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HEALTH AND CONTAGIOUS DISEASES IN IZMIR DURING 1960S

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Abstract

During 1960s, in Turkey, awareness of health, expansion of health services and efforts of educating health personnel started to increase. The presence of Ege University made Izmir a health center. Unfortunately there were still contagious diseases and they were threatening the public health.

In this article the contagious diseases of the period and the precautions against those diseases are discussed. Subject is discussed specific to Izmir. After the health institutions are mentioned briefly the contagious diseases are examined.

Key words: 1960, health, contagious diseases, epidemic, health personnel, health institutions

1960'LI YILLARDA İZMİR'DE SAĞLIK VE BULAŞICI HASTALIKLAR

Öz

1960'lı yıllar Türkiye'nin sağlık alanında bilinçlendiği, sağlık hizmetlerinin yaygınlaştığı ve sağlık personeli yetiştirme çabasının arttığı yıllardı. Ege Üniversitesi'nin varlığı İzmir kentini bir sağlık merkezi yapmıştı. Ne yazık ki, salgın hastalıklar kentte hala varlığını sürdürüyor ve halk sağlığını tehdit ediyordu.

Bu makalede dönemin bulaşıcı hastalıkları ve bu hastalıklara karşı alınan önlemlerden bahsedilmektedir. Konu, İzmir özelinde ele alınmıştır. İzmir'deki sağlık kurumları ve sağlık personeline kısaca değindikten sonra bulaşıcı hastalıklar konusuna geçilmiştir.

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Anahtar Kelimeler: 1960'lar, sağlık, bulaşıcı hastalıklar, salgınlar, sağlık personeli, sağlık kurumları.

INTRODUCTION

During 1960s there were progress in three different branches to bring health services to public and raise public health awareness. On one hand preventive medicine were carrying out on the other hand curative medicine works that supported preventive medicine were doing and in the meantime the health schools were established in order to train sufficient number of health personnel. Education of the public about health, improvement in nutritional conditons, dissemination of vaccination campaigns and population planning were only few of the works that were carried out under the field of preventive medicine. Izmir was a city that attracted many patients due to its geographical and economical location. Moreover location of Ege University made Izmir more attractive in terms of health. But it was seen that people who lived in the villages and towns could not benefit health services. For this reason, 1960s were the years of changes in the health policies. A priority was given to establish clinics that gave outpatient or home-cure treatments which could reach the public easily. Polyclinics that aimed ambulatory treatment or gave the opportunity of small operations were built. The first examles of those polyclinics were "*shed polyclinics*". Samantepe and Mehtapepe dispenseries that were connected with Esrefpasa Hospital were the first examples¹. In fact there were not any dispenseries in Samantepe in 1967². Because of this shed polyclinics were vital in these districts. The implementation that started in 1968 included seven shanty settlements in the centre and outskirts of Izmir. Besides vaccination campaigns began between 1965-1968 and applied to whole citizens in Izmir³. As a result of the importance Izmir gave to health organizations, health services were carried out succesfully in Izmir during 1960s.

1. Health Personnel and Health Institutions

In 1960s the health institutions were divided into two: inpatient and outpatient. Inpatient health institutions were hospitals, infirmaries and health centers. Sometimes if required the dispenseries could provide inpatient services; the number of them were a few. Outpatient health institutions were centers for maternal and infant health, community clinics, dsipanceries and sanitariums.

¹ 1967 *Izmir City Annual*, pp.194-195.

² TC Prime Ministry States Archives General Directorate Republic Archive "İzmir Samantepe Semtinin Sağlık İhtiyaçları", Yer: 30-1-0-0 / 77 - 486 - 7, Date:03.06.1967.

³ 1967 *Izmir City Annual*, ps.196.

