Analysis of the Application of the "14th Five-Year Plan" for the Development of Traditional Chinese Medicine in Grassroots Hospitals in the Post-Epidemic Era

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Abstract. The application of TCM treatment methods provided important support for the prevention and treatment of COVID-19 and also brought opportunities for the development of TCM. In the post-pandemic era, the good effects of traditional Chinese medicine have enabled its promotion and application in primary healthcare, laying the foundation for the development of traditional Chinese medicine policies. With the promulgation and application of plans such as the "14th Five Year Plan" for the development of traditional Chinese medicine, this article studies the existing problems and provides corresponding suggestions based on the specific content and application overview of the policy. The problem is that there are discrepancies between the formulation of plans and the actual situation in the region and insufficient specific management efforts in the implementation of plans during the policy implementation process. Based on this, this article proposes the following suggestions. Improvements need to be made from three aspects: establishing an effective management system that is lacking, strengthening education and publicity efforts, and coordinating and planning various development matters.

Keywords: Traditional Chinese medicine policy, policies and measures, the 14th Five-Year Plan, policy tools.

1. Introduction

From 2019 to 2023, the spread of the novel coronavirus epidemic has posed a great challenge to China's medical system. During this time, the application of traditional Chinese medicine has given a very important impulse for the prevention and control of COVID-19. Various treatment plans of traditional Chinese medicine based on the principles of traditional Chinese medicine have shown good results in early warning and treatment, effectively controlling the number of deaths and gaining international recognition. They have been implemented and applied in countries such as Canada. In the post-pandemic period, the outstanding performance of traditional Chinese medicine during the pandemic has prompted Chinese medicine policy to pay more attention to the promotion and application of traditional Chinese medicine at the grassroots level. This forms the basis for the formulation and application of traditional Chinese medicine in the period after the pandemic. The country has also issued a series of development plans for traditional Chinese medicine based on the new situation, providing guidance and requirements for the construction of service systems, talent development, and technology promotion of traditional Chinese medicine at the grassroots level [1].

The latest Chinese medicine development policies, such as the "14th Five Year Plan" for the development of traditional Chinese medicine and the "14th Five Year Plan" for the improvement of grassroots Chinese medicine service capabilities, have brought certain changes to the pattern of grassroots medical care [2]. Traditional Chinese medicine policies need to be applied and promoted at the grassroots level in the current trend, but the existing research on the implementation of traditional Chinese medicine policies in grassroots hospitals is still incomplete, especially lacking a comprehensive analysis of the post-epidemic era. Based on this research background and policy foundation, this study will evaluate the actual application of relevant policies such as the "14th Five Year Plan for the Development of Traditional Chinese Medicine" in the post-epidemic era and their
implementation in grassroots hospitals, explore the problems and shortcomings in its implementation process, and provide corresponding opinions and suggestions.

2. Case Description

During the "13th Five Year Plan" period, Chinese medicine fully participated in the prevention and treatment of COVID-19 and made important contributions, and the development of Chinese herbs was fruitful. In this context, the development plan of traditional Chinese medicine in the 14th Five Year Plan stipulates the development of Chinese herbs from 2022 to 2025 and makes clear predictions and plans for specific health indicators such as traditional Chinese medicine facilities, hospitals, and beds in public comprehensive hospitals [3]. To achieve the goal of high-quality development of traditional Chinese medicine, the "14th Five Year Plan" for the development of Chinese herbs divides the main task of traditional Chinese medicine development policies into establishing an efficient and high-quality service system and improving the supply capacity of Chinese herbs, and building a high-quality talent team of traditional Chinese medicine, building a high-level system for the inheritance, protection, and technological innovation of Chinese herbs, promoting the high-quality development of the traditional Chinese medicine industry, and developing the health service industry of it, promoting the prosperous development of traditional Chinese medicine culture, accelerating the opening up and development of Chinese herbs, deepening reforms in the field of traditional Chinese medicine, and strengthening support and guarantee for the development of Chinese herbs [4]. These contents mainly determine the direction of high-quality development of traditional Chinese medicine and specific development of basic hospitals, such as the construction of grassroots Chinese herbs museums, the protection of traditional Chinese medicine intellectual property rights, the construction of national advantageous specialties in Chinese herbs, and the construction of national traditional Chinese medicine museums, among other incentive plans for the development of Chinese herbs [5]. In terms of strengthening organizational implementation, the "14th Five Year Plan for the Development of Traditional Chinese Medicine" will strengthen organizational leadership, strengthen investment guarantees, improve implementation mechanisms, and focus on propaganda leadership as an important means of policy implementation, ensuring that local traditional Chinese medicine policies can be successfully implemented according to local conditions [6]. Currently, thanks to relatively sound policy planning and the careful implementation of various departments, relevant traditional Chinese medicine departments have made effective plans for the application and development of Chinese herbs in grassroots hospitals in the post-epidemic era by clarifying the indicators of coverage of Chinese herbs services at the grassroots level, capacity building of traditional Chinese medicine services at the grassroots level, talent team building of Chinese herbs at the grassroots level, management capacity building of traditional Chinese medicine at the grassroots level, and the construction of county-level close medical communities, assisted in the development of Chinese herbs.

