PROGRAMS ORGANIZED BY HEYDAR ALİYEV FOUNDATİON RELATED TO CHİLDREN’S HEALTH İN THE REPUBLİC OF AZERBAİJAN

Abstract. The role of the Foundation named after the national leader is extremely important in the study and promotion of the policy of statehood implemented by Heydar Aliyev for the comprehensive development of Azerbaijan, and in turning this policy into a sustainable strategic course. In this regard, the study of the history of the Foundation is one of the important tasks facing modern Azerbaijani historiography. The study of the history of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation helps to determine the reasons for the creation of the said non-governmental organization, and also to determine the role of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation in the programs and projects implemented in education, science, culture, health, and social issues that constitute the important socio-humanitarian aspects of the state policy of the national leader and enables analysis.

Historical experience shows that relying on the traditions, spiritual and material cultural values of the people ensures the success of the state's domestic and foreign policy. Respect and care for the people's history and culture help to create conditions for internal unity and civil solidarity, as well as increase the state’s reputation in the international world.

The experience of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation clearly shows the implementation of a number of successful programs and projects in the fields of science, education, culture, health and sports. Institutions conducting work in the direction of studying, promoting H. Aliyev’s legacy and continuing the policy of the great leader can also benefit from the experience gained by the Foundation in the mentioned fields. This itself testifies to the topicality of the research.

The methodological basis of the research is the scientific principles of historical understanding - historicity and objectivity. The principle of historicity involves looking at historical facts in relation to the specific historical circumstances.
in which they occurred. The principle of objectivity is based on the study of laws that determine social, socio-economic and cultural development.

The studied topic has not been studied as a separate topic in the history of Azerbaijan until now. The works reflecting the materials related to the researched topic in one way or another can be divided into certain groups.

**Keywords:** foundation, Heydar Aliyev, history, programs, children, health

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**Анотація.** Роль Фонду імені загальнонаціонального лідера надзвичайно важлива у вивченні та просуванні політики державності, яку здійснював Гейдар Алієв для всебічного розвитку Азербайджану, і в перетворенні цієї політики в стійкий стратегічний курс. У зв’язку з цим вивчення історії заснування є одним з важливих завдань, що стоять перед сучасною азербайджанською історіографією. Вивчення історії Фонду Гейдара Алієва допомагає визначити причини створення зазначеної громадської організації, а також визначити роль Фонду Гейдара Алієва в програмах і проектах, що реалізуються в освіті, науці, культурі, охорони здоров’я та соціальних питань, що становлять важливі соціогуманітарні аспекти державної політики національного лідера та дають змогу аналізувати.

Історичний досвід свідчить, що опора на традиції, духовні та матеріальні культурні цінності народу забезпечує успіх внутрішньої та зовнішньої політики держави. Повага та дбайливе ставлення до історії та культури народу сприяють створенню умов для внутрішньої єдності та громадянської солідарності, а також підвищенню авторитету держави в міжнародному світі.

Досвід Фонду Гейдара Алієва яскраво свідчить про реалізацію низки успішних програм і проектів у сферах науки, освіти, культури, охорони здоров’я та спорту. Інституції, які ведуть роботу в напрямку вивчення, популяризації спадщини Г. Алієва та продовження політики великого лідера, також можуть скористатися досвідом, набутим Фондом у зазначених сферах. Саме це свідчить про актуальність теми.

Методологічною основою дослідження є наукові принципи розуміння історії – історичність та об’єктивність. Принцип історичності передбачає розгляд історичних фактів у зв’язку з конкретними історичними обставинами, в яких вони відбувалися. Принцип об’єктивності базується на вивченні.
The problem statement. The state of Azerbaijan develops and implements special programs to protect the health of the population. One of these programs is related to the treatment of diabetes. The rapid spread of this disease requires the implementation of serious measures to combat it. According to the World Health Organization, the number of diabetes patients in the world increased from 30 million in 1985 to 246 million in 2008. According to estimates, the number of diabetes patients will reach 380 million in 2025 [5]. As in the whole world, about 50 percent of diabetes patients in Azerbaijan are not registered. The reason for this is that this part of people is not aware of the disease, and others do not want to be registered.

