

## ***ON THE FURTHER IMPROVEMENT OF THE HEALTH SERVICE***

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Letter to the National Conference of Health Workers  
April 21, 1985

Thirteen years have passed since the last national conference of health workers was held in the presence of the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung. Since then great advances have been made in health care under the wise guidance of the Party and the leader. The adoption of the Public Health Law, which is the crystallization of the Party's Juche-orientated idea on the health service, provided a legal guarantee for the consolidation of the socialist health service system in our country and for the development of health care. Over the past years the health service sector has worked hard to implement the Public Health Law. As a result, medical services have improved further, medical science and technology have developed rapidly, the ranks of health workers have increased, and the material and technical foundations of the health service sector have become stronger. Thanks to the measures taken by the Party and the state for the good of the people, the general standard of health care has risen, and our people's average life span has now reached 74 years and our country is gradually becoming a land where everyone enjoys a long and healthy life.

The marvellous success achieved in health care during this period is thanks to the unrecognized efforts of the health workers who have devoted themselves to preserving the lives and improving the health of the people. These health workers have worked hard through thick and thin in order to carry out the Party's health policy and have discharged their noble mission and duty to the Party and the revolution with credit. A large number of medical workers have devoted their whole lives to the treatment and prevention of illness. They do not hesitate even to offer their own bones and flesh if it is for the sake of the lives and health of their fellow people. Many of them are unassuming heroes who have made a great contribution to the development of medical science and technology and to curative and preventive work in our country by displaying all their creative talents and overcoming all difficulties and hardships, believing only in the Party whether they receive recognition or not. Our people are proud of the many laudable deeds and facts associated with them, events which touch the heartstrings of the people. I fully appreciate the achievements made by the health workers in carrying out the Party's health policy and extend, on behalf of the Party Central Committee, my warmest thanks to those attending this conference and to the health workers throughout the country.

Today the health service sector is faced with the heavy task of bringing about a great change in the public health services to meet the new requirements of the developing revolution. On the occasion of this meeting of health workers from all parts of the country, I would like to emphasize some questions that are arising in the improvement of the health service.

### **1. IMPROVING HEALTH CARE IS A MAJOR REQUIREMENT OF OUR DEVELOPING REVOLUTION**

Health care is an honourable and worthwhile revolutionary undertaking that preserves the lives and improves the health of the people.

An improvement in health care is essential to providing the people with a better chance to lead an independent and creative life.

A man's physical strength and hygienic living conditions as well as his independent ideological consciousness are a guarantee for his independent and creative activity. Even if he has the revolutionary idea and is endowed with creative

talents, he will be unable to carry out independent and creative activity satisfactorily and perform his role and responsibility as the master of nature and society unless he is physically strong. Nor can people lead a cultured and happy life to the full unless they are provided with hygienic living conditions. We must develop health care if we are to ensure that the people perform their role and responsibility well as masters of nature and society and lead a more independent and creative life.

Improving health care is a major requirement for displaying the advantages of our socialist system to a greater extent.

The socialist system in our country is the best social system, under which the working masses are the masters of everything and everything in society serves them. The true superiority of this system finds clear expression in the people-orientated health service by which the state assumes full responsibility for the health care of the people. By the Public Health Law everyone in our country is entitled to medical treatment, and universal and entirely free medical care is given to the working people, so that they are relieved of any worry about medical treatment. A well-organized medical service has been established, covering provinces, cities, counties and rural areas. General medical centres and specialized curative and preventive organizations have been set up and provided with modern equipment, and the working people receive medical benefits from the state.

Through their own experience our people are convinced that our socialist system which provides them with a cultured and happy life is, indeed, the best social system. In order to allow the superiority of the socialist system in our country to extend its influence, we must improve health care and consolidate and develop the people-orientated health service and see that medical benefits from the state reach the people more effectively.

An improvement in health care is a major influence on accelerating the revolution and construction.