Health personnel consisted of doctors, dentists, nurses, midwives, health officers, chemists⁴ and pharmacists. In the beginning of 1960 8.214 doctors, 1.367 dentists, 1.658 nurses, 3.550 health officers and 3.219 midwives were working in Turkey⁵. When these numbers were compared with the number of the health personnel in İzmir, it is seen that 8.71 % of the doctors, 6.21 % of the dentists, 12.78 % of the nurses, 8.26 % of the midwives and 3.21 % of the health officers were working in İzmir. When the 1966 statistics data was examined, 11.355 doctors, 2.140 dentists, 5.039 nurses, 5.180 health officers and 4.964 midwives were working in health institutions⁶. According to the numbers 5.47 % of the doctors, 5.32 % of the dentists, 2.44 % of the nurses, 3.55 of the health officers and 6.38% of the midwives were working in İzmir. It is worth noting that the numbers did not show the increase from 1960 to 1966. There could be departures from İzmir because of appointments, resignation or various reasons or there could be people who came from different cities. The numbers show the number of the working health personnel during the aforesaid years.

Table:1.1 The number of the health personnel between 1960-1967 in İzmir

İzmir	Doctors		Chemists	Pharmacists	Dentists	Nurses	Midwives	Health Officers
	Qualified	Unqualified						
1960	360	356	4	124	85	212	266	114
1961	332	220	4	118	93	115	136	126
1962	343	381	20	121	83	81	166	149
1963	464	339	12	129	105	281	272	313
1964	563	323	13	128	97	286	252	310
1965	605	365	14	140	105	284	250	140
1966	432	189	11	184	114	123	317	184
1967	474	354	26	144	84	267	235	165

⁴ *ibid*, p.196.

⁵ TC Prime Ministry State Statistics Institute Statistical Indicators 1923-1991, pgs.63-65.

⁶ *ibid.*, p.65.

Source: The table is prepared by the author by using the data from 1963 to 1967 from p. 196 of Izmir City Annual; the data between 1960-1962 from pgs 125-128 from Statistics Annual.

The hospital that were connected with the Ministry of Health were İzmir Devlet Hastanesi /Izmir State Hospital, Çocuk Hastanesi /Children's Hospital, Göğüs Hastalıkları Hastanesi / Chest Diseases Hospital; the private ones were Özel Konak Hastanesi /Private Konak Hospital, Doktorlar Hastanesi / Doctors' Hospital, İzmir Sıhhat Evi; the ones that belonged to the minorities were Fransız Hastanesi /French Hospital, Karataş Musevi Hastanesi / Karatas Jews Hospital, the ones belonged to other institutions were Eşrefaşa Belediye Hastanesi / Esrefpaşa Municipality Hospital, Sosyal Sigortalar Kurumu İzmir Hastanesi / Social Security Administration Izmir Hospital, Devlet Demiryolları İzmir Hastanesi / State Railways izmir Hospital⁷.

Izmir State Hospital was the oldest one among them. In 1961, 17.665 people were treated; 115.834 people were examined. 6.270 people had medical operations. There were 1.072 births, 15.734 people had radiography, 17.161 had laboratory examination. According to this data, it is seen that 19 patients had operations on a day and 600 patients were examined⁸. Population increase in Izmir day by day caused failure at health services. Although Izmir State Hospital had 555 inpatient bed availability, 683 inpatient were seen after 2.000 apply. The other patients were on the stretchers, tables or on the floor. The number of the doctors and nurses were insufficient. A doctor had 15 seconds for a patient. Doctors were examining at least 2.000 patients on a day, moreover they did not have time for their own services most of the time⁹.

The second most important institutions in health sector were pharmacies. There were 93 pharmacies and 118 pharmacists in 1960; 99 pharmacies and 121 pharmacists in 1961; 105 pharmacies and 142 pharmacists in 1962, 110 pharmacies and 129 pharmacists in 1963; 115 pharmacies and 128 pharmacists; 128 pharmacies and 140 pharmacists in 1965; 135 pharmacies and 167 pharmacists in 1966; 144 pharmacies and 184 pharmacists in 1967¹⁰. In 1968 there were 14 pharmacies in Karsiyaka. These were Dermancı Pharmacy, Ferah Pharmacy, Güven Pharmacy, Karşıyaka Pharmacy, Bizim Pharmacy, Kenan Pharmacy, Süller Pharmacy, Nilüfer Pharmacy, Nergiz Pharmacy, Deniz Pharmacy, Büyükçiğli Pharmacy, Önen Pharmacy and Hasan Öğüt Pharmacy¹¹.

⁷ 1967 *Izmir City Annual*, p.197.

⁸ Hasan Anar, "Devlet Hastanesi Geçen Yıl 17.603 Hastayı Tedavi Etti.", *Yeni Asır*, 22 January 1962.