3. Problems Analysis

Based on the fourteenth five-year plan for the development of traditional Chinese medicine, the development of Chinese herbs is progressing steadily, and health systems in different regions have responded actively by implementing several specific development plans for traditional Chinese medicine. However, in the process of implementing the development plan for traditional Chinese medicine, there are still problems such as the inconsistency between the plan formulation and the actual situation in the region, and insufficient specific management efforts in the implementation of the plan [7].
3.1. Insufficient Specific Management Efforts in Implementing the Plan

The lack of institutional safeguards related to management is a common problem that occurs in
the formulation of policies by traditional Chinese medicine departments in various regions. Taking
the "Medical Insurance+Traditional Chinese Medicine+Chinese herbs" win-win plan implemented in
Tai’an City as an example, medical resources are tilted towards the traditional Chinese medicine
industry through policies such as targeted inclusion tilt, total budget tilt, and reimbursement policy
tilt. Furthermore, by improving the payment methods for traditional Chinese medicine medical
insurance, supporting the inheritance and innovation of traditional Chinese medicine diagnosis and
treatment technology, and promoting the progress of traditional Chinese medicine enterprises, a
favorable development environment has been created for China's pharmaceutical industry. However,
in the specific regulations implemented, the "medical insurance+traditional Chinese
medicine+Chinese herbs" win-win plan lacks a plan to control the policy implementation process and
special management measures for the corresponding emerging Chinese herbal medical system. In
response to the policy of the "14th Five Year Plan" for the progress of traditional Chinese medicine,
various regions have focused on the development of traditional Chinese medicine progress plans from
the perspective of reforming the medical mechanism of traditional Chinese medicine and tilting the
medical resources of Chinese herbs, lacking a systematic plan execution system and corresponding
effectiveness review system [8]. In this issue, compared to supply-oriented policies such as
infrastructure construction and talent cultivation, the management and systematic planning under the
coverage of traditional Chinese medicine policies in various regions lack specific environmental
management plans such as protecting intellectual property rights, formulating punishment measures,
and spiritual rewards.

3.2. Unrealistic Plans

When formulating regional development plans for traditional Chinese medicine, traditional
Chinese medicine departments may also encounter issues where the regulations are not integrated
with the specific local situation [9]. In the "Medical Insurance+Traditional Chinese Medicine+Chinese herbs" win-win plan implemented in Tai’an City, it is explicitly mentioned that Tai’an City has abundant resources for the development of traditional Chinese medicine, a large number of famous doctors, and the local characteristic traditional Chinese medicine diagnosis and
treatment technology is well-known among the people and at home and abroad. However, in this
highly beneficial situation for the coordinated development and external promotion of traditional
Chinese medicine, the "medical insurance+traditional Chinese medicine+Chinese herbs" win-win
plan only includes development plans that directly utilize traditional Chinese medicine resources. It
lacks plans to expand the scale of traditional Chinese medicine research, domestic and international
cooperation projects, and external publicity that are suitable for the actual progress of traditional
Chinese medicine in the local area.

4. Recommendations

For the policy application issues that still exist in various regions, improvement is mainly needed
from three aspects: the construction of an effective management system that is lacking, strengthening
education and publicity efforts, and coordinating and planning various development matters [10].