Physical strength is the basis of the revolutionary struggle and of the building of a prosperous society. It is only when they are sturdy that the people can use all their creative power and talents in the revolution and construction.

Putting a great effort into health care becomes all the more important as the building of socialism develops. Of course, the people's living conditions improve with the progress of socialist construction. Meanwhile, however, industrial establishments are springing up throughout the country and all sorts of raw materials, power and technical equipment are used widely in production and, in consequence, the amount of harmful waste material discharged from factories is increasing gradually. In these circumstances, it is imperative to take far-sighted health measures to dispose of the harmful waste materials so as to protect and improve the health of the people and ensure that they make a better contribution to the building of socialism.

Developing health care is also very important in successfully carrying out the tasks of the cultural revolution for the building of socialism and communism. One important task of the cultural revolution is to wipe out all sources of disease and unhygienic practices which have been handed down from the old society, and to establish thoroughly a new socialist way of life, modern work practices and a cultured lifestyle. The development of health care is essential to preventing epidemics and all other diseases, to developing clean and healthy living environments in line with the socialist way of life, and to raising steadily the general level of cleanliness and hygiene in the country.

All health workers must have a good understanding of the place and importance of health care and must improve this work further as the developing situation demands.

## 2. ON THE THOROUGH IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARTY'S POLICY ON PREVENTIVE MEDICINE

The Party's policy on preventive medicine is the basic policy for the public health services, a policy which represents the inherent needs of socialist medical science. Socialist medicine is, in essence, preventive medicine, and its basic mission is to prevent disease and preserve and improve the lives and health of the people. In socialist society prevention must be stressed ahead of treatment. Unlike in capitalist society where medicine serves as a means of money-making, in socialist society the fundamental principle of medicine must be the prevention of disease. The health service sector must adhere to and implement the Party's policy on preventive medicine.

The principal task in implementing this policy is to improve hygiene and anti-epidemic work.

An important factor in hygiene and in the prevention of epidemics is to develop clean and healthy living environments and working conditions. If we do this we shall not only be able to prevent infectious diseases breaking out, but also keep them from spreading if they do. The streets, villages, homes and workplaces must be kept clean, and bathhouses, barbers' shops and other amenities must be improved and run properly.

Another important factor in this work is to prevent epidemic diseases. Epidemics are a remnant of the old society. Whether or not there are epidemics in a country is a criterion by which to measure the degree of civilization there. You must step up disinfection and vaccination and identify and isolate immediately epidemic cases and those with whom they have had contact. You must, at the same time, improve quarantine and prevent the infiltration of epidemics from abroad.

In order to improve hygiene and the prevention of epidemics it is necessary to enhance the role of hygiene and anti-epidemic institutions. These institutions are the outposts which implement the Party's policy on preventive medicine and are directly responsible for organizing and conducting hygiene and prevention. They must make a regular inspection of hygiene and anti-epidemic conditions in the districts in their charge, take scientific and technical measures to improve hygiene and anti-epidemic work, establish a proper system of hygiene and prevention for the institutions, enterprises, cooperative organizations, residential quarters and households, and see that their living environments and working conditions are kept clean and healthy. They must step up the inspection and control of hygiene and anti-epidemic work and ensure that all sectors and units, particularly the production and construction, commercial and distribution, and communal service and public catering sectors, strictly observe hygiene and anti-epidemic regulations. It is necessary to apply appropriate administrative and legal sanctions against those units which neglect the proper upkeep of living environments and working conditions in violation of these regulations and make sure that such violations do not occur again. An increase in the effort to prevent disease is very important in carrying out the Party's policy on preventive medicine.

The social causes of disease have now been completely eliminated in our country, many of the fatal diseases which had menaced the lives and health of the people for ages have been wiped out. Not all diseases, however, have been eliminated because some of the people's outdated habits still persist, as do the generally low standards of hygiene and preventive work and of medical science and technology in the country. The health service sector must continue to concentrate a great effort on preventing disease.

