



Analysis of the Report on “China-Uzbekistan Anti-epidemic Cooperation” in 2019-2021

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Abstract

In the face of the severe challenges of the new crown pneumonia epidemic, China and Uzbekistan have adopted five cooperation methods: bilateral confidence support, sharing anti-epidemic experience, dispatching medical expert groups, funding and medical facility assistance, and vaccine research and development and promotion, fully demonstrating the perfect combination of traditional Chinese and Western medicine. It has set a model for the countries along the Silk Road to better build a "Healthy Silk Road", and also provided important experience for global public health governance. Based on the sampling of news reports from the mainstream media kun.uz in Uzbekistan, 30 valid samples were collected. Based on quantitative research based on content analysis, combined with qualitative research, the aim was to explore and analyze the current situation, cooperation methods and results of China-Uzbekistan anti-epidemic cooperation. The significance of the era of China-Uzbekistan anti-epidemic cooperation, try to put forward a feasible plan for better building the "Healthy Silk Road" and optimizing the global health governance system.

Keywords

Anti-epidemic cooperation, healthy silk road, public health governance

1. Introduction

Uzbekistan is a "double landlocked country" located in the hinterland of Central Asia and one of the important countries along the ancient Silk Road. In 2020, Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, launched the first institution specializing in traditional Chinese medicine research in Central Asia, the China-Uzbekistan Traditional Medicine Center, aiming to build it into the largest communication platform for traditional Chinese medicine culture in Central Asia. In 2022, the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Uzbekistan, the relationship between the two countries has become a model and model for equal cooperation between countries.

Since 2019, the COVID-19 pandemic has brought global public health governance to the test of multipolar and unipolar, open and closed, cooperation and confrontation (Zeng Aiping, 2021). In the face of this sudden global public health event, it not only exacerbated the public health governance deficit of countries and regions along the “Belt and Road”, but also strongly impacted the safe and stable cooperation environment along the “Belt and Road”, adding many unforeseen cooperation risk. At present, domestic academic circles have little research results on China-Uzbekistan anti-epidemic cooperation. Against the background of the new crown epidemic, anti-epidemic cooperation has become the only way for countries to cooperate, and the analysis of China-Uzbekistan anti-epidemic cooperation has become crucial.

The mainstream media spreads the mainstream ideology and values of the society, has high authority, credibility and strong influence, and can represent the will and voice of the country and people (China Journalist-2004). The

mainstream Uzbek media kun.uz is one of the most active online journals in Uzbekistan. The site is designed to report quickly, accurately and objectively information about the most important events in Uzbekistan and the world. According to Google Analytics, about 350,000 users visit the site every day. It can be seen that its influence in Uzbekistan is great, and it can basically reflect the reporting situation of the mainstream online media in Uzbekistan.

This paper will start from quantitative research based on content analysis, combined with qualitative research, based on the news reports of the mainstream media kun.uz in Uzbekistan. Using "К и т а й" and "к о р о н а в и р у с" as the keywords, a total of 541 news articles from January 11, 2020 to December 22, 2021 were collected. After repeated checking, translation, and analysis, irrelevant and worthless articles were removed. After related articles, 30 valid samples were finally obtained. In addition, the author compared the reports of mainstream media in China and Uzbekistan on this aspect, and there are cases where the reported data are not completely consistent. Therefore, all data and information in this article are based on the reports of the mainstream media kun.uz in Uzbekistan.

2. Status Quo of China-Uzbekistan Anti-epidemic Cooperation

China and Uzbekistan are connected by the Silk Road. With the proposal of the "Healthy Silk Road", the two countries have strengthened their cooperation in the field of medical and health care. After analyzing 30 valid samples, the current situation of China-Uzbekistan anti-epidemic cooperation can be roughly divided into the following two stages:

In the first stage, China and Uzbekistan will help each other, focusing on unilateral provision of emergency humanitarianism to achieve a balance in the dispatch of anti-epidemic resources. At the beginning of the large-scale outbreak of the epidemic in China, there was a serious shortage of anti-epidemic resources. Uzbekistan provided China with two batches of humanitarian assistance to help China avoid danger. When China's epidemic prevention and control became normalized, Uzbekistan began to have local large-scale outbreaks. China has given Uzbekistan its confidence-based support at the first time, provided Uzbekistan with humanitarian assistance for many times in its fight against the epidemic, and shared its experience in fighting the epidemic with Uzbekistan many times. It can be seen from this that China has entered the era of the epidemic, and Uzbekistan has given full support to Uzbekistan, mainly providing emergency humanitarianism. As for the outbreak of the epidemic in Uzbekistan, China reciprocated, mainly by providing emergency humanitarian assistance.

