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Investigating impact of elderly people's gender, place of birth, education, and marital status on their life quality from the perspective of students in Zanjan

Leili Mohammadi

Educational Organization,Zanjan,Iran

Abstract

The life quality is a measure of best energy or force in people. This force and energy are used by people to adapt successfully to challenges of real world. However, this study aimed to investigate the impact of elderly people's gender, place of birth, education, and marital status on their life quality from the perspective of students in Zanjan. This was an applied filed study. Using SPSS 21, the descriptive (demographic description) and inferential (t-test and ANOVA) statistics were used for analyzing the data. The findings showed that the elderly people's life quality is influenced by different variables including their health situation, physical activity, proper diet, social and psychological factors especially visiting children and other relatives, and economic factors especially appropriate housing and financial support. Considering the growing proportion of elderly people in society, special situation of this group, the need to keep their dignity, and the emphasis of Islam on respecting father and mother, however, it is the duty of all members and sectors in the society to provide and meet their basic needs.

Keywords: Elderly People, Life Quality, Gender, Place of Birth, Education, Marital Status.

Introduction:

The elderly people are those who are 60 or more years old. The old age is a relative thing; in fact, a 10 years old individual is10 years older than one year old individual.

The elderly people belong to labor force of society and family. If we believe that labor force has high social dignity, ensures the historical stimulation and evolution, and is the final factor which creates material and cultural value, it is essential that the workforce who cannot work for any reason (including elderly people) will be financed by workers.

The social security of elderly people has emerged especially during the last fifty years. It is a considerable issue not only in developed countries, but also in developing countries. The shortage or lack of income, lack of housing, and lack or absence of social security and medical facilities for this group are major issues which should be considered by community.

According to Article 29 of constitution in Iran, some rights are considered for this group including: social security for retirement, unemployment, old age, disability, absence of a guardian, being stranded, accidents, health and medical care services as insurance, and etc. The government is required by law to provide above financial support and services to every citizen using national revenues and funds obtained through public contributions.

The social security organization may protect the personal and social dignity of disabled or retired people and their family and provide public financial support for them. The social security organization is the trustee for supporting elderly people in any community.

The social security is the income which is provided due to unemployment, illness, or accident. It is also provided for those who have retired due to aging or are unsupported due to another person's death. In fact, the social security means providing a minimum income. Currently, the Social Security Administration plays a major role by covering more than one third of country's population and more than half a million pensioners and retired people. Obviously, if social security system will be inclusive and will be considered as focused and seriously by government, the unemployed, sick, elderly, and poor people will be covered. However, the poverty prevents human beings to fulfill their social and human tasks.

The aging of population is the result of development. Half a century ago, most people died before age of 50. Today, while, most people are more than 65 years, especially in developed countries.

The improved health, improved nutritional situation, discovery of antibiotics, advanced surgeries, application of new technologies, changes in vital indices and rates, changes in population structure of most countries, control of infectious and communicable diseases, midwifery science development, and improved parturition methods are the causes of aging population. In addition, since the birth and death rates have decreased significantly and life expectancy has increased dramatically, the percentage of world's elderly people has increased; this situation is called aging of nations.

The elderly population growth rate is faster than population growth rate. It will soon reach a stage that the developing countries will not be able to meet the health, social, and economic needs of this population. However, the developed industrial countries have experienced the effects of this transformation for decades and have taken many steps to deal with this issue. Therefore, many research have conducted in this issue in most countries, and in Iran.

However, this study aims to evaluate the following hypotheses:

1. There is a relationship between gender and elderly people life quality.
2. There is a relationship between place of birth and elderly people life quality.
3. There is a relationship between education and elderly people life quality.
4. There is a relationship between marital status and elderly people life quality.

Methodology:

This was an applied filed study. Using SPSS 21, the descriptive (demographic description) and inferential (t-test and ANOVA) statistics were used for analyzing the data.

Findings:

First hypothesis: There is a relationship between gender and elderly people life quality.

Group Statistics

	GENS	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
KEIFIIET	zan	80	125.0875	12.36798	1.38278
	mard	64	124.9688	14.05202	1.75650

Independent Samples Test

		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means						
									95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
		F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	Lower	Upper
keifit zendegi	Equal variances assumed	.730	.394	.054	142	.957	.1188	2.20394	-4.2380	4.476
	Equal variances not assumed			.053	127	.958	.1188	2.23548	-4.3050	4.543

The t-test was used to evaluate the relationship between gender and elderly people life quality. Considering the sig= 0.957 and 142 degrees of freedom, it is not significant at a confidence level of 95 to 99 percent; therefore, there is no relationship between variables of this hypothesis.

