

HEALTH FACILITIES IN BOSNIA-HERZOGEVINA IN THE LIGHT OF OTTOMAN DOCUMENTS

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Introduction

From past to the present cities seem to be the centers of social, economic, political and religious elements where it is possible to observe them densely. These elements show themselves with the public improvements activities done by both etatism and efforts of the private persons. Social and military institutions, houses, bridges, fountains constructed show the identity of that society and form the face of city. A form of city gathered around the mutual elements such as mosques, covered bazaars and alms houses appeared in the cities of Ottoman with the public improvements activities done.¹ By means of public baths, public soup kitchens, hospitals contained within the alms houses, poor, riches and every segment of the society were able to meet their needs. While these mentioned buildings add a new view to the Islamic city structure in Anatolia and Islam geography, it led to reflecting the identity of Ottoman society and changing the face of the cities in non-Muslim lands, namely in Balkans and Europe.

While Ottoman Empire were making its presence felt in a city with all the institutions and organizations, she was in an endeavor of providing adoption of the society to the new governmental administration by meeting all the needs of the society. In this study, we will handle the issues such as the importance given to health services as a social need, support for the needs like doctors of the health center and drugs in Bosnia-Herzegovina which is an important city of Balkans. And the most important one is that we will give some examples related to the foundation of the hospitals that gives an Ottoman city view to Bosnia-Herzegovina.²

¹ Ömer Demirel, *Osmanlı Vakıf-Şehir İlişkisine Bir Örnek: Sivas Şehir Hayatında Vakıfların Rolü*, Ankara, 2000, p.1

² As it is known, the word hospital (hastane) first used with the Institution of Valide Sultan in Istanbul in 1845. Before this period, hospitals (hastaneler) named as “darüşşifa”, “dar-ı bimar”, “bimaristan”, “maristan”. For this see, Osman Şevki Uludağ, *Osmanlılar Devrinde Türk Hekimliği*, Ankara, 2010, p.72; Osman Şevki, *Beşbuçuk Asırlık Türk Tababeti Tarihi*, (Abbreviator: İlter Uzel), Ankara, 1999, p.121. Since the health facilities founded in Bosnia

Ottoman dominance in Bosnia-Herzegovina started with the conquest of Bosnia in 1463 and continued till the invasion of Bosnia by Austria-Hungary with the outbreak of Ottoman-Russian War in 1878.¹ In this period, 232 inns, 18 caravansaries, 32 rest houses, 10 covered bazaars and 42 bridges built in Bosnia-Herzegovina.² Net information about the number of the hospitals can't be reached till the midst of the XIX century. But it is understood from hundreds of manuscripts that belongs to the science of medicine in the Library of Gazi Husrev Bey in Saraybosna that the region was very advanced in the field of medicine. Even some of these works are the books written in the region of Bosnia.³ But in the documents that we have, we can't find any important health facility in the region except the hospitals that entered into service in the middle of XIX century. Then, how were the health problems of the society solved until this period? When people got sick, they used to fall back upon local healers. They used to utilize from the places separated for patients in religious functionaries, Islamic monasteries and even from Orthodox and Catholic monasteries. They also could go out of state for treatment from time to time.⁴ But this situation might lead to false treatments and fake doctors. The increasing numbers of the ones posing themselves as doctors and surgeons even redound on a provision by Kanuni Sultan Suleyman. Kanuni commands as : ‘‘...from now on, the ones who pretend to be doctor even though they don't have the authority, who haven't visited the head doctor and prove how talented or powerful they are in front of him, who cause confusion in bazaars and continue giving unsanitary drugs will be caught or give me the names and pictures of them so that the requirement of my orders can be done about themselves....’’ in the provision given on the issue of the ones who don't have enough information and ability to be doctor.⁵

In of the documents of Bosnia- Herzegovina that we have, a doctor who worked without a diploma in this way is mentioned. It is stated in the document that the hospital constructed with the funds of Gazi Husrev Bey Foundation wasn't able to give sufficient service because of doctor absence. Because of this, it is stated that a Jewish citizen from the region named Senbil who was dealing with medicine for a

goes into service in the period of using the word hospital (hastane), we find to use the word hospital (hastane) throughout this study.

