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INVESTIGATING THE ECONOMIC, CULTURAL AND SOCIAL BARRIERS TO FEMALE HEADS' REMARRIAGE IN HOUSEHOLDS OF TEHRAN CITY

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to investigate barriers Economic and cultural, social to remarriage of women headed households in Tehran in 1392. The study population included all women heads of households covered by the Relief Committee (RA), The sample size formula based on Cochran (378) who were selected by multistage cluster sampling. Data were collected through a questionnaire. Chi-square test was used to analyze the data and to determine the ranking of the components of interest and reluctance to remarry Friedman test was used. The results showed: the economic and cultural barriers, social attitudes and stereotypes wrong about the remarriage of women heads of households and their unwillingness to remarry There is. "Enjoyment of economic and cultural factors, social attitudes and stereotypes wrong," according to the chi-square test with acceptable error of less than 0/01 (Sig 0/000) and the degree of confidence could be concluded more than 0/99 All hypotheses were significant. Was determined using the Friedman test, the sample studied, the cultural component at the highest level and trend assessment is reluctance to remarry. The social component of the second, third and economic factors, and finally, attitudes and stereotypes in the fourth evaluation.

Keywords: *Economic and Cultural, Social Barriers to Remarriage, Female-Headed Households*

INTRODUCTION

The family is a basic social institution which ensures both individual health and survival of community. Nowadays, there are numerous women who have lost their husbands and are unaccompanied. The loss of husband occurs for several reasons and the death, martyrdom and divorce are the most common reasons. The conditions after losing husband are different. Some women become totally unable after losing the husband and may not continue their lives. Others do their affairs, but not as happy as when they were with their husbands. Some women choose their first jobs, and others remarry (Bahari, 2012). Undoubtedly, the social and economic factors (such as interpersonal relationships and marriage, income, employment, housing, etc) have a considerable impact on the nature of family and thus the community (Abbasizadeh, 2007). The evidence suggests that despite the existence of organizations such as the Welfare Organization, The Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation and several non-governmental organizations in this field with several services, the problems still remain. Kaldi (2007) conducted a research on the cultural-social barriers and factors of widows' remarriage. His research findings indicate that a large number of these women, who are young, remain without husband until the end of life and do not remarry, and this can have the personal and social consequences. The research results indicate that the six- time rate of single women due to the men death compared to the men and the equal rate of single women due to the divorce than men clarify the bit fact of loneliness in a large population of women. This loneliness leads to the deep personal, social and economic damages and the problems of singleness. Ahmadi (2004) conducted a comparative investigation of remarriage status and its impact on the mental health in widows of martyrs and dead ones. The research results indicate that the concern about the children future, the lack of patience, no need for remarriage, the lack of appropriate case of marriage, and the loyalty to previous marriage with martyr or dead one are the main reasons for lack of remarriage among the surveyed women. Furthermore, the results indicate that the common symptoms in widows include the body shape disorder, obsession, depression, anxiety and paranoia, and these symptoms are higher in widows of dead ones than the martyrs. Latin (2007) investigated the factors affecting the head women remarriage. The

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results indicate that the economic supply, the ways for making money and fighting against the poverty, unemployment and improper housing, the lack of food, healthcare, and finally living in poverty, deprivation unemployment, etc, all pave the way for remarriage. However, if the conditions are created for economic growth and prosperity, all human problems and difficulties will not be solved, but if the human primary needs are met, it will prevent numerous types of corruption. This study seeks to find out to what extent the Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation in Tehran province has been able to satisfy the under-protection families in these fields in terms of social, economic and cultural factors by providing the supportive facilities and service (Yavarzadeh, 2009).

Therefore, the researcher finally seeks to answer this main question that how the economic, cultural and social barriers affect the household female heads' reluctance (divorcees, deceased partner) to remarry in under the protection of Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation. Furthermore, this study seeks to clarify the following questions:

- 1) There is a significant correlation between the cultural factors and the household female heads' reluctance to remarry.
- 2) There is a significant correlation between the social factors and the household female heads' reluctance to remarry.
- 3) There is a significant correlation between the economic factors and the household female heads' reluctance to remarry.
- 4) There is a significant correlation between the attitudes and stereotypes with household female heads' tendency and reluctance to remarry.

