

Correlation between Fear of Marriage and Attitude to Labour and Child Care in Female Students of Abadan Faculty of Medical Sciences in 2019

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ABSTRACT

Background and Aims: Marriage is one of the most important events in life, and each of the consequences of reducing marriage creates its own problems. And by recognizing girls' attitudes toward marriage, it is possible to predict their behavior to some extent in the future. In this way, it alerts them to potential psychological and social harms that could threaten them. Therefore, the researchers decided to conduct a study with the aim of determining the correlation between fear of marriage and attitudes towards childbirth and child care in female students of Abadan University of Medical Sciences in 2019.

Materials and Methods: The present study is a cross-sectional analytical study conducted on 234 female students of Abadan University of Medical Sciences in 2019. Two questionnaires on fear of marriage and a questionnaire on childbirth and childcare were completed by participants and analyzed using SPSS software, Chi-square and test_T tests, Anova and Pearson correlation coefficient.

Results: The results showed that the average fear of marriage and the average overall score of attitude towards children and childbirth are in the average range. In addition, there is a significant negative correlation between these two variables, so that with increasing attitude towards child and childbirth (positive attitude), the average fear of marriage decreased. ($0.01=p$) ($-65/0=r$).

Conclusion: With the increase in attitudes toward children and childbirth (positive attitudes), the average fear of marriage decreased. Therefore, it is suggested that basic and basic education be provided for teenage girls and students, and that existing fears be clarified and training the importance and principles of proper marriage and its impact on individual development should be considered on a large scale in society.

Keywords: Fear of marriage, attitude to pregnancy, child care.

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Introduction

The family is one of the oldest and at the same time the most important institutions that human beings have created according to their social nature.¹ The importance and necessity of the family are not hidden from anyone and are of special importance among all social institutions, so the issues related to it are also very valid due to its global nature, and one of these issues is marriage, which is the basis of formation. It is the family.² The family needs the most important and fundamental social thing, namely marriage, to survive and exist and on the other hand, marriage needs the background and participation of the family institution to form itself.³

Marriage is one of the most important events in life and that is why it is so important in today's society.⁴ However, marriage, like other social phenomena, has undergone changes over time, which over time has changed the age of marriage and reduced the tendency of young people to marry¹. Among these changes and developments, today we can increase the rate of occurrence, increase the age of marriage, lack of understanding between couples and subsequent expansion of the phenomenon of divorce (opposite of marriage), changes in attitudes and aspirations of people in choosing a spouse and pointed out². Marriage is the cause of family formation, reproduction, and survival of the generation, and in monotheistic religions, especially the religion of Islam, it has a special sanctity. People who are married and successful have fewer mental disorders, and single women are far more likely to have neurological disorders than married women. Also, the benefits of marriage include gaining independence,

kindness, maintaining chastity, protection from sin, reproduction, and the health and safety of society⁶. Although marriage, as a voluntary act, is subject to individual desires, inclinations, and social circumstances, man's social life and his complex relationships with his surroundings put marriage under two-way relationships with economic, social, demographic, and even political variables⁷. And each of the consequences of reducing marriage causes its problems. For example, the phenomenon of increasing the age of marriage and the subsequent occurrence of definite celibacy has disrupted the normal functioning of the family institution. And following this, we naturally see the existence of disorders in the society, disorders such as the spread of all kinds of social corruption, the crisis of sexual desire, the flight of girls, etc.⁸ These problems and confusions are a big challenge, especially for girls, and can lead them to many social and behavioral disorders. It seems necessary to examine the attitude of girls towards marriage because by recognizing the attitude of girls towards marriage, it is possible to predict their behavior to some extent in the future. In this way, it alerts them to potential psychological and social harms that could threaten them.⁹

The sharp increase in population in Iran began in 1979 and 1969 when the population growth rate increased at a rapid rate, and then the population growth rate decreased relatively rapidly during the decade of 1986-1996.¹⁰ From 1980 to 1990, Iran's population growth rate was 3.5, from 1990-2000, Iran's population growth rate was 1.6, and from 2000-2010, Iran's population growth rate was 1.2.¹¹

In Iran, the legal age for marriage is 13 for girls and 15 for boys. According to statistics, the proportion of single girls who have never been married before the age of 25 to their total population has increased from 13% in 1345 to 46% in 1380. In other words, during these years, more than 30% of girls, in addition to 13% in 1345, have postponed their marriage to the age of over 25, while the ratio of single boys from 68% in 1345 to less than 58 % Decreased in 1986.⁸ Therefore, it seems that the search for factors that reduce marriage in girls should be considered more. Also, according to the census data from 1375 to 1390, the average age of marriage for women has risen from 22.4 to 23.4 years and for men from 25.6 to 26.7 years,¹¹ shows that The factors that reduce marriage are still working, and there is no guaranteed solution to this crisis. According to the statistics mentioned above, increasing the age of marriage reduces the probability of marriage and increases definite celibacy, and ultimately these factors reduce population growth. On the other hand, the pervasive decrease in fertility in different countries, including Iran, is more due to marriage at older ages.¹² Factors that increase the age of marriage that indirectly reduce the population include education, employment outside the home (for women), and the status of women.¹⁰

