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Spread of Epidemics in the Turkestan Assr and their Elimination Measures

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Abstract

Humanity has suffered greatly from epidemics spread among the population in different historical periods. The word "epidemic" is derived from the Greek word "epidemic" which means widespread disease. The first information about it dates back to the 3rd millennium BC. According to the Greek historian Thucydides (460-400 BC), the crisis of Greek culture was caused by an epidemic that spread in Athens in 430-425 BC[11].

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The epidemic of 541-580 years known as "Justinian Plague" originated in the Eastern Roman Empire, spread throughout the Middle East and killed about 1 million people. In 1346-1353, 50 million people died in the epidemic known as "Black Death" in Europe. more than one person will be a victim. After the First World War, about 100 million people died from the "Spanish flu" (Spanish) epidemic [12]. The population of Central Asia has also suffered from epidemics since ancient times.

Especially due to the hot climate, cholera is common. For example, the malaria epidemic was one of the real disasters for the Turkestan region, which caused frequent recurrence of epidemics. In 1881, there was a malaria epidemic in Yangi Margilon, in 1894 in Tashkent uezd, and 35 percent of the population died in Toytepa. Whole families died because of this disease [6].

The fight against epidemics is one of the issues in the attention of all countries, and measures to fight against them have been constantly organized. In particular, certain works were carried out in this regard in Turkestan during the Soviet period. The measures to establish the health sector were carried out together with sanitary-epidemic work. In this period, extremely complex historical conditions prevailed, political, socio-economic problems in the country intensified, the living conditions of the population finally became impoverished, civil war, due to natural disasters, drought and, as a result, famine among the people.

In order to prevent the spread of infectious diseases and epidemics among the population, the Soviet state adopted the decrees "Measures on internal sweating", "Anti-epidemic measures", "On the establishment of a special commission for improving the sanitary conditions in the republic". On May 23, 1918, the special order No. 162 of the Turkestan ASSR government on the fight against cholera was announced[5].

In Turkestan, the establishment of the health sector has become important in the fight against epidemics. The employees of the newly established health departments and treatment facilities were entrusted with tasks such as the establishment of local medical service networks, sanitary education,

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and the fight against epidemics. Arrangements were also made to establish a military-sanitary department in Turkestan [7].

Therefore, the fight against epidemics was at the center of the activities of the health departments of the country. The danger of epidemics demanded that the military-sanitary department be charged with complex tasks and constantly monitor the situation.

A special commission was established in the republic to coordinate anti-epidemic measures. The commission included one representative from the People's Commissariat of Health of Turkestan, the sanitary department of Turkestan, the health department of Tashkent city, the central council of the trade union, the central council of the national economy, the commissariat of internal affairs. The members of the commission were entrusted with the task of developing a systematic plan to combat the epidemic. In this way, a single epidemiological statistical center was formed thanks to the joint action of Turkestan CIS and Turkfront.

Unfavorable socio-political situation in the country, economic impotence prevented large-scale organization of healthcare work. In particular, due to factors such as poor sanitary condition of cities, narrow and dirty city streets, garbage thrown everywhere, shortage of drinking water, population use of various open water bodies, various infectious diseases spread and turned into epidemics [8].

Epidemics of various infectious diseases were spreading in almost all regions of Turkestan. In large cities like Andijan, Fergana, Tashkent, Samarkand, dangerous infectious diseases such as diarrhoea, typhoid fever spread widely. For example, in March 1918, tropical malaria spread widely in the villages located on the southern side of the city of Samarkand, and the death rate among the patients was very high [4].

In the spring of 1918, a typhus epidemic spread to almost all regions of Central Asia. As a result, from July 1, 1918 to January 1, 1919, 2,771 people with diarrhoea, and 910 people with cholera were registered in Turkestan. Epidemics spreading in the country even affected the industrial and agricultural work [9].

Epidemics often spread in densely populated cities. Therefore, in 1918, the government of the Republic of Turkestan took measures to improve the sanitary condition of the city. For the first time, the position of sanitary inspector was introduced in cities. The sanitary inspector carried out work on the improvement of city sanitation and carried out industrial sanitation and food sanitation control[10].

The hospital council of Tashkent city forced all the doctors who retired from the military field into treatment. V.O. Voyno-Yassnetsky, Ya. B. Magnetstein, Matveev, Zhuravlev, Urumyanits, Uspenskaya, Bernadsky, A.P. Shishov, A.A. Experienced doctors such as Blum and Nikiforov returned to work[2]. In the fight against epidemics in the country, the involvement of European medical workers became important. Experienced doctors entered the population and selflessly fought to end epidemics.

In the Amudarya region itself, 84 people with infectious diseases were registered, 71 of them died. During this period, 2,152 patients with infectious diseases were registered in Turkestan only in the summer months, and 1,294 of them, i.e. 55%, died [3].

Epidemics of diarrhoea, among the population of Turkestan, also spread frequently. In 1921, 58,000 people were registered with diarrhoea. In December of this year, 521 people died from the epidemic in the city of Samarkand alone. From December 1 to 15, 224 bodies of people who died due to the epidemic will be collected from the streets of the city. In the first half of 1922, 1034 people were admitted to the hospitals of Samarkand region with dysentery, and 574 of them died. So, about 50 percent of those infected with epidemics died. This indicated that the new government did not have enough experience in establishing the health sector[1].

So, the epidemics spread in different historical periods were literally a disaster for mankind. As a result of studying the details of the spread of epidemics, it can be concluded that it is closely related to the

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deterioration of social and household living conditions of the population, hot climate, economic helplessness caused by wars, and famine. Since the Central Asian republics have historically lived in very difficult conditions, their various settlements have become epicenters. Eradication of various infectious diseases and prevention of epidemics among the population in Turkestan is one of the urgent tasks on the agenda. In this regard, the activities of medical teams and expeditions to combat epidemics are especially commendable. In the fight against epidemics, the strengthening of sanitary education was considered as one of the main factors, and certain results were achieved in this regard.

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