

The Sociological Study of the Factors Affecting Marriage Age Increase among Guivi City's Girls in 2013

Seyyed Ghani Nazari¹

Faculty member of Payam-e Nour University, Ardabil

Hanieh Fakoury²

M.A. in Psychology, Islamic Azad University, Tabriz Branch & Faculty member of Payam-e Nour University, Ardabil

Hossein Bashiri Guivi³

Ph.D. Student of Political Sociology, Islamic Azad University, Science and Research Branch, Tehran

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Abstract: *Family as the smallest and the most fundamental structure of the society forms the basis and foundation of the society and in the meantime marriage itself can be considered as the basis and foundation of the family. Considering the importance of marriage, changing and transitions and creating disorder in the process of the marriage is a social problem which may be affected both the basis of the family and the basis of the society. Increasing the age of marriage is one of these problems that many of the societies are involved in this problem. Taking this point into account, the main aim of the study is to recognize the effective factors on increasing the age of marriage among the girls. The method used in this study was measurement that the required data collected through the questionnaire. The samples of this study were girls between 25 to 40 years old in Givi city (urban districts 1&2). The main subjects were 110 girls which gathered by Cochran formula. Also, sampling process achieved randomly and data analysis unit was based on individual. Data was analyzed in two descriptive and inferential levels considering the symmetrical data. The results showed that there was no relationship among economical-social status, residential area, and marriage criteria with increasing the age of marriage in Givi city's girls. In opposition, there was a meaningful relationship between hindrance to the culture and increasing age of marriage. The results show that among the factors such as position, residential area, marriage criteria, hindrance to the culture, the only factor that affects the increase in the age of marriage was hindrance to the culture.*

Keywords: *Marriage, increasing in the age of marriage, girls, Guivi city.*

Introduction and Statement of the Problem

The issue of marriage and matrimony is one of the most important and basic problems in family formation and continuation in mankind generation and there has been among all nations and peoples and in all times and places. After industrial revolution and under its influences, the process of country's modernization such as Iran, social structures like family and marriage exposed to be changed and revolted (Ahamadi Mohammad Abadi, 1368:98). Because of this today we can observe a phenomenon called increasing in marriage age. Family is one of the social structures that from its effectiveness on its own members and also on different levels of the society, is so important and as we know marriage is a factor of forming a family. So, the safety of the family is depending on the safe and durable marriage (Haidy Rozen Barm, 1367:1, 2 quoted by Farjad, 1368). According to Malinowski, the family forms the raw material of a new organism and creates it as a complete member for the tribe and city. Therefore, marriage that plays a role as a necessary channel and preface in family forming is very important. Marriage is an act that causes the graft of two opposed genders based on the permanent sexual relationships, so the relation between two individuals from one sex either temporarily or permanently is not called Marriage. From another point of view in definition of marriage, the corporeal relations between two humans the marriage of the opposed sex is not sufficient by itself because marriage necessitates the social conclusion that causes the corporeal relations legitimating.

Carlson as the result of conformity and relationship in marriage gives this definition in marriage (marriage is a process of corresponding action from two individuals, one man and one woman that they prove to be true their

¹ Email: gnazari33@gmail.com

² Email: fakoury.h@gmail.com

³ Email: guivi.hb@gmail.com

marriage and hold a matrimonial ceremony for themselves and generally their action is accepted by the law and it is called marriage. Claude Loy Straus believes that marriage is a dramatic encountering between culture and nature or among the social rules and sexual gravity (Saroukhani, 1385). Marriage is a holy contract that has been existed among all tribes and nations in all times and places. Marriage is the exordium of forming a family and family is one of the most ancient social structures that have a history as ancient as the human life (Gidens, 1387:17).

