

Discuss the current situation of Traditional Chinese medicine in China

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ABSTRACT

The main purpose of this paper is to analyze the current situation of the development of traditional Chinese medicine in modern Chinese society. Traditional Chinese medicine is currently in an awkward situation in society, and it has good prospects for development while its development is limited. This paper will analyze the current situation of Chinese medicine in society from three aspects: the reasons for the hindrance of the development of Chinese medicine in China, the innovation of Chinese medicine, and the influence of Chinese medicine on the international community. This dissertation uses a literature research approach to refine the article by citing information and incorporating personal insights. The results show that although there are many obstacles in the inheritance of traditional Chinese medicine, the support of the government in the development of science and technology has brought good prospects for the development of traditional Chinese medicine.

KEYWORDS

Traditional Chinese Medicin; Integrative Medicine; Medicine; Dilemma; Society

1 Introduction

Traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) has a long history and profound cultural heritage in the history of Chinese medicine. With the development of modern medicine, the research of traditional Chinese medicine has become more and more in-depth, and its theoretical system and treatment methods have been widely recognized and applied. However, with the development of science and technology, the development of traditional Chinese medicine in modern Chinese society has entered a complex environment. It is undeniable that traditional Chinese medicine has fallen into a bottleneck of development in today's Chinese society. The lack of inheritance and the loss of favor of the masses have brought challenges to the survival of traditional Chinese medicine in modern Chinese society. On the other hand, the collision of traditional Chinese medicine and technology has brought innovations to traditional Chinese medicine, such as the treatment methods of integrated Chinese and Western medicine, as well as the research and development of new traditional Chinese medicine. With the support of the government, the popularity of traditional Chinese medicine is not limited to China but has been encouraged by policies to go global, so that more people can know about traditional medicine from China. This paper will discuss the development status of Chinese medicine in China from three aspects: explaining the dilemma of the development of Chinese medicine, as well as the development of Chinese medicine in modern Chinese society, and the influence of Chinese medicine on persuasion.

2 Body

2.1 Challenge in the development of traditional Chinese medicine

The lack of traditional Chinese medicine inheritance ability can be well reflected in the difference in salary. According to 2.2.1 and 2.2.2 of the Basic Standards for Traditional Chinese Medicine Clinics (2023 Edition) issued by the Central Government of the People's Republic of China in 2023, if a physician legally practices medicine in a traditional Chinese medicine clinic, he or she must hold a traditional Chinese medicine Qualification Certificate and practice in a medical institution for at least 5 years after registration, or traditional Chinese medicine (Specialty) Physician Qualification Certificate, and be registered to practice by the law. The promulgation of this policy has made the registration of traditional Chinese medicine practitioners simpler, but it is undeniable that the average salary of most traditional Chinese medicine doctors in China is a bit lower than that of Western doctors. According to the 2021 China Hospital Salary Survey Report, the five departments with the highest average income in the medical industry are oncology, general internal medicine, cardiovascular medicine, endocrinology, and neurosurgery. Whether it is a traditional Chinese medicine medical student or a Western medicine medical student, the length of time and hardship required on the road to studying medicine are the same. However, in the end, the difference in salary after their work also makes most medical students choose the path of Western medicine, and the decrease in the number of Chinese medicine medical students has greatly limited the inheritance of Chinese medicine.

In addition, the special teaching and training mechanism of traditional Chinese medicine also makes the development of traditional Chinese medicine difficult. The emphasis on inheritance in Chinese medicine is between the master and the apprentice. That is, the apprentice stays with the master all year round, and slowly masters the master's traditional Chinese medicine skills from scratch through the ears and eyes, and when the apprentice learns all the skills of the master, this completes the inheritance between the master and the apprentice. Subsequent apprentices can become masters and give their apprentices the knowledge that their master has taught them. Nowadays, the teaching system of medical schools in Chinese society is the same as that of Western medicine, that is, the diagnosis of diseases through data and modern science. However, traditional Chinese medicine relies more on experience and prescriptions, and the master-apprentice system can maximize the inheritance of traditional Chinese medicine diagnosis. However, it is difficult to obtain formal degrees and medical qualifications, which makes it difficult to train traditional Chinese medicine successors, which is also one of the challenges in the development of traditional Chinese medicine.

