

2nd World Congress on

Health Economics Policy & Outcomes Research

June 29-30, 2017 | Madrid, Spain

THE COMPARISON OF TURKEY'S HEALTH STATUS INDICATORS WITH OECD COUNTRIES: THE MULTIDIMENSIONAL SCALING AND MOORA APPLICATION

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Statement of the Problem: The most often quoted definition of health is that of the World Health Organization: "Health is a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being, and not merely the absence of diseases and infirmity. Health is one of the important structures of a country and is regarded as one of the important human capital investments with education. Health is important in determining the development and development levels of countries. For this reason, one of the goals of the country's health system is to raise the health level of the community as much as possible. The health performance of the community can be calculated and measured with various indicators. These are called health status indicators. Turkey has been making positive developments in the field of health after the health transformation program put into practice in 2003. The aim of this study is to determine the position of Turkey in OECD countries before and after the health transition program and make net performance ranking of countries in terms of health status indicators.

Methodology & Theoretical Orientation: The Multidimensional Scaling (MDS) was used to determine OECD countries' position and The MOORA method, which is one of the Multi-criteria decision making Techniques, was used to calculate the net performance ranking of countries according to health status indicators in the study.

Findings: According to the performance ranking analysis, while Switzerland has the best performance among 34 OECD countries in both 2002 and 2014, Turkey has the worst performance in terms of health status indicators in 2002. Despite positive developments in terms of Turkey's health status indicators in the 12-year timeframe, it has been determined that in the ranking of performance analysis for 2014, it is only in 33th place in front of Mexico. As a result of the MDS analysis made in 2014, it was seen that the countries were appropriately grouped under two groups. As a result of the analysis, in the first dimension Switzerland and Japan are similar countries in terms of health status indicators and Turkey, Chile, Hungary, Mexico, Slovakia are similar countries in the first dimension. It is seen that Hungary is the country where Turkey is most similar.

Conclusion & Significance: Despite significant positive developments in terms of Turkey's health outcomes in recent years, there are still considerable differences between Turkey and developed countries. It is suggested that countries should improve their models in order to achieve excellence in health systems, as well as benefit from each other's experiences based on good examples.

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