

The Income Distribution Contribution to Marriage Rate in Iran

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Abstract

We, in this paper, aim to find out the relationship between income distribution and the marriage rate in Iran. We used the Gini coefficient demonstrating the inequality in terms of income distribution, according the Iran's available statistical data. Other control variables were studied in this research, too, including: Iranian household' monthly expenditures, income per capita, literacy rate, and urbanization rate. The results show that there is a significant relationship between income distribution (using the income distribution inequality criterion) and marriage rate such that by increasing the income distribution inequality, the marriage rate per ten-thousand population will increase.

Introduction

Among all the social entities, family is of great importance, thus regarding the fact that the family is a universal phenomena, the related issues to it, are so important. One of these important issues is marriage, which forms the family base. Nowadays, the families face many problems including marriage' variable rate , marriage age increment, un-apprehension among the couples which turns into divorce rate increment, attitude, appetites and ideals alteration in terms of spouse-choosing. With respect to Iranian society's today situation and problems and barriers which face marriage, therefore, considering and paying attention to this issue and the reasons behind this are of great importance to individuals that, in condition of inappropriate, marriage rate and subsequent events will loosen the society's cornerstones. Because, if marriage doesn't occur then there will be no family, and if there is no family there will be no society, and if there is no society there will no culture and civilization.

Marriage, among the quadruplet classic demographic phenomena (including birth, marriage, divorce and mortality), is in special station; because, on one hand, is not out-of human decision-making ability and will, and, on other hand, isn't similar to divorce, that occurrence rate of which is low. Almost, all society members experience marriage, and , like birth and death, is inevitable. Although many determinants contribute to marriage, in many case human can't control them. Various factors affect marriage occurrence, among which one may point to economic, social, moral, and intrinsic and extrinsic stressful factors. This paper aims to study the economic factors affecting marriage, and we are going to discover the relationship between income distribution and marriage, exclusively from the economic perspective, using empirical evidences. In other words, the paper purpose and questions which we are going to address are: 1- Is there any relationship between income distribution getting worst i.e. more inequality, and the marriage occurrence rate? 2- By increasing the household's monthly expenditures, whether the marriage rate decrease or not? 3-Whether more per capita income results in marriage rate increment or not? 4- By increasing the urbanization ratio, whether the marriage rate decrease or not? 5- by increasing the literacy rate, whether the marriage rate decrease or not?

Answering these questions, we will employ Gini coefficient; and besides, income distribution criterion and other control variables, understanding how these variables contribute to society's marriage rate. Study literature Many researches and papers had been performed regarding different social and cultural factors contributing to marriage, domestic or abroad, through majority of which marriage was analyzed form social knowledge point of view and sociologically. Imanian Ardebilie, M., for example, in his research "men's attitude toward marriage", showed that factors including responsive family's material inability, responsive satisfaction against livelihood have the greatest contribution to marriage.

Haghdoust et.al, in another research titled “studying factors effecting the attitude toward marriage among the students of medical sciences”, in 1995, showed that factors such as the girls’ and boys’ intensive moral feeling to have a yokefellow, avoiding social corruption and obeying religious educations among the men, and escaping loneliness among the women, affect marriage attitude, intensively. Ghanad, M., in another research, titled “the reasons and motivations affecting marriage”, performed in 2006 in Khorasan, introduced the most important factors affecting marriage as follow: 1- society’s and environment’s pressure 2- achieving perch in society or enhancing the social altitude 3- moral and mental relaxation feeling 4- successfulness through life’s various period. Amanie, in 2000, studied the marriage’s sociological evolutions through recent forty-years; among the research results one can point to the early-marriage’s descent trend and marriage’s universality, and, also, marriage age increment among the men and women and higher literacy and education level on marriage age. There is considerable increasing notice toward studying economic factors contributing to family evolutions; the economic theories study marriage from economic perspective and different dimensions. Some of these, study the effects of economic issues including inflation and unemployment of marriage, and others study the marriage’s economic results and effects. Another group investigated the girls’ economic independence and employment on marriage rate.

But the first paper, which had addressed marriage and divorce from the economic perspective, is Becker’s paper. He, in this paper, had presented a simple model for marriage, which relies on two basic assumptions: 1- everyone tries to find a spouse, who increases his/her welfare, and 2- marriage market is balanced i.e. no one can change his spouse and select a better one. According to this, one can compare the marrying revenues to unmarrying revenues; accordingly, these revenues, to each person, depends on their direct income, relative difference of their wages, and the non-market variables including education and elegance (Becker, 1973, pp813-846). On the contrary, Becker et.al (1997, pp1141-187) claimed that increasing the women’s expected incomes will promote their social and economic station, thus, women will depend on others lesser; due to this fact that women’s income increases, the women’s marriage probability will decrease. This issue is known, through the literature, as the effect of women’s independence on marriage. Lombardoo, concluded that by increasing the women labor share, their independency will boost and hence, their attitude toward marriage will decrease. Burgess et.al. (2003, pp455-475) studied the income importance on marriage and divorce among the American youth.