In the second stage, China and Uzbekistan have stood together through thick and thin, and have achieved remarkable results in the joint fight against the epidemic, and vaccine research and development is at the forefront of cooperation. Since April 29, 2020, China's epidemic prevention and control has become normal. Due to the small number of existing patients, China no longer has the conditions for vaccine clinical trials. Therefore, Sinopharm Group China Biotechnology is solidly doing a good job in domestic Phase I and Phase II clinical trials. At the same time, actively promote overseas cooperation in Phase III clinical trials. The Uzbek side lacks technology and experience in vaccine research and development, and the Uzbek Ministry of Health announced on August 25, 2020 that Uzbekistan has joined the WHO-led COVAX global new crown vaccine program as a member of the WHO Regional Office for Europe. As of September 24, 2021, the Press Office of the Ministry of Uzbekistan announced that Uzbekistan has received 26.7 million doses of various vaccines, of which the ZF-UZ-VAC2001 vaccine (recombinant vaccine jointly developed by China and Uzbekistan, hereinafter referred to as: China-Uzbekistan vaccine) had 20.4 million doses. The cooperation between China and Uzbekistan on vaccine research and development is bound to be an important part of China-Uzbekistan anti-epidemic cooperation, and it will become the main force of the two countries' anti-epidemic cooperation.

3. Methods and results of China-Uzbekistan anti-epidemic cooperation

3.1 Vaccine research and development and promotion

The author uses the content analysis method to objectively and systematically classify and organize 30 valid samples, and can divide the China-Uzbekistan anti-epidemic cooperation method into five levels: bilateral confidence support, sharing of anti-epidemic experience, dispatch of medical expert teams, funds and medical care. Facility assistance and vaccine development and promotion. The frequency of reports on the five methods of China-Uzbekistan anti-epidemic cooperation is shown in Figure 1:



Figure 1. The frequency of reports on the five methods of China-Uzbekistan anti-epidemic cooperation.

Figure 1 shows that the frequency of kun.uz reporting on the research and development and promotion of vaccines in China and Uzbekistan accounts for 53% of the total sample. Since August 2020, 19 valid samples have been extracted, 16 of which are reports on vaccines, which also confirms the second stage of Uzbekistan anti-epidemic cooperation inferred above, with vaccine cooperation as the main force. Among the 16 reports on vaccines, 8 reports deal with vaccine effects, 3 of 8 reports specifically on vaccine efficacy issues, and 7 reports affirm the vaccine's high efficacy, safety, and ease of storage and storage. Transport characteristics, 1 report as China admits that its vaccine is ineffective against SARS-CoV-2. Through the positive reports of the China-Uzbekistan vaccine, Uzbek public's recognition of the China-Uzbekistan vaccine has been continuously improved, which is reflected in the statistics of the Uzbekistan Ministry of Health's vaccination of residents. After the large-scale vaccination, only 32% of the people chose the China-Uzbekistan vaccine in the first ten days, 68% of the people chose AstraZeneca, and in mid-April, 42% of the people chose the China-Uzbekistan vaccine, and they were vaccinated at the end of the month of people reached 58.4%. It can be asserted that the effectiveness of China-Uzbekistan cooperation in vaccine research and development and promotion is worthy of recognition.

3.2 Funds and Medical Facilities Aid

There are six reports of financial and medical facility assistance, and the medical donations mentioned are: On March 3, 2020, Uzbekistan will send sterile disposable medical gloves, protective clothing, face shields and medical masks to China. On March 29, 2020, the foundation of Chinese entrepreneur Jack Ma will provide 1.7 million masks, 165,000 testing kits, protective clothing and medical equipment to 7 countries including Uzbekistan. On April 24, 2020, Beijing donated four sets of K T Θ A -TTS (A set of intelligent targeted traditional Chinese medicine transdermal drug delivery treatment system) to Uzbekistan, which are effective in the treatment of new coronary pneumonia. On April 29, 2020, China donated 100,000 test kits, 50,000 medical work clothes, 150,000 KH95 medical masks, 1 million surgical masks, 70,000 goggles, 150,000 medical gloves and 1,000 non-contact electronic thermometers.

The funding and medical facility assistance and cooperation methods are mainly concentrated in the first half of 2020, which is in the first stage of China-Uzbekistan anti-epidemic cooperation, with unilateral provision of emergency humanitarianism as the mainstay. In terms of funds, the donated funds are mainly used to help countries affected by the epidemic improve their ability to fight the epidemic; in terms of medical facilities, most of the donations are emergency anti-epidemic materials rather than traditional medical materials; in terms of donors, the donors are not only China Official organizations represented by the government, as well as non-governmental organizations represented by entrepreneurs such as Jack Ma, realize the combination of official organizations and non-governmental organizations.