According to the research results, it is concluded that the household female heads' emotional needs are among the most important needs which they seek, but sometimes they ignore fulfilling this need through the temporary marriage due to the fear of rejection by family and children. However, some household female heads consider the temporary marriage as a way to meet their basic needs as well as the economic and security needs (Rajabipour, 2011)

MATERIALS AND METHODS

According to the research indices and objectives, this research is descriptive and has the survey type. It seeks to investigate the economic, social and cultural barriers to household female heads' remarriage in Tehran during 2014. The statistical population of this research consists of all 20694 household female heads under the protection of Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation in Tehran. The sample size is determined equal to 377 according to Cochran formula. Furthermore, the statics of Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation management in different regions of the Northwest, Northeast, Southwest, Southeast, and central districts of Tehran province are utilized for sample selection. According to the draw, 51 subjects are selected from the Northwest management of Tehran, 70 subjects from the Northeast, 110 subjects from the Southwest and 71 subjects from the Southeast and they responded to the items of questionnaires. On the other hand, the researcher-made questionnaire is utilized since there is no standard questionnaire in this field. Furthermore, the mentioned questionnaire is designed standardized based on the principles of measurement and with respect to various theories such as the theories associated with the barriers to remarriage in the society in terms of economic, socio-cultural and demographic factors related to the with Maslow's hierarchy of needs, lasting marriages classification theory, possible exchange theory, Marriage life cycle theory, and theory of life quality and prevalent social issues about the Relief Foundation clients. Therefore, the content validity of questionnaire is investigated by advisor and supervisor professors to determine its psychometric properties and it is approved after checking the necessary modifications. To estimate the internal consistency between the questions and components, the Cronbach's alpha method in a pilot study with 30 samples indicate that the reliability coefficients are at the higher levels in terms of constituent components (economic 0.94, cultural 0.79, social 0.86, attitudes and stereotypes 0.93). These numbers indicate that the distribution of questionnaire (performed on 30 samples) has high reliability. Data analysis is conducted in both descriptive and inferential statistics in this study. The chi-square test is utilized for examining the research hypotheses in the section of inferential statistics according to the

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nature of research and non-normalized data distribution; and Friedman test is applied for estimating the ranked components of reluctance to remarry.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results

1- Investigating the Economic Component and Reluctance to Remarry

The nonparametric statistics should be utilized to analyze and investigate the economic component and reluctance to remarry according to the non-normalized data distribution. In this regard, Chi-Square statistic is utilized for investigating this component.

The hypotheses of Chi-Square test are defined as follows:

- The economic component has no correlation with reluctance to remarry.
- The economic component has a correlation with reluctance to remarry.

First Hypothesis: There is a significant correlation between the economic factors and the household female heads' reluctance to remarry.

According to the data of following table, the "the utilization of economic component" based on the chi-square test (169.826) and according to degree of freedom $df=19$ with error acceptance of 0.01 (Sig = 0.000) and the degree of confidence more than 0.99, it can be concluded the hypothesis is significant. In other words, the null hypothesis (H_0) indicating the lack of correlation is rejected. In other words, there is a correlation between the economic factors and reluctance to remarry.

Table 1: Chi-Square test for explaining the tendency and reluctance to remarry

Component	No.	Mean	Standard deviation	Chi-Square	df	Sig.
Economic	368	14.12	4.707	169.826	19	0.000

2- Investigating the Cultural Component and Reluctance to Remarry

The nonparametric statistics should be utilized to analyze and investigate the cultural component and reluctance to remarry according to the non-normalized data distribution. In this regard, Chi-Square statistic is utilized for investigating this component.

The hypotheses of Chi-Square test are defined as follows:

- The cultural component has no correlation with reluctance to remarry.
- The cultural component has a correlation with reluctance to remarry.

Second Hypothesis: There is a significant correlation between the cultural factors and the household female heads' reluctance to remarry.

According to the data of following table, the "the utilization of cultural component" based on the chi-square test (255.739) and according to degree of freedom $df=23$ with error acceptance less than 0.01 (Sig = 0.000) and the degree of confidence more than 0.99, it can be concluded the hypothesis is significant. In other words, the null hypothesis (H_0) indicating the lack of correlation is rejected. In other words, there is a correlation between the cultural factors and reluctance to remarry.