The research results showed that there is a significant difference between American men and women; also, the research showed that by increasing the young men’s income capacities, the probability of marriage increased and the divorce probability decreased; women’s high incomes will decrease the marriage probability and doesn’t affect divorce. Mousaie et.al (2009), in Iran, in their paper titled “urbanism’, household expenditure’, income’ and income distribution’ contribution to divorce rate”, concluded that there is a significant relationship between divorce and these variables. As we can see, there is no investigation or research regarding economic issues and marriage in Iran, and due to this a great gap exist in relation to researches which study the social phenomena from the economic perspective. This paper aims to investigate the effects of income distribution inequality; distinguishing marriage, among other social phenomena, we employed other control variables including income and household expenditure, literacy and urbanism. Our time series data includes thirty-three periods’ data from 1974 to 2006, and the data had been collected from statistical calendars of many years, Islamic Republic of Iran Central Bank’s time series database, Iran Statics Center time series database, the registration and records organization and etc.

Research model

With respect to study literature and also the similar works in abroad, we, showing the relationship between marriage and income distribution, will employ following model:

$$\text{Marriage}_1 = c_1 + \theta G_1 + \beta X_1$$

Where Marriage_1 is the number of occurred marriages, c_1 is the confliction term, θG_1 is the income distribution criterion, and βX_1 is the vector of other control variables. The Gini coefficient is among the indices measuring income distribution criterion.

The index score falls between zero (a society with completely equal income distribution) and one (a society with completely unequal income distribution). Income distribution, from 1974 to 2006, despite the oscillations, was descent i.e. income distribution’s relative improvement.

The Gini coefficient had decreased from 0.5 to almost 0.4. The marriage rate, from 1974 to 1993, had decreased in some times and increased other times, but, it is ascended since 1993 which had risen from 45 to near 80. Investigating the marriage statistics will reveal another issues regarding marriage evolutions.

According to the Registration and records organization, the number of registered marriages per ten-thousands population had increased, generally, from 1974 to 2006, which is almost twofold. Actually, the marriage number faced many changes. Regarding pre-revolution conditions, the annual marriage general level was calculated equal to 53 cases per ten-thousands population across the five years before the Revolution, which, through the Iran-Iraq war, reached 83 cases. It has been achieved through enhancing the Islamic customs, after the Revolution. The annual Marriage rate, through Iran-Iraq war(1980-1989), decreased, slightly, to 80 cases per ten-thousands population. We can claim that Mobilizing the youth and the war mortality had caused such a decrement. After the war and by establishment of ceasefire, a sensible increment in terms of marriage rate had been registered(Amanie, 1981; p33).The trend of Marriage rate, since 1993, per ten-thousands population was ascendant.

Insert table (1) about here

Insert table (2) about here

Other employed control variables are : Iranian household's monthly expenditures average E, literacy rate B, urbanism rate T, income per capita I. By E variable, we mean the net expenditures which is consisted of monetary value of the commodities or services provided by the household for member's usage or giving as gift to others; the related information had been provided from the Iran Statistic Center' actuary in terms of Household expenditure and income. As the table shows, the average of households' monthly expenditures, despite the oscillations, has a ascendant trend and had increased from 3000T to 907000T; but, the income per capita hadn't had definite trend and, with respect to the fact that this variable is in direct relationship against oil income, and, hence, the oil income, affected by different factors, had faced many oscillations, thus the income per capita had increased through some periods and had decreased through other. Also, literacy rate had increased ascendantly, i.e. from 43.1 in 1974 to 84.6 in 1985. Urbanism rate, due to rural migration to the cities, had had a ascendantly trend, and by time, the urban population fraction had increased from 45% to 68%.

Empirical findings

Employed model studying the Gini coefficient effect and other economic and demographic variables on marriage, had been specified and evaluated as follow:

$$M1=C+\beta_1Gin+\beta_2I+\beta_3E+\beta_4T+\beta_5B$$

Where M indicates the occurred marriages per ten-thousands population, Gin shows the Gini coefficient, I is income per capita by thousand Tomans, E is the indicator of Iranian household's monthly expenditure by thousand Tomans, T shows the urbanism rate which is equal to urban population/ country's overall population ratio, and B is the literacy rate.] The estimated coefficients, resulted from Gini coefficient, has been shown in Table 3. The conclusion are as follow:

- There is indirect relationship between Gini coefficient and marriage rate, i.e. be increasing the Gini coefficient, the number of occurred marriages will decrease. In other words, increasing the income distribution inequality, the marriage rate will decrease.
- There is positive relationship between marriage rate and income per capita, i.e. by increasing the income per capita, the marriage rate will increase.
- There is negative relationship between marriage rate and household expenditures, i.e. by increasing the household expenditure, marriage rate decreases.
- There is a negative relationship between marriage and urbanism, i.e. by increasing the urbanism rate, the marriage rate will decrease.
- Finally, there is positive relationship between marriage rate and literacy rate, i.e. by increasing the literacy rate, marriage rate will increase. This result violates our previous theoretical background. One of the probable reasons, is that although literacy level increment results in higher marriage age, it doesn't decrease marriage rate; in other words, the marriage will be suspended not decreased.

