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Title: A comparison of Bushehr Province and Iran's rural demographic indices and under-five mortality rate between 1993 and 2008


Abstract: Introduction: Despite socio-economic differences, there are similar demographic changes in all Iran's provinces. Assessing these indices in Bushehr rural areas between 1993 and 2008, and comparing them to the country will help us to have a better understanding of the population and fertility trends in Bushehr province. This trend can assist in improving health indices in the future.

Methods: The recorded data in vital horoscopes of health houses was used; which included demographic data of covered population. The district health centers gather data from health houses every year and transfer them to the provincial level. Population and mortality indices are calculated by data using software.

Findings: There was a decrease of 22%, 43%, and 44% in the population of under one, five and 15 years old in rural areas from 1993 to 2008, compared to 32%, 42% and 40% in country, respectively. The 65 years and over had increased 36.5% and 33% in Bushehr and Iran, respectively. Population of married women has declined 13% in Bushehr and 19% in Iran during this period. Birth rate reduction was 20.7% in Bushehr, while was 26% in country. Although there was a decline of 45.8% in general fertility rate in Bushehr compared to 50% in Iran, total fertility rate was decreased to 2 in both areas since 2000. There was a decrease of 42%, 52.5% and 71% in infant, under five and one to 59 months old mortality rates in Bushehr. These numbers were 46.7%, 50% and 64% on national level, respectively.

Conclusion: The decrease in fertility indices in Bushehr was less than the national's in the past 15 years. The highest decrease was in the one to 59 months old mortality rate. WHO defines "a population is young when the percentage of under 15 years old is 40% or more". Therefore, the young population in Bushehr and Iran in 2000 has changed to an aging in 2008. It is for the decrease in fertility rate and migration of young people to the cities. This aging population arouses increasing demands such as education, recreation, employment, housing and marriage. Although the decreased population of married 15–49 year old women shows the changes in the age of marriage; which decrease fertility rate, it can also cause increasing social problems. Total fertility rate has reached to replacement level of 2.2 since 1999; but the general fertility rate has increased in rural areas, which can be for population momentum.

rural areas- population- demographic indices - mortality rate - fertility indices

Presentation: Poster