Diabetes is a leading medical and social problem of the modern world. It is no coincidence that the resolution of the 61st session of the UN General Assembly dated December 20, 2006 states that “diabetes is a chronic, depressing, high-cost disease accompanied by severe chronic complications, which affects the family, member states and poses a great threat to the whole world and seriously hinders the development goals of the millennium at the international level” [2, p.1].

The International Diabetes Federation and the World Health Organization have been celebrating November 14 as World Diabetes Day every year since 1991 in order to prevent diabetes. The purpose of this is to warn about the rapid increase in the scope of this disease. As a primary awareness company, Diabetes Day provides extensive information to the community about the causes, symptoms, complications and treatment of the disease.

Analysis of the latest research and publications. Many works have been devoted to this problem [3; 6; 7; 8; 9; 10, etc]. We mainly relied on the works of Azerbaijani authors. During the research, materials from the National Library of Azerbaijan were used, conclusions based on their analysis.

The main goal is to show and analyze the role of Heydar Aliyev Fondation in a historical context.

The main material. In 2004, there were 54,554 people with diabetes in Azerbaijan, 344 of them were children, and 198 were teenagers. Of the total patients, 17,062 were insulin-dependent, and 37,492 were non-insulin-dependent [8].

A more serious concern is the rapid spread of the disease among children and adolescents. So, every year, 70,000 children in the world are infected with the first
type of diabetes. Concerned about this, the World Diabetes Federation declared 2007-2008 as the year of effective diabetes control in children and adolescents [3].

The Azerbaijan Diabetes League, established in 1999, implements a number of measures to help people suffering from diabetes. One of them is the organization of special summer camps for young people facing this disease. With the support of the H. Aliyev Foundation, as well as the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the State Committee for Family, Women and Children’s Problems, the pharmaceutical companies “SanofiAventus” and “Novo Nordisk”, since 2000, the Azerbaijan Diabetes League has organized special summer camps for children and teenagers.

In order not to expose people suffering from diabetes mellitus to financial difficulties, the state usually undertakes the treatment of this type of patients in all countries of the world, their provision with medicines and medical supplies. At this time, the state meets the minimum needs of all patients regardless of the level of their financial capabilities.

On December 23, 2003, in order to help people suffering from diabetes in our country, “On state care for people with diabetes”. The law was adopted [9]. The law defines the organizational and legal bases of state care for people suffering from this disease in Azerbaijan, and regulates the relations that arise in the field of prevention and treatment of the disease.

The mentioned Law was approved by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev on February 12, 2004. In order to implement the decree, the “State program on diabetes” was prepared and approved by the decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan No. 101 of June 7, 2005 [1].

It should be noted that for the first time in the CIS region, the Law “On State Care of People with Diabetes” was adopted in Azerbaijan, and it was recommended as a model for the parliaments of the Commonwealth of Independent States by the proposal of the CIS Inter-Parliamentary Assembly.

Implementation of the “State program on diabetes” began in 2006. In 2006, funds were allocated from the state budget for the implementation of this program. For this purpose, 6.0 million manats were allocated from the state budget in 2006, twice as much in 2007 – 12.0 million manats, 13.8 million manats in 2008, and 19.2 million manats in 2009 [2]. All over the country, such patients can get the necessary pills and insulin for free as much as they need by registering accordingly. Since 2008, self-monitoring tools have been distributed to patients.

In order to help people suffering from diabetes, the Heydar Aliyev Foundation decided to come up with a special project, and on December 4, 2004, in order to attract the attention of the public, local and foreign companies to the work to be carried out in this direction, and to activate the participation of the International Diabetes Federation in this field. He held the presentation ceremony of the project
“The highest care for children with diabetes”. The president of the International Diabetes Federation, representatives of the Azerbaijan Diabetes Society, Denmark’s Novo Nordisk company, UNICEF’s Azerbaijan representative office, and other government and international organizations took part in the presentation ceremony held at the Heydar Aliyev Foundation.

