The development of health and health care in Tunisia

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Abstract

Our study demonstrates the development of health and health care in Tunisia during the past two decades. This is reflected partly by improving health indicators and secondly by evolution of health facilities in the public and private sectors with the quality of health care and performance of the staff. But despite the remarkable development of this area, there are recommendations to provide for better reform of the health sector. The health sector is at the top of the priorities of the State, taking into account its paramount importance in terms of sustainable development and welfare. The sector has known, since the last two decades, a remarkable development which has embraced all areas in the public and private sectors. It has resulted in many achievements.

Objectives

Deduce The development of health and health care in Tunisia during the last two decades

Materials and Methods

We here used for this study statistical series delivered by NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STATISTICS and Ministry of Public Health, about healthcare infrastructure and Health indicators. These data are spread over the last two decades and cover all governorates of Tunisia. We use simple statistical function and graphical representations to detect the development of this sector, with a map showing the geographical distribution of this development in the liberal sector.

Results

1. Improvement of health indicators and Evolution of health structures in the public and private sectors
   - Improvement of health indicators
     - A life expectancy at the birth of 74.4 years currently against 67.4 years in 1987.
     - A maternal mortality rate of 51.4‰ in 1987.
     - A rate of coverage of births in hospital that has reached 96%.
   - The improvement of these indicators is essentially to the evolution of health structures in the public and private sectors and the increase of medical coverage at the level of human resources.

2. Evolution of health structures in the public and private sectors
   - In order to approximate the health benefits of all kind of society and to ensure the availability in all areas, the structures under the health sector have developed considerably during the twenty years. Fig 1 et Fig 2

The number of hospitals is thus increased from 156 in 3900 to 174 in 2009 and the number of health centers from 1506 to 2063.

3. Development of the advanced medicine
   - The creation of several facilities and services like the National Centre for Promotion of organ transplants, the Center for Emergency Medicine and Trauma Burn Ben Arous, Center for hematology and the National Blood Transfusion Centre, National Laboratory for Drug Control, the National Center for Hematology and Bone Marrow Transplantation. Department of Cardiovascular Surgery at Rafaili and the National Center for bone marrow injection in Tunisia Souissi and Stains, services cardiology in Stains and Stains and service of hereditary diseases and genetic Charles Nicolle hospital in Tunis.
   - The development of the activity of organ transplantation in an evolutionary manner (cornea, kidneys, heart, liver, bone marrow, membranes).
   - The introduction of new medical technologies and advanced technology skills through the National Medical and effective cooperation with foreign medical teams.
   - The development of the local production of medicines on the plan quantitative and qualitative, which has enabled cover 49% of the needs of the country in drugs against 7% only in 1987.

Conclusion

The Health Sector in Tunisia has indeed many advantages. It is diverse, ranging from basic health care to more sophisticated through the heavy conditions. But it must improve advantage on several routes, including the financing of the health and health insurance, the offer of care, the quality of care and the information systems..

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We also tried the rate of increase of number of doctors for different parts of the country to see if these programs were successful in improving the regional balance. Map 1

We see that this evolution is not the same for all of the governorates we distinguished 4 types

1. very important evolution Tunis and Stains. The two biggest town in Tunisia
2. Important evolution which are interested to third town Souiss and also Nabeul
3. medium evolution interested the rest of coastal governorates
4. low evolution for the rest remains governorates.

We can say even with these programs the coastal areas is the most evolved and includes the majority of health services and offers.

Map 1: The rate of avg mentionation of number of population per physician between 1987-2009

Fig 1: Number of Public hospitals and health centers 1980-2009

Fig 2: Number of clinics and beds in 1987 and in 2009

Fig 3: Evolution of health personnel between 1980-2000

Fig 4: Number of population per health personnel 1980-2000

Fig 5: Number of private physician in 1987 and 2009

Fig 6: Number of population per private physician in 1987 and 2009

Fig 7: Distribution of doctor's portion of serving governorate in 2009

we can clearly see the increase in number of doctors between 1997 and 2009. The total number to increase is about the double. The number of population per medicin decreases but we should see if this evolution in the health offer is the same for all governorates Tunisia. Fig 7

Despite the programs established to bring services closer to citizens and to improve the regional balance as that of "Population and Family Health" and the project "to build support for reform of hospital management" and "Creation of inter some regional specialty" the development of this sector is in favor coastal regions and the District of Tunis. Hence Tunisia only has 26% of the number of doctor.