

Mortality Transition and Health System's Development in Libya Mailud El-Amari, Asharaf Abdul Salam and Om Prakash Lathwal

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Abstract

Transition in mortality is an important indication of progress in public health and a precondition for medical interventions and health systems development. Developing countries are always said to be lagging behind in terms of demographic transition especially of mortality. This statement undermines experiences of some of the developing countries, especially that in the Arab Region. Almost all Arab countries have made substantial improvements in mortality. An Arab country located on the northern side of Africa namely The Great People's Arab Libyan Jamahiriya (Libya) sets an ideal example of improved mortality and a health service delivery system among the developing countries.

This paper attempts to review mortality in Libya through tracing the routes, reviewing underlying factors and examining contribution of Government and other public health institutions. This paper makes use of national statistics on major mortality indicators viz., crude death rate, infant mortality rate, under 5 mortality rate, maternal mortality rate and expectation of life at birth since 1950.

A remarkable change in mortality has been observed which had a clear relation with improvement in health service delivery systems. A strong political will coupled with stability of Governmental machineries have contributed to this improvement. Few of the multilateral organizations and regional and national agencies have also contributed in this trend.

These achievements have to be treated scientifically through information base for contributing to changes in health delivery systems and also for accelerating progress in the future.