Investigating Economic, Social and Cultural Factors Affecting the Attitudes of Women of Yasuj City about the Necessity or Lack of Necessity for Family Planning

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Abstract: Family planning refers to limiting birth or creating favorable among successive births which may be conducted temporarily, or the number of excessive births be constantly prevented. In this case, sometimes terms such as the regulation of births, arbitrarily having a baby and regular productivity are used. The present study is to investigate economic, social, and cultural factors affecting the attitudes of the women of Yasuj about the necessity or lack of necessity of family planning. The study is an applied one; in terms of scope it is a wide-prospective study, and in terms of level, it is a cross-sectional investigation. The method used in the present study is the field research using survey technique (questionnaires). The sample size includes 380 participants. The results of the research indicate that most respondents know the necessity of the existence of family planning in line with less births at a very high level (r=28.95) and the least number of respondents know the existence of family planning in line with less births at a very low level (r=7.1). In addition, there is a correlation between religiosity and the attitude to the necessity or lack of necessity of family planning among women (r=0.41); there is a correlation between the type of relations within families (democratic or autocratic) and the attitude to the necessity or lack of necessity of family planning among women (r=0.37); there is a correlation between the degree of using domestic mass media and the attitude to the necessity or lack of necessity of family planning among women (r=0.15); there is a correlation between economic status of families and the attitude to the necessity or lack of necessity of family planning among women (r=0.26); there is a correlation between age and the attitude to the necessity or lack of necessity of family planning among women (sig=-0.31); there is a correlation between education and the attitude to the necessity or lack of necessity of family planning among women (sig=0.045); and there is a correlation between years of marriage and the attitude to the necessity or lack of necessity of family planning among women (r=0.27). But, there is no significant correlation between the variable of using foreign media and the attitude to the necessity or lack of necessity of family planning among women.

Key words: *Family planning; Social factors; Cultural factors; Economic factors; Women*

1. Introduction

The quiddity of population transformation in industrialized countries is to some extent different from developing ones. If we consider 19th century as the starting point of rapid growth of population in Europe, 20th century is the time of the rapid growth of population in non-industrialized countries, and even this growth is somehow more than population growth in the industrialized countries of the time when they were at the same development level. The reason is that after the World Wars, via fundamental innovations in technology, health technology and promotion in the health level in non-industrialized countries, their mortality rate reduced rapidly, while the birth rate was at a high level. Therefore, nowadays, the population growth in developing countries is at a high level.

Population has a mutual and complicated relationship with economic and social development. The prerequisite for achieving the economic, social, cultural goals is to advance modernization programs, appropriate consistent and coordination between population and development plans. In conditions that the facilities of a society for providing food, clothing, housing, education, employment, and health, which are the most fundamental needs of the society is not available at a moderate and logical level, social justice never will be realized. One of the conditions of realizing social justice is to make population growth compatible with the realized facilities of the society and establishing the fair facilities distribution system with the maximum of efficacy. Therefore, to moderate and coordinate axes of economic and social development of a country and providing physical, psychological and social health of the all layers of the society particularly mothers and children who are among vulnerable layers of each society, the population policies should be focused on the reduction of population growth. In this line, implementation of family planning programs is considered very important. In United Nations Conference on Human Rights held in 1968 in Tehran, family planning was considered as one of the fundamental rights. In Bucharest Conference about World Population held in august 1974, this attitude was emphasized and declared in the conference that both wives and husbands have this fundamental

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right that adopt policies regarding the number of children and the interval between their birth.

Therefore, family planning programs can be effective in line with limiting birth rate and reducing population, or in line with advising bearing and increasing population or population stabilization. In countries which population stabilization is realized via family planning programs, among the ways which can be effective in the form of family planning programs are keeping interval between children and its acculturation.

2. Statement of the problem and research importance

The increasing growth of population, especially after World War II, a lot of countries of the world, particularly developing countries have been faced with multiple crises and challenged regarding population issue. In addition, a lot of economic, social and political issues have been directly associated with the issue of population. Therefore, studying population, has played basic roles in short term and long term planning of a country and has had a close relationship with other factors affecting in developing a country. Favorable conditions for all individuals of a society are realized when facilities and resources available in the society are consistent with population number.

