

Equity in Health

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2 November 2022

سخن آغازین

• به نام خداوند حکیم و عادل

• درقران، از معاد گرفته تا توحید، از نبوت گرفته تا زعامت و امامت، و از آرمانهای فردی گرفته تا هدفهای اجتماعی، همه بر محور عدل استوار شده است. عدل قرآن، همدوش توحید، رکن معاد، هدف تشریح نبوت، فلسفه امامت و زعامت، معیار کمال فرد و مقیاس سلامت اجتماع است.

سیاست‌های کلی «سلامت» ابلاغی رهبر انقلاب

۷- تفکیک وظایف تولید، تأمین مالی و تدارک خدمات در حوزه سلامت با هدف پاسخگویی، **تحقق عدالت** و ارائه خدمات درمانی مطلوب به مردم به شرح ذیل:

- ۷-۱- تولید نظام سلامت شامل سیاست‌گذاری‌های اجرایی، برنامه ریزی‌های راهبردی، ارزشیابی و نظارت توسط وزارت بهداشت، درمان و آموزش پزشکی.
- ۷-۲- مدیریت منابع سلامت از طریق نظام بیمه با محوریت وزارت بهداشت، درمان و آموزش پزشکی و همکاری سایر مراکز و نهادها.
- ۷-۳- تدارک خدمات توسط ارائه‌کنندگان خدمت در بخش‌های دولتی، عمومی و خصوصی.
- ۷-۴- هماهنگی و ساماندهی امور فوق‌مطابق ساز و کاری است که قانون تعیین خواهد کرد.

سیاست‌های کلی «سلامت» ابلاغی رهبر انقلاب

۱۰- تأمین منابع مالی پایدار در بخش سلامت با تأکید بر:

۱۰-۴- پرداخت یارانه به بخش سلامت و هدفمندسازی یارانه‌های بهداشت و درمان با هدف **تأمین عدالت** و ارتقاء سلامت بویژه در مناطق غیربرخوردار و کمک اختصاصی به اقشار نیازمند و دهک‌های پایین درآمدی.

Acknowledgments

- WHO: It's time to build a fairer, healthier world for everyone, everywhere: Health equity and its determinants. 2021

Outlines

- Terminology
- Definition of health equity
- Why health equity is important?

Terminology

- Inequality
- Disparity
- Equity

Health inequality

- Health inequality is the generic term used to indicate differences, variations, and disparities in the health achievements of individuals and groups.
- Health inequality might be due to: personal choice, pure chance, and life stage differences.

Kawachi I, Subramanian SV, Almeida-Filho N. A glossary for health inequalities. J Epidemiol Community Health. 2002 Sep;56(9):647-52.

Health disparity

- “Disparity” in a dictionary, simply is defined as difference, variation, or, perhaps, inequality, without further specification.
 - When the term “health disparity” was coined in the United States around 1990, rather, it was intended to denote a specific kind of difference, namely, worse health among socially disadvantaged people and, in particular, members of disadvantaged racial/ethnic groups and economically disadvantaged people within any racial/ethnic group.
- *Braveman P. What are health disparities and health equity? We need to be clear. Public Health Rep 2014;129 (Suppl 2):5-8.*

Health Equity

- Equity means fairness, justice
- WHO: Health equity is the absence of unfair, avoidable and remediable differences in health status among groups of people, **whether those groups are defined socially, economically, demographically, or geographically or by other dimensions of inequality** (e.g. sex, gender, ethnicity, disability, or sexual orientation).

Health Inequity or Health inequality

- The most compelling, straightforward, and concise definition that has ever been offered, and the one that is most widely used globally, is the definition of **health inequity** from Margaret Whitehead in the UK:
- “Differences which are unnecessary and avoidable, unfair and unjust.”

Whitehead 1992

- Social inequality: Measuring social groups differences in health (for example by social class, race, etc.) : Inequity or social inequality

