



## **Regional Disparities in the Distribution of Health Care Facilities: Building Evidence for Evidence-Based Policy Making**

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### **Dear Editor in Chief**

Equitable distribution of resources among different regions is more important than other determinant factors in a healthy and dynamic economy. Policy makers seek to reduce the disparity and inequity through designing and carrying out several aids deprivation and developmental programs (1). Existence of inequality in various dimensions is an important sign of underdevelopment. In other words, countries as a known developed countries in addition to have proper social and economic indices, have an equal distribution of income and facilities; whereas indices value and distribution of them in developing countries are low and unfair (2). Reducing inequalities in the enjoyment of resources and facilities is regarded as one of the basic criteria for developing (3).

Health and development are closely linked to each other and can affect interchangeably (4). Health sector as an important social part of any country plays a decisive role in the welfare of people (5). Access to health care is generally accepted internationally as a basic aim in meeting the health needs of people (6). This issue has been concern of community and health policy makers (7, 8). Regional health inequalities are mainly a result of differences in the level of economic development and differences in access to health care facilities (9). It is worth noting that the importance of the health

sector to the extent that improvement of health indices can enhance human and social development and finally leads to the comprehensive development in the national level (10). Regional studies in many countries reveal that specific areas have better performance and have enjoyed the modern facilities (11). After the Islamic Revolution special attention has been paid to the health sector. Iran's Constitution, has defied the provision of basic needs in health care as the responsibility of the government to mobilize its resources to meet the nation's health (12).

The geographical distribution of health indicators (as one of the most important indicators of development) in the cities of Iran is heterogeneous and disproportionate (13). Iran's geographical conditions, have led to the diversity and unbalanced development (14). Similar to other developing countries, some areas compare to small areas are responsible for the majority of production and national income. This means their income is in higher level and as a result they enjoy more public service (15).

To development planning in the health sector, it is first necessary to examine the regional disparities in health care facilities across the national and provincial level (16). Annually the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) to

investigate options for regional development carries out the multinational comparative studies in developing countries (17).

In order to achieve to this goals and establishing the social justice, the resources allocation regardless of the degree of inequality in the distribution of healthcare facilities, it would be vain. The health system does not reach their goals without a comprehensive plan. Health policy makers should pay attention to this evidence in allocation of resources. Today, providing the high quality, valid and reliable evidence for policy makers is the main role of health system researchers. In other words, the lack of high quality, valid and reliable evidence for appropriate allocation of resources can be effect on health of individuals. In this context, building evidence for evidence-based policy making is the responsibility of health system researchers.

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