



# Analysis on the Current Situation of Inheritance, Innovation and Development of Traditional Chinese Medicine in Hubei Province

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**Abstract.** This paper collects and compiles information on the transmission of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) in Hubei Province (China). Following a review of the literature, it examines the current state of TCM heritage innovation in Hubei Province. The article compares data on the current state of TCM, professional education, and general education in Hubei Province, summarizes the problems with TCM transmission in Hubei Province, and makes recommendations based on this information. It is hoped that this article will contribute to the improvement of Hubei Province's TCM transmission policy. To some extent, this paper will aid in the achievement of policy objectives, and it will ultimately provide reference suggestions for improving the construction of TCM services.

**Keywords:** Hubei Province · Traditional Chinese Medicine · Heritage · Status · Recommendations

## 1 Introduction

In the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak, the use of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) reached 91.91% in Hubei Province (China), with the use of TCM in mild cases exceeding 99% [1]. TCM's real intervention came on 3 February 2020, long after the massive Coronavirus Disease 2019 outbreak in Wuhan, Hubei Province, in late December 2019. But why wasn't TCM used for intervention and treatment in Hubei province during the pre-epidemic period? This paper examines the current situation of TCM inheritance in Hubei Province to promote the sustainable development of TCM inheritance and innovation in Hubei Province.

## 2 Current Status of Chinese Medicine Heritage

### 2.1 Basic Institutional Situation

Hubei Province introduced the Plan [2]. As shown in Table 1, from 2020 to 2022, 9% of new township health centers and 4% of community health service stations will build; the number of community health stations which can provide TCM services has increased by 28%, and village health offices have increased by 5%. This shows that the innovative construction of TCM institutions in Hubei Province in the past three years has been put into practice, and the grass-roots services have achieved full coverage of TCM services.

**Table 1.** The percentage of primary Chinese medicine services in Hubei Province, 2020–2022 [3] [Owner-draw]

Indicators	Year		
	2020 (%)	2022 (%)	Growth (%)
Township Health Centers	91	100	9
Community Health Service Stations	96	100	4
Community Health Service Stations with Chinese Medicine Services	72	100	28
Village Health Centers where TCM services are available	65	70	5

**Table 2.** The number of Chinese Medicine Hospitals in Hubei Province (China) 2015–2019 [4] [Owner-draw]

Indicators	Year				
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Chinese Medicine Hospital	109	115	118	123	126
Integrated Chinese and Western Medicine Hospital	17	18	23	23	24
Ethnic Hospital	3	3	23	2	2

## 2.2 The Situation of Chinese Medicine Hospitals

As shown in Table 2, the number of TCM hospitals and combined Chinese and Western medicine hospitals in Hubei Province showed a stable growth trend from 2015 to 2019. In 2018, however, the number of ethnic hospitals was plummeting. The Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, which is also a major TCM province, attaches great importance to promoting the new vitality of ethnic medicine and vigorously promotes the development and completion of ethnic medicine clinics in Guangxi International Zhuang Medical Hospital [4]. In contrast, the construction of ethnic hospitals for TCM in Hubei Province has been neglected and inadequate.

## 2.3 Medical Education

### 2.3.1 Professional Education

*Degree Education* Few Chinese medicine majors are set up in higher education institutions in Hubei Province, and there is a shortage of reserve Chinese medicine professionals. The Hubei University of Chinese Medicine is the main higher education institution for TCM professional degree education in Hubei Province. Through the research on the number of fresh graduates of Hubei University of Traditional Chinese Medicine from 2017 to 2020, we found that there were 1088 graduates of traditional Chinese medicine and traditional Chinese medicine related majors in 2017, 1113 graduates of traditional

**Table 3.** Allocation of places in Hubei Province and areas superior to Hubei Province for the seventh batch of instructors and successors of the academic experience of the national old Chinese medicine experts [6]

Province (China)	Instructor	Heirs
Hubei Province	33	66
Heilongjiang Province	36	72
Liaoning Province	39	78
Henan Province	46	92
Shanghai	38	76
Zhejiang Province	53	106
Beijing	53	106
Jiangsu Province	54	108
Guangdong Province	54	108
Sichuan Province	54	108

(Allocation of places in Hubei Province and areas superior The quotation is from the State Administration of Chinese Medicine. Notice of the Office of the State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine on the Issuance of the Implementation Plan for the Seventh Batch of National Old Chinese Medicine Experts' Academic Experience Succession Work. Guo Zhong Yao Ban Ren Jiao Han [2021] No.272, 2021-11-04, Approved by the State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine.)

Chinese medicine and traditional Chinese medicine related majors in 2018, 1113 in 2019 and 1098 in 2020 [5]. It can be seen from the data that Hubei University of Traditional Chinese Medicine still lacks the number of talents trained for TCM.

*Teacher Education* The total number of places for instructors and successors in the seventh batch of succession work of old Chinese medicine experts is 1055 and 2110 respectively, from 34 provinces, municipalities directly under the central government, or units directly under the National Health and Wellness Commission. The data were averaged to find an average of 31 instructors and 62 successors per region. As shown in Table 3, the number of instructors and successors in Hubei Province is just above the average, and nine provinces and cities have a much higher allocation of places than Hubei Province. Thus, the level of teacher education in Hubei Province for TCM inheritance is low compared to other provinces and needs to be improved.

