Spatial Distribution of Health Workforce in China: Exploring its Characteristics and Determinants

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Abstract

The misdistribution of health workforce is one of the major challenges faced by the Chinese health sector and hampers people’s access to healthcare. However, this subject remains underexplored as spatial distribution characteristics (such as correlations between regions) have not been fully mapped out, either its causes at the macro regional level. This study attempts to enhance the understanding of the spatial distribution of health workforce in China. On the one hand, this study aims to reveal the characteristics of health workforce distribution and to identify its spatial cluster areas. On the other hand, various determinants of health workforce distribution from the supply and demand side will be tested with the interaction between adjacent geographical units being taken into consideration. By introducing spatial techniques, this study will shed more light on the distribution of health workforce in China than previous studies did. Policy recommendations will be made based on analytical findings, thus offering invaluable resources for making national and regional policies to facilitate a more effective distribution of health workforce in China.

Keywords: Health workforce, spatial distribution, health equity, spatial data analysis, spatial econometric models