Reviewer’s report

Title: Distribution of health care resources in Mongolia using the Gini coefficient

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Reviewer: Alex Cassenote

Reviewer's report:

The paper "Distribution of health care resources in rural and urban areas of Mongolia using the Gini coefficient" is a very interesting proposal of human resource analysis in health using the Gini coefficient.

I performed a general evaluation of the article, focusing on methodology and results and I found some inconsistencies bellow:

- Major questions

1) The analysis design did not allow completion - (1) The authors concluded that "The imbalance of the distribution of health care resources is the greatest problem in Mongolia." This affirmation is only valid for the distribution per km2 (density per area), since the distribution by population (density per population) did not prove to be a problem.

(2) The authors concluded that "This imbalance leads to the disproportionate accessibility of health care services and poor health outcomes in the nation." A specific study was not conducted to explore this question, it is not plausible to conclul, although it is possible to discuss it.

(3) In Discussion, the authors state that "We found that Mongolia had a sufficient number of physicians, nurses, and hospital beds." This affirmation is very difficult to carry out because is needed a study on the health system of Mongolia: accessibility, financing, labor market, technological resources in health. The reference 14 presents this idea with several examples. I
believe it is superficial to assert "sufficient" resources only with density estimators. The year of publication of this reference is 2013 and not 2015, as described in the references.


(4) I believe the authors are attaching great importance to the issue of geographical inequality (density per 1000 km²). However, if population density inequality (per 10,000 people) does not go along with inequality by area, the best result will only show that there are no resources in places where there are also no people: places with large deserts, forests, and others.

- Minor questions

(1) Demographic density is missing in Table 1;

(2) Mongolian Human Development Index (HDI) is missing, I recommend being presented in the text.

There is no problem with the data analysis, this study presents a brilliant methodological context, but I strongly recommend that the authors discuss better the importance of the results and, mainly, the conclusions.

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