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PROBLEMS IN REFORMATION OF MEDICAL HEIS IN KYRGYZSTAN

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ABSTRACT

The article deals with problems of medical HEIs in the Kyrgyz Republic, related to transition from the model of directive management to a new educational policy. Integration of Kyrgyz education to international modern standards in terms of ensuring quality of education.

KEYWORDS

medicine, quality of education, HEIs, attestation, educational standard, instructor, higher education.

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During the last decades, education has transferred from an elitist process to a unique global process of distribution of knowledge and competencies. Information become open and easy to access. In contrast to ancient times when pure knowledge was stored separately and looked as secret treasure, today knowledge is always open and easy to access.

It's very difficult to find the truth at the age of e-information. Today the main problem is not the search for sources of information, but identification sources of reliable information. Accessibility to information leads to another challenge – the change of the role of instructor. The archaic authoritarian model of instructor's behavior has passed on. The emerging model of an instructor-researcher, whose aim is not a simple provision of knowledge, but teaching methods and processes of getting knowledge of the world and creation of art-products, becomes necessary in the context of current problems in the sector of education. Laws of large numbers allow us to identify trends and find correlations among implicitly related objects. It is often impossible to explain the logic of such correlations, but they still exist.

Since the time of receiving the independence the Republic pays special attention to development of its system of education. There are multiple HEIs opened: the Kyrgyz-Turkic University, the Kyrgyz-Russian University (Slavic), the American University, the International University, etc. Also there are some regional universities opened during that time.

Emerging market relations have changed the face of the country and the psychology of its citizens, who are starting to think by new socio-economic categories. Education has to strengthen and develop these new trends in the public mind. We should adapt ourselves to conditions of globalization of education, with all its challenges and imperatives.

Due to this we have to state the Bologna process has emerged at right time. That Process can be taken as a general outline for a program of modernization of higher education, in compliance with requirements of market globalization.

Joining the Bologna process will help Central Asian countries to eliminate threats of isolation from the global educational environment and expand their connections with other countries in the field of higher education.

It's necessary to mention that during many decades the USSR's higher education was mostly oriented to European educational values. Today there is no need to stop this tradition, along with this we have to develop connections with other systems.

The modern global practice of education-development in terms of the search of new educational paradigm is more oriented on building integrative trends.

Many countries have taken measures to modify national educational systems. The system of higher education of Kyrgyzstan has been transformed as well. The pedagogic community in late 90-s has realized the necessity of big changes in the system of higher education. One of the principles of the state policy in the field of education is integration to the global system of higher education along with maintenance of traditions of domestic higher school. The direction of KR transformation of education is oriented to integration with European educational systems.

Global integration in the field of education can be used as a factor for transformation the society, as it opens new connections by being an interrelated substance. There is the Strategy for development of education, which is built to increase the quality of education in the Republic. That made it possible to initiate important changes in the system of quality control and norms for control and licensing of HEIs.

At the same time, development of the system of education led to such negative phenomena, as organization of HEIs, which were not matching modern standards of higher education. So, the Government has taken measures: in 2009 14 HEIs and affiliated structures were closed. In 2010 licenses of 14 faculties were revoked.

Public healthcare is one of the factors of sustainable development of the country. For that purpose, there should be introduced an effective system of healthcare, medical education. Due to this the Government has taken measures for introduction of international standards to the system of healthcare, medical education. At the same time, there is a need to continue development of the system of healthcare, medical education, so we rely on potential help of the World Federation for medical Education (WFME).

Medical education in Kyrgyzstan has become attractive for students from Central and South-Eastern Asia. Today we teach many students from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, etc. They study at the Kyrgyz State Medical Academy, International Higher School of Medicine, Osh State University, Kyrgyz-Russian Slavic University.

Those universities have organized the Association for Medical Education of the KR with the purpose of development and optimization of the medical education sector and academic medicine of the KR. Its main objective is enhancement of cooperation in the field of medical education, medical science, development of independent accreditation of medical HEIs in compliance with international standards and WFME recommendations.

The long-term goal for cooperation is introducing an idea of a Regional union, ensuring quality and unified standards of medical education at the region.

We welcome efforts of WHO and WFME on initiation of international accreditation of medical HEIs, and we support the necessity of conducting such accreditation in the Republic.

There are some negative trends in the system of medical higher education. Currently there are 17 medical HEIs and faculties in Kyrgyzstan. Also there is a program of revocation of license started to increase the quality of education. Particularly, the license of the medical faculty of the University of Science and Business is revoked, the license of the medical faculty of KNU is suspended.

Considering essential role of the Association of Medical Universities of KR in improvement of education-quality, expansion of contacts with medical HEIs of Central Asia, the Government expects to receive support of the World Association in its development.

Due to this the education-sector becomes a pivotal direction of state policy for any civil society. Reformation of all main sectors of state interests has influenced the whole system of education. A new type of society based on market-relations and principles of democracy demands new specialists, who are able to ensure sustainable development of the state in the field of prospective medical education and reach of an equal dialogue with the global society. However, the local system of education sets serious barriers in recognition of domestic diplomas at the international "Masters" level.

Non-recognition of domestic diplomas can be explained by following circumstances: 1) there is a significant difference in the duration of secondary education, which allows to be admitted to higher education institutions of different countries; 2) there are significant differences in curriculums and study plans, programs and methods of education; 3) there are some distinguishing structural features. There is a firm negative trend of the educational system of KR to be behind leading states of the world.

The development of a new concept for reformation of education-system of KR has to deal with following principles: 1) it's essential to consider that there is no an ideal system of education, and each existing system in a certain country is a part of its culture, and first of all is based on historical and cultural traditions; 2) the domestic system of education is advanced in many specialties by its contents, and by level of training of specialists; 3) transition to market-relations leads to fundamental changes in topics of use of specialists with higher education in a practice of training specialists under conditions of specific fields makes it unpromising; 4) integration of Kyrgyzstan with global society makes the problem of correspondence of the domestic system to global systems of education more salient.

Changes in content of education are the foundation for reformation of education-system. They contain elaboration of new programs of education and training specialists within the framework of multistep system of higher education, which is approved in many countries of the world, establishment of new principles of organization of education-system management, ideas and requirements, taken from different international agreements, as well as Kyrgyzstani Constitutional and International Declaration rights, global humanistic values, culture, and democracy.

There are principled topics, related to transformation of forms of property and introduction new types and forms of study institutions. There are great perspectives opened in front of the system of education, in connection to introduction of new principles of educational activities, based on permanent presence of elements of a competition.

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