In addition to the above factors, it seems that other factors play a role in reducing the rate of marriage, which has remained unknown until now, or we have been indifferent to them, or we have looked at them superficially. For example, studies show that attitudes toward marriage are associated with sexual behavior during adolescence and adulthood.¹³ It is also estimated that about 5 to 21 percent of pregnant women have a fear

of childbirth or listening to the experiences of others and concerns about unwanted physical effects (negative attitudes).¹⁴ So far, very little research has been done on assessing attitudes toward childbirth and child care in single girls (which may have consequences) Due to the responsibility of caring for the child and increasing the need for attention and carelessness of the spouse, as well as other physical changes in the body, today we see a decrease in the desire of many girls in connection with pregnancy.¹⁵

Therefore, the importance of marriage and the need to address the factors that reduce marriage among young people, especially girls, prompted researchers to study the correlation between fear of marriage and attitudes toward childbirth and childcare among female college students in Abadan Medical Sciences to do in 2019. If factors related to the fear of marriage are identified, it can lead to the promotion of family status and marriage.

Methods: The present study is a cross-sectional analytical study that was performed on female students of Abadan University of Medical Sciences in 2019 after obtaining permission from the relevant authorities. Criteria for entering the study include female students of Abadan University of Medical Sciences, being 18 years of age and older and single, and exit criteria: including incomplete filling in the questionnaire. The data collection tool consists of three questionnaires. The Demographic Information Questionnaire includes age, number of family members, and parental occupation.

The Marriage Fear Questionnaire has 30 questions and its overall purpose is to assess the various causes of fear of marriage in young people. Rating between 30 and 60: A

person's fear of marriage is low. Rating between 60 and 90: The average person's fear of marriage is average. A score above 90: The person's fear of marriage is high. This questionnaire was designed as a researcher and was designed using some scientific sources such as Richard et al. (2007). The validity of the questionnaire has been formally confirmed. Its reliability was also calculated using Cronbach's alpha test. The alpha of this questionnaire was obtained above 80%, which indicates the acceptable reliability of this questionnaire.¹⁶

The attitude questionnaire on childbirth and child care was developed by Sholeh Namazi in 1993 and was used in his dissertation. This questionnaire consists of 9 questions and the high score in this questionnaire shows the positive attitude of the person towards the mentioned cases. The subscales of this questionnaire are the level of concern about childbirth, the individual's attitude towards the impact of childbirth on work and family

life, and attitudes toward the child. The minimum possible score was zero and the maximum was 36. Namazi (1372), while examining the formal and content validity of this tool by gynecologists, calculated the reliability of this tool equal to 95% after 15 days of reassessment method on 30 women.¹⁷

The number of qualified female students at Abadan University of Medical Sciences was 600, and according to Morgan's table, the sample size for this study was 234. The results of these questionnaires were analyzed using SPSS software and Chi _ square and test_T, Anova, and Pearson correlation coefficients.

Results: In this study, 234 female students with an average age of $7/2 \pm 20/21$ entered the study. The average number of family members in these individuals was $8/0 \pm 30/4$. Other demographic specifications are listed in Table 1.

Percentage	Number	Segmentation	Variable
14/9	35	Medical	Field of Study
21/3	50	Nursing	
15/3	36	Laboratory Sciences	
12/3	29	Anesthesia	
12/8	30	Surgery Room	
7/6	18	General Hygiene	
5/9	14	Environmental Health	
5/1	12	Medical Library	
4/2	10	Health Information Technology	

44/8	105	Free	Father's job
27/7	65	Employee	
27/3	64	Retired	
23/07	54	Employed	Mother's job
76/9	180	Housewife	

Table1. Demographic characteristics of female students studied in Abadan University of Medical Sciences

The results showed that the average fear of marriage was $4/10 \pm 45/72$ which is moderate. The average overall score of the attitude towards children and childbirth was $6/3 \pm 84/14$ which is in the middle range.

The results of Pearson's correlation test showed that there was a negative and significant statistical correlation between the mean fear of marriage and the average overall score of attitude towards the child and childbirth. Thus, with an increasing attitude towards children and childbirth (positive attitude), the average fear of marriage decreased ($0.01=p$) ($-65/0=r$).

Discussion: This study was conducted in 2019 with the aim of determining the correlation between fear of marriage and attitudes towards childbirth and child care in female students of Abadan University of Medical Sciences. This study was conducted in 2019 with the aim of determining the correlation between fear of marriage and attitudes towards childbirth and child care in female students of Abadan University of Medical Sciences.