¹ Aydın Babuna, *Bir Ulusun Doğuşu Geçmişten Günümüze Boşnaklar*, (Translator, Hayati Torun), İstanbul, 2012, p.13,22-23

² Halil İnalçık, *Osmanlı İmparatorluğu Klasik Çağ (1300-1600)*, (Translator, Ruşen Sezer), İstanbul, 2009, p.154

³ Zafer Gölen, *Tanzimat Döneminde Bosna Hersek*, Ankara, 2010, p.225

⁴ Zafer Gölen, *ibid*, p.225-226; We can say that psychopaths were treated in the Islamic monastery of Hacı Sinan and there were patients who went to Wien for treatment. See, Zafer Gölen, *ibid*, p.226

⁵ Osman Şevki, *ibid*, p.225-226

long time was giving health service, but a new doctor was wanted as it was seen that he didn't have a diploma.¹ Even though the date of this document seems to be 1869, wanting for doctors in the region and a doctor without a diploma giving health service show that similar difficulties were experienced before that period. Additionally, it can be easily understood that aforementioned doctor were giving health service for a long time.

As it is understood from these kinds of difficulties, there was a need for renovation and modernization in the field of health as in other institutions of the government in XIX century. These reform movements that are necessary in the field of health have started even before the Tanzimat Reform Era, medicine of Ottoman has gained more modernized view with the activities like opening modern military hospitals, partly modernizing School of Medicine and Ottoman Faculty for Medicine in 1827.² The persons whose professional capacities and abilities aren't known are put down, the operations of doctors and surgeons are started to be recorded. This situation is tied to a legal base with "Regulations for Medicine" in 1861. According to 1861 Regulations, the ones who don't have a diploma in medicine and surgery can't have the title of doctor.³

Actually during this modernization process, the government gives the priority to send doctors on the issue of providing health service to country. Doctors are charged in districts and townships under the name of "Country Doctor". We understand from the documents we have that Country Doctors are charged also in districts of Bosnia. An important source for us on this issue is the petition of a doctor named Bovi. In this petition doctor Bovi states that he heard about charging country doctors to each district in Bosnia for treating the diseases of Muslim and non-Muslim society and he was asking to be inducted for this service.⁴ 1864 dated this document shows us that country doctors were inducted to each district in Bosnia. But inducting doctors to country under the name of "Country doctors" becomes compulsory in 1871 with Medicine Regulations of General Administration.⁵

¹ BOA, İ.DH,597/41597; *Osmanlı Belgelerinde Bosna Hersek*, (Yay. Haz. H. Yıldırım Ağanoğlu, Sebhattin Bayram, Mümin Yıldıztaş), Başbakanlık Devlet Arşivleri Genel Müdürlüğü Osmanlı Arşivi Daire Başkanlığı Yayınları, İstanbul, 2009, p.339-341

² Esin Kahya-Ayşegül D. Erdemir, *Bilimin Işığında Osmanlıdan Cumhuriyete Tıp Ve Sağlık Kurumları*, Ankara, 2000, p.251

³ Erdem Aydın, "19. Yüzyılda Osmanlı Sağlık Teşkilatlanması", OTAM, Is.15, Ankara, 2004, p.190

⁴ BOA, TŞR.BNM, 28/160; *Osmanlı Belgelerinde Bosna Hersek*, p.325

⁵ Erdem Aydın, *aforementioned essay*, p.195-196

As it is mentioned above, while medicine of Ottoman experienced a modern change in XIX century, newly opened hospitals also took part in this reform process. Hospitals going in the service in the province of Bosnia Herzegovina during this period reflected on the archive records. The hospitals opened in the region of Bosnia-Herzegovina on the second half of XIX century were as follows:

- Gazi Husrev Bey Foundation Hospital for Poor (1866)
- Saraybosna Merkez Military Hospital (1868)
- Mostar Hospital for Poor (1872)
- Kızılay Hospitals(1877)
- Izvornik Military Hospital (the construction started in 1863)
- Travnik Military Hospital (it is known that the hospital was in service in 1865)

As it is seen, these hospitals gave service as foundations, civil and military hospitals. and it is possible to reach information about these institutions in the archive documents. Here, we will handle the documents of only three hospitals as an example to hospitals of foundations, civil and military.