An important task in combatting disease is to take proper steps to prevent the diseases that affect the cardiovascular system, cancerous diseases, diseases of the metabolism and others which have a high rate of incidence and are very destructive to a man's ability to work.

In order to prevent disease, it is necessary to develop the medical service given by preventive hospitals. This type of medical service is a positive and effective method of preventing diseases or diagnosing them and curing them promptly. You must improve the hospitals for preventing dental disease and all other preventive hospitals and they must provide better medical services.

The popularization of preventive care is an important way of preventing disease. Preventive medicine is an undertaking for the people and of the people themselves. We must conduct widespread campaigns such as the one for disease-free ri so that

all the people join the struggle against disease. In particular, we must encourage the working people to make it a daily routine and a habit to take physical exercise to suit their age and constitution.

An important task in the implementation of the Party's policy on preventive medicine is to press ahead with the work of preventing environmental pollution. Pollution is a major cause of fatal disease. Pollution control is not just a technical or business-like undertaking. It is an important political activity that preserves and improves the lives and health of the people and provides them with cleaner and more healthy living environments and working conditions. The health service sector must always pay particular attention to the prevention of pollution.

A system to monitor pollution is a prerequisite for pollution control. We must set up observation posts in the districts where they are needed and measure the state of the air, water and earth regularly so as to spot pollutants promptly and take steps to eliminate them. The effects on man's health of the harmful substances from factories and enterprises must be constantly monitored.

If we are to prevent pollution, we must exercise strict control over industrial establishments and keep them from discharging pollutants at random. When factories and enterprises are to be constructed, the health service sector must take an active part in examining how they are designed, in inspecting them in the interim period and in investigating the finished structures and discover polluting elements and take measures to eliminate them. In addition, they must keep themselves informed of the operation of the facilities to remove pollutants at factories and other enterprises and see that these facilities are operated properly.

In order to carry out the Party's policy on preventive medicine, it is necessary to improve information about cleanliness and hygiene.

The publication of this information is political work aimed at mobilizing the masses efficiently in the implementation of the Party's preventive medicine policy. Only by intensifying this work can we equip the working people fully with the Party's health policy as it stands at any given moment, and encourage them to participate with the attitude of masters in raising their standards of cleanliness and hygiene and in creating healthy living environments and working conditions.

If we are to intensify the publication of information about cleanliness and hygiene, wide sections of the population must be enlisted. Since this undertaking involves all members of society, health workers alone cannot do it successfully. A large number of people must become propagandists of cleanliness and hygiene, and this is the way to broadcast such information throughout society. The health service sector must mobilize not only its own propaganda forces and resources but also those of society. Students at universities, specialized schools and senior middle schools must be provided with propaganda materials on cleanliness and hygiene and sent to circulate them among the population after school.

The media such as radio, newspapers, and magazines must also be mobilized in this work.

This propaganda must be conducted by different ways and means. This will enable you to do it without being limited by conditions and circumstances, and thus increase its effectiveness. Oral, visual, artistic and various other ways and means must be employed widely in this work.

Information on cleanliness and hygiene is the basic way of doing this. The health service sector must compile this information in accordance with the Party's health policy as it stands at any given moment, by dealing with real problems in simple terms so that everyone can understand it when he reads or hears it.

If we are to carry out the Party's policy on preventive medicine, we must strengthen the district medical care system.

The district medical care system is the best system for taking care of the inhabitants of each district, a system capable of meeting the intrinsic requirements of preventive medicine. Today this medical care system is in force in our country, so that everyone is given responsible and systematic assistance and constant health protection by the doctor in charge.

Health workers must take care of the health of the inhabitants of the district in their charge in a more responsible manner. In the past the prime task of the health service was to eliminate acute, infectious diseases and improve unhealthy living

environments and working conditions, but the main task today is to ensure that the working people enjoy a long life and good health. Health workers must improve medical services in line with any qualitative change undergone in the content of health care, and must raise the standard of health care for the inhabitants of the district in their charge. In particular, the system of medical responsibility for workshops and pits in the mining, metallurgical, chemical and other heavy industries must be improved so as to make sure that the standard of health care for the workers is raised.