A descriptive cross-sectional study of Nikkhah et al. Entitled "Assessing students' attitudes towards marriage and its effective factors" was conducted in 2017 on female students of Ferdowsi University of Mashhad. The results of the study show that there is a

significant relationship between the variables considered and the type of attitude towards marriage. There is also a relationship between socioeconomic variables, religiosity, opportunity cost, and gender role stereotypes and attitudes toward marriage. Also, according to the results of most studies, respondents had a more traditional attitude towards marriage.⁹

A descriptive and survey study by Jahanbakhshi et al. In 2016, entitled "Rooting and ranking the causes of increasing the age of marriage in students" was conducted among single students of Islamic Azad University, Islamshahr Branch. The results showed that the most effective factor for increasing the age of student marriage are economic factors and then the irresponsibility of people to manage life, worry about weakness and impotence, parents' emphasis on choosing a spouse among acquaintances are other reasons for increasing the age of marriage Are.¹⁶

A study conducted by Moasheri et al. with the aim of determining the relationship between fear of pain, fear of childbirth, and attitude to cesarean section with the preferred method of delivery in pregnant women. 154 people (1/81%) were willing to have a normal delivery and 104 people (54.7%) were very afraid of pain. 69 (37.3%) were very afraid of childbirth. 160 people (85.5%) had a

negative and very negative attitude towards the cesarean section.

There was a significant difference between the preferred method of delivery with fear of pain ($p = 0.047$), fear of childbirth ($p = 0.012$) and attitude towards cesarean section ($p = 0.008$). There was also a significant difference between the spouse's level of education ($p = 0.017$), family income ($p = 0.022$) and the distance between marriage and pregnancy ($p = 0.001$) with the preferred method of delivery. Given the importance of the attitude towards cesarean section and the fear of childbirth and their effect on the choice of delivery method and subsequently on the health of mother and baby, the need for interventions in this field in order to improve the attitude of individuals and decreased fear of childbirth is seen in the first pregnant women in Birj and.¹⁷

A survey was conducted in 2011 by Gatabi et al. With the aim of determining the causes of increasing the age of marriage for girls in two groups, including single girls and married women aged 25 to 44 living in urban centers. In the end, the results showed that girls who get married later have higher education, have a transnational attitude towards marriage, and believe more than with marriage, the cost of missed opportunities is more than the chance of marriage.⁸

A study in 1390 by Zarabi and Mostafavi with the aim of finding the factors affecting the age of marriage in women in an economic context and finding the effects of these factors were based on data available in Iran. In the end, they concluded that the level of education has a positive effect on the age of marriage of women, and the urban variability

compared to being rural in general has a negative effect. There is also a difference in the age of marriage among different ethnicities; the final results show that the age of marriage is lower among households of higher economic classes and finally the age of marriage among recent age groups has an increasing trend.¹⁸

In 2019, a study by Stein House et al. Entitled "Measuring Social Criteria for Child Marriage from Girls' Adult Decisions in Follow and Taylo, Malawi" was conducted on 1492 adults who were decision-makers for girls. Finally, 98.3% of people believe that most people in society expect girls to get married before the age of 18, and 36.4% are afraid of sanctions.¹⁹

A 2006 study by Nikmanesh et al. Aimed at determining the factors influencing the increase in marriage age in the statistical population, which included boys over 27 years of age and girls over 25 years of age in Zahedan. In the end, the results showed that marriage opportunities for girls with delayed marriage were higher than for boys, and girls said that the most important reason for not marrying was not finding a loved one and continuing their education. They have proposed marriage. Boys are more likely to marry in the future than girls. The results also showed that boys and girls see the reduction of parental expectations as the main solution to the problem of marriage. In the second priority, girls and boys proposed solving economic problems and unemployment as a solution.⁶

In 2006, a study was conducted by Nastizai et al. With the aim of examining the barriers to marriage for girls and providing appropriate

solutions for female students at Sistan and Baluchestan University in the second half of the year. In the end, they concluded that the five factors studied in the study, namely economic, cultural, social factors, negligence of officials and incompetence of young people have been effective in the effectiveness of marriage.¹²

Therefore, according to the above studies, few studies have been done on new barriers to marriage. Also, due to cultural and national differences, population statistics, and differences in lifestyle and an average age of marriage in each country, there are very few similar studies in foreign countries and Iran directly on the variable attitude and childbirth and its effect on desire. Girls to get married, no studies have been done. In addition, due to the limitations of this study, we suggest to other researchers to examine other possible variables in a broader sense, such as friendships between girls and boys, premarital cohabitation, and post-marital relationships among young people. And then to delay the timing of young people's marriages and to expand the form of marriage called white marriage in Iranian society, which is a completely informal form of marriage and a product of Western culture.

Conclusion: The results showed that there was a negative and significant statistical correlation between the average fear of marriage and the average overall score of attitude towards child and childbirth care so that with an increasing attitude towards child and childbirth (positive attitude), the average fear of childbirth Marriage decreased. Therefore, it is suggested that basic and basic education be provided for

adolescent girls and students, and that existing fears be clarified and that the importance and principles of proper marriage and its impact on individual development be considered in the wider community.

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