### 2.3.2 General Education

*Online Platform Promotes the Promotion of Chinese Medicine Culture* By the end of November 2021, the new media platform in Hubei Province had released more than 6500 pieces of information, with a total readership of 230 million and a total fan base of 4.2 million. More than 150 pieces of science popularization communication materials of more than 20 categories were planned and designed, such as epidemic prevention

**Table 4.** Results of some outstanding provincial TCM in primary and secondary schools [8] [Owner-draw]

Province (China)	Start time	Outstanding results represent
Beijing	2009	Development of a unified school-based curriculum for TCM in the city
Shanghai	2012	Pioneered the creation of a platform system of schools with Chinese medicine characteristics covering all levels of primary, junior, and senior secondary basic education
Jiangxi Province	2015	“Learning Chinese Medicine for Primary School Students” and “Learning Chinese Medicine for Junior Secondary School Students”
Gansu Province	2016	“Local Teaching Materials on QI Huang Chinese Medicine Culture for Primary and Secondary Schools”
Hubei Province	2020	Not have

and control and new crown vaccination. It has set up the Hubei Provincial Science Popularization Resource Bank and Expert Database and established a health science popularization network service platform that can be shared by medical institutions and medical personnel [7].

*Scientific Dissemination of TCM Culture in the Community Through Museums and Lectures* As the capital city of Hubei Province, Wuhan held exhibitions such as “Li Shizhen Ben Cao Gangmu” and “Li Jinyong Experimental Medicine Recipes” at the Museum of Chinese Medicine. In November 2020, lectures on Chinese medicine health were held, with seven front-line representatives of Chinese medicine fighting epidemics being invited to talk about their experiences in fighting epidemics, more than 30 Chinese medicine experts conducting health consultations for more than 1500 visitors, and reading books such as the “Regulations on Chinese Medicine in Hubei Province” and TCM promotional materials. However, the current publicity lacks integration and has not achieved its effect, and the public’s knowledge of TCM is still not high.

*Chinese Medicine Culture in Primary and Secondary Schools* The work of “Chinese medicine culture in primary and secondary schools” in Hubei Province is only in the initial stage, with a low level of development and a lack of systematic promotion procedures. As shown in Table 4, other provinces have started to promote the introduction of TCM into primary and secondary schools very early and have achieved good results over the years. For example, Beijing and other provinces have already compiled unified TCM textbooks for primary and secondary school students. However, at this stage, Hubei Province has only mentioned in its Plan [2] that it will promote the introduction of TCM into primary and secondary schools, but there is no specific policy to regulate this work. In practice, there is not yet a book on the popularization and teaching of TCM specifically for primary and secondary schools.

### **3 Recommendations**

#### **3.1 Strengthen the Education of Higher Education Institutions on Chinese Medicine Knowledge**

The Chinese medical colleges and universities should increase the number of students enrolled in TCM majors, expand the scale of professional TCM talents and increase the reserve of young TCM professionals. These institutions should focus on increasing the weight of TCM courses so that students can learn to use their TCM expertise and skills. It is recommended that a Chinese medicine major be added to the Western medical schools of comprehensive institutions to improve Western medical students' understanding and mastery of Chinese medicine knowledge. This will increase the knowledge of Western medical students, expand the scope of their clinical minds and promote the development of integrated Chinese and Western medicine.

#### **3.2 Introduce a Multi-level Teacher Education Program**

The government should drive schools to establish a diversified model of teacher-education in institutions, promote a mentorship system in institutions, and expand the scope and number of teachers and apprentices in each TCM profession. The government insists on promoting the construction of the "Shizhen Talent Project", strengthening the building of TCM disciplines, and training for high-level compound TCM talents. Support TCM institutions to introduce TCM academicians and national medical masters to jointly build workshops, build 120 workshops for the inheritance of national medical masters, national famous TCM doctors, QI Huang scholars, and famous teachers, and nurture no less than 300 successors of academic experience [9].

#### **3.3 Promote the Introduction of Chinese Medicine into Primary and Secondary Schools**

The Education Bureau can invite outstanding TCM experts and have them compile scientific and standardized TCM teaching materials based on students' receptivity. For elementary school students, the textbooks should be easy to understand, and the content should focus on popularizing the basic knowledge of TCM. The textbooks for junior high school students should be enriched with knowledge of Chinese medicine, aiming to develop students' ability to read and identify Chinese medicinal materials. Materials for high school students need to be in line with the current "Grand Health Concept". The content should focus on developing students' practical application of TCM knowledge for health and wellness.

### **4 Conclusions**

At present, the influence of Chinese medicine in society has become more and more significant. The government of Hubei Province should strengthen the promotion of medical education heritage and promote the development of degree education and teacher education. The Education Bureau should focus on the inculcating effect of TCM cultural

heritage on primary and secondary school students. And should formulate relevant policies and write and use scientific TCM teaching materials for primary and secondary schools to further promote the development of TCM heritage. Only by continuing to increase efforts to pass on TCM in Hubei Province can we enhance the influence and voice of local Chinese medicine culture; and then lay a realistic foundation for local efforts to promote the sustainable development of TCM services.

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