Comparing Factors Influencing Fertility Desire among Urban and Rural families referring to healthcare centers in Ferdows city in 2020

Azadeh Arasteh 1, Amirhossain Akbariyan 2, Fariba Asadi 3,1 *

1- MSc in Midwifery, Instructor, Ferdows school of Paramedical and Health, Birjand University of Medical Sciences, Birjand, Iran
2- Nursing student, member of Student Research Committee, Birjand University of Medical Sciences, Birjand, Iran
3- *corresponding author: PhD student in Biostatistics, School of Paramedical Sciences, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran

**Introduction**

Fertility is among the major components of population, the reduction of which can cause irreparable socioeconomic damage to the country. Unfortunately, the fertility rate is declining and lower than the critical level in Iran. Whereas the issue of fertility decline in Iran is highly important, because Iran is a developing society and requires labor. Due to the previous studies have focused on differences in fertility desires of couples, the present study aims to identify the factors influencing childbearing desire among urban and rural households to reveal more aspects of this issue. Implementing appropriate interventions in line with population growth policies requires examining the individuals’ views on fertility to clarify the factors that have led to a decrease in childbearing despite the actual human’s desire to have children.

**Methodology**

This descriptive-analytical study included all the rural and urban families referring to healthcare centers in Ferdows, Iran, 2020. The participants were selected using multi-stage sampling method. Finally, 400 married men and women referring to the centers were assessed by the fertility desire scale (FDS). The data were analyzed using descriptive statistics as well as Mann-Whitney and Spearman tests by SPSS 19.0.

**Results**

In this study, 81.2% of the participants were female, 52.5% of whom aged 25-35 years old. The mean scores of fertility desire among urban and rural households were 66.69±9.61 and 65.06±9.08, respectively. In all dimensions of the questionnaire except for childbearing concerns, significant differences were observed between urban and rural households (p<0.05). The viewpoint that life without children is meaningless as well as having the social belief in parental support to have children were the most important positive childbearing motivations.

**Discussion**

To increase childbearing rate and support couples, especially in rural households, it is necessary to promote the joy of parenthood and reduce couples’ negative perceptions of having more children and their future through economic prosperity, promoting supportive policies, and building a culture in society.

**Conclusion**

these results can provide the basis for applying interventions and theories of health education and promotion in the field of reproductive behaviors in future research.

**References**


**Keywords**

Childbearing desire; Factors, FDS; families