

Investigation of the factors affecting the fertility rate of women referring to health care centers in Torbat Heydariyeh in 2015

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Abstract

Background & Aim: Reducing the fertility rate over the past years can have adverse effects on the social, economic and cultural development of Iran. Therefore, it is important to evaluate the factors affecting fertility in different regions of the country. Therefore, the present study was designed to determine the relationship between demographic, socioeconomic factors and the level of religiosity with the fertility rate of women referring to health centers in Torbat Heydariyeh city.

Methods: This descriptive cross-sectional study was performed on 254 women referring to health centers of Torbat Heydariyeh from April to September 2015. The data collection tool was a demographic data form, Khodayarifard religiosity scale and a Trommsdorff child value questionnaire whose validity and reliability were confirmed before the study. Data were analyzed using SPSS software, descriptive statistics, and Kruskal-Wallis, Mann-Whitney, and Spearman correlation.

Results: The average number of children in the study population was 1.85 ± 0.99 . Among the variables studied, age, age of the spouse and the length of the marriage had direct relationship and the marriage age had an inverse relationship with fertility rate ($p=0.001$). In addition, there was a significant difference in fertility rate in terms of education ($P = 0.001$). Based on the results of Spearman correlation test, there were the positive and significant correlation between mean total religiosity score and all three dimensions with fertility rate ($P<0.005$). According to the results of this test, there was also a significant relationship between childbearing costs and its dimensions with fertility rates ($P=0.001$). However, the relationship between childbearing benefits and fertility was not significant ($P> 0.05$).

Conclusion: The results of this study indicate the relationship between age of men and women, marriage age, education, degree of religiosity and costs of childbearing with the fertility rate of women in Torbat Heydarieh. Therefore, by focusing population growth policies on adjustment of these variables, it may be possible to take an effective step towards increasing population growth.

Keywords: Demographic factors, Religiosity, Fertility rate, Women, Childbirth costs, Childbirth benefits

How to Cite this Article: Behnam H, Barati-Far S, Azmoude E. Investigation of the Factors Affecting the Fertility Rate of Women Referring to Health Care Centers in Torbat Heydariyeh in 2015. Journal of Student Research Committee (JSRC) of Torbat Heydariyeh University of Medical Sciences. 2019; 1(1):52-65.