

## House of People Participation in Health: A Place to Attend People's Representatives to Plan, Implement, and Monitor Health Programs

Saeed Hosseini <sup>1,2</sup>, Vali Bahrevar <sup>3</sup>, Mohammad Hassan Lotfi <sup>\*1</sup>

1. Center for Healthcare Data Modeling, Departments of biostatistics and Epidemiology, School of public health, Shahid Sadoughi University of Medical Sciences, Yazd, Iran
2. Department of Epidemiology, School of Public Health, Iran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran
3. Department of Health Education & Health Promotion, Shahid Sadoughi University of Medical Sciences, Yazd, Iran

### ARTICLE INFO

#### *Letter to the Editor*

**Received:** 1 October 2021

**Accepted:** 3 December 2021



#### **Corresponding Author:**

Mohammad Hassan Lotfi  
mhlotfi56359@gmail.com

#### **How to cite this paper:**

Hosseini S, Bahrevar V, Lotfi MH. House of People Participation in Health: A Place to Attend People's Representatives to Plan, Implement, and Monitor Health Programs. J Community Health Research. 2021; 10(4): 283-284.

In 1977, the slogan "Health For All 2000" was proclaimed, and the declaration of Alma-Ata was published at the 30th World Health Assembly in the former Soviet Union (Alma-Ata, Kazakhstan) (1-3). The overall goal of HFA 2000 is to achieve a level of physical, mental, and social health for all the world's people in the year 2000. People's participation in health was first mentioned in the statement as one of the principles for achieving primary health care. This principle has been described as "health by the people" and "putting the health of the people in their own hands" (4). Health is defined as a spontaneous phenomenon that should motivate people, and in addition to the

health sector, society should be involved in self-care. No success is foreseen for the health sector without the cooperation and interest of the people in the provision and development of health services (5). Besides, people's participation leads to increased health literacy and individual capabilities, improving individual health by increasing the satisfaction of voluntary participation, increasing social support to increase social communication and ease of access and coverage of services for vulnerable groups, and achieving justice (6).

The House of Public Participation in Health and the Council of Health Messengers are two components of the comprehensive health instruction (aimed at strengthening cooperation outside the health system) monitored by the province's Health and Food Security Task Force (7). The House of Public Participation in Health has been established to attract public participation as one of the principles of primary health care (PHC) and the missing link of socialization of the health system, with the participation of public mediators at both provincial and city levels. Members of the People's Participation Council are representatives of grassroots organizations at the provincial level that transmit health messages to the people and raise the people's demands in the council with the cooperation of their network mediators. In this way, people can participate in comprehensive health programs. However, public participation is not just about consulting and engaging people or using their actual and potential capabilities. Still, the path of participation must

**Copyright:** ©2021 The Author(s); Published by ShahidSadoughi University of Medical Sciences. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

lead to the empowerment of the people. The House of People's Participation was established to facilitate the achievement of the goals of the province's comprehensive health plan, empower people to improve their health and the environment, establish an easy-access system for people, especially vulnerable groups, and their participation in developing, implementing, and monitoring health promotion programs at the provincial level.

The designers' goal of new perspectives in health promotion programs is the community's participation as an active partner in all health promotion-related programs. Therefore, national and provincial policymakers are advised to realize

the important principle of public participation and social justice in health while strengthening the position and empowerment of members of the House of People Participation in Health through education, support, and promotion; using this capacity of the council.

### Conflict of interest

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

### Authors' contribution

S.H. and V.B. conceived and presented the idea. S.H. and V.B. wrote the manuscript with support from M.H.L. All authors read and verified the manuscript.

## References

1. Lawn JE, Rohde J, Rifkin S, et al. Alma-Ata 30 years on: revolutionary, relevant, and time to revitalise. *The Lancet*. 2008;372(9642):917-27.
2. Rohde J, Cousens S, Chopra M, et al. 30 years after Alma-Ata: has primary health care worked in countries? *The Lancet*. 2008;372(9642):950-61.
3. Walley J, Lawn JE, Tinker A, et al. Primary health care: making Alma-Ata a reality. *The Lancet*. 2008;372(9642):1001-7.
4. Hatami H, Razavi S, Eftekhari A, et al. Textbook of public health. Tehran: Arjmand. 2004:77-87.
5. Bagheri Kahkesh M, Mahmoudi Majdabadi M, Riahi L, et al. Factors affecting the occurrence of public participation in the health system: A comparative study. *Iran Journal Health Insurance*. 2020;3(2):116-2 [Presian].
6. Mohamadi NK, Bahreini F. A Review on the Role of Community Participation in Health Promotion Programs. *Depiction of Health*. 2019;10(4):310-8.
7. Bahrevar V, Hosseini S, Lotfi MH. Council of Health Messengers: A Tool to Strengthen Cross-Sectoral Collaboration. *Journal of Community Health Research*. 2021;10(2):103-4.