



Kerman University of Medical Sciences

Faculty of Management and Medical Information

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Degree (MSc)

Title

**Study of Effective factors on intention of dentists to remain in deprived areas
of Kerman Province : A mixed method study**

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Thesis No (10/29/732)

Data (August, 2020)

Abstract

Introduction & Objectives : Considering the importance of oral health on the general health of the individual and increasing the burden of oral diseases especially in deprived and remote areas, the continuous presence of dentists to provide oral health services is very important. The main challenge for health managers and policy makers is to retain dentists and increase their willingness to stay in these areas. Therefore, this study was conducted to determine the factors affecting the tendency of dentists to stay in deprived areas of Kerman province.

Method: The present study was a convergent parallel mixed-methods study. At the quantitative phase, a researcher-made questionnaire, in this phase research population composed of dentists working at centers located in regions of less than 20000 population. The qualitative part of the study was performed using semi-structured interviews with the oral health officials and dentists with at least one year of experience in comprehensive health service centers in areas with less than 20,000 people in Kerman province.

Findings: Age (P-Value = 0.04), Minimum Wages (P-Value = 0.039), Facilities (P-Value = 0.041), Dentists' Attitudes toward living in deprived areas (P-Value = 0.043) and Dentists' family attitudes toward living in deprived areas (P-Value= 0.04) in the quantitative phase of the study and in the qualitative phase based on the interviews, 5 main concepts (individual factors, level of development of regions, social and cultural factors, financial and economic factors and managerial and organizational factors) and 15 sub-concepts affect the tendency to stay.

Conclusion: About 64.2% of the dentists in the present study are willing to continue their cooperation in the future, but the majority of them stated that this presence will not meet the health needs of the dwellers of the region in the next one to three years. According to our study, offering long-term contracts with good financial benefits can be helpful. Improving welfare facilities by cross-sectoral cooperation can improve the desire of dentists to remain in deprived areas.

Key words : Retaining, Dentist, Deprived areas, Attitude toward the behavior, Subjective norm, Behavioral intentions.