Doubtlessly, with the existence of natural limited facilities and resources cannot meet the needs of the huge population which every year is increasing. Further, issues of population which has been usually more critical with extensive migration and urbanization engender multiple social challenges and problems in the society and such a situation requires more study and investigation in population phenomena to control and dominate it. However, nowadays only the issue of population growth and oldness of the population in future is considered. Accordingly, Iran's population is moving towards oldness and it is necessary that family planning programs be changed.

Now, regarding the above mentioned issues, the problem is that how are women's attitudes towards the necessity and the lack of necessity of family planning and what is the relationship of these attitudes with social, cultural and economic factors?

Changes in women's fertility in recent years has faced researchers and policymakers with many questions. As mentioned above, increasing fertility in the first years of Islamic Revolution, and consequently rapid and unexpected decrease in fertility in the late years of 1980's and first half of 1990's are issues which researchers are involved with in such a way that different questions have presented in this regard.

Regarding the fact that due to cultural and social changes, and particularly the changes created in families specifically in cities in recent years, one of the most important issues is whether the presence of women in social domains has increased, whether family has changed from an extended family to the nuclear one, and whether productive activities separated from families are effective on controlling fertility by women?

The answer to such questions can explain the factors affecting the degree of controlling fertility among women, which is necessary for population researchers, and these researchers, using the answers can regulated proper plans for regulating population. Therefore, it is important that the present study which is to investigate economic, social, and cultural factors affecting women's attitudes towards the necessity and lack of necessity of family planning be conducted in order that by presenting scientific strategies, appropriate population policies be adopted in Iran.

The issue of factors affecting women's attitudes towards the necessity or lack of necessity of family planning in Yasuj has a doubled importance. The City of Yasuj as the capital of Kohgiloyeh and Boyerahmad Province has a traditional context and is economically presented as an agricultural and animal husbandry area. In this city, traditional thoughts are dominant and family planning has not been accepted as in industrialized provinces; therefore, it seems very important to be investigated.

2.1. Research hypothesis

1. There is a correlation between religiosity and the attitude toward the necessity or the lack of necessity of family planning among women.
2. There is a correlation between the type of relationships within families (democratic or autocratic) and the attitude towards the necessity or the lack of necessity of family planning among women.
3. There is a correlation between the degree of using domestic mass media and the attitude towards the necessity or the lack of necessity of family planning among women.
4. There is a correlation between the degree of using foreign mass media and the attitude towards the necessity or the lack of necessity of family planning among women.
5. There is a correlation between the economic status of families (income, ownership and capital) and the attitude towards the necessity or the lack of necessity of family planning among women.
6. There is a correlation between age and the attitude towards the necessity or the lack of necessity of family planning among women.
7. There is a correlation between education and the attitude towards the necessity or the lack of necessity of family planning among women.
8. There is a correlation between the years of marriage and the attitude towards the necessity or the lack of necessity of family planning among women.

3. Review of literature

Mostafavi et al. (2006) conducted a research titled as "social and cultural factors affecting men's

participation in family planning in Iran". This research investigated the effect of attitudes and beliefs of men towards the application of methods of family planning by them in Iran. Two hypotheses were presented and tested in the research. According to the hypothesis of the responsibility of family planning, this belief among men that women are responsible for family planning causes the reduction of the probability of their participation in activities of family planning. Further, according to the hypothesis of norms of societies, this men's belief that men who societies agree to their participation in activities of family planning causes the increase in their activities in family regulation activities. The results of analyzing the two hypotheses indicated that dialogue between wives and husbands causes the increase in the probability of the application of methods of family planning by men.

Afshani et al. (2007), in a research titled as "the role of men in family planning and fertility control in Yazd City" were ton identify men's role in family planning and fertility control in Yazd. The findings of the research were consistent with the theories of promotion and economic theories regarding fertility and indicated that the degree of modernism, income, education and religiosity are correlated with family planning and fertility control.

Rabbani Khurasegani et al. (2007), in a research titled as "investigating the difference between men and women in family planning; case study of Najaf Abad City" investigated the difference between men and women in family planning using a survey method and data collection instrument of questionnaire. The findings of the research indicated that between modernism and marriage age, respectively 19 and 5 percent had the most portion for explaining roles in family planning.

