

Socio–economic Implications of Ageing in Iran with Specific Focus on Tehran

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Abstract

The paper explores the ageing population of Iran vis-à-vis quality of life, and their social and economic conditions. The author hopes that the present research would act as a beginning step to expand gerontology, which is less developed in countries like Iran. While the world is graying, Iran too is facing the same phenomenon, and the process is accelerated and intensified by the decreasing birth rate, mortality rate, and the increasing longevity. This change is affecting, and will further affect the social and economic lives of the elderly to a great extent. However, the world is not ageing uniformly. The demographic transition varies from one region to another, and from one country to another in the same region. Further, the impact of the ageing process on social and economic lives of people is different in various countries; depending on the social fabric, cultural values and economic structure of society. The paper attempts to explore and

describe the demographic change which is eventually encompassing / affecting the elderly.

The author tries to bring together the literature and collected data to examine the state of living of the elderly in Iran. For that purpose, a sum of 500 elderly of both sexes was chosen as the “*study population*”. While reviewing the relevant literature, the author has referred to various theories as required to assess the elderly’s living conditions.

Among other queries, the paper tries to probe the quality of life of the elderly by marriage, receiving financial support from their children, their emotional network with their children, their literacy, and their monthly pensions. Similarly, daily leisure, social security, medical care, satisfaction with life, and health and mental well-being are some of the other queries which are qualitatively and quantitatively probed within the “*study population*”.

However, the paper will explore how population ageing is mainly determined by the effect of fall in births. Though the scenario is not currently so serious in Iran, yet, in the years to come, it will be highly problematic particularly if necessary steps are not taken. Longer lives particularly among the women means more widows in the society. That is, longer life expectancy for them accompanied by increasing problems, which in part is in purview of demography.