According to Ottoman archive documents, the first modern hospital entered into service in Bosnia-Herzegovina was Gazi Husrev Bey Foundation Hospital for Poor. Construction expenses and annual cost of this hospital, started to be constructed in the year of 1863 were to be covered by surplus of Gazi Husrev Bey Foundation revenues. For the construction of the hospital, first of all, 8000 kuruş were spent.¹

In this hospital entered into service in the year of 1866, only men were given service at first. But in a very short time, a new hospital was constructed for women and it was joined to the former one.² We learn from the documents we have that the amount of the additional expenses for this new hospital were 78350 kuruş.³

The biggest struggle for opening this hospital came by Ahmet Asım Bey, the trustee of Gazi Husrev Bey Foundation. Covering the expenses of such excellent buildings with 78.000 kuruş while it was planned to be 100.000 kuruş in the observations, was

¹ ZaferGölen, *ibid*, p.227; Also see, İsmail Eren, “Yugoslavya’daki Türk Sağlık Kuruluşları”, I. Türk Tıp Tarihi Kongresi, 17-19 Şubat 1988, Ankara, 1992

² It is seen that women were age nerally treated in their houses till XIX. century. The women hospitalized since this period were generally poor, homeless and abandoned women. See, Nil Sarı, *Osmanlı Sağlık Hayatında Kadın*, Osmanlı, V.8, Ankara, 1999, p.543

³ BOA, İ.MVL, 566/25442; Osmanlı Belgelerinde Bosna Hersek, p.329

found praiseworthy. He was given the rank of Imperial Servitor Security Officer by virtue of his outstanding efforts and self-altruism.¹

In another document that we have studied, we have seen that doctor shortage was an issue in a hospital which had 60 bed capacities. It is stated in the document that the hospital couldn't give service as required because of the absence of doctors with diploma and there was a need for a Muslim doctor since there was a department for women patients.² Here, it is important to state that because the doctors were subjected to legal regulations during the first half of XIX. century, traditional women treaters became distanced from the medicine institution. Accepting women to school of medicine happened after a century. As a result, we can see that woman-man privacy in Ottoman way of life disappeared for the treatment of patient during the times woman doctors weren't available.³ But we can understand from the document that in such cases, Muslim doctors were preferred. While mentioning about the need for doctors, it is stated as ‘...because there is a special place for women, it is important to find a Muslim doctor in a similar way...’. Upon this request, the Doctor Kolagası Cemal Efendi was inducted to this service with 2000 kurus salary being covered 500 kurus of it by foundation revenues and rest 1500 kurus by municipality revenues.⁴

Help on the issue of drugs and medical equipment was asked from Istanbul as in the issue of doctor. Such a charitable institution being deprived of treatment of patients wouldn't be deemed proper and Pharmacy Institution was asked to do a favor as benevolence by giving enough drugs for 60 patients for a year. This request went down well with the administrative center.⁵ We can see that Ottoman Empire giving so much importance to health facilities during this period, also gave support required for the foundation hospitals.

While the foundation hospitals continued its existence under the name of ‘Darüşşifa’ (hospital) since the foundation years of Ottoman Empire, military hospitals didn't exist in Ottoman country for years. Doctors were permanently employed by wages during war times. Opening the first military hospitals started with the modernization of the army by III. Selim.⁶ With the efforts of II. Mahmud to modernize the army again, many military hospitals were opened.⁷ After that,

¹ BOA, İ.MVL, 566/25442; Osmanlı Belgelerinde Bosna Hersek, p.330

² BOA, İ.DH,597/41597; Osmanlı Belgelerinde Bosna Hersek, p.339

³ Nil Sarı, *aforementioned essay*, p.552-553

⁴ BOA, İ.DH, 597/41597;Osmanlı Belgelerinde Bosna Hersek, p.339-340

⁵ BOA, İ.DH, 597/41597;Osmanlı Belgelerinde Bosna Hersek, p.340

⁶ E. Kahya-A. D. Erdemir, *ibid*, p.232

⁷ Yağmur Say, “Türk Tıp Kurumları”, Türkler, Vol.II, Ankara, 2002, p.323

military hospitals entered into service in Bosnia-Herzegovina were added to the military hospitals opened in different places of the country. Especially the difficulties in nationalism movements and applying the reforms of Tanzimat caused bloody riots in the region. Military hospitals were also very important because of this reason. Bosnian governors often corresponded with the administration center for opening military hospitals that became an obligation this demand rejected because of the expenses was finally accepted in 1865. So, the construction of Saraybosna Military Hospital was started, expenses covered by the appropriation of military building construction.¹