Rouhi Borujeni (2007), in a research titled as "investigating the effect of population information and attitudes on fertility behaviors of teachers in Eghlid City" obtained the following results:

The attitude of 22.5 percent of the respondents towards family planning and fertility control was negative, while 42.3 percent of them had positive attitudes towards these issues. 35.2 percent of them had no idea. Women and men had no significant different regarding these issues. The higher the social-economic status was, the more positive individuals' attitudes towards family planning and fertility control were. Individuals who used mass media in low, moderate or high levels were not different with each other in terms of attitude towards these issues. Further, the higher the degree of religiosity, the more negative the attitudes towards family planning and fertility control.

Bilan et al. (1996), in a research titled as "investigating the relationship between some of personal-social characteristics of mothers, intervals between births and feeding with mothers' milk and the growth state of children in the first year of birth in the healthcare centers in Tabriz, tried to identify relationship between some of personal-social characteristics of mothers, intervals between births and feeding with mothers' milk and the growth state of children in the first year of birth in the healthcare centers in Tabriz. The results are as follows:

There is a significant correlation between mothers' literacy and the state of height growth of children.

There is as significant correlation between birth distances with weight growth of children.

There is a significant correlation between breast feeding with the height growth and children's' head circumference (Bilan et al. (1996).

In another study, Baghestani (1994), titled as "comparing the birth intervals in north provinces (Mazadaran and Gilan) and Khuzestan, Hormozgan, Sistan and Baluchistan, Bushehr, Kohkilooieh and Boyer Ahmad Provinces", the following results were obtained:

1. The average interval of births in Northern provinces is significantly more than southern ones.
2. By increasing mother's ages, their birth intervals increase.
3. The rank of births is directly correlated with birth intervals and this process is constant up to the sixth birth.
4. Mothers' literacy is effective on the time of the second and third births.
5. The average number of children of mothers in Northern provinces is less than that of Sothern mothers.
6. The average age of mothers in Northern provinces is less than that of Sothern mothers.
7. The birth intervals in urban regions are more than rural ones.
8. Male babies are faced with fewer problems in terms of underweight at birth.

The study of Ramz et al. (2000), conducted based on primary academic data and researches, is influenced by education, job and freedom in choosing spouses. The number of Turkish women's children is significantly dependent on their literacy and job. The studied women had for at least 11 years less children than those who did not have literacy. In addition, those women who worked, had for 3% less children than those who did not work.

Mason et al (1971), conducted more than 100 studies in relation with fertility differences in developed countries and developing ones and concluded that traditional values and beliefs as well as low social-economic status among the studied women are considered as a motivation and unlike those modernist values and beliefs and higher economic status in mentioned societies cause the reduction in fertility.

Piotrow et al. (1992), in a research titled as "Changing men's attitudes and behavior: the Zimbabwe male motivation project" investigated the related factors:

From 1988 to 1989, a number of multimedia communicative activities was conducted for helping family planning among Zimbabwean men. These activities included a weekly 52 episode radio series, about 60 motivational dialogues and two booklets about methods of prevention of pregnancy. The

changes during the time by comparing a series of constant evaluation from the October to December of 1989 conducted with the main axis of conducted evaluation in Avril to June 1988 were evaluated. Further, me who was exposed to these activities was compared with those who were not. The pursuance of evaluation indicated that these activities succeeded to obtain results from 52 percent of 18-55 years old men. During conducting these activities in married men, using new methods of prevention of pregnancy, increased from about 56 percent to 59 percent. Using condoms increased from 5 percent to 10 percent. In addition, the levels of knowledge and using new methods in men who are exposed to these activities were higher due to their knowledge of condoms. Men who were exposed to these activities tended more than other men to family planning and decision making of men and women regarding the number of children.

4. Research method

The present study is a descriptive study conducted using a survey research.

4.1. Temporal and spatial scope and research population

The present study was conducted in from winter 2013 to spring 2013. The spatial scope of the present study is Yasuj City. The population of this study included 33500 individuals of rural women in Yasuj City.

