

Abstract

Introduction: Population and its corresponding problems are one of the multidimensional and complicated issues in human communities and its related features are the basis for any kind of plans and policies. In order to reach sustainable development population growth should be under control. Fertility is the most important component of population growth and changes in fertility levels is the most important factor of the changing age structure of the population. Fertility is also a function of economic, social, cultural and political factors. Therefore, survey about association between these factors and fertility, help to prediction of fertility trends based on factors changing.

Fertility, as one of the principle components of population growth is an issue that has always been taken into consideration and extensive research has been carried out to recognize the influential factors on it. Therefore, we decided to study the most important factors influencing fertility rate in Iran by conducting a study over time and considering the effect of various periods of time on population changes.

Methodology: This is a descriptive- analytic study that retrospectively examined the socio-economic factors associated with the fertility rate of the Iran's provinces. Its required information is a combination of cross-sectional and time series data (panel data) that were extracted in 1966-2013 from all residents of country differentiated by 24 provinces and from statistical yearbooks of Statistical Center of Iran and Organization of Civil Registration.

Panel data is one of the approaches of econometrics that combines cross-sectional and time series data and reduces shortages of time series and cross-sectional models. The final estimation was done via Eviews version 7 and STATA version 12.

Findings: Findings showed that variables of marriage, women's level of education, unemployment, population policies, Sunni population, economic policies and annual expenses of households have influenced fertility rate. The coefficient of marriage, second and third groups of the Sunni population and the first three periods of non-cash subsidies policies, was positive and the coefficient of education of women, unemployment, family planning policies, the last two periods of non-cash and cash subsidies policies and family's total annual expenses, was negative.

Results: Based on the research results, marriage and women's level of education had the most positive and negative effects on the rate of fertility, respectively. Then, unemployment, family planning policies, policies of paying cash subsidies and total annual expenses of households had reverse effect on fertility rate, respectively and the policies of paying cash subsidies and Sunni population had positive effect on fertility rate.

Keywords: fertility rate, panel, population policies, economic policies.



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Title:

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