

Impact of Lake Urmia drying up on Iranian community health

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Introduction

Lake Urmia, located in Iran, is one of the important lakes in the Middle East. In recent years, this lake started drying up drastically. In addition to its ecological importance, the concerns about the consequences of this drying up and its effect on the health of the residents near the lake are rising. This project aims to depict the importance of environmental changes on human health. This case study can help to gain a better perspective of human-caused environmental changes.

Methods

This project was done as a literature review, using public health resources, field studies, and local reports. Both Persian and English sources were used to integrate community-based knowledge with academic articles.

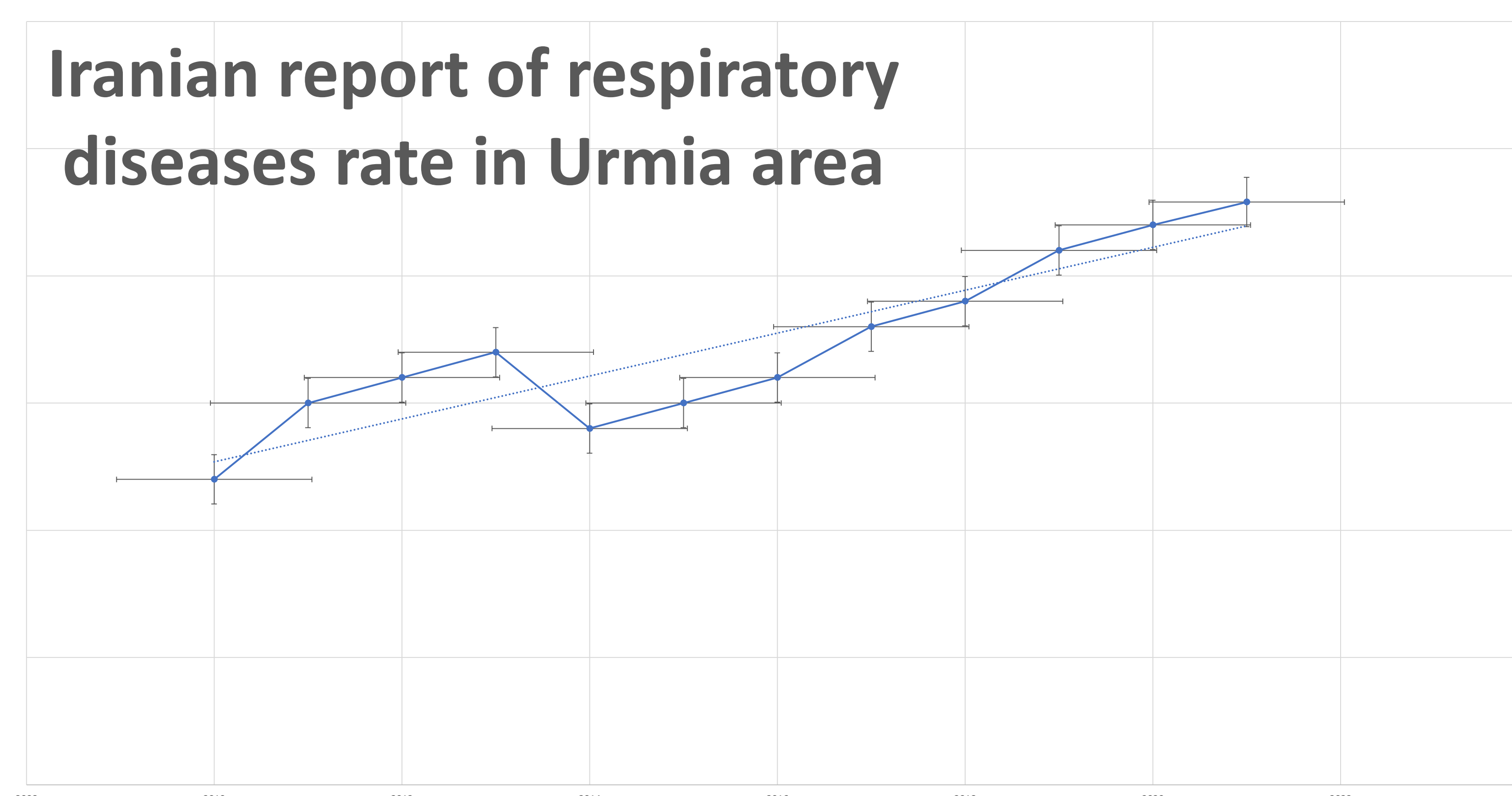
Results

Main Reasons

- 🌿 Global Warming: The rate of Lake Urmia drying up had exacerbated in the recent decade.
- 🌿 Over-farming: Using landscapes near Lake Urmia for farming corps had led to higher water consumption than last decades. (Cech 2018)
- 🌿 Wrong policies: Constructing dams near main water resources

Main Health effects

- 🌿 Increased Vulnerability to environmental diseases (Fanni 2017)
- 🌿 Increased rate of diseases such as cancers, cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, and hypertension, because of the quality of water and weather, as depicted in the graph (Jafari 2022)



Discussion

This research is an example of numerous environmental phenomena which are affecting societies. The lake Urmia drying up had serious consequences from the perspectives of biodiversity, public health, and ecological interactions. Also, It should be acknowledged that this tragic phenomenon didn't receive the proper global attention, which can depict an intersection of discrimination in public health and environmental sciences. (Kurdi,2017)

References

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