While the construction of the hospital was continuing, some necessities occurred. The poor houses that were made of mess surrounding the hospital were seen unfavorable in scope of sanitation. Additionally, they hindered the air circulation. It was necessary to keep four sides of the hospital clear for providing air circulation. Another necessity that reflected on the documents was absence of bath around the hospital. Because patients going to baths in a distant neighborhood every time were medically disadvantageous, a bath was constructed next to the hospital and clean water was provided for both the hospital and bath.² The striking point here is that the importance given to hygiene in Ottoman health facilities from of old was given importance again in this period. Elements like air, water, baths mentioned in old medicine books on the issues of hygiene were elaborately paid attention.³

While the construction expenses of this hospital were covered by appropriation of military building construction, since there were no money available in Bosnian Military Legion, help was asked from administration center.⁴ 31017,5 kurus for the construction of the bath which wasn't included in the main hospital plan, about 25000 kurus for the value of mentioned poor houses and 30000 kurus for putting up a fenced wall around the garden was claimed from the center.⁵ 55900 kurus of the value of houses and fence expence were sent by the center, but the amount required for the construction of the bath was asked to be covered by the revenues of the region.⁶

In another document dated 1869, 50700 kurus debt appeared more than the planned amount of the construction expenses was claimed to be paid. Because such an

¹ Zafer Gölen, *ibid*, p.230-231

² BOA, İ.DH, 583/40571; Osmanlı Belgelerinde Bosna Hersek, p.333-334

³ Osman Şevki Uludağ, *aforementioned article*, p.17

⁴ BOA, İ.DH, 583/40571; Osmanlı Belgelerinde Bosna Hersek, p.334

⁵ Zafer Gölen, *ibid*, p.231; BOA, İ.DH,583/40571; Osmanlı Belgelerinde Bosna Hersek, p.334

⁶ BOA, İ.DH,583/40571; Osmanlı Belgelerinde Bosna Hersek, p.334-337

excellent hospital which would be a source of pride was being constructed in the region of Bosnia and the claimed amount being not too much, Istanbul accepted to send this amount.¹ As it is seen, the government found building these kinds of structures important for the sense of town-planning as well as the treatment of the patients.

We can mention about Mostar Hospital for Poor as a civil hospital opened in Bosnia Herzegovina. It was the second poor hospital opened in the region of Bosnia for treating the health problems of the poor and needy society. The construction started in 1871 with the aid taken by society and entered into service in the year of 1872. The hospital was operated by the Municipality of Mostar. Two doctors, Mako Vinco and Ibrahim Efendi, served in 1874, and in 1875, a clerk named Ali Efendi and an officer named Abdi Efendi were tenured.² Even though we can't reach detailed information about this hospital, it is an important thing to construct such a hospital in a very short time with the aids of society. Maybe, the hospital not having advanced equipment like military hospitals can explain this situation.

When all these documents are taken into consideration, it is possible to see the efforts of modernization in the field of health in Bosnia-Herzegovina being parallel to the efforts of the Ottoman Empire again in this field. The change and development in the field of health can be followed by the documents that belong to Bosnia. Especially the governmental support given to hospitals opened in Bosnia-Herzegovina which is an important city in Balkans shows that these regions weren't ignored even in most torminous periods. It is a pity that after a little while of the foundation dates of the hospitals, Bosnia was invaded. Some of these eximious institutions continued their existence under the hegemony of new government, some of them went to pieces.

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¹ BOA, İ.DH, 601/41927; Osmanlı Belgelerinde Bosna Hersek, p.343

² Zafer Gölen, *ibid*, p.230

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