3.3 Dispatching a medical expert team

There are 4 news reports on the dispatch of medical expert teams, focusing on 2020. On April 17, China sent the first batch of 15 medical experts to Uzbekistan to support Uzbekistan's fight against the new crown epidemic. The expert team included virologists, epidemiologists, pulmonologists, and physicians. Surgeons and infectious disease specialists. Chinese experts have visited Fergana State and Andijan State on April 21 to provide practical assistance

for the prevention and fight against COVID-19. On April 25, a Chinese expert group attended the launching ceremony of the China-Uzbekistan multinational telemedicine system. Two provincial hospitals in Jiangxi Province and 10 designated hospitals in Uzbekistan have joined the system. The system, which enables cross-border teleconsultation for COVID-19 cases, aims to establish regular contacts between doctors and strengthen anti-epidemic cooperation between the two countries. On August 19, the second batch of Chinese medical teams arrived in Uzbekistan. Chinese experts will visit different medical institutions in various regions of Uzbekistan, aiming to support the activities of Uzbek doctors in the prevention and treatment of the COVID-19 epidemic, and discuss the prevention, control and treatment of the disease, method of disease. It is worth mentioning that Chinese experts will also use modern and traditional treatment methods to provide medical services to citizens in the newly opened Sino-Uzbekistan Traditional Medicine Center in Tashkent.

3.4 Bilateral Confidence Support

There are 2 news reports supported by bilateral confidence. On February 2, 2020, Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev expressed condolences and sympathy to Chinese President Xi over the tragic results caused by the spread of the new crown pneumonia in China, and highly appreciated And support China's effective measures to prevent and control the epidemic. On March 23, when the Uzbekistan traditional festival of Nowruz was approaching, the Chinese President sent a congratulatory message to the Uzbek President about the continuous consolidation of political mutual trust between China and Uzbekistan, and the two countries have achieved great success in the joint construction of the "Belt and Road". Remarkable results, the cooperation between the two countries on the international stage has always been firm and efficient, and highly appreciated the mutual support and close cooperation between China and Uzbekistan in the fight against the epidemic.

3.5 Share anti-epidemic experience

There are 2 news reports on sharing anti-epidemic experience. On March 20, 2020, China shared its anti-epidemic experience with Uzbekistan through a video conference, and introduced in detail China's epidemic prevention and control measures and drugs for the treatment of new coronary pneumonia. On September 16, China's anti-epidemic experience, effective strategies and strict discipline, helped to formulate its strategy to deal with the new crown pneumonia in a very short time. The report bluntly stated that China's experience in fighting the epidemic is valuable to any country.

In short, the five methods of China-Uzbekistan anti-epidemic cooperation are committed to improving the ability and level of the recipient countries to fight the epidemic, and to achieve a balance of anti-epidemic resource scheduling. As the Minister of Innovation of Ukraine pointed out on March 10, 2020: "Scientists and experts from China and Uzbekistan have fought side by side in the fight against the epidemic, which has greatly promoted the cooperation between China and Uzbekistan in various fields of science, including medicine." It can be seen that China and Uzbekistan have achieved phased achievements in the fight against the epidemic, which is of great significance to jointly building the "Healthy Silk Road", and has also opened up a new situation for the cooperation between the two countries in global public health governance.

4. The Era Significance of China-Uzbekistan Anti-epidemic Cooperation

4.1 Demonstration effect of building a healthy Silk Road

Zhang Wenchuan, Chinese Counselor in Uzbekistan, said in his speech on behalf of China and Uzbekistan that China is willing to continue to strengthen cooperation with Uzbekistan in the field of medical and health care, to create a good example of China and Uzbekistan's joint construction of the "Healthy Silk Road", and to actively promote the building of a community with a shared future for mankind, contribute (Jiangxi Daily News 2020). At present, the new crown epidemic is spreading in many countries, and as of December 21, 2021, Uzbekistan has cured a total of 194,212 cases, and the cure rate is close to 98% (mainstream Uzbek media kun.uz 2021). This fully reflects that China's medical assistance and guidance to Uzbekistan is effective, and is conducive to stabilizing the international environment for Silk Road cooperation. Therefore, countries along the Silk Road should take the successful cases of China-Uzbekistan anti-epidemic cooperation as a model, learn from and apply them to solve all common problems faced by mankind, including the economic recovery and reconstruction of the Silk Road countries in the post-epidemic era, as well as in the field of traditional medicine, cooperation and development.

