# Iran's Demographic Changes and its Security Implications in the Future[1]

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

One of the dimensions of security in any society is its military power. The population is potentially related to defense and security in two ways: population size and age structure. Considering the rapid changes in the determinant factors of the size and age structure of the population in Iran, it is expected that the country's population size and age structure will face rapid changes in the future. One of the needs of planning in the future is to know the consequences of demographic changes, and if the consequences are negative, they can be prevented by using solutions. Paying attention to the issue of defense and security consequences in a specific way and in the form of a detailed and practical study has not been done in the country so far. Therefore, in the present research, the intention is to first gain an understanding of the state of demographic changes and its age structure, and in the next step, using population forecasting techniques, the country's population and its age and gender structure will be predicted. Then, by analyzing the demographic features of the country in the future, the consequences of the change in the population structure on the military and security power of the country are discussed and the solutions needed to reduce these consequences are suggested.

## 2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The research method in this study is descriptive and applied. The main source of information is the National Population and Housing Census conducted by the Statistical Centre of Iran from 1956 to 2016. By using this data, as well as the projects carried out in the field of fertility and mortality in the country, the changes in the age structure of the country from the past to the present are discussed. Subsequently, by using the component method of population forecasting and based on possible assumptions, the population of the country and changes in its age structure are projected until 2066. After obtaining the changes in the country's age structure from 1956 to 2066, the changes in the age structure of the country's population are classified over time using the existing criteria in the classification of age structure of the population. The required information for the first part of the study, which includes the examination of demographic trends and in some cases the analysis of socio-economic characteristics, has been gathered through a literature review of statistics provided on the website of the Iran Statistics Center, Population and Development Report, and the findings of the DHS.

In addition, population estimations and prediction have been performed using MORTPAK4 and SPECTRUM 4 software.

## 3. CONCLUSION AND DISCUSSION

The results of this study showed that the age structure of the population of Iran is moving towards the aging population. The age pyramid of the population before the year 1986 was quite a young pyramid, which has changed in recent years population projection based on the component method and using three different fertility scenarios revealed that future fertility changes will play a decisive role in the demographic changes of the country. The main points regarding the future developments of the country's population are as follows: a balance in the population growth rate, an increase in the number of elderly people, a decrease in young people with higher education - particularly in the low fertility scenario. In addition, maintaining a high economic level, reducing the number of people eligible for military service, and consequently, reducing the number of people with military capability in the low fertility scenario are expected. While the population potential of the country's military and defense capabilities may be slightly reduced, the military force is expected to be more educated. Since the military power of nations today is based on skills, the future status of the military force in Iran, despite its reduction in quantity, is promising in terms of quality. On the other hand, the economy is another key indicator of power in international relations. A dynamic and flourishing economy is a

crucial factor for countries to succeed in military and defense equations. Given that the country is currently in the demographic dividend phase, job creation and utilizing the human resources in this demographic phase can contribute to the country's economic growth, resulting in prosperity and ultimately leading to a more powerful country.

**Keywords:** Age structure, Population Change, Population, and Security.
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