To the editor:

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) has been spreading globally since December 2019. At the early pandemic, progressive affected patients and healthcare indicated a lack of proper protective measures and reflected the need for reassessment in the healthcare system and protective measures.

After the worldwide spread of COVID-19, extensive changes have been seen in healthcare systems, including changes in hospital admission patterns, increasing virtual visits due to social distancing, patients’ fear of getting infected with COVID-19 in the hospital environment, and advancing health education for people. Improving people’s health through health education is one of the most significant roles of any government, which helps in disease prevention, health promotion, and overall development. In addition, it was observed that medical procedures alone could not ensure better health because our health is affected by several extrinsic factors, including the socioeconomic status of a community and political forces; therefore, health education and health promotion measures are responsible for educating people about their health and its determinants.

Globally, healthcare systems have majorly focused on “sick care” than health promotion or prevention. However, health promotion should be considered as the center of attention, considering the increasing trend of noncommunicable diseases and the possible infectious disease outbreak (such as COVID-19). In this regard, the international network of the World Health Organisations (WHO) was established by the World Health Organization (WHO) in the early 1990s. HPH program provides comprehensive and well-designed medical services for healthcare providers, patients, the hospital environment, and the community, resulting in health promotion.

In fact, in the COVID-19 pandemic era, HPH plays a critical role in health promotion due to increased attention to COVID-19 and the marginalization of other health issues. The HPH program includes benefits such as decreased hospitalization, improved patients’ quality of life, and decreased health costs. The HPH program is also responsible for promoting health education and preparing people against COVID-19. However, the HPH program, which is permissive for patient education for COVID-19, indeed, several people who need it have not been able to access it due to the low number of HPHs in the Iranian community. Currently, more than 50 medical centers worldwide have joined the HPH program; however, the number of HPHs in Iran have joined the HPH program. More efforts in the following years should be considered to have more HPHs in Iran. We assume that more HPHs can prepare us for best management against unpredictable conditions such as health issues.

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Conflicts of interest

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