In order to strengthen the system of district medical care, it is necessary to appoint the units of responsibility properly and organize their assignments carefully. Although it is a good system of health care, the district medical care system cannot prove its worth to any great extent unless the units of responsibility are properly appointed and unless their assignments are organized carefully. The units of the district medical care system should be defined on the principle of combining production units and residential units. Assignments for each district should be given by taking into account the number of inhabitants, the status of their health, the conditions of cleanliness and hygiene, the doctors' qualifications, the amount of work to be done, and various other details. The doctors who take charge of districts should be selected from among the able people, and given the post for a long time so that they can make a systematic study of the health status of the inhabitants in their districts and take appropriate preventive measures.

In order to improve the district medical care system, it is also necessary to review its work regularly. Only when you do this will you be able to correct any slight mistakes and shortcomings promptly, and develop the system steadily so as to meet the needs of the developing situation. You must keep yourselves familiar with the work of the district medical care system and review it weekly and every month in detail, correct the slight mistakes and shortcomings immediately, and publicize any useful experience.

### 3. ON IMPROVING MEDICAL SERVICES

Medical services are an important undertaking that provides the people with adequate medical benefits which the Party and the state accord them under the system of free medical care.

You can only preserve and improve the lives and health of the people and give full scope to the advantages and vitality of the universal free medical treatment system when the medical services are efficient. The health service sector must continue to improve medical services in conformity with Party policy on preserving and improving the lives and health of the people to a greater degree and with their desire to enjoy a long life, good health and unrestrained happiness under the socialist system.

In order to provide good medical services, it is imperative to improve the way diagnosis and treatment are carried out.

This is essential to raising the standard of medical services. It is only when you improve the way diagnosis and treatment are carried out that you can raise the level of treatment and preventive work and cure disease so that your patients recover their health quickly. The health service sector must concentrate a great effort on improving its diagnosis and treatment methods.

An important task in this regard is to adopt a wide range of advanced methods. The development of curative and preventive work and success in medical services depend largely on how advanced methods of diagnosis and treatment are adopted. Curative and preventive organizations must introduce in treatment and prevention such advanced methods of diagnosis and treatment as new ways of conducting clinical and laboratory tests, functional examinations, intestinal transplantation, microsurgery, the use of radioisotopes, laser and so on. The conventional method of depending totally on medicines for treatment must be eliminated, and natural elements such as hot springs, mineral water and mud which are all abundant in our country must be used widely for treatment and prevention.

Next in importance in improving diagnosis and treatment is to combine Korean

medicine and modern medical science properly.

A good combination of the two is an important policy followed by our Party in curative and preventive work. It can ensure the optimum use of the advantages of both so as to take the correct measures for treatment in keeping with the living environments and habits of our people and their physical characteristics and increase the effectiveness of treatment. You must work hard to put the Korean methods of diagnosis and treatment onto a scientific basis, combine the modern method of diagnosis and the Korean method of treatment, organize the way folk medicine is used and apply it widely in treatment.

Adopting widely new medicines and modern medical appliances is an important way to improve diagnosis and treatment. New methods of diagnosis and treatment require good medicines and modern medical appliances to suit the new methods. We must not hesitate to introduce in curative and preventive work new medicines and modern medical appliances which are based on the latest achievements of medical science and technology, and raise our methods of diagnosis and treatment to the world standard as soon as possible.

If you are to improve medical services, the standard of specialization must be raised.

This means subdividing curative and preventive organizations and medical specialization further and raising the scientific and technological levels of treatment and prevention. Only then will you be able to improve medical services to suit the people's physical characteristics and the symptoms of the diseases and achieve any notable success in your curative and preventive work. The rapid development of medical science and technology and the growing daily needs of the people for medical services require urgently that the standard of specialization in the medical services should be raised.

