

## Study of health indicators trend in rural population of East Azerbaijan

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### Abstract

**Background and objectives:** In 1975, Iran started the rural health workers (Behvarz) training project in West Azerbaijan province with cooperation of World Health organization (WHO). In 1977, the government accepted primary health care (PHC) as a main policy to develop the health system. Health indicators in rural population are calculable using Vital Horoscope. This study was designed for assessment of health indicators in rural population of East Azerbaijan.

**Material and Methods:** In this retrospective-analytic study, the rural health indicators extracted from vital horoscope during 1368-1388. Ten indicators about reproductive health, child mortality and environmental health were assessed. Data were analyzed by SPSS, version 16. For assessment of dispersion of the indicators, we used standard deviation for neonatal death rate and unskilled attendance at delivery.

**Results:** In study period, the crude birth rate from 35.7 per 1000 was decreased to 18.36 /1000. Total fertility rate was 5.76 in 1367 and was declined to 1.93 in 1388. The birth attended by unskilled personnel with a sharp decrease reached to 0.77 percent from 46.26%. The neonatal mortality rate reached to 8.12 in 1388 from 21.8 in 1000 live births in 1367. The 1-12 months children death rate was 31.4 in 1000 and was declined to 4.6. The Under 5 year old mortality rate was reached 2.5 in 1388 from 9.8 in 1367. In 1388, 15.23 under 5 year old children died in 1000 live births, 8.12 died in neonatal period, 4.6 and 2.4 in infantile and 1-5 year old period respectively.

**Conclusion:** This study shows that health indicators were improved which is the sign of effectiveness of Primary Health Care programs. Changing in health needs and epidemiological transitions, make it necessary to review and reform the PHC content according to new challenges.

**Key Words:** Health Indicator, Rural Population, Trend, East Azerbaijan

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