4.1. Effective Management System Construction

Relevant departments of traditional Chinese medicine in various regions should establish a sound
management system for traditional Chinese medicine, and improve the normalization and
standardization of traditional Chinese medicine services [11]. The Traditional Chinese Medicine
Department should strengthen support for its progress, increase political investment in the
management of traditional Chinese medicine services, and improve the balance and accessibility of
Chinese herbs resource allocation. Establish a department specifically responsible for coordinating
and managing the progress of traditional Chinese medicine, to provide guarantees and conditions for the stable promotion of the development plan of it. Meanwhile, in the process of strengthening traditional Chinese medicine management, it should promote standardized training for relevant personnel, improve their activity level, and protect the rights and safety of patients. Relevant departments can ensure the high-quality implementation of traditional Chinese medicine work through regular training and assessment of traditional Chinese medicine, and the establishment of patient feedback mailboxes for practitioners of traditional Chinese medicine.

4.2. Strengthen Education and Publicity Efforts

In the course of promoting the development plan of traditional Chinese medicine, various regions should also simultaneously strengthen the education and publicity of Chinese herbs, and improve the public's understanding and trust in the treatment of Chinese herbs [12]. In this process, relevant departments of traditional Chinese medicine should focus on increasing the publicity efforts of grassroots hospitals on the effectiveness of traditional Chinese medicine, popularizing knowledge of traditional Chinese medicine, spreading traditional Chinese medicine culture, and enhancing the public's sense of identification and trust in traditional Chinese medicine [13]. On this basis, local TCM departments should strengthen TCM education, increase opportunities to cultivate more high-quality TCM practitioners, and promote the sustainable development of the TCM industry. In terms of specific implementation plans, the traditional Chinese medicine department can increase the proportion of traditional Chinese medicine culture in education, cultural undertakings, and other aspects through coordination with relevant departments, thereby increasing public acceptance and trust.

4.3. Coordinate and Plan Various Development Matters

In the process of implementing development plans for traditional Chinese medicine in various regions, attention should be paid to the coordination and cooperation of various types of development plans. When planning the progress of traditional Chinese medicine in various medical fields, attention should be paid to potential conflicts between various plans, and corresponding adjustments should be made to find a balance point for coordinated development with existing policies in the implementation process. On this basis, a coordinated and coordinated plan tailored to local conditions will be established for the progress policies of traditional Chinese medicine to ensure the stable implementation of development plans. Relevant departments can obtain opinions from grassroots personnel on the cooperation of the plan and the effectiveness of testing the implementation of the plan through visits and investigations. At the same time, they can also refer to successful cases of cooperation in traditional Chinese medicine policies to achieve the down-to-earth development of traditional Chinese medicine. When formulating regional development plans for traditional Chinese medicine, the Chinese medicine department needs to comprehensively consider the specific geographical, cultural, and economic conditions of the local area, to make the plan regulations more in line with local realities. At the same time, in the process of formulating the development plan for traditional Chinese medicine, there will also be objective obstacles such as current institutional conflicts, insufficient medical resources, and lack of public trust in traditional Chinese medicine. It is necessary to complement and mutually benefit the progress systems of traditional Chinese medicine in all aspects, and improve the development system of traditional Chinese medicine [14]. It is urgent to strengthen cooperation among all parties and improve the development system of traditional Chinese medicine to impetus the healthy progress of the traditional Chinese medicine industry to solve such problems.

5. Conclusion

In conclusion, due to the outbreak of COVID-19 and the introduction of the "14th Five Year Plan for the Development of Traditional Chinese Medicine" and other relevant policies for the
development of traditional Chinese medicine, the development of traditional Chinese medicine policies in the post epidemic era has been steadily promoted on the premise of theoretical basis, but there are still shortcomings that need to be improved in grass-roots applications. In the study, the following conclusions were mainly obtained.

In terms of the obstacles to the development of traditional Chinese medicine in the grassroots application, it was found through case analysis that there are problems in the grassroots application of traditional Chinese medicine development plans, such as the mismatch between the plan formulation and the actual situation in the region, and insufficient implementation and management of the plan. Suggestions have been made to establish an effective management system, strengthen education and publicity efforts, and coordinate the planning of various development matters in response to existing application problems.

References


