

Second Demographic Transition and Marriage Revolution

In Iran

Introduction

Theories related to demographic transition entitled as Theory of Demographic Transition notes mainly mortality and fertility changes from natural maximum to possible minimum and in other hand it emphasizes on transition from natural or biologic balance to voluntary balance, and population growth goes toward static and after that size and population age stretcher will go to be static. But most of the countries that experienced this period, do not reach not only to such a balance between fertility and mortality but also their fertility remained at below of the replacement level (about 2.1 children per woman) and instead in this level.

The imbalance of transition periods in the first demographic transition is in favor of fertility, however, in imbalance after the first demographic transition, fertility level reaches at below of the mortality level. In consequent, population growth rate will get negative and population will decline. Ron Lesthaeghe and Drik Van De Kaa entitled this period as second demographic transition.

Van De Kaa believes that in western communities that experience the second demographic transition, secondary needs are replaced by material values equal with primary needs.

Beside the socio-cultural changes in society, many of fundamental changes have happened in sexual relations, marriage and family. In societies, within the recent decades, family as a social institution has changed, obligations related to formal marriage have been weakened, new forms of joint living has lose any current social obligation toward joint living and has caused to reveal such problems as:

- Decline the rate of marriage
- Rise the age of marriage
- Rise the rate of divorce
- Delay of childbearing & rise of women's age at birth of the first child
- Rise of certain childless

Total fertility rate in Iran has reached from 7 children in 1985 to 1.9 children per woman in 2006, in other hand, it can be said that Iran has came to the second demographic transition from this year. Of course, it must be noted that population growth rate of the country has not reached at balance level revealed in the first demographic transition and annual growth rate of population is 1.28% according to the new statistics. This rate is caused by population age structure and quickness of the first demographic transition that is an exception in terms of duration, in compared with developed countries.

The aim of this study is to assess the changes of marriage and divorce in Iran and definition effective socio-economic factors.

Method of the study is secondary analysis and necessary data are sourced by center of civil management and the results of DHS project in 2010.

Finding:

The women's age of marriage has reached from 19.9 to 25.1 during 1986-2011 and has increased 5.2 years. The men's age of marriage has reached from 23.8 to 28 and has increased 4.2 years. The comparison of these rates shows that firstly, average age of marriage for both of sexes has increased and secondly, women's average age of marriage has increased more. This increase has caused to narrow the gap between spouses age from 3.9 to 2.9.

Percentage of non marriage women aged 30-34 and 40-44 were 4.5 and 1.9 in 1986 and reach to 15.4 and 5.5 % in 2011.

The gross rate of marriage in Iran was 6.88, 7.98, 11.4 and 11.68 per one thousand population, during 1986-2011. As it is considered, marriage rate in Iran is ever increasing, contrasting with increasing age of marriage. This increase is mainly caused by changes of demographic structure. It means that wedding population is increasing gradually in these every year and consequently, number and percentage of marriage has been increased.

The gross rate of divorce in Iran was 0.71, 0.62, 1.33 and 1.91 per one thousand population during 1986-2011. The comparison of these rates shows that, during 1986-1996, the gross rate of divorce has decreased less that meant improvement of marriage status In Iran, but this rate increased relatively during 2006 and 2011.

There is another index that is used in marriage and divorce studies as ratio of divorce per one hundred marriages. During 1986-2011, this ratio was 10.35, 7.89, 12.8 and 16.33. The average of marital years caused to divorce, during 2006-2011, was 7.63 and 7.21 that reveals relative decline in 2011.

Study of statistics related to 3 generations (DHS project) showed that transition to single child in the first year of marriage was 35% for first generation, 12% for second generation and 6% for third generations. The average age of childbearing has increased from 26 to 29 ages for mother. Thus, postpone childbearing in Iran is perfectly observable.