

Inequality in the distribution of general practitioners in the health system of Iran during 2006-2011

Abstract

Background and objectives: Measuring some concepts like level of health, distribution of health care resources, the access and costs is the aim of equity in the health sector. Workforce is the most important resources in the health sector that allocate about 70 percent of costs. We can facilitate the achievement of optimal health care with use of proper staff, if manpower planning as appropriate, most efficient, effective and acceptable. Physician are one of the most important of resources in health sector that pay attention to it based on community needs, is very critical. Given the importance of distribution of general practitioner in order to early detection, prevention of diseases and unnecessary services help to the efficient allocation of funds for health sector to others. Gini, Atkinson, Thile, decile ratio, Robin Hood, Kakwani indices are the most use of inequality indicators that each of them should be the subjects of study use. In this paper we examine the distribution of general practitioner as an important source of disease prevention and also benefits for society individuals and society.

Method: we gathered the data from Statistical center of Iran and Ministry of health and medical education and calculate Gini, Atkinson and Robin Hood indices before and after adjusting mortality and birth rates with use of stata 11 and Excel 2007 softwares. We analyzed the trend of inequality indicators in Iran too.

Results: according to inequality indicators distribution of general practitioner was inequitable and in 2009, it was worse. According to Robin Hood index the redistribution of physicians to underserved provinces could move distribution of this group closer to full equality.

Conclusion: Because Gini and Robin Hood indices extraction from Lorenz curve, thus they should have the same results in analyzing but Atkinson index may have different. According to the results in this paper, we can not use Atkinson index when there is variation in the data. thus inequality indicators can not be considered as complementary indicators.

Keyword: GPs, Gini index, Atkinson index, Robin Hood index, primary care.



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