

A restricted capability set formulated amongst patients

Empirical data analysis based on patients' individual objective evaluation

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Abstract

Background: Nursing services aims to improve patients' independence along their diverse lifestyles, which suggests capability approach can be applied to with reflecting their sense of value. A capability set for independence of patients can be restricted by their situations.

Aim: To formulate whether a capability set of patients for independence is restricted by their situation through empirical comparison of patients' experiences on nursing services concerning independence between hospital- and home-care settings.

Methods: Patients' experiences on nursing care for "physical hygiene" and "watching over and waiting" were inquired with a questionnaire. The two items were dealt as functionings, and each patient's response was plotted in the plain. A capability set was captured by the linear approximated lines on the functionings plane for each patient group in hospitalisation and home-care settings.

Results: Responses of 505 patients were analysed as patients who had the shortage in functionings for independence. For the patients at home, a linear approximated line showed substitutability between the two functionings in all area, whilst complementarity was observed in the lower intervals of the two functionings for the hospitalised patients. Formulation on empirical data analysis suggested that a capability set was restricted amongst hospitalised patients when referring to home-care patients.

Key words: capability approach, capability set formulation, individual objective evaluation

JEL codes: D63, I14

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