In terms of treatment, the particularity of the treatment of traditional Chinese medicine has led to the limited development of traditional Chinese medicine in modern Chinese society. For traditional Chinese medicine, taking a conservative approach and making medicines from various herbs for patients to take leads to the problem of the length of treatment. The different ingredients of the drugs used in the treatment of each disease indicate that the length of treatment will also be different, and a course of treatment for some diseases may be as small as one month to reduce the severity of the disease. However, for other diseases, the course of treatment may not improve in a year or two, or even longer, and this long treatment wastes the patient's valuable time. In addition, the pulse pattern is a very critical point in the treatment of traditional Chinese medicine, and the pulse pattern changes every day, which leads to a person who may have to consult a traditional Chinese medicine doctor every other day and adjust the traditional Chinese medicine he consumes. Generally speaking, the cost of an ordinary traditional Chinese medicine consultation is about 100 to 200 yuan, and if the patient goes to the clinic every day, then their annual expenditure on traditional Chinese medicine is as high as 36,500 yuan to 73,000 yuan, and this high price is

generally unaffordable for working families in Chinese society, and this cost does not include other expenses such as the production of Chinese herbal medicines. And it is also very inconsistent with the lifestyle of most modern workers. This also leads to the fact that most patients will choose a more scientific and rapid treatment method of Western medicine because the treatment course of Western medicine will be shorter and less time-saving under the same treatment effect.

2.2 The development and innovation of traditional Chinese medicine in modern society

In recent years, the Chinese medicine industry has ushered in a wave of enthusiasm. According to China's "2020 Statistical Summary Report on the Development of Traditional Chinese Medicine", the number of traditional Chinese medicine clinics increased by 9.9% compared with 2019, while the number of traditional Chinese medicine hospitals nationwide increased by 250 compared with last year. In addition, according to the 2021 Statistical Bulletin on the Development of China's Health Industry, there were 4,452 new traditional Chinese medicine clinics between 2020 and 2021, with a growth rate of 7%. In addition to the increase in traditional Chinese medicine facilities, the number of traditional Chinese medicine personnel has increased significantly in recent years. With the opening of more universities of traditional Chinese medicine, this type of university has injected a lot of fresh blood into the cause of traditional Chinese medicine. According to the 2021 Statistical Communiqué on the Development of China's Health Undertakings and the 2020 Statistical Summary Report on the Development of Traditional Chinese Medicine, the above two reports pointed out that between 2019 and 2021, the total number of traditional Chinese medicine personnel increased from about 767,000 in 2019 to 884,000, a growth rate of 15.2%. The trend of increasing the number of local Chinese medicine practitioners and Chinese medicine facilities, also indicates that China's medical system and system will usher in a major "reshuffle" in the future. Under the trend of the revival of traditional Chinese medicine, the coexistence of traditional Chinese medicine and Western medicine is the optimal solution for the Chinese medical system. This is not only the road to the revival of traditional Chinese medicine in modern Chinese society, but also the construction of a new framework for the future medical system in China.

Integrative medicine is a term that has received a lot of attention in recent decades. As the name suggests, it is to combine the theoretical knowledge of traditional Chinese medicine with the knowledge of Western medicine and apply it to clinical treatment. Integrative medicine has played a key role during the pandemic. At the time of the outbreak of the epidemic, the treatment regimen led by "three drugs and three prescriptions" had a good blocking effect on the epidemic. According to the notice of the press conference on the prevention and control of the new crown pneumonia epidemic in Hebei Province in 2021, under the intervention of integrated traditional Chinese and Western medicine, the number of cases in Hebei Province reached a peak on January 6 since the first case was reported on January 2, and began to decline significantly after January 16, and the number of reported cases for 13 consecutive days from January 25 to February 6 was below 10. During the pandemic, Chinese and Western medicine have cooperated and given full play to their respective strengths in the fight against the pandemic, which is one of the most important reasons for China's remarkable achievements in the fight against the pandemic. The embodiment of integrated traditional Chinese and Western medicine treatment not only has outstanding performance in epidemic blocking but also plays a key role in the treatment of malaria. traditional Chinese medicine treatment focuses on individualized treatment, which means that each patient will have a unique treatment plan according to their own body and symptoms. Due to its unique advantages, traditional Chinese medicine has opened up new treatment methods for the treatment of some incurable diseases that could not be broken through before. In 2015, China's first medical researcher, Ms. Tu Youyou, won the Nobel Prize in Medicine that year. Her discovery of artemisinin was based on

Chinese medicinal materials and extracted by modern scientific and technological means. Artemisinin is a medical antimalarial drug, and the discovery of this drug has saved countless lives and found an antidote to malaria that was previously difficult for scientists to break through. Traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) seems to be a very old and distant concept in the eyes of many people, but it has become the forefront of modern life sciences when combined with modern technology and has provided many new treatment ideas for global medical care.