In fact desire to the marriage is from the most basic and important needs of mankind in human societies and how much girls and boys that had their hope and wish in search of tomorrow's life now they have encountering themselves and want to profit it truly and desirably. Differently, today's families involved by two major structural and outputting revolutions in this field. The structural revolution is based on the fact that institutional domain in family fixes the power and the outputting domain mentions a family's duties through the lifetime. Alongside these revolutions is that sociologist recognized the stream of family's revolutions from "expanded" to "nucleus" families. With this view to the family and recognizing the dangers of its revolutions, the problem of delaying in the age of marriage can be made clear. Because what is obvious in our today society is speak about family revolution toward nucleus families and in some areas is in level of transition from this condition. With this explanation the problem of delaying in age of marriage and other problems such as divorce increasing and ... can be explained in the type of family's structure and output with especial attention on the nucleus dimension. Because by a look at back the Iranian expanded families shows that the earliness of marriage and the social obstacles of divorce and the emphasis on inner-spouse marriage have been problems in that times but today in nucleus families we are encountering with delaying in age of marriage, repetition and increase in divorce and leaning on exterior-spouse marriage. The existing statistics show that the average of marriage age in Iran has been encountered with major revolutions; according to this the age of marriage between the years (1345-1381) has been increasing gradually and this increase had more acceleration in recent decades, so that in 1381 more than one-fourth of the girls between 25-29 years old were not married. Also, the women's age of marriage in Iran alongside the census years of (1345-1381) has been increased gradually and reached from 18/4 years to 23/2 years, while the average age of marriage in men only reached from 25/8 to 25/9. (Kazempour, 1384:106).

This procedure also exists in small towns. , so that it seems that the increase in marriage age among Kowsar city's girls (urban areas 1&2) is existed strongly and this city's girl have more inclination for marriage in upper ages. The current research is aimed to answer these important and basic questions that:

- Does economical-social status have an effect on increasing the age of marriage among girls?
- Does residential area have an effect on increasing the age of marriage?
- Does hindrance to the culture have an effect on increasing the age of marriage?
- Are there relationships between the criteria for marriage and increasing in the age of marriage?

Theoretical Framework

The economic theories in the age of marriage and its delaying can be applied as the intellectual selection theories that try to explain the reasons and delay in marriage among the men and especially women with reliance on minor applicable economics criteria (Freedman and et al, 1994). This group of clear-sighted theorists, explained the change in family by the help of economical and basic factors and at first sight they emphasis on changes that occur in work market. These theories are based on the hypothesis that human behavior is targeted and the individuals divulge those behavioral strategies that leads them into these purposes that can be reached. The intellectual theories are more paid to analyze the dependence between the educations and family forming. These theories are more based on the idea that the structural resource of a society effects on the behavior, because this resource defines some stimulators to provoke the behavior (Coleman & Fararow, 2003:6). In general, intellectual selection theories are a kind of expense-profit theory that is used in analyzing of applied minor economics for analyzing the marriage (Grossbard-shetchman, 2003:15). The most important economic theories that presented some explanations about increasing the age of marriage are as follow: the theory of opportunity expense (Funch, 1994: 183-192), the theory of profitable maximum-making (Becker, 1996; Hill & et al, 1993; Matoschek & Rasoul, 2006:2; Hoo & Save, 2006:2; Rozina & Fraboni, 2004: 5), The theory of attractiveness (Openheimer, 1998:583; Brodel, 1997) and Hanjal's European rough draft (Mensh & et al, 2005; 17).

Also, sociological theories as custom theories, in analyzing the increase in age of marriage, pay more attention to explain the achieved changes in the family in fields such as values and wishes. Theorists of this group emphasize their analyses in the fields of revolution of marriage age on secularization, individualism, the importance of independence developing and being autonomous and new ideologies in relation with sexuality roles. This group of theorists knows the effects of economic and structural factors and do not count them least, at same time they

pay more attention to the changes in technology and social developments lead to evolution in values and accomplishments that at last all of them have some shifts in human being behaviors. Also, clear-sighted theorists in structural behaviors believe that in relation to the increasing of the age of marriage expanding of values in some cases has relationship with educational developments (Freedman & et al, 1994). The most important theorists in sociology that consider sociological factors in studying the increase of the age of marriage are as follow: the theory of ultra-materialism values (Engelhard 1382: 59: Freedman & et al, 1994) the theory of accessibility, feasibility and marriage desirability (Dickson 1971; Landall & Toloni, 1991; Mean, 1997: 3-4) William Goud's reconstruction theory (Mean, 1997:2) Engeld's human capital theory, Farkass & Openheimer (Engeld and Farkass, 1986; bluesfield & Hamrel, 1992 ; batnheim, 2006:6) Mc Donald & Hule's theory (Austin Afshan, 1380).

