

Dose Child Mortality Promote Progressing to Higher Parities?

By:

Tavakkol Aghayari Hir¹, AbouAli Vedad Hir² and Aliyar Ahmadi³

Abstract

Past literature shows that child survival, among many other socio-demographic, economic, and cultural factors, has a noteworthy effect on couple's experiences of childbearing. Nowadays, it is evident that child mortality is one of main predictors of progression to higher parities among women, the story that evidently narrated by the classic Theory of Demographic Transition in the aggregate level, and by Replacement Hypothesis at individual level. Although this relationship is addressed mostly in aggregate levels, least is known about the relationship at individual levels taking different parities, especially when considering it in the context of Iran.

Using representative samples from 28 Iranian provinces in both urban and rural areas, this paper aimed at answering the question: *Dose dead or living statuses of the previous child in parity i , has any contribution to progression ratios to parity $i+1$?* To provide a fitting answer to the question, birth histories of around 78,000 Iranian ever marries women of childbearing ages are investigated. The data comes from a nationally representative DHS-type survey in Iran conducted by the Ministry of Health and Medical Education (MOHME) in 2000.

Exploiting the Parity Progression Ratios (PPRs) as the main technique, the progression ratios from parity i to $i+1$ between women with previously

¹ - PhD Student in Demography, University of Tehran, Iran (Correspondent Author).

Email: aghayarih@yahoo.com

² - PhD in Sociology, Faculty member of Tabriz University, Iran.

³ - PhD Student in Demography, University of Tehran, Iran.

dead and living children are compared. Besides, waiting time for the next pregnancy according to living status of the previous child is studied at any given parity. To decontaminate the effects, results and relationships are more investigated by taking some of important socio-demographic variables under control.

Preliminary findings indicate that at almost all parities, women with a previously dead child are more likely to proceed to the next and higher parity comparing to women with a previously living child. For an example, while progression ratio from parity 1 to 2 generally is around 78 percent for all women, progression ratios for women with a previously living and dead child are around 76.8 and 92 percent, respectively. The corresponding figures for women of parity 5 proceeding to parity 6 are, 72.2, 70.1, and 93 percent, respectively.

Findings are indicative of the fact that women with dead children are more likely to move to higher parities to replace their lost child(ren). Policy Implications and relative share of the child mortality on Iranian fertility are more discussed in the last section.