the embassy attaché Pankaj Diani on November 7 2017 year [13].

The creation of an online center between hospitals in the Republic of Tajikistan and hospitals in India will allow doctors to use the experience and useful advice of each other during medical operations. And also, the parties discussed issues of expanding mutually beneficial cooperation between the Khatlon region and India through the creation of a medical center, training of medical workers.

In order to expand cooperation in the field of Junan medicine, on October 8, 2018 in Dushanbe between the Avicenna Tajik State Medical University and the Central Research Council in the field of Junan medicine, an independent organization under the Ministry of Ayush (Ayurveda, Yoga, Medical Treatment and Yunan), the Republic of India signed a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the field of Junan medicine in Article 7 for an extended period of five years. [4].

On the basis of this Memorandum, on the basis of equality and mutual benefit, laws, regulations and national policies in force in each country,

cooperation in the field of Junan medicine will develop between the two relevant institutions.

In accordance with Article 2 of the Memorandum, the parties participate in joint research, international research and research projects in areas of mutual interest. The two countries exchange conferences, seminars, training courses and symposia in this area, exchange information, documents and scientific publications, exchange specialists for advanced training, organize retraining of interns, experts, students and others.

To provide the necessary medicines and necessary medical supplies, on the initiative of the Mayor of Dushanbe Rustam Emomali, a special charter flight was organized from India to Tajikistan [2]. The necessary materials for the treatment of infectious diseases, in particular the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic, were donated to the Ministry of Health and Social Protection.

At the same time, the domestic company "Orienpharm" from the Republic of India delivered a certain amount of medicines and medical supplies to Tajikistan on a special flight, which will help provide the country's population with the necessary materials in this sensitive period and ensure the health of the population. Also, within the framework of Tajik-Indian relations along this route, a number of humanitarian aid from the Government of India was imported to the Republic of Tajikistan, including medicines for the treatment of patients with Covid-19, thereby helping to overcome the existing problems of Tajik health care.

Thus, analyzing the priorities of cooperation between the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of India in the field of healthcare, we came to the following conclusions:

-Good relations between Tajikistan and India in the field of medicine and health care are based on intergovernmental agreements, and a number of measures are needed for their further development. In particular, in the fight against malaria and tuberculosis, heart, eye diseases, etc., it is worth exchanging views of experts in this field, as well as studying the experience of India in the field of medicine.

- ancient Ayurvedic medicine - the science of life, which is an ancient system of knowledge about the compatibility of human life and a healthy lifestyle, is an alternative treatment. Ayurveda is widely used in India. It is in the interests of the Tajik society to identify and use alternative methods of traditional Indian medicine by representatives of the pharmaceutical sector in Tajikistan.

- Pharmaceutical companies in Tajikistan, along with protecting the interests of the state and the nation, must prioritize the quality of certain types of drugs and ensure their compatibility with imported products in order to be competitive. In this case, you can succeed. Commercial pharmaceutical companies operating in the country need to import quality goods and products into the country.

- Tajik health professionals need to conduct refresher courses in major Indian medical centers based on intergovernmental agreements.

- Studying the experience of India in the development of medical tourism is also of great importance for Tajikistan. There are many untapped opportunities in the health sector between Tajikistan and India, and there is hope for the future.

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