In her speech at the presentation ceremony, the President of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, Mrs. Mehriban Aliyeva, stated that 310 of those affected by this disease in Azerbaijan are children under the age of 14, and the task of our Foundation is to save them from this disease [5].

After the presentation ceremony, the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, together with the Azerbaijan Diabetes Society and Denmark’s Novo Nordisk, a world leader in the field of high-quality insulin production, started supplying children with medicines.

At the end of December 2004, within the framework of the “Highest care for children with diabetes” program, special medicines intended for three months were sent to sick children in Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic. A meeting was organized with children suffering from diabetes and their parents at the Ministry of Health of the Autonomous Republic. The parents speaking here expressed their gratitude to the Heydar Aliyev Foundation for the program “The highest care for children with diabetes” [10, p.44].

Starting from 2005, the Heydar Aliyev Foundation regularly provides diabetic children with insulin and syringes within the framework of the program.

The Heydar Aliyev Foundation also organizes charity events to help people suffering from diabetes. At the beginning of January 2006, the Fund organized a charity event for children with diabetes in the Baku General Health Department and provided medicines for the treatment of the disease. At the event, 217 sick children in medical institutions of Baku were given insulin and special pain-relieving syringes.

The Heydar Aliyev Foundation, which cares for children with diabetes, cooperates with the French company “Survey”. The mentioned company is the second largest well-known enterprise in the world in the field of discovery and production of medicinal products. The delivery of drugs prepared by this company to diabetic patients, their families, and close people is related to the work of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation.

The second project of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, which is related to the treatment of children, is related to helping those affected by thalassemia. According to the World Health Organization (1996), 266 million (5.1 percent) of the world’s population have thalassemia and abnormal hemoglobin pathological genes. About 6.5 percent (9,285,000) of the 144 million children born each year are born to mothers with the heterozygous genotype [11].
The first information about the presence of thalassemia in Azerbaijan was received at the end of the 50s. For the first time, Professor A.M. Akhundova examined the hemoglobin of children with acute anemia and proved that they have thalassemia. As a result of research conducted in the following years, it became known that the thalassemia gene is widespread in the republic. Thus, the prevalence of the thalassemia gene in some regions of Azerbaijan reaches the world maximum. The average number of thalassemia carriers in the country is 8 percent. This means that one out of every 12 residents of the republic is a carrier of this pathological gene. The prevalence of thalassemia varies between 0-17 percent in different regions [10, p.62].

The prevalence of thalassemia differs among ethnic groups living in Azerbaijan. Thus, thalassemia occurs most often among Udins, then, in descending order, among Azerbaijanis, Talish, Tats, and finally Lezgis. Calculations show that up to 200 children with thalassemia major are born in Azerbaijan every year, and the number of living thalassemia major patients reaches 2000 [10, p.98].

The main treatment of the disease consists in the transfusion of donor blood to sick children several times a month throughout their lives. The amount of iron in the body of such children increases, the excess iron causes disruption of the internal organs of patients. Therefore, it is necessary to remove excess iron from the body, and this can be done with the expensive drug “Desferal” produced by the Swiss company “Novartis”.

In 1993, the State program for combating thalassemia was approved in Azerbaijan. The aim of the program was to improve the treatment of thalassemia patients, provide psycho-social assistance to families and implement the prevention of this disease, but due to the lack of financial resources, patients could not receive medical care according to modern requirements.