Insert table (3) about here

Conclusion and recommendations

We, in this paper, aimed to found out the relationship between income distribution and marriage rate, in Iran. According to the available data, we employed Gini criterion showing the inequality through income distribution. Also some other control variables had been used including Iranian household's monthly expenditures, income per capita, literacy rate and urbanism rate. The results show that there is significant relationship between income distribution and marriage rate, such that be increasing the inequality through income distribution, the occurred marriages will decrease, per ten-thousands population. This indicate suggest that the officials, beside addressing non-economic factors, must point the efforts toward adjusting and improving the livelihood and welfare status of population; quality and inequality through income distribution, among the population, must be considered as one of the indicators factors demonstrating the society's welfare level. Considering all the variable constant, the severe the inequality the lesser the society members' attitude toward marriage, as this research showed. Also, the results shows that by increasing the monthly expenditures and urbanism rate, marriage rate will decrease ; by increasing the income per capita and literacy rate, marriage rate will increase. Household's monthly income and income per capita, among the four factors, are among the most important economic factors. Everyone , somehow, shows the society members' welfare and livelihood, which are rooted in many economic factors; they , totally, reveal the affective economic factors and welfare and livelihood on social dilemmas and problems, including marriage rate.

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Table 1. the Gini coefficient, from 1974 to 2004, Iran.

Year	Gini coefficient	Year	Gini coefficient
1974	0.4909	1991	0.4000
1975	0.5020	1992	0.3808
1976	0.4800	1993	0.3907
1977	0.4508	1994	0.3909
1978	0.4305	1995	0.40800
1979	0.4601	1996	0.3900
1980	0.3909	1997	0.4060
1981	0.4200	1998	0.3906
1982	0.4400	1999	0.4001
1983	0.4504	2000	0.3909
1984	0.4040	2001	0.3908
1985	0.3901	2002	0.4109
1986	0.3904	2003	0.4105
1987	0.4040	2004	0.4009
1988	0.4050	2005	0.4003
1989	0.4090	2006	0.4000
1990	0.3906		

Table 2. income per capita' , urban household's monthly expenditures' , urbanism' , and literacy rate' time series .

Literacy rate	Urbanism ratio	Houshold' monthly expenditures (thousand Toman)	Income per capita(thousand Toman)	Year
43.1	0.45066	3.060141667	755.4380145	1947
45.3	0.46039	4.106466667	495.429.376	1975
47.5	0.447035	1.590758333	884.7103148	1976
49.3	0.47714	5.378416667	822.041399	1977
50.8	0.48405	2.35895	649.1825351	1978
52.3	0.49104	6.805341667	653.1364045	1979
55.5	0.49813	4.837858333	462.4214197	1980
57.3	0.50532	6.254525	411.362857	1981
58.1	0.51264	11.5738	446.6430929	1982
58.5	0.52004	14.3733	471.4454251	1983
59.1	0.52756	15.92678333	421.5467924	1984
60.5	0.53519	16.31310833	399.3128375	1985
63.4	0.54293	17.30140833	306.4212762	1986
65.3	0.54826	19.97685	352.8680273	1987
67.2	0.55366	23.822925	249.7794217	1988
71.4	0.5591	28.27820833	272.7734221	1989
74.1	0.56461	32.67545	322.2842043	1990
76.4	0.57018	41.58286667	348.3263786	1991
77.0	0.544851	50.88046667	352.6352019	1992
78.0	0.58696	61.20205	414.7752574	1993
79.3	0.59553	84.43820833	392.2185459	1994
63.4	0.60424	123.6209	0.3921874736	1995
79.5	.61307	150.3956917	411.0648572	1996
80.5	0.61795	182.0907083	401.4444044	1997
82.5	0.62425	228.9456583	378.9447301	1998
83.0	0.63324	286.167975	414.6401548	1999
84.4	0.63964	332.07145	427.9067937	2000
84.0	0.64602	377.11035	437.141974	2001
84.9	0.65241	469.7134667	481.0256332	2002
85.5	0.6584	555.5443083	511.6391722	2003
85.5	0.66409	708.5224333	552.0663356	2004
87.1	0.66674	806.2114833	590.8393825	2005
84.6	0.68459	907.1328833	619.9423893	2006

Table 3. The results of multiple regression model

Beta coefficient	Variables
1.33	Independence variable(C)
-0.26	Gini coefficient(Gin)
0.67	Income per capita(I)
-0.24	Household' monthly expenditure(E)
-0.91	Urbanism ratio(T)
0.94	Literacy rate(B)
0.86	Determination coefficient(R-squared)