⁹ Ahmet Yazıcıoğlu, "İzmir'de Hastalar Yerlerde Yatıyor.", *Ege Ekspres*, 22 September 1967.

¹⁰ *TC Prime Ministry State Statistics Institute Statistics Annual 1968*, p.95.

¹¹ *Karşıyaka Annual 1968*, p.81.

2.Contagious Diseases

During 1960s, the contagious diseases continued affecting people. Malaria, tuberculosis, leprosy, syphilis, typhoid, diphtheria, measles, rabies were just few of them. Venereal diseases, sexually transmitted and microbial were seen as the diseases that threnatened human health by World Health Ogranization during the second half of the 20th century. Syphilis did not endanger in Turkey but in all countries in the world syphilitic patient number was increasing. The rate started to increase in 1957 and became higher than the years of 2nd World War. According to the official statistics, the number of the syphilitic patients increased 300% in France. During the same period, the number of the syphilitic patients increased from 216.476 to 375.506. In England, 37.000 gonorrhoea and 2.000 syphilitic patients were diagnosed in 1967. In France, 2.000 syphilitic patients went to Saint-Lpuise Hospital everyday. According to World Health Organization reports, there were 65.000.000 syphilitic patients in the world¹². In Turkey, 47.565 syphilitic patients were recorded in 1960 and this number decreased 23.247 in 1967¹³.

In the beginning of 1960, syphilis was not a threat in Izmir; but continued its existence in Turkey. According to 1965 statistics 116 of 20.000 syphilic patients were living in Izmir. The number was 283 in 1966 and 231 in 1967. Patients were under strict health controls, their blood tests were performed regulary and it was expected that their treatment would be completed in a short time. As syphilis, leprosy were not a threat in Izmir. In 1967 21 of 26.000 leprosy patients were living in Izmir. They were not in the city cente, they were in the villages of Kiraz and Odemis. Patients were regulary examined and it seemed that they got over contagiousness period¹⁴.

According to the studies that carried on by Venereal Diseases Examination Centre, 29.582 women who were working in brothels, gonorrhoea was detected in 490 and they were treated and blood tests were done to 890 women and they had syphilis control. In the same year, the number of women coming from brothels were 171, escaping from them wwere 125, number working voluntarily were 22. As a result of the works in the scope of venereal diseases, 23 brothels, 3 hotels, 1 shop and 4 clubs were sealed. 4 clubs, 1 night club, 1 dentist clinic, 3 shops and 8 borthels were sealed in 1963. That year, 51 women came from different brothels, 18 women escaped, 7 women worked voluntarily. Venereal Diseases Examination Centre was doing all the controls of those women and they were under strict controls. In Izmir 21.582 women were examined, gonorrhoea was seen in 718, and blood samples were taken from 703 women for syphilis control. In 1964 the number of the women that were examined was 29.401, the

¹² Compiled by T.Y," Frengi Son 5 Yilda %300 Arttı.", *Demokrat İzmir*, 23 October 1968.

¹³ *TC Prime Ministry State Statistics Institute Turkey Statistics Annual 1968*,p.99.

¹⁴ 1967 *Izmir City Annual*, p.205.

number with gonorrhoea diagnosis was 765, the number of the women who gave blood samples for syphilis was 945. In the same year, 286 women came from other brothels, 110 women escaped from brothels and 29 women worked voluntarily. In that year number of the houses selaed was 18, the number of the night clubs was 1, the number of the hotels and shops was two each¹⁵.