With the development of modern science and technology, traditional Chinese medicine has gradually become more technological. Subsequently, many equipment such as traditional Chinese medicine intelligent diagnosis systems have emerged to improve the efficiency and accuracy of traditional Chinese medicine diagnosis. One of the companies is CASMED, which mainly promotes "intelligent Chinese medicine", that is, using a variety of modern scientific equipment and advanced artificial intelligence algorithms to analyze and dialectically analyze patients from an objective perspective and propose treatment methods through the objective collection and intelligent analysis, to help traditional Chinese medicine physicians make final judgments. The emergence of intelligent traditional Chinese medicine equipment can well unify the means of treatment of each disease in traditional Chinese medicine, further promote the standardization of traditional Chinese medicine, avoid the occurrence of many misdiagnoses and other similar situations, and solve the problem of limited development of traditional Chinese medicine due to the lack of experience and knowledge transfer of physicians in traditional Chinese medicine. In addition, the emergence of these intelligent machines can also solve the problem of insufficient number of traditional Chinese medicine physicians. With the help of this scientific and technological equipment, some common or common diseases can be directly reviewed by the machine and directly diagnose the patient, which effectively reduces the pressure on traditional Chinese medicine physicians, so that they do not waste time on ordinary diseases, and solve the problem of the shortage of traditional Chinese medicine physicians in Chinese society today, so that their work can be more focused on the treatment of some uncommon incurable diseases, and make more contributions to the cause of traditional Chinese medicine in China.

2.3 Global recognition/popularization of traditional Chinese medicine

In the eyes of most people, traditional Chinese medicine products are very healthy, while most Western medicines contain ingredients that are not good for the body, and long-term use will cause irreversible damage to the human body. As an herb, Chinese medicine is very common in life, so many people will choose to boil Chinese medicine or use Chinese medicine herbs to soak in wine and finally achieve health preservation. But what most people don't know is that Chinese herbal medicines are no less harmful to the human body than Western medicines. The toxicity and non-toxicity of traditional Chinese medicine are also an important part of the medicinal properties of traditional Chinese medicine. Biased (toxic) can regulate the bias of yin and yang in the human body, to achieve a relative balance between yin and yang, so that the disease can be cured; if the bias is too much, it can lead to bias, which can damage the balance of yin and yang in the human body, resulting in adverse reactions. In recent decades, adverse reactions caused by Chinese herbal medicines are not uncommon. For example, in 1993, there was a diet tea incident in Belgium and in the late 20th century, there was a small chai hu soup incident in Japan. Both of the above are typical cases of physical injury to the user due to the presence of Chinese herbal products in the product.

However, we have to admit that there are two sides to the important. However, it is still undeniable that traditional Chinese medicine still plays a non-negligible role in the treatment of some incurable diseases, and the popularity of traditional Chinese medicine has slowly entered the global scope with the Belt and Road policy.

The Belt and Road Initiative is a concept of cooperative development put forward by China in the 21st century, which refers to the relationship between China and its related countries through infrastructure, transportation, interconnection, trade, and investment. Under the leadership of the "catalyst" of the Belt and Road Initiative, traditional Chinese medicine has been rapidly moving toward the global public's vision. Up to now, traditional Chinese medicine has spread to 197 countries and regions, 30 overseas centers of traditional Chinese medicine have been established in the Belt and Road Initiative, and the content of traditional Chinese medicine has been included in 16 free trade agreements and 31 national traditional Chinese medicine service export bases have been built. In China, several bases for international cooperation in traditional Chinese medicine have been built, which also cooperate with ASEAN, ASEAN, the European Union, the African Union, CELAC, and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. During the global epidemic, anti-epidemic pharmacies centered on traditional Chinese medicine have not only been used in China but also in many countries and regions abroad. According to 1.2.1 of the "Report on the Development of International Cooperation in the Field of Traditional Chinese Medicine in the Belt and Road Initiative" released by China's Belt and Road Network, China has released traditional Chinese medicine treatment methods for the new coronavirus in English, French, Spanish and other Chinese languages, and promoted the experience of Chinese medicine in fighting the epidemic to more than 150 countries and regions, and sent Chinese medicine experts to 29 countries and regions to assist in the fight against the epidemic. In February 2022, the World Health Organization convened an expert evaluation meeting on the treatment of new coronavirus infection with traditional Chinese medicine, and most of the experts showed their recognition of traditional Chinese medicine in their reports after the sharing and discussion by Chinese doctors.

3 Conclusion

Throughout the development of traditional Chinese medicine in modern society, it is experiencing the dilemma of limited development. However, with the development of science and technology, the combination of science and technology and traditional Chinese medicine has created new ideas for the medical field. The modernization of traditional Chinese medicine and globalization have undoubtedly opened a new path for traditional Chinese medicine to help it get out of the bottleneck. It is undeniable that there is still a long way to go for the revival of traditional Chinese medicine, and the improvement and perfection of education, scientific research, policy, and other aspects of China's modern society, will help the Chinese medicine industry to leave its footprints in China. On a global scale, the progress of science and technology, and the gradual improvement of the standardization and scientificization of traditional Chinese medicine are also destined to have unlimited potential in the future. All in all, traditional Chinese medicine has a rapid development momentum in China and even around the world, and this development trend continues and will reach higher heights in the future when Traditional Chinese Medicine will be a powerful tool to explore and solve human health problems, and also a bridge to work together to build a community with a shared future for mankind.

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