Table 2: Chi-Square test for explaining the tendency and reluctance to remarry

Component	No.	Mean	Standard deviation	Chi-Square	df	Sig.
Cultural	368	16.74	4.359	255.739	23	0.000

3- Investigating the Social Component and Reluctance to Remarry

The nonparametric statistics should be utilized to analyze and investigate the social component and reluctance to remarry according to the non-normalized data distribution. In this regard, Chi-Square statistic is utilized for investigating this component.

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The hypotheses of Chi-Square test are defined as follows:

- The social component has no correlation with reluctance to remarry.
- The social component has a correlation with reluctance to remarry.

Third Hypothesis: There is a significant correlation between the social factors and the household female heads' reluctance to remarry.

According to the data of following table, the "the utilization of social component" based on the chi-square test (187.473) and according to degree of freedom $df=20$ with error acceptance of 0.01 (Sig = 0.000) and the degree of confidence more than 0.99, it can be concluded the hypothesis is significant. In other words, the null hypothesis (H_0) indicating the lack of correlation is rejected. In other words, there is a correlation between the social factors and reluctance to remarry.

Table 3: Chi-Square test for explaining the tendency and reluctance to remarry

Component	No.	Mean	Standard deviation	Chi-Square	df	Sig.
Social	368	14.23	4.821	187.473	20	0.000

4- Investigating the Attitudes and Stereotypes and Reluctance to Remarry

The nonparametric statistics should be utilized to analyze and investigate the attitudes and stereotypes and reluctance to remarry according to the non-normalized data distribution. In this regard, Chi-Square statistic is utilized for investigating this component.

The hypotheses of Chi-Square test are defined as follows:

- The attitudes and stereotypes have no correlation with reluctance to remarry.
- The attitudes and stereotypes have a correlation with reluctance to remarry.

Fourth Hypothesis: There is a significant correlation between the attitudes and stereotypes and the household female heads' reluctance to remarry.

According to the data of following table, the "the utilization of attitudes and stereotypes" based on the chi-square test (247.761) and according to degree of freedom $df=21$ with error acceptance of 0.01 (Sig = 0.000) and the degree of confidence more than 0.99, it can be concluded the hypothesis is significant. In other words, the null hypothesis (H_0) indicating the lack of correlation is rejected. In other words, there is a correlation between the attitudes and stereotypes and reluctance to remarry.

Table 4: Chi-Square test for explaining the tendency and reluctance to remarry

Component	No.	Mean	Standard deviation	Chi-Square	df	Sig.
Attitudes and stereotypes	368	13.92	4.285	247.761	21	0.000

Ranking the Components in Reluctance to Remarry:

Friedman model is utilized for exploring the priority of importance and evaluating each component or ranking the research indices and thus each variable is studied according to the view of the whole population.

Table 5: Ranking the indices of reluctance to remarry according to the view of the whole population

Component	Mean rank	Rank
Cultural	3.04	1
Social	2.42	2
Economic	2.34	3
Attitudes and stereotypes	2.19	4

Sig= 0.000, df= 3, Chi-square=112.440

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As shown in the table above, the cultural component is put at highest level of ranking the reluctance to remarry. The social component is in the second rank, the economic component in the third and finally the attitudes and stereotyping in fourth rank.

First Hypothesis: There is a significant correlation between the economic factors and the household female heads' reluctance to remarry.

The first research hypothesis indicates the correlation between the economic factors and the household female heads' reluctance to remarry. According to the "the utilization of economic component" based on the chi-square test (169.826) and according to degree of freedom $df=19$ with error acceptance of 0.01 (Sig = 0.000) and the degree of confidence more than 0.99, it can be concluded the hypothesis is significant. In other words, the economic factors change the rate of household female heads' reluctance to remarry. The research data approve this hypothesis.

Second Hypothesis: There is a significant correlation between the cultural factors and the household female heads' reluctance to remarry.

The second research hypothesis indicates the correlation between the cultural factors and the household female heads' reluctance to remarry. According to "the utilization of cultural component" based on the chi-square test (255.739) and according to degree of freedom $df=23$ with error acceptance less than 0.01 (Sig= 0.000) and the degree of confidence more than 0.99, it can be concluded the hypothesis is significant. In other words, the cultural factors change the rate of household female heads' reluctance to remarry. The research data approve this hypothesis.

Third Hypothesis: There is a significant correlation between the social factors and the household female heads' reluctance to remarry.