1966, a vaccination campaign was started against contagious diseases. The vaccination campaign was applied to the people who were living in the shanty areas, factory workers and the citizens living in the family houses and the results were successful. Health teams visited the houses of the people who had contagious diseases and took the necessary precautions. Reported contagious diseases were typhoid, diphtheria, inf. Hepatitis, measles, meningitis, poliomyelitis, brucellosis, scarlatina, pertussis, rabies and anthrax. In 1965, 39 typhoid patients, 53 hepatitis patients, 329 measles patients, 14 meningitis patients, 5 poliomyelitis patients, 4 brucellosis patients, 14 scarlatina patients and 11 pertussis patients were seen. After the interventions there were no death incidents. In the same year 1 of the 75 diphtheria patients was died. In addition to the vaccination campaign, medication was provided and disinfection procedures were carried out in the houses that contagious diseases were seen. The protective vaccines in the vaccination campaign were smallpox vaccination, typhoid vaccination, cholera vaccination and combination vaccine¹⁶. In 1960 there were 31.606 people with smallpox vaccine, 26.923 with typhoid vaccine, 8.107 with diphtheria vaccine and 9.163 with combination vaccine¹⁷. In 1965 there were 95.115 people with smallpox vaccine, 69.712 people with typhoid vaccine, 121.138 polio vaccine (poliomyelitis), 111.712 people with cholera vaccine and 196.215 with combination vaccine¹⁸.

In the beginning of 1960 tuberculosis was still a threatening disease in Turkey. In the dispensaries that were under the Ministry of Health and Tuberculosis Association there were campaigns against tuberculosis, the health teams were trying to detect the patients with tuberculosis by visiting every villages. In 1960 there were 67 dispensaries under the Ministry of Health, 40 dispensaries under the Tuberculosis Association. In the dispensaries under the Ministry of Health, 358.168 people were examined, it was seen that 16.493 people had tuberculosis for the first time, 52.412 laboratory examines were done and 294.881 radiological tests were done. In the same year, in the dispensaries under Tuberculosis Association, 339.959 examinations were done; it was seen that 7.517 people had tuberculosis for the first time; 41.705 laboratory examine was done and 365.693 radiological tests were done¹⁹.

¹⁵ 1964 İzmir Municipal Council Working and Activity Report, p.33.

¹⁶ 1967 İzmir City Annual, pgs.204.

¹⁷ "Belediye Sağlık Müdürlüğü'nün 1960 Yılı İçindeki Faaliyeti", *Yeni Asır*, 28 January 1961.

¹⁸ 1967 İzmir City Annual, pgs.204.

¹⁹ TC Prime Ministry State Statistics Institute Statistics Annual 1960-1962, p.131.

There were totally 120 tuberculosis dispensaries that 75 were under the Ministry of Health, 41 were under the Tuberculosis Association. In the same year 1 million 600 thousand people were examined for tuberculosis; there were teams that were doing tuberculosis controls by x-ray. The health teams were doing tuberculosis scanning controls. At the end of the scannings, it was seen that there were citizens with tuberculosis with the rate of 2.5% in all cities. There were 750.000 people with tuberculosis in Turkey. On the other hand, there were only 13.000 tuberculosis beds in dispensaries and hospitals. The goal of the Ministry of Health and Social Assistance was not to have a single tuberculosis patient in 10 years²⁰. In 1963, Ministry of Health and Social Assistance applied BCG vaccine to all citizens.

Scanning tests were applied to control whether the citizens were patient or not. Even the test results were sent to the dispensaries directly. In this way it was easy to follow-up the patients²¹.

In İzmir, the works of tuberculosis were strict. In 1964 a pavilion with 100 beds were built in Buca Sanatorium. In there serious x-ray controls were done and vaccinations were applied. In 1963, lung x-rays of 70.000 citizens were taken. Some patients were treated in outpatient settings and patients with more serious conditions were admitted to hospital immediately. There was medication help for the poor who had low income²². As a result of the scans that Tuberculosis Association was carried, there were 10.657 tuberculosis patients in 1967. Priority was given to buy new devices for control examinations in every 5 years. In 1966 a mobile radiology device was bought, but it was not enough so a charity campaign was started. During the campaign, the mobile x-ray car was placed in Konak, the lung x-ray of the citizens were taken and tuberculosis tests were done²³. It was decided to organize a regional meeting in order to make the works about tuberculosis more effective in İzmir and its vicinity. Besides İzmir, Odemis, Bergama, Aydın, Soke, Nazilli, Denizli, Buldan, Muğla and Manisa Tuberculosis Associations chief physicians, İstanbul, Ankara, Bursa and Adana Tuberculosis Regional presidents would join the meeting²⁴.

