

GLOBAL EXPERIENCE IN DEVELOPING SOCIAL WORK
SYSTEMS IN HEALTHCARE IN UZBEKISTAN

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Annotatsiya. *Ushbu tadqiqot maqolasi O'zbekistonda ijtimoiy ish tizimini tibbiyot sohasida rivojlantirish masalalarini jahon tajribasi nuqtai nazaridan o'rganishga bag'ishlangan. Maqolada Yevropa, Amerika va Osiyo davlatlarining tibbiy ijtimoiy xizmat ko'rsatish tizimlarining eng ilg'or usullari tahlil qilingan va O'zbekiston sharoitiga moslashtirish imkoniyatlari ko'rib chiqilgan. Tadqiqot natijalarida tibbiy ijtimoiy ishning samaradorligini oshirish yo'llari va milliy sog'liqni saqlash tizimiga integratsiya qilish strategiyalari taklif etilgan.*

Kalit so'zlar: *ijtimoiy ish, tibbiyot, sog'liqni saqlash, jahon tajribasi, O'zbekiston, tibbiy ijtimoiy xizmat*

Abstract. *This research article examines the development of social work systems in healthcare in Uzbekistan from the perspective of global experience. The article analyzes the most advanced methods of medical social service systems in Europe, America, and Asia, and considers the possibilities of adapting them to Uzbek conditions. The research results propose ways to increase the effectiveness of medical social work and strategies for integration into the national healthcare system.*

Keywords: *social work, healthcare, medical care, global experience, Uzbekistan, medical social services*

Аннотация. *В данной научной статье рассматривается развитие систем социальной работы в здравоохранении Узбекистана с точки зрения мирового опыта. В статье анализируются передовые методы работы систем медико-социального обслуживания в Европе, Америке и Азии, а также рассматриваются возможности их адаптации к условиям Узбекистана. Результаты исследования предлагают пути повышения эффективности медико-социальной работы и стратегии интеграции в национальную систему здравоохранения.*

Ключевые слова: *социальная работа, здравоохранение, медицинская помощь, мировой опыт, Узбекистан, медико-социальные услуги*

Introduction. In contemporary times, the role of social work systems in medicine is becoming increasingly important. According to World Health Organization (WHO) data, medical social services increase treatment effectiveness by 30-40% [1]. In Uzbekistan, during recent years of reform and modernization of the healthcare system, social work services have also been rapidly developing, although there are still serious problems in this area [2].



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In our country, the activity of social workers in medical institutions is mostly limited to administrative actions, and their professional role is not established. This situation significantly narrows the opportunities for meeting the patients' social-psychological needs and their early recovery. Therefore, there is a need to study international experience and adjust it to the conditions of Uzbekistan.

The aim of this study is to review developed nations' medical social service systems and prepare practical suggestions for the development of this sphere in Uzbekistan. The objectives of the study are as follows: reviewing international experience, taking into account national specifics, working out integration strategies, and suggesting implementation mechanisms.

Methodology and Literature Review. This research employed comparative analysis methodology. When analyzing the US experience, it can be observed that the professional activities of medical social workers are strictly regulated by the National Association of Social Workers [3]. In the American system, social workers perform duties including collecting patients' social history, working with family members, conducting explanatory work, and assisting in discharge processes. As a result of their activities, average hospital stay duration is reduced by 2-3 days, and readmission rates decrease by 15% [4]. The German experience is distinguished by the close integration of medical social services with the insurance system [5]. Here, social workers operate not only in hospitals but also in polyclinics and rehabilitation centers. The German system focuses primarily on patients' social rehabilitation and restoration of work capacity.

The Japanese experience is characterized by the harmonization of traditional social values with modern medical service delivery methods [6]. Japanese medical social workers pay special attention to close cooperation with patients' families and meeting their spiritual needs. This approach leads to faster patient recovery and improved mental health status. In the Russian Federation, the medical social work system began developing from the 1990s [7]. Currently in Russia, medical social workers primarily operate in oncology, cardiology, and neurology departments. Their main duties are stabilizing patients' psychological state and helping with social adaptation. In the Uzbek context, the decree "On measures for further development of the healthcare system" adopted in 2017 emphasized the importance of medical social services [8]. However, in practice, a systematic approach has not yet been formed in this field, and the qualification level of personnel remains low.

Results and Discussion. Analysis of global experience has identified several important factors for effective functioning of medical social work systems. First, the high qualification and specialization level of social workers plays an important role. In developed countries, medical social workers have at least master's degree level education and undergo continuous professional development courses.

Second, the issue of financial support for medical social services is very important. In the US and Germany, these services are funded by insurance companies, which ensures

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their sustainability. In Uzbekistan, the financial mechanism for these services has not yet been clearly defined. Third, cooperation between medical social workers and other specialists is essential. In effective practices, social workers work closely with doctors, nurses, psychologists, and other specialists. The effectiveness of this interdisciplinary approach is high. Fourth, the level of awareness of patients and their family members about social workers' activities is of great importance. Global experience shows that the more patients use social worker services, the better the treatment outcomes become.

When adapting these experiences for Uzbekistan, it is necessary to consider national characteristics. First, traditional family values and strong kinship ties should be taken into account when defining social workers' duties. Second, the importance of religion and spirituality should be considered in medical social service delivery [9]. From a practical standpoint, several measures are recommended to develop the medical social work system in Uzbekistan. First, it is necessary to review social worker training programs based on modern requirements and strengthen the medical orientation. Second, it is appropriate to test the best foreign practices through pilot projects.

Conclusion. As a result of studying global experience, the need for a complex and systematic approach to developing medical social work systems has been identified. To develop this field in Uzbekistan, attention should be paid to the following priority directions: training highly qualified personnel, developing financial mechanisms, ensuring interdisciplinary cooperation, and considering national characteristics.

Recommended measures include creating specialized educational programs, implementing pilot projects, expanding international cooperation, and improving the regulatory framework. Implementation of these measures will significantly increase the effectiveness of Uzbekistan's healthcare system and improve patients' quality of life.

In the future, it is necessary to conduct deeper research in this field and accumulate practical experience. In particular, developing a medical social service model appropriate to the cultural characteristics of the Uzbek people and testing it in practice remains an important task.

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