Also, the most important sociological theory in this regard, is the theory of second population transition that emphasizes on the harmonious effect of economic and social factors (especially weakening the custom control and increasing the economic dependence of women), cultural (secularization) and modern technology (prevention of pregnancy) on increasing the age of marriage. These factors besides each other changed the preferences and tact of persons into the individualism, freedom and independence and in conclusion it leads to decrease in marriage age (Rozina & Fraboni, 2004: 5-6).

Another theory that is used for explanation of changes and diversities in marriage age is the theory of exchange. The basic supposition of the exchange theory is that people are logical in their selection and they are going to maximize their profits through the selection and making relations with others. This theory chiefly has some effects on sociology through the works of Homens & Blow. The theory of reconstruction as the last group of theories used in this study believes that the transition of societies from the traditional order to the modern, leads to some changes in different levels of huge, middle, and minor and also among all those groups and these changes also in its turn will cause revolutions in values, expectations and... (Ezkie, 1374:26). Generally speaking, the approaches and theoretical framework of this study are sociological theories. From this point of view different factors affected the family structure in minor, middle, and major levels and in the process of society's transition from traditional to the modern, family affected with structural changes and revolutions.

Research Hypotheses

- There is a meaningful relation between the economical-social status and increase in marriage age of Givi city's girls.
- There is a meaningful difference between the residential area (upper and lower) and increase in marriage age of Givi city's girls.
- There is a meaningful difference between the hindrance to culture and increase in marriage age of Givi city's girls.
- There is a meaningful relationship between the criteria for marriage and increase in marriage age of Givi city's girls.

Research Method

The method of this study is measurement and the instrument used in the current study is questionnaire. The samples are all 25 – 40 years old girls in Givi city (urban area districts 1&2) that the amount of participants also is obtained through the Cochran formula (110 participants). Also, sampling process achieved randomly and data analysis unit is based on individual.

Validity: the validity of this study is external validity and considering the nature of questionnaire that is researcher-made and it is confirmed by professors and some clear-sighted individuals, so it has necessary validity.

Reliability: with due attention to the Cronbach's coefficient Alpha the reliability of data is mentioned in the following table.

Table (1): Coefficient Alpha of data related to each of the variables

Data	Effective factors on marriage	Marriage criteria	Hindrance to culture
Cronbach's coefficient Alpha	.58	53	64

Table (2): The matrix of operational definition of variables

Row	Variables	Factors	Indicators
1	Marriage criteria	Material things Moral things	Money Car House Beauty Morality Politeness
2	Social and economic status	Education Income Job	Illiterate Pre-school Diploma Senior Bachelor & upper educations, Unemployed Housekeeper Worker Free job Governmental job Retired
3	Residential area	Higher Givi Low Givi	
4	Hindrance to culture culture	Material culture Moral culture	T.V. Home Appliances Ceremonies and Customs Values Wedding Ceremony

Results

Inferential Statistics

- (Hypothesis 1) There is a meaningful relation between the economical-social status and increase in marriage age of Givi city's girls.

Table (3): Pearson's statistical test results

	Social Status	Age of Marriage
Pearson Correlation	-0.063	1
Sig. level	0.881	0
Total	110	110

Because the two variables (social status and age) are in interval level, Pearson test is used. Sig. equals 0.881 that is upper than the expected level and it shows that there is not any meaningful relationship between the social status and age. In conclusion, as shown in above tables and their information null hypothesis (H0) is accepted and alternative hypothesis (H) is rejected. In other words, the social status of the girls has not effect on their increase age of marriage.

- (Hypothesis 2) There is a meaningful difference between the residential area (upper and lower) and increase in marriage age of Givi city's girls.

Table (4): Independent T- Test analysis

residential area	subjects	Mean	standard Deviation	Rard standard Error of Mean		
lower Givi	50	31	4.076	.576		
higher Givi	58	31.83	4.382	.566		
Independent T test				Lyon's Test		Between two groups Within two groups
Mean	Sig.	df	t	Sig.	F	
0.828	0.314	106	-1.011	0.623	0.244	
0.828	0.312	105.366	-1.016			

Considering that, one of the variables is in nominal level and the other one is in interval level (resident and age), the parametric independent T-test is used. According to the results of Leven's Test sig. = 0.623 and because it is upper than 0.05 the variance of the two samples is equal and as the results show in independent T-test the sig. =0.314 that indicates no meaningful relationships between two variables. Therefore, Hypothesis H0 is accepted and Hypothesis H is rejected. In other words, residential area has no effect on the age of marriage of Givi city's girls.