Another threatening contagious disease in 1960s was malaria. The lack of cleaning the city, the lack of sewerages, the large number of the marsh areas, lack of the destruction of garbage and unhealthy drinking water caused the malaria microbes to spread rapidly. During the years of World War 1, there were many people with malaria in Turkey. In some regions the number of the people with malaria increased up to 90 %. In 1957, a health team that consisted of 70 doctors and 4000 officers worked through countrywide in order to annihilate the

²⁰ *Demokrat İzmir*, 18 April 1964.

²¹ "Verimli Hastalar Takip Edilecek", *Yeni Asır*, 30 May 1964.

²² H. Güllal, "Buca Sanatoryumunda 100 Yataklı Yeni Pavyon", *Yeni Asır*, 17 April 1964.

²³ *Demokrat İzmir*, 20 January 1968.

²⁴ *Ege Ekspres*, 18 April 1967.

disease. In 1960s, the ratio of the malaria patients was one in ten in Turkey. Moreover in the regions where the malaria microbe was prevalent, this ration was not more than five in a thousand. In Europe it was extirpated; but it was still a serious threaten in the countries such as Iran, Iraq and Syria. The biggest problem for Turkey was the returning of the people from Pilgrimage with malaria microbe. 80 people in 1963 and 40 people in 1964 brought malaria microbe in Turkey²⁵.

In the beginning of 1960, the biggest problem related with malaria was the blackflies and mosquitoes issue in Izmir. Mosquitos, breeding in marshes and among the garbage contaminated the malaria microbe to humans. Izmir Cith Health Commission requested that city's garbage to be burned in the municipal furnaces in order to fight against mosquitoes and blackflies. The barns in Inciraltı had to be removed for the health of the citizens²⁶. The Melez Small Stream which was lying within Sirinyer was a great danger for the inhabitants of the neighbourhood. Because of the debris and the small stream filled with debris, a heavy smell was spreading around. Along with the warm, the small stream was flocked of the mosquitoes and balckflies and this caused the spread of malaria microbe. At the beginning of 1960, the council dedcided to clean the watercourse of the small stream and to build the necessary facilities. According to the decision, Ministry of Public Works, General Directorate for State Hydraulic Works and Directorate for Second District Hydaulic had some attempts²⁷.

Izmir, Regional Administration of Malaria Eradication was in an intensive studies on preventing malaria. All the houses including 704 villages and towns were visted one by one, health examinations were carried and blood samples were taken from suspects and those with fever. In 1959, 23.321 blood examinations were done and 419 malaria patients were seen. Nivakin was given to 3.918 malaria patients and daraprim was given to 1.126 patients. The houses were sprayed with 59.675 kilos D.D.T and 6.509 D.D.T solutions. In 1960 35.842 blood examinations were done and 45 malaria patients were seen. The malaria patients were recieved 36.195 Nivakin; 13.857 daraprim and 578 primakin. The houses were sprayed with 66.215 kilos D.D.T and WP. Until the end of 1961, 22.714 blood examimantions were done in regional labarotary and 22 malaria patients were detected. The patients were recieved 153.422 nivakin, 79.090 daraprim, 354 primakin. The houses were sprayed with 56.823 D.D.T., WP and 29.398 D.D.T. solution²⁸. It was said that the disease was seen particulary in Cumaovası, Tire and Aliaga. The malaria cases were increasing in the region between Cumaovası

²⁵ *Demokrat İzmir*, 15 August 1964.

²⁶ *Demokrat İzmir*, 18 June 1960.

²⁷ *Yeni Asır*, 15 March 1960.

²⁸ *Ege Ekspres*, 3 december 1961.

and Gumuldur. Diesel fuel was poured to dry the water accumulations. The privates in the Abdullahaga and Fortification Troops in the region were examined and their blood analysis were done²⁹.

