



KERMAN UNIVERSITY
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Title

**" Designing policy options for sustainable financing in the Iranian
health system"**

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Abstract

Background and objectives: Sustainable financing in the Iranian health system is important as a key infrastructure for achieving universal coverage and improving the quality of health services. This process involves the collection and management of financial resources to provide health services and aims to increase access to quality services and control costs. The Iranian health system faces challenges such as lack of financial resources, limited access to services, low quality of services, and lack of transparency that require major redesign and reform. This study aimed to design and develop effective policy options for sustainable financing of the health system in Iran.

Methods: This study analyzed the prospective policy of sustainable financing of the Iranian health system using a mixed explanatory method and included four main steps. 1- Through a scoping review of the literature, the results of global studies on sustainable financing solutions were collected. 2- Quantitative data for the years 2010 to 2019 were collected, including financial indicators related to sustainable financing based on the Katzin framework (in three areas: resource mobilization, accumulation and management of financial resources, and procurement of health services). 3- The policy analysis was conducted qualitatively and prospectively and included data collection through semi-structured interviews and document review. 4- Policy options were developed and prioritized using the Delphi method.

Results: In the scoping review, 27 solutions were identified in three categories of sustainable financing. In the quantitative section, indicators related to sustainable financing in the health system were examined and the overall trend of the Iranian health system in these indicators has been facing serious challenges. The research findings are comprehensively analyzed through document review and interviews. Document review, as an initial step, provided key information for

designing interview questions and better understanding the research areas. The results of this review are used to identify challenges and opportunities in Iranian health system financing policies. The analyses are conducted using the Walt and Gilson triangle analytical framework, which examines different dimensions of policymaking. This framework emphasizes four basic dimensions including policy context, policy process, policy content, and actors. Understanding these dimensions and the challenges associated with them helps to better understand the dynamics of policymaking. Information gathered from 21 stakeholders and experts in the field formed the basis for analyzing the challenges and presenting options and solutions to improve the state of sustainable financing policies in Iran's health system. In total, 252 solutions were identified and prioritized in the presence of previous participants.

Cuncolusion: To achieve sustainable financing in the Iranian health system, structural and comprehensive reforms are essential. Improving the efficiency of resource allocation and transparency in management, expanding insurance coverage, and extending services to disadvantaged areas are key requirements. Utilizing new technologies and strengthening cooperation between the government, the private sector, and society can play an important role in improving efficiency and reducing costs. Also, a culture of continuous service evaluation will help improve the quality and accountability of the system. Overall, sustainable financing requires a comprehensive, coordinated, and targeted approach that ensures equitable access and quality of services.

Keywords: Sustainable Financing, Health System, Analysis for Policymaking, Iran, Policy Options