

Introduction

Religion is a system of beliefs, attitudes and actions that is common among people and through this orientation about life and death is that religion affects their reproductive behavior. Religion can be direct and indirect effects on people's demographic behavior. Iran's fertility declined in all provinces in 1980s. Since 1984 it has continued to decline so that fertility reached 2.8 children in 1995. Finally, in 2006, fertility recede to the replacement level and then in 2011 became 1.8. One of the characteristics of fertility change in Iran is to reduce fertility have been conducted simultaneously in all geographic regions, the trend has been converging fertility in all regions of the country. However, fertility levels are different them. One of the characteristics of fertility change in Iran is that fertility decline took place simultaneously in all geographic regions, the trend has been converging. However, they have different fertility levels. In recent years it has been hypothesized that the high fertility of some province is due to their religion. On the other hand, and according to some theories, the fertility rate is affected by the level of development. Since in the population and housing census there is no question about religion in therefore, the effect of religion on fertility is not provided at the individual level. One way to study such issues, using multilevel analysis.

Method

The sample consisted of 9457 women aged 49-15 were married in the township of Kermanshah, Kurdistan and West Azerbaijan. The dependent variable in this study was the number of children born to women. Individual predictor variables, including "residence place", "employment situation" and education level. At the macro level, the township level, predictive variables include "the development level and religion.

Finding

About 66 and 34 percent of women were in urban and rural areas respectively. Only about 6% of women have college education. About 5 percent of women were also employed.

Table 1: Distribution sample by of independent variables

Residence place	percent
rural	34.3
urban	65.7
total	100
Education level	percent
illiterate	28.9
elementary	34.7
Middle and secondary	30.8
College education	5.6
total	100
Employment status	percent
Employee	5.2
Unemployee	94.8
total	100

Table 2 shows that 25 township, including 9 of Sunni and 16 of Shiite have been selected. The average childbearing women fluctuated from 2.3 to 3.3 children. The lowest and highest level fertility is the Sunni religious group.

Table2. Distribution of selected township by of religion and the average childbearing

Township		TFR	
Kermanshah	1	Eslam Abad (Shiite)	2.41
	2	Paveh (Sunni)	2.38
	3	Songhor (Shiite)	2.43
	4	Ghasreshirin (Shiite)	2.41
	5	Kangavar (Shiite)	2.57
	6	Gilangharb (Shiite)	2.67
	7	Javanrod (Sunni)	3.06
	8	Sahnah (Shiite)	2.33
	9	Harsin (Shiite)	2.77
	10	Salas (Sunni)	3.44
	11	Ravansar (Sunni)	2.72
Kurdistan	12	Baneh (Sunni)	2.68
	13	Bijar (Shiite)	2.54
	14	Saghez (Sunni)	2.45
	15	Sanandaj (Sunni)	2.36
	16	Ghorvah (Shiite)	2.55
	17	Marivan (Sunni)	2.57
	18	Divandareh (Sunni)	2.97
	19	Kamiaran (Sunni)	2.49
	20	Sarvabad (Sunni)	3.11
West Azerbaijan	21	Piranshahr (Sunni)	2.72
	22	Sardasht (Sunni)	2.8
	23	Mahabad (Sunni)	2.3
	24	Bokan (Sunni)	2.4
	25	Oshnovieh (Sunni)	2.48
	Average childbearing in Shiite Township=2.51		
	Average childbearing in Sunni Township=2.54		

Results

The results showed that Sunni's women fertility is only 0.3 units more than of their Shiite counterparts. In addition, the findings indicate that this reproductive behavior of women is affected more than one level variables. Independents variable had significant effect on dependent variable. About 50 percent of fertility variance explained by independent variables in first level. Education level had the most effect on fertility. Religion has an indirect and non-significant effect on fertility. As a results, first, the difference between Shiite and Sunni fertility level is very low; second, that religion has not a significant effect on fertility, Third, The development has a meaningful and significant effect on fertility. So in the end, concerns about fertility differences between Sunni and Shia religious groups and religious balance of the population does not matter.