Within the scope of struggling with mosquitoes and blackflies, 290 houses and 922 rooms were disinfected and 130.102 clothes were disinfected and 86.029 clothes were fixed in 1962 at Tebhir Evi by the Municipal Health Affair Administration. 14.963 citizens, 9.407 men and 5.556 women were washed free of charge; 1.481 kilos of soap were given to them and 3.430 citizen were shaved. In 1963, the number of the disinfected houses was 246, the number of the rooms was 628 and the number of the disinfected clothes was 99.303. The number of the citizen who were washed free of charge was totally 14.075, 9.432 men and 4643 women in Tebhir Evi, the amount of the soap given was 1093 and the number of the shaved citizens was 5000. According to the data in 1963, 218 houses and 540 rooms were disinfected, 115.854 clothes were sprayed and 97.296 clothes were fixed. Totally 11.128 citizens, 6.476 men and 4652 women were washed free of chareg in Tebhir Evi. The amount of the soap used was 47.300 kilos and the number of the shaved citizens was 5.980. The amount of the medicine and the materials used by the municipality during the disinfection process was as follows: 116.500 kg. of diesel fuel; 195 litres Diazinon, 125 kg. Lizol, 50 kg poisonous wheat, 800 kg Filit Seltax, 703 kg Malathion and 600 kg Dibrom³⁰.

Municipality of Izmir also provided assistance to neighbouring municipalities; within its boundaries and in neighbouring municipalities 2.116.563 medicine and supplies were used in 1962, 1.971.192 in 1963 and 2.314.606 in 1964. With those supplies cesspits of the houses, barns, stables, culverts and chimneys were cleaned; the sewages, watery basements, wells and cisterns were sprayed³¹.

Another disease which was contaminated by unhealthy drinking water, food, flies and insects was typhoid. There were 6.884 typhoid patients in 1960, 5.425 typhoid patients in 1961, 5.817 typhoid patients in 1962, 5.779 typhoid patients in 1963; 3.425 typhoid patients in 1964, 4.019 typhoid patients in 1965; 4.878 typhoid patients in 1966 and 3.354 typhoid patients in 1967. There were 289 deaths in 1960, 221 deaths in 1961, 224 deaths in 1962, 206 deaths in 1963, 137 deaths in 1964, 120 deaths in 1965, 127 deaths in 1966 and 105 deaths in 1967³².

In 1960 Izmir faced with the epidemic of typhoid. The typho microbe seen in Vezir and Osmanaga water caused epidemic in the regions where the water is used. In the city 1.300 houses were using Vezir and Osmanaga water. Those waters belonging to proprietors were cut from their sources and it was banned to use and drink. In one hand the source of the water was cleaned, on the other

²⁹ *Demokrat İzmir*, 11 July 1964.

³⁰ 1964 *İzmir Municipal Council Working and Activity Reports*, pgs.30-31.

³¹ 1964 *İzmir Municipal Council Working and Activity Reports*, p.30-31.

³² *TC State Statistics Institute Turkey Statistics Annual 1968*, p.96.

hand the citizens were vaccinated in the region. In the regions where Vezir and Osmanağa were used, Halkapınar water and drinking fountains were started to be used. Municipal Health Affairs Administration controlled the water almost everyday. Water samples were taken from Bornova, Karşıyaka, Buca and Sasal that met the water needs of the city and analyzed. Besides, samples from secondary waters that were built by benefactors and from the waters that were used in mosques for ablution were taken and analyzed. All the water that met the needs of the city was sprayed³³.

Poliomyelitis was a contagious disease that was seen in children between 0-6. After 1955, the most intensive periods of the disease were 1962 and 1968. Especially in 1968 the rapid spread of the disease in Istanbul worried the citizens in Izmir. In Istanbul, 400.000 children having poliomyelitis microbes were identified and it was explained that the number of the paralyzed was 367. It was seen that there were many people waiting at Centers for Maternal and infant health and Children's Hospitals for vaccination. According to the statistics there were around 110.000 children in Izmir. 46.262 of this number was vaccinated in two years; 45.116 had booster vaccination. From 1967 to June, 1968 there were only 15 poliomyelitis cases in Izmir. In other words there was no worrisome about poliomyelitis in Izmir. The fact that the poliomyelitis vaccination was brought from abroad, it sometimes caused troubles in stocks. Especially the news about epidemics were spread rapidly, families poured along at health centers and hospitals. This situation increased the distress and made families anxious; but the epidemic of poliomyelitis was not at a threatening level³⁴.

The year 1962 was the rabies cases reached at a record level. Rabid animals were wandering in the city, they caused death of people and other animals. Especially foxes, wolves, mice, jackals, bats, cats and dogs having rabies microbe were threatening in the city. There were hundreds of cats and dogs wandering in the city. Izmir Governorship warned the people and requested them to announce the the animals with rabies suspects to municipal police officers. For instance, a rabid dog was seen in Sogukkuyu, Karşıyaka and all the people in Izmir were mobilised to catch it. Especially inhabitants in Semikler and Ornekkoy did not let their children to go out until the dog was caught. People in Guzelyalı, Kahramanlar and Tepecik started to hunt rabid dog with stones and sticks³⁵.

