



Identifying and Understanding the Demands of Women in the Field of Population Policies

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INTRODUCTION

Today, the issue of population decline is considered as a matter that challenges human development. Therefore, many countries, including our country, are facing demographic challenges, and there is much evidence of a decrease in the total fertility rate around the world and in developing countries, in Iran, the total fertility rate was calculated as 1.74 children in the year 1400. In 2015, the total fertility rate of Iran was calculated as 2.01 children. Before entering the modern world, childbearing went through its natural form and each family usually had 6 children, but with the entry into the modern world, individual, cultural, social and even political causes and factors changed the natural process of childbearing, which followed this changing problems such as population aging, feminization of old age, and reduction of human resources were created in the society. In the country of Iran, despite the use of a population increase policy to solve the population crisis, the fertility rate is still low. Decisions related to the size of the family and the number of children are in women's hands and are based on their opinions and demands. Therefore, understanding the demands of women and policy-making in the field of population has become important, and the purpose of this research is to understand and identify the demands of women about having children, and to hear their narratives and opinions regarding population policies.

METHODS

The current research is the result of qualitative research that was conducted to identify and understand the demands of women in the field of population policies. The data of this

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research was collected through semi-structured qualitative interviews with 17 married women living in Tehran who were between the ages of 25 and 38. Sampling in this research was done based on the purposeful sampling method and the interviews continued until data saturation was reached. Bad data saturation means that no new information is obtained from the interviews. To ensure maximum diversity, the interviewed women were selected from among working women, housewives, and academics. The interview questions were asked flexibly to each of the participants based on the central questions of the research, and the duration of the interview varied from 45 minutes to 90 minutes according to the responses of the participants. In this research, according to the importance and necessity of maintaining the confidentiality of information and people's characteristics and observing the principles of research ethics, each participant has been given a pseudonym, and finally, the obtained information has been analyzed using thematic analysis.

RESULTS

The results of this research show that the demands of women in the field of population policies can be divided into 5 main categories: "all-round support for mothers", "medical support for mothers and babies", "cultural and spiritual support", "social support" and "support Welfare" and 13 sub-categories "pregnancy support", "post-pregnancy support", "fixing the price and needs of mother and baby", "improving the performance of hospitals", "psychotherapy and medical support for mothers", "medical support for newborns", "support Education", "Cultural investments", "Material and spiritual support for youth", "Material support for working women", "Combating social harms", "Providing welfare and recreational facilities" and "Adapting urban space for mother and classified as "child".

CONCLUSION

In sum, the findings of the research show that, while emphasizing the economic problems and their impact on childbearing, the participating women have demands in various economic, social, medical, cultural, and welfare dimensions, and paying attention to their demands in each of the dimensions can be an incentive to have more children. But the noteworthy point is that among women's demands, economic demands have taken a larger share, because from the point of view of the interviewees, economic problems are one of the obstacles to having children, and by the theory of the economics of virgin fertility, in which having children has an economic basis. Some are satisfied with one child due to economic issues; it can be said Economic issues are one of the issues affecting childbearing, and if livelihood problems are solved, the motivation of families to have children will increase. Based on this, policymakers and social planners must pay more attention to women's demands, especially their economic demands in this field, to realize population policies. Finally, to improve the implementation of laws and paying attention to people's demands, setting an example for other countries regarding incentive schemes, setting an example for families with multiple children, and introducing successful women with multiple children.

Keywords: Women, Population, Human Development, Women's Demands, Population Policies.

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