To this end, you must set up many specialist hospitals and specialist departments in hospitals. You must do this as medical science and technology develop and as the real situation of medical services requires and make the advance in curative and preventive work from specialization by system to detailed specialization by organ and disease. We must also put a great effort into services provided by sanatoria and other means of recuperative treatment which need less expense and are highly effective.

In order to raise the standard of specialization in medical services, consultation among doctors in specialist branches must be intensified. This is the way to enlist the collective wisdom of medical workers as much as possible so as to make a correct diagnosis and take the right steps in specialist treatment and quickly raise the scientific and technological level of curative and preventive work. The curative and preventive organizations must establish a correct system of consultation by specialists, hold doctors' consultations regularly, eliminate the subjective and arbitrary views of individual doctors so that every doctor can express his opinion fully.

If you are to improve medical services, they must be properly organized.

The efficient organization of the medical services can ensure that medical staff and facilities, medicines and other medical resources are used effectively and that medical services are provided efficiently to suit the characteristics of each district, section of population, occupation and disease.

An important factor in improving the organization of medical services is to make the medical service network more rational and make effective use of medical appliances. It is necessary to investigate closely how the hospitals and clinics of the institutions and enterprises are being run and then merge, adjust and rationalize those which are distributed illogically, concentrate efforts on supplying them with medical appliances and see that they use them as effectively as possible.

Another important factor in improving the organization of medical services is that the curative and preventive organizations should direct their main efforts to the treatment of outpatients.

Concentrating efforts on inpatients is an outdated mode of medical service. If you concentrate on inpatients, you cannot meet the requirements of the socialist health system, the requirement that people's illnesses should be diagnosed and treated as early as possible. The establishments for treatment and prevention must strengthen

their technical staff for outpatients and improve the treatment they are given, visit them, give them treatment at work, conduct medical checkups, take care of the chronic patients and carry on various other medical services. In particular, emergency cases must receive a great deal of attention.

The organization of medical services for the rural population must be improved.

This is necessary in order to eliminate the imbalance in treatment and preventive work between urban and rural communities. We must improve the people's hospitals in the counties and cities as well as the clinics, appoint good medical workers to them and raise the standard of medical services for the rural community.

The organization of medical services for children and women must also be improved. We must improve the staff in the children's hospitals and the paediatric departments of hospitals so as to provide good medical care for children.

Nutrition for the children in nurseries and kindergartens and their hygiene care must be improved so as to bring them up healthily. Maternity and other hospitals must conduct consultations with women and take care of the health of pregnant women systematically, improve the obstetrics and gynecology departments and delivery rooms, receive women not only from the cities but also rural areas to give them midwifery care, and provide them with good treatment and preventive care before and after delivery so that they will not contract women's diseases or any other ailment. They must pay particular attention to the care of women who are carrying triplets and must take good care of their health.

In order to improve medical services, medical workers must have a higher sense of responsibility and must enhance their role.

Medical workers are the cultivators of human life and are in direct charge of medical services. Without a higher sense of responsibility and enhancing their role, it is impossible for them to carry out treatment and preventive work efficiently.

The main factor in this regard is that the medical staff works devotedly for their patients.

Devotion is the spiritual and moral quality required of the health workers who take charge of people's lives and health. Medical workers must press ahead with the devoted-service movement, and dedicate everything to treatment and preventive work, with warm love for the people and with a heart devoted to their patients.

If they are to play their role as they should, the medical workers must raise the level of their clinical skill. The standard of medical service depends largely on the level of their clinical skill. It is only when they have a high degree of clinical skill that they can make a correct diagnosis and give prompt treatment.

Doctors must work hard to raise the level of their clinical skill steadily through self-study, medical training courses, clinical discussions, demonstration lessons and by various other ways and means. Medical workers must make a great effort to learn at least one foreign language, so that they can read plenty of foreign medical literature and acquire advanced clinical skills. Nursing staff must also study medical technology more so as to acquire an ample theoretical knowledge of the content and methods of nursing and take good care of their patients.

