

Delayed child bearing: New serious challenge in Iran

Sir,

Demographic transition in Iran has been very wide during recent years. As early as 1980, the pronatalist laws strongly were supported by social pressure.

Population grew at a rate of more than 3% per year.^[1] Then the population policy was changed and antynatalist policies replaced with pronatalist policies.^[2] After the government initiated a major population control program, growth rate was decline. According the last national census, total fertility rate is 1.9 births per woman.^[3]

This is the largest and fastest fall in fertility ever recorded. Currently, after the control of the population growth, the society faced a new problem: old mothers. Some Demographic studies were shown that the age of mother at first pregnancy as well as the number of pregnancies in women more than 35 years have been rising.^[4]

One of the important reasons for this issue is the changes in reproductive behavior. There are some evidences to indicate that maternal age at first pregnancy is increased, including increasing marital age, increasing the coverage of contraception's method, Extensive use of contraception immediately after marriage, changes in family function and lifestyle, gender equality and empowerment of women in new modern society and socioeconomic factors such as labor force participation in more educated women. It seems that most of women may be unaware of the implications of this decision such as its potential impact on their own health, the health of future children, and the possibility of age related sub-fertility.^[5] Although

information alone is insufficient, but it is recent serious challenges and there is a lack of studies concerning this issue.

In conclusion, the present paper, particularly, is interested to give an alarm about the timing of child-bearing to put on parenthood.

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