4.2. Sample size

Regarding the extent of the target population and the lack of access to all members, a sample which is representative of the whole population should be selected. In the present study, using Cochrane's formula, 380 participants were selected as the sample.

$$n = \frac{\dfrac{t^2 \times p \times q}{d^2}}{1 + \dfrac{1}{N}\left[\dfrac{t^2 \times p \times q}{d^2} - 1\right]} =$$

$$\frac{\dfrac{(1.96)^2 \times (0.5 \times 0.5)}{(0.05)^2}}{1 + \dfrac{1}{33500}\left[\dfrac{(1.96)^2 \times (0.5)(0.5)}{(0.05)^2} - 1\right]} = 380$$

N=33500   t=1.96   p=0.5   q=0.5
d=0.05

4.3. Sampling method and research instrument

According to the extent and distribution of samples at an extensive level of research scope, the best sampling method was cluster sampling. And to collect data, questionnaires were used.

Operationalizing research variables

The dependent variable

Table 1: the necessity or lack of necessity of family planning among women

The number of questions in the questionnaire	Indices	Name of the variable
9 to 16	Women's tendency to having more children or less ones	the necessity or lack of necessity of family planning among women

Independent variables

Table 2: democratic relations in families

The number of questions in the questionnaire	Indices	Name of the variable
17 to 22	Families with collaborative (democratic) or autocratic structure	The type of relations in families

Table 3: Religiosity

The number of questions in the questionnaire	Indices	Name of the variable
23 to 38	Doctrinal, consequential and ritual	Religiosity

Table 4: domestic media

The number of questions in the questionnaire	Indices	Name of the variable
Questions 39, 13, 43	Domestic and national television and radio networks, and Internet sites	The degree of using domestic mass media

Table 5: foreign media

The number of questions in the questionnaire	Indices	Name of the variable
Questions 40, 42, 44	Foreign television and radio networks, and foreign Internet sites	The degree of using foreign mass media

Descriptive statistics

Descriptive statistics of the variable of education

The variable of the level of education indicates that 1.57 percent of the respondents were illiterate, 2.36 percent had primary education, 4.47 percent had guidance school education, 25.78 percent had

diploma, 27.1 percent had associate diploma, 26.05 percent had BA, and 12.63 percent of them had MA and higher levels.

Table 6: economic status

The number of questions in the questionnaire	Indices	Name of the variable
Questions 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	Incomes and ownerships	Economic status

Table 7: the number of family members

The number of questions in the questionnaire	Indices	Name of the variable
Question 8	No index, the question is open	The number of family members

Table 8: age

The number of questions in the questionnaire	Indices	Name of the variable
Question 1	No index, the question is open	Age

Table 9: education

The number of questions in the questionnaire	Indices	Name of the variable
Question 7	No index, the question is open	Education

Descriptive statistics of the variable of age

17.1 percent of the respondents were 20 to 24 years old, 15.70 percent 25-29 years old, 34.04 percent 30 to 40 years old. 26.97 percent 41 to 50, and 6.29 percent were 50 years old and older.

Descriptive statistics of the variable of economic status

The table related to the variable of economic status indicated that 38.68 percent of respondents were at a low level, 50.78 percent were at moderate level, and 10.52 percent were at high level of economic status.

Descriptive statistics of the variable of economic status

Most of the respondents knew collective value orientation at a high level (42.14). The least number of respondents knew their religiosity at very low level (1.3). in addition, the total mean scores of the respondents indicated that in general, the level of respondents' religiosity was much more than moderate level (x=3.85).

Descriptive statistics of the variable of democratic relations within families

Most of the respondents took the level of the democracy in families at a very high level (28.08). The least number of the respondents took this variable as at very low level (1.75). in addition, the total mean scores of the respondents indicated that in general, respondents estimated the degree of the democracy of relations in families a bit more than moderate level (x=3.11).

Descriptive statistics of the variable of using domestic mass media

Most of the respondents took the level of using domestic mass media at a very high level (31.08). The least number of the respondents took this variable as at very low level (8.15). in addition, the total mean scores of the respondents indicated that in general, respondents estimated the degree of using domestic mass media a bit more than moderate level (x=3.48).

Descriptive statistics of the variable of using foreign mass media

Most of the respondents took the level of using foreign mass media at a very high level (26.68). The least number of the respondents took this variable as at very low level (11.31). in addition, the total mean scores of the respondents indicated that in general, respondents estimated the degree of using foreign mass media a bit more than moderate level (x=3.35).