Since the middle of the 90s of the last century, the continuous increase in the level of economic development in Azerbaijan has allowed to increase the financial resources for the work of protecting the health of the population. In addition to government institutions, non-governmental organizations are actively involved in the fight against thalassemia. Thus, on February 8, 2005, on the initiative of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, a round table was held on the topic “For a life without thalassemia” with representatives of various international health organizations, diplomatic missions operating in our republic, and local and foreign companies. Representatives of various international health organizations, the diplomatic corps operating in the republic, local and foreign companies, and international experts participated in the “Round Table”. Speaking at the “Round Table”, M. Aliyeva noted that if prevention of thalassemia is not properly organized in Azerbaijan, the number of patients suffering from this disease will reach 16 thousand within 45 years [10, p.98].
Mehriban Aliyeva, President of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation, stressed that the rapid spread of thalassemia among children is a cause of great concern, and that important steps must be taken to combat the disease, and that children suffer the most from thalassemia. Although the disease does not recognize adults or children, the suffering of children is more painful. Therefore, a lot of work needs to be done and it can only be overcome together. Both the state and the public, funds, wealthy people can prevent this problem together [10, p.100].

M. Aliyeva said that there are ample opportunities for the fight against thalassemia in Azerbaijan, and she is sure that special care will be given to those affected by this disease. M. Aliyeva, who brought the main directions of the program to the attention of the “Round Table” participants, said that they want to attract the attention of the public, foreign countries and the International Thalassemia Federation to try to investigate the ways to solve this problem, to establish a center specialized by the Heydar Aliyev Foundation for the purpose of treatment and diagnosis of thalassemia in the country and blood establishment of a bank, development of a voluntary donor service to provide safe and quality blood to children suffering from the disease, education of the population to prevent the spread of thalassemia, programming of the disease through prenatal diagnosis, training of highly qualified personnel in the country within the framework of expanding cooperation with a number of countries fighting thalassemia.

Laws and normative documents adopted since 2005 also show the increase in the attention paid to the development of hematological assistance and blood services. The Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan “On state care for persons suffering from hereditary blood diseases of hemophilia and thalassemia” was adopted. On July 18, 2005, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan I. Aliyev signed the Decree on the implementation of this law. On January 18, 2006, the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan approved the “State Program on Hemophilia and Thalassemia Hereditary Blood Disease” by its decision No. 15.

The Heydar Aliyev Foundation established an Advisory Council to ensure the efficiency and sustainability of the measures to be implemented within the framework of the “Life without Thalassemia” project. While the construction works continued, the Heydar Aliyev Foundation organized the study of the experience of Italy, Turkey, and Israel in the fight against thalassemia. Trainings are held for local specialists, who were sent to a number of foreign countries for internships.

The opening of the Thalassemia Center in Baku took place on May 9, 2009, on the eve of the 89th anniversary of the birth of the great leader Heydar Aliyev. The area of the center, built on Fatali Khan Khoyski avenue in Narimanov district of Baku, is 7,720 square meters. Construction began in 2006 and the total cost of the project is 18 million US dollars [7]. The Turkish Cooperation and Development Agency has equipped the center with equipment worth 590 thousand dollars.
The antibacterial equipment selected for the center was adapted to a non-ferrous color and positive energy design, taking into account the age of the patients.

The building, which consists of a basement, five floors and a mansard, is completely hermetic, its external walls are insulated against heat and cold. Special attention was paid to the assignment of rooms, as well as their distribution on floors, taking into account the convenience and high level of service provided by medical staff, the sequence of examination and treatment of patients. Registration office, donor center, doctor's room, ultrasound examination and auxiliary rooms, laboratory are located on the first floor.

The polyclinic is located on the second floor. This part of the building includes the chief doctor's office, a two-part transfusion hall, a clinic with twelve rooms, a general laboratory, manipulation and radiation diagnosis rooms.

On the third floor of the center, there is an operating room for marrow transplantation, five intensive care wards for one person each, two manipulation rooms, a sterilization center, and a molecular diagnostics laboratory.

On the fourth floor of the center there are thirteen wards for two people each, four wards for one person each, and a playroom for children. Cafe, dining room, library, internet center, conference hall for 110 people are located on the fifth floor.

