



**A Study of Factors Related to Childbearing Tendency
among Married Women (Case Study: Women Aged 18-45 Years
in Tabriz)¹**

Samad Adlipour², Sheida Parizad Benam³, Elham Ghanizadeh⁴

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INTRODUCTION

Women, as one of the vital members of any society, play a vital role in the decision-making process about having children. The tendency to have children among women is influenced by various factors. One of the important factors related to the tendency to have children in women is cultural and social factors. Social beliefs, values, traditions, and commitments can have a significant impact on women's decision-making about having children. For example, in some societies, childbearing is considered a social and family duty, and women are pressured to take on a role as mothers. Whereas in other societies, women can make decisions about having children more freely and without social pressure. Therefore, considering the demographic changes of recent decades and the necessity of adopting a clear and transparent policy in the field of childbearing and the rate of population growth in the future, it is important

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2. Ph.D. Department of Economic Sociology and Development, Tabriz University, Tabriz, Iran.
Corresponding Author. E-mail: Samadadlipour@gmail.com.

3. M.Sc. Department of Social Sciences Research, Tabriz University, Tabriz, Iran. E-mail:
Pajoheshgar70@gmail.com

4. Ph.D. Student, Department of Sociology, Khalkhal Branch, Islamic Azad University, Khalkhal, Iran.
Email: Elhamgh50@yahoo.com.

to study the behaviors and ideals of childbearing of women and the cultural and social factors that determine them. Accordingly, the present study aimed to study the factors related to the tendency to have children among married women in Tabriz. Among the various cultural and social factors involved in the field of childbearing, in this study, the relationship between the variables of the use of new media, attention to the body (maintaining fitness), social reflection, gender attitudes, and individualism with childbearing is studied.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The current research is a survey and the data were collected using a questionnaire in 2022 in Tabriz city. The statistical population includes married women aged 18-45 years. The sample size was estimated to be 384 people using Cochran's formula. The sampling method is a multi-stage cluster. Two methods of face validity and construct validity were used to determine the validity of the items. The reliability of the items was measured by Cronbach's Alpha Coefficient which was higher than 0.70 for all variables.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

As Table 1 shows, there is a significant inverse relationship between all independent variables of the research and women's tendency to have children, so that with increasing the rate of women's individualism, increasing the rate of women's social reflection, increasing the amount of women's attention to their bodies, and the amount of use of new media, women's tendency to have children decreases. Also, regarding the relationship between gender attitude and childbearing tendency, it is observed that the higher the score of women's gender attitude (i.e., the more modern it is), the lower the tendency of women to have children.

Table 1. Correlation Test of Independent Variables with Women's Tendency to Childbearing

Independent Variables	Pearson correlation	Sig.
Individualism	0.37	0.001
Social Reflexivity	0.34	0.001
Attention and attitude to the body	0.31	0.001
New Media	0.27	0.001
Gender attitudes	0.18	0.041



To determine the effect of each of the independent variables on the dependent variable, regression analysis has been discussed. Table 2 shows the multivariate regression model of women's tendency to have children. The information in this table shows that the multiple correlation is calculated to be equal to 0.64, which indicates that the independent variables are simultaneously related to women's tendency to have children. The coefficient of determination was calculated as 0.40. This means that 40% of the changes in women's tendency to have children have been explained by the mentioned variables. The standard effect coefficients in this table show that the strongest predictors of women's tendency to have children are individualism (-0.36), social reflection (-0.33), attention to the body (-0.31), use of new media (-0.25), and gender attitudes (-0.16), respectively.

Table 2. Results of Multivariate Regression Test to explain respondents' tendency to have children

Variable	B	Beta	Sig	R	R ²	F	Sig
Individualism	0.62	0.36	0.001	0.64	0.40	91.72	0.001
Social Reflexivity	0.55	0.33	0.001				
Attention and attitude to the body	0.49	0.31	0.001				
New Media	0.40	0.25	0.001				
Gender attitudes	0.28	0.16	0.012				

CONCLUSION

In analyzing the research findings, it can be said that the use of new media has introduced people to experiences and lifestyles in other parts of the world. Individualism has faced people with great changes and changes, and the increase in the presence of women in society and consequently the increase in the level of education and social reflection have become effective factors in changing the values and behaviors of childbearing. With the transformation of the structure of Iranian society in terms of economy and culture and the change in the normative system, the presence of society and social and traditional forces in the lives of limited individuals and the society's supervision of the behavior of its members have been weakened. These developments have led to the expansion of individual freedoms, increased tolerance in families and society, flexibility in the way of life, and the disruption of the gender division of labor. Under the influence of these conditions, young women have

experienced and continue to experience a new change in the family and the values of the family and society, including childbearing, by moving from community-based values focused on primary needs to individual-centered values such as self-realization, education, attention and attitude to the body, and avoiding the difficulties and difficulties of childbearing.

Keywords: Tendency to Childbearing, Individualism, Social Reflexivity, Gender Attitudes, Attention to the Body.

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