Descriptive statistics of the variable of attitudes towards family planning

Most of the respondents took the necessity of family planning at a very high level (28.95) in such a way that these number of respondents believed that family planning should be conducted and the reproduction should be at a low level. The least number of the respondents took this variable as at very low level (7.1) in such a way that these number of respondents believed that family planning should not be conducted and the reproduction should be not controlled. In addition, the total mean scores of the respondents indicated that in general, respondents estimated the necessity of family planning more than moderate level (x=3.56).

Kolmogorov-Smirnov test

Hypothesis 1: there is a correlation between religiosity and the attitude towards the necessity or lack of necessity of family planning among women.

Regarding the calculated sig=0.000, and because this number is smaller than 0.05, there is a significant correlation between religiosity and the attitude towards the necessity or lack of necessity of family planning among women.

Hypothesis 2: there is a correlation between relations within families (democratic or autocratic)

and the attitude towards the necessity or lack of necessity of family planning among women.

Table 9: Kolmogorov-Smirnov test for determining the normality of research variables

Research components		Economic status	Religiosity	The democratic relations in families	Domestic mass media	Foreign mass media
No.		380	380	380	380	380
Normal parameter	Mean	3.25	3.85	3.11	3.48	3.35
	sd	1.21	0.877	0.945	0.880	0.995
Kolmogorov-Smirnov values		0.809	1.54	2.36	2.55	2.26
Sig. (tow domains)		0.080	0.061	0.123	0.219	0.229

Research variables	the attitude towards the necessity or lack of necessity of family planning	
	Correlation coefficient	Sig.
Religiosity	0.41	0.000

Research variables	the attitude towards the necessity or lack of necessity of family planning	
	Correlation coefficient	Sig.
The type of relations within families	0.37	0.000

Regarding the calculated sig=0.000, and because this number is smaller than 0.05, there is a significant correlation between the type (the two variables of democratic and autocratic relations) of relations within families and the attitude towards the necessity or lack of necessity of family planning among women.

Hypothesis 3: there is a correlation between the degree of using domestic mass media and the attitude towards the necessity or lack of necessity of family planning among women.

Research variables	the attitude towards the necessity or lack of necessity of family planning	
	Correlation coefficient	Sig.
the degree of using domestic mass media	0.15	0.013

Regarding the calculated sig=0.013, and because this number is smaller than 0.05, there is a significant correlation between the degree of using domestic mass media and the attitude towards the necessity or lack of necessity of family planning among women.

Hypothesis 4: there is a correlation between the degree of using foreign mass media and the attitude towards the necessity or lack of necessity of family planning among women.

Regarding the calculated sig=0.080, and because this number is bigger than 0.05, there is not a significant correlation between the degree of using foreign mass media and the attitude towards the necessity or lack of necessity of family planning among women.

Research variables	the attitude towards the necessity or lack of necessity of family planning	
	Correlation coefficient	Sig.
the degree of using foreign mass media	0.17	0.080

Hypothesis 5: there is a correlation between the economic status of families and the attitude towards the necessity or lack of necessity of family planning among women.

Research variables	the attitude towards the necessity or lack of necessity of family planning	
	Correlation coefficient	Sig.
the economic status of families	0.26	0.000

Regarding the calculated sig=0.000, and because this number is smaller than 0.05, there is a significant correlation between the economic status of families and the attitude towards the necessity or lack of necessity of family planning among women.

Hypothesis 6: there is a correlation between age and the attitude towards the necessity or lack of necessity of family planning among women.

Research variables	the attitude towards the necessity or lack of necessity of family planning	
	Correlation coefficient	Sig.
age	-.031	0.000

Regarding the calculated sig=0.000, and because this number is smaller than 0.05, there is a significant correlation between age and the attitude towards the necessity or lack of necessity of family planning among women.

Hypothesis 7: there is a correlation between education and the attitude towards the necessity or lack of necessity of family planning among women.