- There is a meaningful difference between the hindrance to culture and increase in marriage age of Givi city's girls.

Table (5): Pearson statistical test results

	hindrance to culture	Age of Marriage
Pearson Correlation	-0.196	1
Sig. level	0.042	0
Total	110	110

Since our two variables are in interval level (Hindrance to Culture and Age of Marriage) Pearson test is used and sig. = 0.042 that shows a meaningful relationship between Hindrance to Culture and increase in age of marriage and also Pearson Correlation equals -0.196 that indicates the average and reverse relationship between the variables. In conclusion, Hypothesis H0 is rejected and Hypothesis H is accepted. In other words, the results of shows that Hindrance to Culture has a meaningful effect on the age of marriage and according to above table the more the rate and average of hindrance to culture is upper, the more rate and average of marriage age will be upper.

- There is a meaningful relationship between the criteria for marriage and increase in marriage age of Givi city's girls.

Table (6): Pearson statistical test results

	Marriage criteria	Age of Marriage
Pearson Correlation	-0.043	1
Sig. level	0.660	0
Total	110	110

With attention to the variables that both of them are in interval level, Pearson Test is used. Sig. equals 0.660 that shows there is not a relationship between two variables. Therefore, Hypothesis H0 is accepted and Hypothesis H is rejected. In other words, criteria for marriage in Givi have no effect on increase of marriage age among the girls.

Conclusion

Marriage is the basis for family forming, i.e., the first and the most important social unit. Human societies remarkably have been witnessed increasing in the age of marriage in the two recent decades. This increasing rate first was in European countries and then it was transmitted to developing countries in twentieth century (Lucas & Mir, 1381: 129). In this research, different theories such as economical, anthropological, sociological, and reconstruction theories and more other theories are used to analyze marriage and the age of marriage phenomenon among girls. According to the investigations and results obtained in this study we can conclude that:

There is no meaningful relationship between the economic and social status of the Givi city's girls and increase in age of marriage and also considering the Pearson's Correlation -0.063 that indicates a weak and reverse relationship between the variables we can say that the more social status is upper, the less will be the rate of marriage age. There is not a meaningful difference between the residential area and increase in the age of marriage in Givi city's girls. Since, the observed t equals 1.011 we can conclude that there is not a meaningful difference between residential area and marriage age increase. There is a meaningful difference between the hindrance to the culture and increase in the age of marriage in Givi city's girls and also, since the Pearson's Correlation rate -0.196 that indicates average and reverse relationship between the variables, i.e. the more the hindrance to culture is weak, the more increase in the age of marriage will occur. There is no meaningful relationship between the criteria for marriage and increase in the age of marriage, i.e., marriage criteria has no effect on increase of marriage age. With due attention to the investigated research and also considering the opinions of question makers we can say that from the reasons that cause to increase in age of marriage among Givi city's girls, hindrance to culture is one of the most important factors. It means that the more families do severity about the marriage-portion and dowry and encourage the youth toward the luxury and expensive dowries and more marriage-portions, the more young girls and boys run away from marriage and by doing this the age of marriage increases and in addition to this most of the youth instead of getting married follow actions that are not in their positions and not suitable for them and it causes big problems in the society.

Suggestions and Criticisms

1. Because of the lack of cultural educations and/or cultural problems and existing amusement in society many of the people do not count serious attention to the marriage issue and in conclusion while answering to the questions may not respond with awareness and accurately. So, it is suggested that at university courses it should be considered that general lessons about the marriage affairs and the delaying out comings of marriage at least two units should be placed.
2. Lack of a standard questionnaire in this regard may lead to different results, therefore it is suggested that related organizations especially the youth national organization should take considerations about administering a kind of standard and scientific questionnaire.
3. To accelerate and prevent of confusing students who are going to do research in this area, it is suggested that the related research centers such as the youth national center have suitable collaboration and guidance with them so that such researches have progressed purposefully and to complete the previously done researches, or in other words prevent from the repeated works and studies that have been done for the policy makers it may be effective.

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