

General Review of the Sociological Challenges and Prospects of Population in Iran – A Sociological Study of Quality of Life

Mohammad Taghi Sheykhi

Sociology, Department of Social Science, Al-Zahra University, Tehran, Iran
Telephone: 009821-2859416, E-mail: mstshykhi@yahoo.com

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ABSTRACT A surge in the population of Iran over the past half-century, accompanied by the emergence of over-populated and over-congested urban areas, has resulted in numerous social, economic, environmental and political challenges. If these challenges are not tackled soon, a decline in the overall quality of life—especially among younger generations will occur. The population increases in Iran in the 1970s and 1980s significantly contributed to the present situation in which younger generations are facing numerous hardships. In large part because of the global diffusion of Western norms and values, young Iranians are expecting and demanding a high quality of life characterized by access to all of the modern convenience and consumer goods that the global economy sets before them. But, in the absence of fundamental demographic change, their expectations and goals will not be met, and social, economic, environmental and political problems will be magnified. The demographic trap that Iran is facing needs progressive and sustainable social, psychological and demographic conditioning. In this regard, fertility behaviour in Iran is examined from a multidimensional perspective. It is hoped that, in order to prevent a further decline in the overall quality of life, population planning and education will find high priority among policymakers within the government.