4.2 Important experience in global public health governance

The breadth, intensity and speed of world connections have accelerated the speed and scope of global spread of epidemic diseases. As one of the most pressing issues of non-traditional security, the management of epidemics has become a focus of widespread concern in the international community (Wei Jianfeng, 2020). Although the WHO has a certain guiding role in the global governance of the new coronary pneumonia, the regulations stipulate that because of the lack of certain coercive force, countries can have unlimited room to play on the basis of the regulations according to their national conditions, that is, countries can carry out various Diverse anti-epidemic models, especially international anti-epidemic cooperation.

Against this background, China and Uzbekistan are people-centered and public safety as their goal. The two sides have always believed in the concept of cooperation, actively explored new channels for anti-epidemic cooperation, and constantly improved and improved the bilateral anti-epidemic cooperation mechanism, especially in medical cooperation level has become a successful example of international aid. The alternation of China-Uzbekistan anti-epidemic cooperation, through the rational mobilization and utilization of surplus resources, helps epidemic-affected countries improve their response capabilities, and further optimizes the construction of the global epidemic governance system and mechanism. Therefore, under the circumstance that the new crown pneumonia is raging around the world, we can try to extend, multilateralize and normalize the successful experience of the China-Uzbekistan anti-epidemic cooperation model, and optimize the unscientific and unreasonable global public health governance system.

4.3 The full display of the perfect integration of Chinese and Western medicine

On January 22, 2020, starting from the third edition of the "New Coronary Virus Pneumonia Diagnosis and Treatment Program" issued by the National Health Commission of China, traditional Chinese medicine treatment was officially included in the new coronavirus pneumonia treatment guidance program. In the process of China-Uzbekistan anti-epidemic cooperation, there is no lack of seeing the combination of traditional Chinese medicine, and the diagnosis and treatment have achieved remarkable results, which has become a major feature and highlight of the fight against the epidemic.

On April 17, 2020, China sent the first group of medical experts to Uzbekistan. Ambassador Jiang Yan said that during his stay in Uzbekistan, the working group will share anti-epidemic experience with Uzbekistan, including discussing the role of traditional oriental medicine in responding to the new crown pneumonia epidemic. The role of such a major public health event will help Uzbekistan in its fight against the epidemic and write a new story about the joint construction of the "Healthy Silk Road" between China and Uzbekistan. (Provincial Foreign Affairs Office2020)Among the 30 news samples, 4 involve traditional Chinese medicine, equipment, diagnosis and treatment methods, etc., three occurrences of the word translated as valid—эффективность and эффект, which confirms the remarkable effect of traditional Chinese medicine in treating the new crown epidemic. Chinese doctors and experts in Tashkent are using modern and traditional treatments to provide medical services to citizens suffering from other diseases. Therefore, Uzbekistan is applying integrated Chinese and Western medicine not only for the treatment of new coronary pneumonia, but also for other diseases. This fully demonstrates that the perfect combination of Chinese and Western medicine has been affirmed at the international level, which has consolidated the living space of Chinese medicine and has great historical significance. The bilateral anti-epidemic cooperation between China and Uzbekistan has also laid the foundation stone for Uzbekistan's use of integrated traditional Chinese and Western medicine in the post-epidemic era, and accelerated the process of building a "Healthy Silk Road".

5. Conclusion

The sudden outbreak of COVID-19 has posed severe challenges to global public health security governance. Given the imperfect and imperfect global governance system and the limited role of the WHO, countries urgently need to find an effective bilateral or multilateral anti-epidemic cooperation mechanism and promotion. Upholding the core concept of building a "Healthy Silk Road", China and Uzbekistan have always put people's safety and health first, and have continuously enriched the bilateral anti-epidemic cooperation model through mutual trust and close cooperation. The two countries have actively adopted the five cooperation methods of bilateral confidence support, sharing of anti-epidemic experience, dispatching medical expert teams, funding and medical facility assistance, and vaccine research and development and promotion, which fully demonstrated the perfect combination of

traditional Chinese and Western medicine, and helped the countries along the Silk Road to improve their future. The good construction of the "Healthy Silk Road" has set an example and provided important experience for global public health governance. Given that the global public health cooperation mechanism is not yet perfect, and China-Uzbekistan bilateral anti-epidemic cooperation has achieved remarkable results at many levels, countries, especially those along the Silk Road, can learn from the advanced measures in the China-Uzbekistan anti-epidemic cooperation model. Try to start with bilateral cooperation and gradually develop into multilateral cooperation, and gradually improve the global ability to respond to public health crises. At the same time, big and powerful countries should shoulder their responsibilities, form a combination of strong and weak, mobilize surplus resources to help weak and small countries improve their ability to respond to the epidemic, and continuously optimize the unreasonable and unsound global health governance system.

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