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Letter to Editor

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Knowledge Translation and Moving Towards Improving Childbearing in Iran

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Dear Editor-in-chief

The modern world, alongside the expansion of opportunities and transformation of aspirations, has led to a delay in childbearing[1].

The Islamic Republic of Iran is one of the leading countries in the sharp decline in fertility rates, dropping from a fertility rate of 7 in 1980 to 1.9 in 2006. This decline aligns with the global trend of decreasing fertility rates, which began in Western societies with France and in non-Western societies with Japan. Scholars have identified Westernization as the main factor in fertility transition in non-Western societies, which are not as socio-economically modern. This includes an emphasis on nuclear families and the belief that the costs of children outweigh their potential benefits. Recent interpretations of contemporary societies address the role of development with broader impacts compared to cultural and ideological changes[2].

Higher education, career development, and economic independence are components of modernity, one of the results of which is the significant increase in the age of mothers in both developed and developing countries. Advanced maternal age (AMA), Refers to mothers who are 35 years of age or older at the time of delivery, has risen from 17.6 years to 23.8 years in Iran between 1990 and 2006[3].

Studies have shown that multiple factors contribute to the decline in fertility rates; however, two factors—women's education and employment—are consistently emphasized as key components in this matter[3-7].

Women's entry into the workforce, through their continued pursuit of career ambitions and the creation of sufficient financial resources, leads to a shift in women's preferences from childbearing to work and a postponement of childbearing to the point where it can even lead to childlessness. Nevertheless, research findings indicate that the relationship between career aspirations and maternal motivations is intertwined with women's perceptions of their future in the job market. This perception is related to personality traits, particularly women's self-esteem[4].

It seems that organized collective efforts, employing systematic approaches backed by legal frameworks, can help reduce the conflict between maternal and work roles in women's workplaces and educational environments. Ultimately, this can support women on their path to motherhood through personal empowerment (Figure 1).

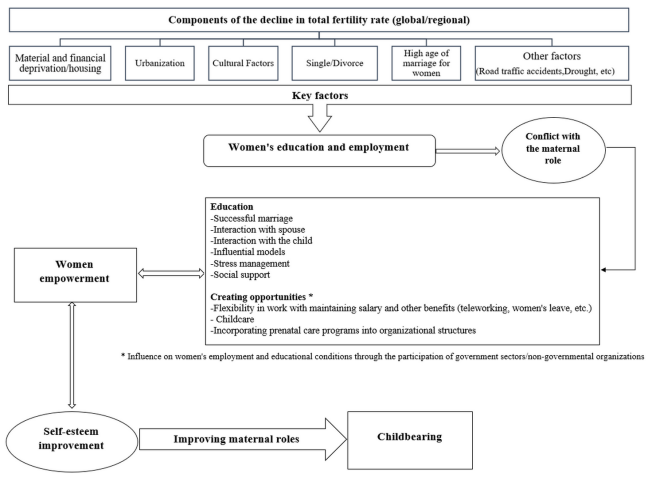

Figure 1. Effective measures to improve childbearing

Evidence from the United States, Europe, Australia, and Iran confirms these policies. Public childcare and parental leave are highlighted with having significant positive impacts[4-6, 8].

It is noteworthy that women's motivation in countries with relatively high gender equality and fertility remains relevant in the context of having second and third children[9].

Ethical Considerations

Not applicable.

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Conflict of Interest

There is no conflict of interest.

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