Increasing number of rabies in Aegean obliged Izmir Governorship and municipality to take some measures. Warnings were made in radio, the citizens were informed about rabies. The newspapers wrote about the measures for struggling with rabid animals and encouraged people to participate. The wolves in the mountains of Buca were great danger for the villagers. The attacks of the

³³ *Yeni Asır*, 18-20 February 1960.

³⁴ *Ege Ekspres*, 13-18 June 1968; *Demokrat İzmir*, 21 June 1968.

³⁵ Erhan Ünver, "Radyoda Bahsi Geçen Kuduz Köpek Yakalandı.", *Yeni Asır*, 16 April 1962.

wolves that descended from mountains urged Veterinary Research Institute to investigate whether the wolves were rabies or not and it was found that the wolves were rabies. Then a team of 100 people that was formed from hunters and hunters' clubs in the city went hunting. The measures were taken in Kırıklar, Kaynaklar, Belenbası and Karaağaç. Ministry of Health issued a circular letter and gave information about the measure that had to be taken. Doctors and nurses organized conferences in the city; teachers warned their students about rabid animals; preachers informed the citizens. Besides the Ministry published "Hydrophobia and Preventing" leaflets and sent them to directorates of health and village headmen³⁶.

There were experts' suggestions about the struggling with rabies epidemic in the newspapers. It was emphasized that stray animals had to be under control with joint efforts of municipality and public. 4 teams had to be organized and they had to work in 4 different regions. These regions were Karşıyaka and its vicinity; Basmane and its vicinity; Esrefpasa and its vicinity; Guzelyalı and its vicinity. This would lead innihilation of the stray dogs and cats. The public had to inform police or gendarmerie offices or municipality teams about the stray animals. For encouraging public for participation premium method was offered. Thus, informing the stray cats and dogs would provide financial gains for the public³⁷. Professor Doctor Sevket Yasarol prepared a report about the fundementals of rabies campaing when the hydrphobia cases increased in 1962 and sent it to Izmir Governorship. The report focused on controlling the pet animals as well as stray animals. The races, breeds, quantities and names of the owners had to be identified and their vaccination controls had to be done every six months. The threat of wild animals such as wolves, jackals and foxes that were living in the mountains coming into the villages and towns was a great danger. As a result of the fights of those animals that descended from mountains with the dogs, the rabies microbe was spreaded. Domestic mice and harvest mice were effective on spread of the rabies. Rat poison had to be given to the public after the controls and death mice had to be buried in deep holes. Especially, feeding the cats and dogs with death mice caused the rabies microbe spread. The stray cats and dogs were coming into the cities and towns with the hope of nutrition. Village headmen and gendarmerie were warned about it, it was requested to take measures³⁸.

Stray dogs and cats, unhealthy horses were being killed by Department of Sanitation in order to prevent diseas and their spread. In 1963, 567 cats, 5.295 dogs and 37 unhealthy horses were annihilated. Next year the number went up 786 in cats, 6.784 in dogs and 68 in unhealthy horses. In the same year, rabies vaccine to 344 owned pet dogs; preventive avian influenza vaccine to 684 hens,

³⁶ *Yeni Asır*, 11 May 1962.

³⁷ Şevket Yaşarol, "Kuduz Mücadelesinin İlmî Esasları Nedir? -2-", *Yeni Asır*, 10 May 1962.

³⁸ Şevket Yaşarol, "Kuduz Mücadelesinin İlmî Esasları Nedir? -3-", *Yeni Asır*, 11 May 1962.

smallpox and diphtheria vaccines to 128 hens were applied by Veterinary Affairs Department. In order to take measures against the diseases contaminated from animals, the Veterinary Affairs Department examined 7.462 different animals. Especially the butchers and the shops selling animal products were under strict control against the diseases that were contaminated from animals. In this context, 4.092 shops that sold animal products were inspected, 3.459 of them found clean, 271 of them had to be reorganized, 265 of them had dunning letter, 11 of them were sealed due to selling hazardous substances on human health. In the same year, 1286 kg illegal meat was found, 226 kg spoilt meat was annihilated and 126 kg sausages was detected and annihilated³⁹.