#### 4. ON DEVELOPING MEDICAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IMPROVING THE TRAINING OF HEALTH WORKERS

Developing medical science and technology is an important task facing the public health sector today.

Health service is an important scientific and technological undertaking to care for the lives and health of the people. The development of medical science and technology is essential for the successful solution of all problems arising in curative and preventive work and for putting health service on a highly scientific and technological basis. The public health sector must devote great energy to developing medical science and technology to meet the requirements of the technical revolution.

The most important factor in the current development of medical science and

technology is to concentrate on solving the pressing scientific and technological problems in the health service. Medical science should bend its energy to research on the prevention of diseases whose incidence and mortality rate are high, among them those of the cardiovascular system and cancerous diseases. It should also strive to place traditional Korean medicine on a scientific basis and combine it with modern medicine properly, prevent pollution, and increase the variety of medical supplies and appliances and improve their quality. At the same time a long-term plan should be carried out for research to advance basic medicine including virology and genetics. In addition, in-depth studies must be conducted to explore new fields of medical science and introduce the latest advances of science and technology into curative and preventive services. Drawing on the successes already achieved, medical science must open the fields of genetic engineering, immunology and molecular biology and stimulate research to adopt widely in curative and preventive services the latest scientific and technological achievements, including electronics and laser engineering. In the meantime, it should also conduct a careful study to give the management of health establishments a scientific basis. In order to develop medical science and technology, we must form a correct plan for their development and establish rigorous discipline to ensure its implementation.

The correct planning of this work is an important demand for meeting the requirements of the Party and state in scientific research and for carrying it out under a long-term plan. Medical science institutes and curative and preventive organizations must make an accurate assessment of their own scientific and technical capabilities and, on this basis, plan the development of science and technology in accordance with the practical needs of curative and preventive work and the world trend in medical science and technology, and conduct scientific research purposefully in conformity with it.

In addition to drawing up the plan correctly, the work must be carefully organized for its implementation. Medical science institutes and curative and preventive organizations must assign clear research tasks to medical scientists and technicians in keeping with their level of preparedness and abilities, provide them with adequate conditions for their research, and supervise and control their study regularly. The medical science sector must concentrate good medical scientists and technicians and study facilities on important and urgent problems and achieve effective cooperation between research institutes so that they may be solved promptly.

Enhancing the sense of responsibility and role of medical scientists and technicians is one of the important ways to develop medical science and technology. These scientists and technicians are the true masters of this undertaking. Deeply conscious of their heavy responsibility to the Party and the revolution, they ought to work hard to develop medical science and technology. They must establish Juche thoroughly in scientific research and study great and important scientific and technological problems appropriate to the specific conditions of our country.

If they are to carry out their scientific research effectively, they must improve their qualifications and gain experience of real situations. They must acquire the revolutionary habit of study to inform themselves of Party policy on public health and possess profound knowledge of their specialist fields as well as the correct methodology for scientific research.

Medical scientists must not confine themselves within the bounds of their own research institutes; they should visit curative and preventive organizations frequently and learn from reality and cooperate with health workers in order to solve scientific and technological problems.

In order to develop medical science and technology, we must build good medical research centres and enlist our scientific potential to the full.

Building up these centres is an important condition for the advancement of medical science and technology. State investment must be increased to provide medical research institutes with sufficient up-to-date laboratory equipment, so that the Academy of Medical Science and other medical research institutes can be developed as dependable centres for scientific research. The existing research centre must be developed further, its functions and role enhanced still more, new specialist institutes set up in line with the trend in medical science and technology, and



branches of the Academy of Medical Science must be established in places where medical science forces have been prepared.

