

Research Paper**Analysis of Factors Affecting the Social Health of the Elderly in Rural Areas (Case Study: Zanjan Township)**

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ABSTRACT

Surveys show that the world is witnessing unprecedented and stable changes in the age structure of the population. With new changes, with increasing expectations and decreasing population growth, the number of elderly population is increasing day by day. One of the important issues in the issue of old age is to know the social health status of these strata and to know the factors to improve it. The purpose of the research is to know the level of healthy social health in rural areas and then to influence the factors affecting it. The current research is applied in terms of type and descriptive-analytical in terms of nature. Its statistical community includes villages with more than 5% of the annual population in Zanjan city, the number of villages with 5% and more of the annual population according to the statistics of 1400 is equal to 39, which due to the large number of villages, the rural sampling method 14 villages were selected by lottery, the number of elderly people in these villages is equal to 2147. The sample size of the study is based on Cochran's formula of 384 people in the form of sampling strata proportional to the volume. Kibbs questionnaire was used to evaluate social health. Research studies show that the social health status of the elderly is relatively favorable and in the economic factors of land ownership indicators, retirement income, city remittances and vehicles in the individual factors of age indicators, the number of diseases, the amount of internet use and marital status. And among the social factors, leisure time, social trust, and feeling of security have an impact on the social health of the studied elderly.

Key words:
Human development, Social welfare, Rural development, Zanjan province

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Extended Abstract

1. Introduction

The average life expectancy in Iran has increased from 35 years in 1320 to 75 years in 1397 (Ministry of Health, Treat-

ment and Medical Education, 1397) and the average population growth in Iran has decreased from 3.5% in 1365 to less than 1% per year. 1400 has decreased (National Statistics Center, 1400). Also, the population aging index in the rural areas of our country reached 8.8% in 1401 and 9.1% in the city of Zanjan. The importance of examining the issues of the elderly is that these people, due to

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events such as reduced physical abilities, rejection, feelings of loneliness, and pressures Due to living in today's societies, which causes emotional and psychological disorders, are exposed to increasing risks. In this regard, in the present research, the level of social health of the rural elderly will be examined and then the factors affecting its improvement will be evaluated.

2. Methodology

The purpose of this research is to measure social health and some social factors affecting it. The theoretical framework of this research is based on the theories of Keyes, Baudrillard, Laycock, Berkman, Rose and Wu. The method of conducting this research is quantitative and survey type. Its statistical population includes villages with more than 5% of the elderly population in Zanjan city, the number of villages with 5% or more elderly population according to the statistics of 1400 is equal to 39 villages, which according to the large number of villages based on the probability sampling method (lottery method) Keshi 14 villages were selected as a sample, and the number of elderly people in these villages is equal to 2147 elderly people. The size of the studied sample based on Cochran's formula is 384 people as stratified sampling is proportional to the volume. Kibbs questionnaire was used to evaluate social health. This questionnaire has 33 items and has 5 sub-scales that include five components: social integration, the purpose of which is to assess the quality of the person's relationships in society with 5 questions (social acceptance), expressing the individual's understanding of the characteristics and traits of the people in society as a whole with 5 questions, social flourishing (expressing evaluation) The individual is about the direction of society and its potentials with 8 questions, social participation (indicating the individual's evaluation of his social value with 5 questions) and social adaptation (expressing the individual's understanding of the quality, organization and working of the social world with 10 questions) And it was made by Mr. Keyes in the MacArthur Science Foundation of the United States of America in 2004.

3. Results

Descriptive findings related to the personal characteristics of the respondents show that the average age of the respondents is 65.41 years, the evaluation of the number of respondents shows that most of the respondents live in families of 1 to 3 people (65%). In terms of education status, the highest amount of education is related to the illiterate group with 39.14% and the lowest is for people with higher than diploma education with 1.41%. In terms of occupation, 34.27 percent of unemployed have the high-

est frequency and the occupational group of employees has the lowest frequency with 1.94 percent. The rank average of the health index is equal to 112.47, the standard deviation is equal to 10.24, the minimum score is equal to 75, the maximum score is equal to 150 and the average in the scale unit is also equal to 3.31. Variance and covariance show the paths of the research model. All regression weights are greater than zero and at 90% confidence level and more. This indicates the existence of a significant relationship between the observed variables. Accordingly, in the economic factors, indicators of land ownership, retirement income, funds sent from the city and vehicle, in the individual factors, the indicators of age, the number of diseases, the amount of internet use, and marital status, and among the social factors, leisure time and social trust. And the sense of security affects the social health of the studied elderly.

5. Conclusion

This article has investigated the social health status of the elderly in rural areas by using a questionnaire tool and also investigated the factors affecting social health in the study area. The findings of the present research show that the social health status of the elderly in the study area is relatively favorable, meanwhile, the status of elderly men is more favorable than that of elderly women. Also, the results showed that emotional and financial support from children in the form of remittances has a significant impact on the social health of the elderly. The communication of the elderly with their grandchildren through virtual networks and the use of the Internet can effectively reduce the depression of the rural elderly and improve their social health. Also, the results show that economic assets are effective as a determining factor for improving the social health of the elderly so with the increase in the income of the elderly and also the access to land ownership, the level of social health of these strata increases.

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Conflict of Interest

The authors declared no conflicts of interest



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تشکر و قدردانی

بنا به اظهار نویسنده‌گان، مقاله حامی مالی نداشته است.



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