Variation resource	Sum of squares	df	Mean square	F value	Mean	Sig.
Between-group differences	0.937	5	0.312	11.26	3.25	0.000
within-group differences	7086	374	0.103			
Total	71.80	379	-			

Formulating hypothesis for the differences among 6 educational groups:

H_0: $\mu 1 = \mu 2 = \mu 3 = \mu 4 = \mu 5 = \mu 6$
H_1: $\mu 1 \neq \mu 2 \neq \mu 3 \neq \mu 4 \neq \mu 5 \neq \mu 6$
$F_{total} = 11.26$
df: row df=5 and column df=374
$F_{(df: 5, 349, p=0.05)} = 3.27$
Comparison: $f_T > f_j$

Conclusion:Based on the above table, it can be discussed that because the value of calculated Fs of the tendency towards modernization is more than critical F, therefore, with confidence interval 95%, one can claim that there is a correlation among mean scores of educational groups in terms of attitude towards the necessity or lack of necessity of family planning. On the other hand, the values of sig. of the type of mentioned variable is smaller than 0.05 ($Sig_1 = 0.045$). Therefore, with confidence interval 95%, one can claim that there is a correlation among mean scores of educational groups in terms of attitude towards modernizations. In other words, it can be said that different educational groups have different attitudes towards the necessity or lack of necessity of family planning.

Following, to investigate the differences among the educational levels, Follow up Scheffe Test. Findings are as follows. It should be noted that only significant levels are reported.

Research variable	Educational level		The difference among educational levels	Standard error	Sig.
the necessity or lack of necessity of family planning	Illiterate	Guidance school	0.87	0.375	0.087
		Diploma	0.021	0.639	0.043
		MA	0.76	0.377	0.037
	Associate diploma	Guidance school	0.067	0.713	0.098
		Diploma	0.59	0.357	0.064
	MA	Diploma	0.43	0.537	0.048
		Guidance school	0.48	0.435	0.033

The results of the follow-up test indicated that the difference among the educational level of illiterate can be observed with diploma, MA, and guidance school. Among other educational levels, there is no significant difference. Further, between MA with diploma and guidance school, in terms of attitude towards family planning, there are significant differences. It should be noted that regarding the means of each educational level of respondents with BA (mean 3.27), the degree of attitude towards family planning is more than other groups. Illiterate respondents (mean 2.49), considered the degree of attitude towards family planning less than other groups.

Hypothesis 8: there is a correlation between years of marriage and the attitude towards the necessity or lack of necessity of family planning among women.

Research variables	the attitude towards the necessity or lack of necessity of family planning	
	Correlation coefficient	Sig.
Years of marriage	0.27	0.000

Regarding the calculated sig=0.000, and because this number is smaller than 0.05, there is a significant correlation between years of marriage and the attitude towards the necessity or lack of necessity of family planning among women.

5. Conclusion

1. There is a correlation between religiosity and the attitude toward the necessity or the lack of necessity of family planning among women.
2. There is a correlation between the type of relationships within families (democratic or autocratic) and the attitude towards the necessity or the lack of necessity of family planning among women.
3. There is a correlation between the degree of using domestic mass media and the attitude towards the necessity or the lack of necessity of family planning among women.
4. There is a correlation between the degree of using foreign mass media and the attitude towards the necessity or the lack of necessity of family planning among women.
5. There is a correlation between the economic status of families (income, ownership and capital) and

the attitude towards the necessity or the lack of necessity of family planning among women.

6. There is a correlation between age and the attitude towards the necessity or the lack of necessity of family planning among women.

7. There is a correlation between education and the attitude towards the necessity or the lack of necessity of family planning among women.

8. There is a correlation between the years of marriage and the attitude towards the necessity or the lack of necessity of family planning among women.

In a general statement, it should be said that among the 8 research hypotheses, only hypothesis 4 was rejected and the rest were confirmed.

6. Suggestions

Exerting efforts to eliminate superstitions in the society in such a way that superstitions should be removed from the religion and everyday life of people and the grounds should be provided for modernization.

Regarding the fact that religiosity and family planning are correlated, religious teachings particularly regarding families should be conducted.

More emphasis should be adopted by TV and Radio of Iran in line with producing programs assisting the tendency towards family planning in the society.

Redefining family and the today's status of family in the society as well as investigating needs, wants and problems facing it in the social system of Iran by social scholars and experts of this domain.

Analyzing constructive components which can help democratizing relations in families. This issue should be in line with making families more participatory.

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