Our potential in the scientific field must also be enlisted to the full. The health sector has many people who are capable of studying medical science other than those scientists belonging to specialized institutes of science. Medical universities and large curative and preventive organizations contain well-educated people as well as a large number of young scientists, who are quick to pick up new ideas and enthusiastic about scientific pursuits. People who can study medical science while doing their duties in these universities and establishments must be mobilized fully so that they will play their part in developing the nation's medical science and technology. In particular, intellectuals in their twenties and thirties who are growing to become the medical scientists and technicians of the future should be brought extensively into scientific research and encouraged to solve numerous vital scientific and technical problems. Meanwhile, a unified system of guidance over research work in medical science should be established, and medical scientists and research facilities that are now scattered should be merged and adjusted so that they will make a greater contribution to scientific research.

For the development of medical science and technology, we must increase the exchange of information on medical science and technology with socialist and third world countries and many other nations throughout the world.

This will keep us informed of the world trend in medical science and technology and enable us to adopt other countries' advanced medical science and technology. We must work hard to establish Juche in the study of medical science and, at the same time, develop the exchange of information on medical science and technology with other countries.

In the future we shall have to invite good medical scientists and doctors from socialist countries which are advanced in medical science and technology, let them deliver lectures at our medical universities and give short courses to our medical scientists and technicians and to lecturers from the medical universities. We must also send our medical scientists and health workers to these countries on educational visits or for practical training, as well as sending our students abroad to study advanced medical science and technology. While increasing the exchange of scientists and technicians with socialist countries in the public health sphere, we should develop scientific and technological cooperation and exchange with countries of the third world.

We must also improve information work on medical science and technology. In the sector of medical science research we should set up an institute aimed, for instance, at studying and publishing information on advanced foreign science and technology, that should collect material on foreign medical science and technology systematically and spread the information. Medical journals of different fields and bulletins on medical science and technology will have to be published in large quantities to pass on the information promptly to the masses about the new successes in medical research.

The training of health workers must be improved.

By improving the training of health workers we will be able to satisfy our growing need for them and steadily raise the level of medical services.

A system for training the future health workers should be established properly in keeping with the increasing number of curative and preventive establishments and with the rise in the levels of specialist medical services, and a large number of good health workers must be produced.

Many doctors and pharmacists should be trained.

Because new specialist hospitals have been built and clinics in farm villages have been turned into hospitals in recent years in accordance with our Party's people-orientated measures for public health, the demand for doctors and pharmacists is increasing all the time. On the basis of a correct calculation of the long-term needs for the development of health service, we must determine the scope of the annual training programme and train medical and pharmaceutical specialists in a systematic way.

It is important to increase the proportion of women who are training as health workers. Women are well-suited for health care in view of a number of

characteristics of this work. It is necessary to examine in detail the composition of the existing body of health workers and train large numbers of women health workers at medical universities and other medical education institutions.

We must also devote our energy to refresher training for health workers in active service. If we neglect this, we shall be unable to improve the standard of their practical work nor shall we be able to achieve the success in curative and preventive work that the developing reality requires, because medical science and technology are advancing all the time. The public health sector should establish a proper system of re-education for the active-duty health workers and send them to study at the doctors' reorientation university on a planned basis.

In order to improve the training of health workers it is essential to enhance the role of medical education establishments.

Universities and other educational establishments of medicine are important centres for training health workers. The quality of these workers depends largely on how the establishments train their students. The principles of socialist pedagogy must be applied thoroughly and the quality of education developed and taken onto a higher level. They ought to establish Juche thoroughly in education, raise the scientific and theoretical levels of education and make constant improvements in teaching methods. In medical education, practical training along with theoretical instruction should be intensified. The finest medical skill can be acquired through the combination of profound knowledge and rich experience in clinical practice. In medical education it is necessary to strengthen practical training?laboratory work and specialist practice?while giving precedence to theoretical instruction, so that students will all be trained to be good health workers equipped with both theoretical and practical ability.

If we are to enhance the role of the medical education institutions, we should build up universities and colleges of medicine. We have to develop the Pyongyang University of Medicine in particular, the 'pedigree farm' of our medical education, into a modern exemplary unit and train future cadres for the medical science and education sectors under a long-term plan.

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