As a result of the measures taken, the hydrophobia cases were reduced in the second half of the 1960s. Moreover, when the statistics in 1965 and 1966 were examined, it was seen that none of the citizens died of hydrophobia. In 1967 there were only 3 hydrophobia and three of them died⁴⁰.

In 1960 in Turkey, the number of the people died of dysentery was 4, the number of the people died of measles was 4, the number of the people died of scarlatina was 5, the number of the people died of diphtheria was 366, the number of the people died of tuberculosis was 55. In 1966 1 person died of dysentery, 371 people died of measles, 5 people died of scarlatina, 169 people died of diphtheria, 33 people died of tuberculosis⁴¹. In the same year the number of the deaths and reasons were as follows: 287 deaths from respiratory tuberculosis, 29 deaths from other limbs tuberculosis, 3 deaths from typhoid, 12 deaths from diphtheria, 1 death from pertussis, 6 deaths from measles. There were no deaths from syphilis, cholera, smallpox and typhus⁴².

At the end of 1960s and even in the beginning of 1970 Turkey faced with a new epidemic. The epidemic was cholera and it began to spread as a disease threatening public health. It was predicted that the epidemic came from Russia and seen particularly in the cities in the south cities near Syrian boundary. It was stated that there was no epidemic in Izmir, but just in case preventive works carried out. Mayor Osman Kibar, Provincial Health Director Reşat Tanberk and Governor Namık Kemal Şentürk were trying to enlighten the public about vaccination campaigns. Despite the information given by authorities, rumors about the spread of cholera disease were began among some citizens. Çetin Kaya, the Health Work Union Izmir Region Chairman said there had been 2 cholera patients in Izmir and added that the government officers put them out of side and sent them to an unknown place. In response to the Çetin Kaya, Fethi Serter, head of Ege University Microbiology Department made a statement and said that the

³⁹ 1964 İzmir Municipal Council Working and Activity Report, p.37, p.39.

⁴⁰ 1967 İzmir Annual, p.204.

⁴¹ TC Prime Ministry State Statistics Institute Statistical Indicators 1923-1991, P.68.

⁴² TC Prime Ministry State Statistics Institutes Deaths in the City and Towncenters 1966, p.48.

cholera patients had kept in quarantine in Karsiyaka and the speed of the spread of cholera was reduced⁴³.

CONCLUSION

After the establishment of Turkish Republic, Turkish people faced with many contagious diseases after long years of war. The people were poor, deprived of health services and ignorant. Ministry of Health and Social Assistance applied new health policies in order to protect public health and disseminate health services. Although these works were succesful to some extent, contagious diseases could not avoided completely. In 1960s, the most important agenda topic of Ministry of Health and Social Assistance was still struggling with contagious diseases. The most common diseases were tuberculosis, typhoid, malaria, cholera and poliomyelitis. The Ministry gave great importance to the works about protecting public health and enlightening the public about contagious diseases. The vaccination campaigns that initiated with the leadership of Ministry of Health and Social Assistance, supplying medicine for the poor, examining the citizens at their home, investment in disinfection of houses, workplaces and schools had great importance.

Public support as well as state investments were important in increasing the number of health institutions and improving the conditions of existing institutions. Fortunately, the people in ızmir were sensitive about this. Financial aid provided by the public to health institutions showed that health conditions in the city was improved to some extend. For Example at the opening of Urla Kemik Hospital donation was collected from the public and public support as well as Ministry support was provided⁴⁴.

As a result, when the period the country was in considered, it is seen that the health investments, implementation of health policies and the efforts raising awareness of the people were effected. During 1960s, a big progress was made in the field of health services.

⁴³ Başak Ocak, Özlem Yıldırım Kocabaş, *İzmir Gureba-i Müslimin Hastanesi'nden İzmir Devlet Hastanesi'ne -Bir Hastane Öyküsü-*, İzmir Büyükşehir Belediye yay., April 2014, İzmir, p.70.

⁴⁴Ocak, *ibid.*, p.60.

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