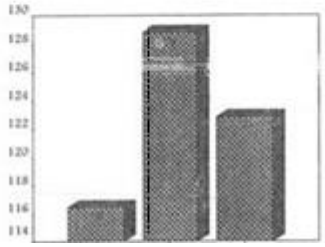
Second hypothesis: There is relationship between place of birth and elderly people life quality.

Group Statistics

	MAHALTAV	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
KEIFIET	shahr	64	128.7813	12.84707	1.60596
	rousta	64	122.8281	11.33971	1.41746

Independent Samples Test

		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means						
									95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
		F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	Lower	Upper
KEIFIET	Equal variances assumed	.625	.431	2.78	126	.006	5.9531	2.14203	1.714	10.19
	Equal variances not assumed			2.78	1241	.006	5.9531	2.14203	1.713	10.19



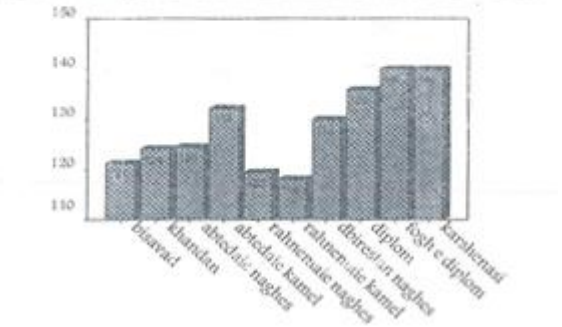
The t-test was used to evaluate the relationship between place of birth and elderly people life quality. Considering the sig= 0.001 and 126 degrees of freedom, it is significant at a confidence level of 99 percent; therefore, there is positive and significant correlation between variables of this hypothesis. In other words, the life quality of elderly people who live in cities is high.

Third hypothesis: There is relationship between education and elderly people life quality.

ANOVA

KEIFIET

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	3677.949	9	408.661	2.417	.014
Within Groups	22997.531	136	169.099		
Total	26675.479	145			



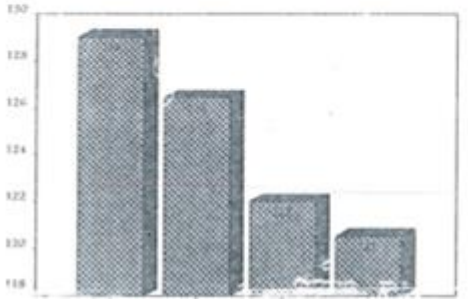
The ANOVA test was used to evaluate the relationship between education and elderly people life quality. Considering the sig= 0.014 and 9 degrees of freedom, it is significant at a confidence level of 95 percent; therefore, there is positive and significant correlation between variables of this hypothesis. In other words, the education of elderly people impacts positively on their life quality.

Fourth hypothesis: There is relationship between marital status and elderly people life quality.

ANOVA

KEIFIET

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	1095.862	3	365.287	2.028	.013
Within Groups	25579.617	142	180.138		
Total	26675.479	145			



The ANOVA test was used to evaluate the relationship between marital status and elderly people life quality. Considering the sig= 0.013 and 3 degrees of freedom, it is significant at a confidence level of 95 percent; therefore, there is positive and significant correlation between variables of this hypothesis. In other words, if elderly people will be married, they will have higher life quality.

Discussion and conclusion:

The findings showed that in terms of gender, 55.4% were female and 44% were men. Although the birth ratio is 104 boys to 100 girls, the old women are more than old men in Iran, as in many other countries.

In terms of education level, about half of the studied population were illiterate and about 30% were able to read or Incomplete primary education. However, about 1.5% had education higher than diploma. The statistics show that literacy rate in Iran decreases with increasing age; it is especially lower among older women. Although the literacy campaign activities have educated many adults and elderly people in the years after Islamic Revolution of Iran, the illiteracy rate is relatively high in studied group.
The findings also showed that about 30 percent of participants were single and 68 percent of them were married. Undoubtedly, the loss of husband or wife is one of the main concerns of aging years. This may create new condition emotionally, psychologically, and economically (especially for women) which would impact negatively on general health and life quality of elderly people.
In general, the findings showed that the elderly people's life quality is influenced by different variables including their health situation, physical activity, proper diet, social and psychological factors especially visiting children and other relatives, and economic factors especially appropriate housing and financial support. Considering the growing proportion of elderly people in society, special situation of this group, the need to keep their dignity, and the emphasis of Islam on respecting father and mother, however, it is the duty of all members and sectors in the society to provide and meet their basic needs.

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