The third research hypothesis indicates the correlation between the social factors and the household female heads' reluctance to remarry. According to the "the utilization of social component" based on the chi-square test (187.473) and according to degree of freedom $df=20$ with error acceptance of 0.01 (Sig= 0.000) and the degree of confidence more than 0.99, it can be concluded the hypothesis is significant. In other words, the social factors change the rate of household female heads' reluctance to remarry. The research data approve this hypothesis.

Fourth Hypothesis: There is a significant correlation between the attitudes and stereotypes and the household female heads' reluctance to remarry.

The fourth research hypothesis indicates the correlation between the attitudes and stereotypes and the household female heads' reluctance to remarry. According to "the utilization of attitudes and stereotypes" based on the chi-square test (247.761) and according to degree of freedom $df=21$ with error acceptance of 0.01 (Sig= 0.000) and the degree of confidence more than 0.99, it can be concluded the hypothesis is significant. In other words, the attitudes and stereotypes change the rate of household female heads' reluctance to remarry. The research data approve this hypothesis.

Friedman test indicates that the cultural component is in the highest rank of evaluating the reluctance to remarry in studied population. The social component is in the second rank, the economic component in the third, and finally, the attitudes and stereotyping in the fourth rank of evaluation.

Discussion

The results indicate that there is a high correlation between the economic, cultural and social barriers and the household female heads' reluctance to remarry. The impact of measures and activities by Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation in line with satisfaction and promoting the mental and social health in under-protection people are mainly in the form of supportive service and facilities of Relief Foundation. Given that the identification of needs is one of the general principles for satisfying the household female heads under the protection of Relief Foundation and purifying the social, personal and familial environment, the attention to the household female heads' basic needs makes them reassured and leads to their mental balance, but the lack of attention or the inability to fulfill the household necessities leads to the mental imbalance. Therefore, the Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation should evaluate its measures and activities based on the findings of research conducted by experts in the field of providing the supportive services for household female heads' reluctance to remarry and provide the required social supports. The studied,

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conducted in the field of investigating the economic, cultural and social barriers to household female heads' remarriage and their reluctance to remarry are consistent with the results of research by Sohani (2011), Azkia (2010), Kaldi (2007), Ahmadi (2004), Aberi (2001), Nematollahi (2003), Onagh (2005), Bydol (2007), and Eskar (2007) on the economic, cultural and social barriers to household female heads' remarriage. The results of this study are consistent with some findings of research by Ardestani (2006) who considers the household female heads' main problems in the form of economic difficulties, lack of preparation for managing the economic affairs, negative social attitudes towards the household female heads, worry about the children future and the multiplicity and conflict of role in the case that the household female heads have adequate social support. This findings is consistent with the research by Mansour (2001), Nematollahi (2003), Moeidfar (2005), Marry (2002), Eskar (2007), Vera and Verneh (2006), ReprConline (2006), Bradshaw (2006), Galbraite (2005), Barber & Bouhler (2002), Mohanti (2000), and Copen (2000) on the impact of economic factors on the household female heads' reluctance and tendency to remarry. Furthermore, the results of this research are consistent with some results by Mansour (2001), Nematollahi (2003), Marry (2002), ReprConline (2006), Waters (2006), Galbraite (2005), John and Line (2004), and Mohanti (2000) on the impact of social factors on the household female heads' reluctance and tendency to remarry. These results are consistent with some findings in studies by Adeli (2010), Kaldi (2007), Manosur (2001), Nematollahi (2003), Fordize (2008), Eskar Louise (2007), John and Line (2004), and Bartolimo (2001) on the impact of cultural factors on the household female heads' reluctance and tendency to remarry; for instance, the impact of family and social support, cultural factors and religion. Moreover, the results of this study are consistent with some of the findings of research by Zahed (2011), Ardestani (2006), Saeidi (2005), Kheyraei (2009), Eskar Louise (2007), and Tedk Bradshaw (2006) on the impact of attitudes and stereotypes on the household female heads' reluctance to remarry. The results of this study are consistent with some of the findings of research by Sohani (2011), Azkia (2010), Kaldi (2007), Ahmadi (2004), Mansour (2001), and Nematollahi (2003) on correlation between receiving the cultural and social support and the household female heads' reluctance and tendency to remarry.

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