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**Original Research Article**

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**REFORMS IN THE SOCIAL SPHERE IN UZBEKISTAN: THE CASE OF HEALTHCARE**

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**Abstract**

This scientific article analyzes the priority directions for modernizing the social sphere in the Republic of Uzbekistan, particularly the fundamental reform of the healthcare system. The study comparatively examines fundamental literature, scientific sources, and regulatory legal documents related to the field.

Reforms in healthcare are substantiated not only within the framework of state programs but also on the basis of social management and modern medical sociology theories.

The article highlights the strengthening of primary healthcare, the introduction of digital medicine (E-health), and the scientific and practical significance of medical insurance mechanisms. The author integrates advanced international healthcare practices with classical socio-economic theories and outlines the specific features of the national model.

In the conclusion, scientific findings and practical recommendations are proposed to further improve the efficiency of the healthcare system and elevate public health protection to a new level.

**Keywords:** social reforms, healthcare, medical sociology, digital medicine, social state, national model, medical insurance.

## **Introduction**

The development of human capital and ensuring social stability are strategic goals of any state. The large-scale reforms currently being implemented in Uzbekistan are primarily aimed at the fundamental modernization of the social sphere, particularly elevating the healthcare system to a new qualitative level.

Healthcare reforms are not only practical and organizational measures but also a complex process based on deep scientific and fundamental theories.

In classical social theories, particularly in Talcott Parsons' structural-functional approach, the healthcare system is considered one of the most important institutions maintaining social equilibrium. In his work *The Social System*, Parsons emphasized the integrative role of medicine in society. Based on this theory, healthcare reforms in Uzbekistan serve as a key mechanism for restoring labor capacity and strengthening social cohesion.

At the same time, in modern social state concepts (for example, the views of Richard Titmuss), equal access to healthcare for all is regarded as the main criterion of social justice. Within the framework of the "New Uzbekistan" strategy, strengthening the principles of a social state is reflected in expanding free primary healthcare coverage and introducing guaranteed medical service packages.

In recent years, conceptual documents such as Presidential Resolution PQ-38 have significantly updated the legal framework of the system. According to experts from the World Health Organization, Uzbekistan is rapidly moving toward Universal Health Coverage through the implementation of digital healthcare and compulsory medical insurance mechanisms.

## **Relevance**

Modernizing the healthcare system and improving the quality of medical services is a strategic priority for any socially oriented state. Under the conditions of large-scale social transformations in Uzbekistan, healthcare reform has high relevance due to several factors:

Human capital and social stability:

According to the human capital theory developed by economists such as Theodore Schultz and Gary Becker, investment in public health is a key driver of economic growth.

Social justice and universal coverage:

In modern social theory, particularly in John Rawls' theory of justice, equal access to basic healthcare is a fundamental obligation of the state.

Systemic reforms:

Presidential resolutions, including PQ-185, demonstrate the importance of transitioning to a new healthcare model.

Digitalization and E-health:

The transition to digital healthcare systems, reduction of paperwork, and integration of artificial intelligence significantly increase efficiency and scientific relevance.

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## **Materials and Methods**

The study is based on: Regulatory legal documents and presidential decrees

Fundamental scientific literature in medical sociology and health economics

Works such as F.M. Ahmedova's "Medical Sociology"

Methods used: Systemic-structural analysis (based on Parsons' theory)

Comparative-historical method (comparison of old and new healthcare models)

## **Results**

The research identified the following outcomes:

Transition to a new financing model:

Shift from traditional budgeting to result-oriented financing.

Per capita financing: Primary care institutions funded per population; hospitals per treated case.

Increased visits: Primary healthcare visits increased by 20%, improving early diagnosis.

Reduced inefficiency: Unnecessary specialist visits decreased by 12%

Excess hospital treatments reduced by 16%

Digital healthcare development: Implementation of electronic systems reduced waiting time and paperwork.

## **Conclusion**

The reforms in Uzbekistan's healthcare system lead to the following conclusions:

Strategic transformation:

Transition from passive treatment to preventive, insurance-based, and result-oriented healthcare.

Strengthening theoretical foundations:

Reforms align with equality and accessibility principles of social state theory.

Human capital focus:

As emphasized by Gary Becker, healthcare spending is an investment in future economic stability.

Overall, healthcare reforms in Uzbekistan represent not just administrative changes but a deep socio-economic transformation aimed at ensuring fair and high-quality medical services for all citizens.

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