Kawachi et al. 2002

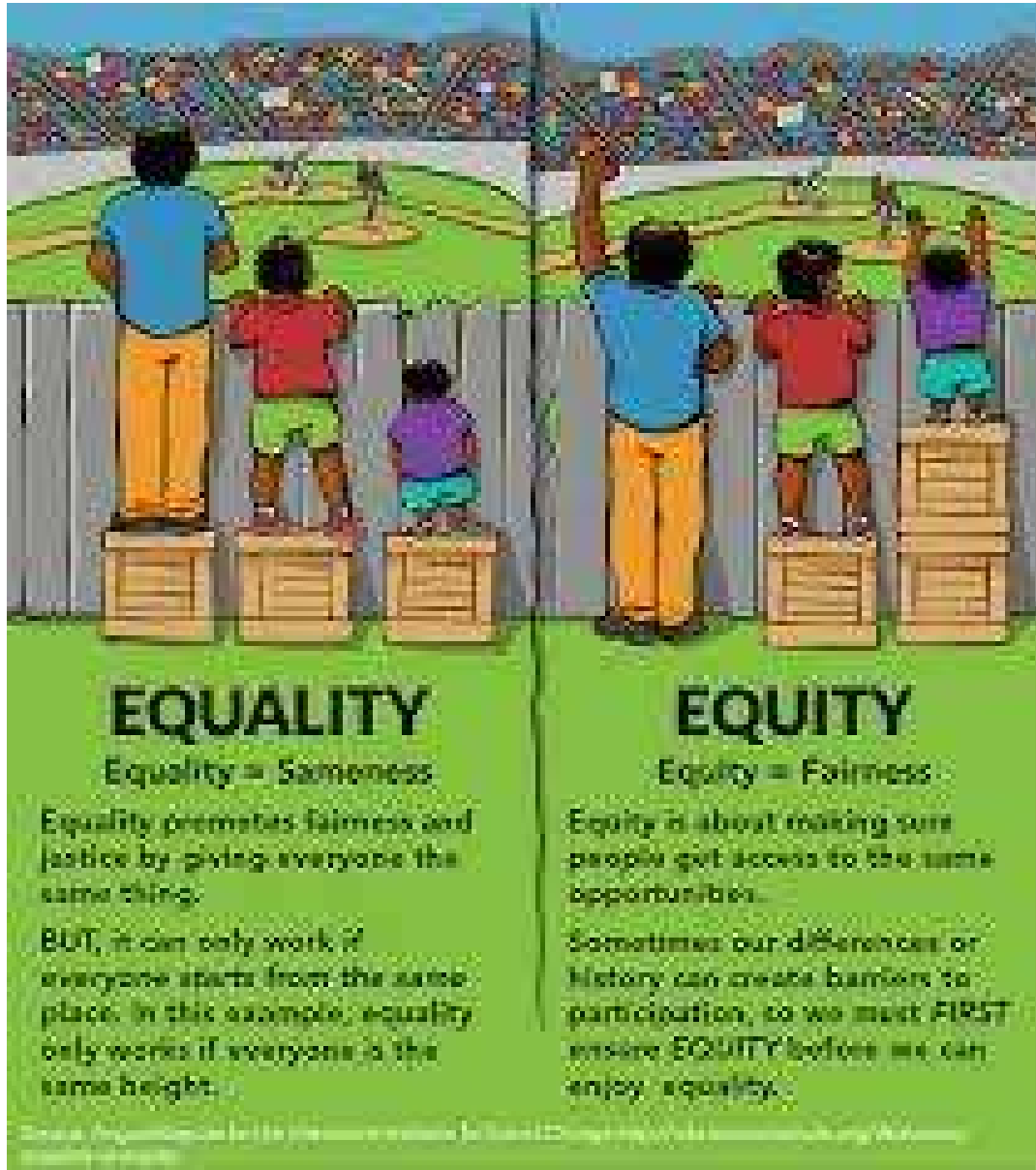
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

- In a report designed to increase consensus around meaning of health equity, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) provides the following definition:

“Health equity means that everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible”.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- Health equity is achieved when every person has the opportunity to “attain his or her full health potential” and no one is “disadvantaged from achieving this potential because of social position or other socially determined circumstances.”
- Health inequities are reflected in differences in length of life; quality of life; rates of disease, disability, and death; severity of disease; and access to treatment.



The essence of health equity

- The essence of health equity could be summarized by three overlapping core principles: (1) social justice; (2) removing obstacles to health for marginalized, and excluded groups; and (3) addressing all determinants of health, not only health care. Equity means justice. Social justice reflects a particular focus on those groups of people who have been excluded, marginalized. Some authors, generally outside the health field, have used the term “health justice” .

Defining Health Equity

- Journal of the National Medical Association; Available online 24 September 2022

Examples of Health Inequities

Between countries

- A child born in Lesotho can expect to live to the age of **51** while a child born in Japan can expect to live to **84**.
- Under-5 mortality is more than **eight times** higher in Africa than in Europe, and developing countries account for **99%** of the world's maternal deaths.

Within countries

- Children from the poorest households are **twice** as likely to die before the age of 5 years than children from the richest households.
- Children in the poorest 20% of households are over **four times** more likely to experience severe mental health problems than those in the highest 20%.

Between neighborhoods:

- Between neighborhoods: In Glasgow, male life expectancy ranges from **66.2** years in less- advantaged parts of the city to **81.7** years in more advantaged areas.
- In London, when travelling east from Westminster on the city's underground system, each stop represents a drop of nearly **a year** in life expectancy.

Example of COVID-19

- As of 1 April 2021, of the half a billion vaccines administered, 86% have been in high-income countries, while 0.1% have been in low-income countries. These countries watch and wait for vaccine supplies and other COVID-19-related treatments and technologies.

Achieving health equity by health sector

- First, it must do all it can to ensure it promotes health equity by ensuring that everyone can receive high-quality health services when they need them, at an affordable cost (getting sick must not lead to financial hardship). This is known as “universal health coverage”, which all countries have committed to achieving by 2030.
- Currently, about half of the world’s people do not receive all the essential health services they need, and about 100 million people are driven into poverty each year by the cost of health care. And it is not just cost and location that affect some people more than others in obtaining health care – other barriers include discrimination that people face within health systems, and unequal levels of health literacy between population groups.

Achieving health equity by health sector

- Second, the health sector needs to take the lead in monitoring health inequities through monitoring health outcomes and health service delivery – as well as working with other sectors to monitor people's living conditions.
- Third, the health sector needs to work with other sectors that can influence health equity and reduce inequities in social services and people's living conditions, such as education, agriculture, environment, infrastructure, transport, finance, or social protection.

Health is more than healthcare

- Housing and health
- Food, nutrition, and health
- Education and health
- Safe environments and health
- Mobility and health
- Economic factors and health

Concluding remark

- Health equity means putting in place policies and allocating resources so that the people with less resources and those who face exclusion and discrimination (on the grounds of race, sex, gender, age, disability, or income) see greater improvements in their health and living conditions faster than those who are better off.