

Letter to the Editor

Missed Links in the Determination of Challenges of Urban Family Physician Program

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We read with interest the article by Sabet Sarvestani about Challenges of Family Physician Program (FPP) in Urban Areas.¹ The author identified weak infrastructures and poor incentive mechanisms as the two challenges through structured interviews with 17 physicians and paramedics. There are several points that could enrich this study. First of all, this study focused only on some care providers' views, while it neglected the voice of the people and patients (as the main stakeholders), physicians who did not join FPP from the first or who exited the program, insurance system managers and policy makers that may have different views toward this program compared with those who are currently involved in the program. For example, some studies evaluated knowledge, attitude, practice² and satisfaction/dissatisfaction of people toward this program and its associated factors.³⁻⁶ Others showed that not much more than 50% of physicians were interested in continuing or cooperating with FPP.^{7,8} Second, the importance of guideline-based practice in FPP was not emphasized, and currently insufficient guidelines in Iran's FPP was not mentioned, as its importance was emphasized by another study.⁹ Third, egoistic manner of medical specialists was among mentioned subcategories of poor infrastructures, while the attitude of medical specialists about this view was not evaluated. Therefore, it seems that a paternalistic view of FPP could not present a comprehensive view of challenges that urban FPP is faced with. As a result, there are other challenges in urban FPP that were not revealed in this study and recognizing them addresses a more comprehensive view of this issue.

Authors' Contribution

Both authors in this article have deep assessment of original article and writing the letter.

Conflict of Interest Disclosures

The authors have no conflicts of interest.

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Ethical Statement

Not applicable.

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