The ventilation system manufactured in Germany is placed in the attic. In the basement, there are facilities for ventilation and gas network, isolation hall, communication and central computer system, laundry and sterilization room.

The center, which is equipped with the most modern equipment, aims to create a specialized medical center and blood bank in Azerbaijan, to develop a voluntary donor service for safe and quality blood supply to children suffering from thalassemia, to educate the population in order to prevent the spread of thalassemia, to expand cooperation with a number of countries fighting thalassemia, to provide high will help to train qualified personnel.

The main treatment for thalassemia sufferers is regular blood transfusions several times a month, which required a large amount of donor blood. The lack of blood products worsened the situation and caused patients to die. "State program on hereditary blood diseases of hemophilia and thalassemia" allowed to provide hemophilia patients with 186 blood coagulation factor drugs, and thalassemia patients with iron-repelling drugs, electronic pumps, syringes, and butterfly needles completely free of charge. This has led to a decrease in the number of deaths among patients. According to the order of the Ministry of Health No. 22 dated February 8, 2008, medical institutions are provided with safe donor blood free of charge [6, p.285].

The measures implemented by the Heydar Aliyev Foundation regarding the treatment of children are highly appreciated by international health organizations. In April 2006, Director General of WHO Li Yong visited the Heydar Aliyev
Foundation while in Baku and met with Mrs. Mehriban Aliyeva. During the meeting, M. Aliyeva informed the guest about the "Heydar Aliyev Foundation", which has been operating since 2004 and implements a number of projects in the field of education and culture, and said that special attention is also paid to health problems. It was noted that in February 2004, after the presentation of the “Highest care for children with diabetes” project, attention to the problems of children with diabetes increased in the country, and many difficulties related to the treatment of children were eliminated. At the same time, the president of the foundation informed the head of the DST about the organization of the fight against thalassemia, the work carried out in this direction, and stated that there is no modern equipment for the timely detection of this disease in Azerbaijan, and emphasized the need for the help of the World Health Organization in this and other areas.

The head of the World Health Organization expressed his satisfaction with the work carried out by the Heydar Aliyev Foundation in the field of health care [10]. He appreciated M. Aliyeva’s initiatives and specific activities in this field, and said that the organization headed by him will help solve many of the issues raised [10]. UNESCO and ISESCO Goodwill Ambassador M. Aliyeva’s actions related to medical care for children and adolescents are highly appreciated by non-governmental organizations and philanthropists of a number of countries. M. Aliyeva was awarded the “Golden Heart” international award in May 2007. At the presentation ceremony held on May 27 the famous Italian actress, the partonessa of the ceremony, Sophie Loren and L. Aliyeva participated. Speaking at the ceremony, M. Aliyeva said: “I think that the good deeds of both our laureates and nominees called for mercy, compassion, sharing the pain of others, feeling and sharing the pain of those around us and those who need our help.

I wish that the number of laureates of this award will increase year by year, so that there will be more pure and good deeds in the world, and sadness will be reduced even a little. “Golden heart” unites people from different countries, holders of different professions and positions around the idea of universal and eternal kindness” [4].

Y. Brand, the head of the organizing committee of the “Golden Heart” Charity Foundation, the organizer of the event, informed the representatives of the mass media that M. Aliyeva was awarded this prize for her work in the framework of the Heydar Aliyev Foundation’s program to combat diabetes, thalassemia, and tuberculosis, as well as in the field of helping children with limited health opportunities.

**Conclusion.** The Heydar Aliyev Foundation, which has paid special attention to people’s physical health since its inception, is successfully continuing its work in the field of improving the level of medical services provided to the population and modernizing the health infrastructure.
The Heydar Aliyev Foundation implements special programs for the protection of children’s health, raising the level of medical care for them, works to improve the infrastructure of children’s healthcare institutions; The Heydar Aliyev Foundation’s programs related to children's health care also have a moral and psychological meaning and help to form a healthy generation.

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