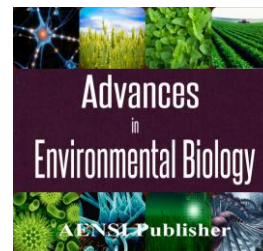




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The Impact of the Quality of Human Relationships on Situation of Aged People in Family: The Mediator Role of Empathy

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ABSTRACT

Objective: The goal of this research is to investigate the impact of quality of human relationships of families on their intention to care elderly people in home or care them in elderly houses. The population is consisted of the total of 400 aged people, 200 of them were keeping in nursing houses titled "Kahrizak" house in Iran and 200 of them were keeping with their families. **Method:** Data were collected by two separate self-administered questionnaires for two groups of 200 elders living either with their families, or in nursing house called "Kahrizak". The validity was checked by formal validity and the reliability of tools was checked by internal convergence ($\text{Alpha}=0.8$). **Results:** Research findings indicate: absorbing to or repelling elders from family depends to the quality of the communication in family. The rate of empathy in family is a significant and effective factor.

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INTRODUCTION

Family, the primary group, is consistently safeguarding the generations based on all justified perspectives. It is considered a definite assumption in every family' priorities to safeguard the children along with each child birth instinctively. As the former, the elderly people are also being safeguarded according to religious and cultural advices through the generation unity, and also the inevitable disability in a certain age. In today's society, it has been increased the longevity and life expectancy in elderly along with the growth of development phenomenon and applying the politics based on birth control. It will be one elderly out of five in a not very far future. It is expected the elderly population in the world reaches to 16% from 9%, to 6.18% from 3.9% in Asia, to 25.2% from 17.7% in Eastern Europe, to 37.6% from 20.9% in French, to 41.6% from 22.3% in Germany, to 37% from 16.2%, and to 17.5% from 17.5% from 5.6% in Iran during between 1995-2030. Statistical comparison indicates that aging trend is far more in Asia than the forenamed countries [6]. With regard to elderly population in line with social and economical development, the families are responsible for caring the elderly' body and mind, security, mental peace alongside the health and welfare who are connected with elderly. The bottom line in the paper is to discover the elderly' people who will be involved the unforeseen circumstances and unintended consequences of ostracism by being far away the family during the aging period. The aim is to answer this question: "what causal factors and what kind of family structure does cause the elderly disown of family?" This is acceptable that family is undergone the fundamental transformations affected by various factors such as changing the life style, kind of living, technology, consumption, and changing the attitude toward the life during a historical period. The social, economical, and cultural transformations have undergone the family inner relations, structural and ideological changes and the attitude to elderly has been changed. Nursing homes is the new institutions which has helped the family by social labor division alongside the industrialization. Although this kind of service institutions sometimes attempts to fill in for family to the elderly in emergency cases, some studies on elderly emotion about living in nursing houses [6,1,8] suggest that the elderly living in the nursing house are in a inappropriate mental and emotion situation compared to the elderly living in the home and among the family. The study tries to determine that what kind of structural factors causes the elderly to be supported, attracted, rejected or sending them to the nursing house by descriptive-explanatory method and aiming the comparison of the structure of two species of the elderly attractive family and family ejecting the elderly, with regard to anomic state of Iran society in transition, particularly the changes

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in nuclear family structure through the education and women employment as the one cares for elderly in the family.

Current research aims to investigate the quality of human relations and its impact on accepting or rejecting elderly people. In this regard the mediator role of empathy within family has been also investigated.

Hypotheses:

- 1-Empathy inside the family has a direct influence on rejecting elderly.
- 2-Understanding and conversation management has a direct and indirect (through empathy) influence on rejecting elderly
- 3-Understanding inside the family has a direct and indirect (through empathy) influence on rejecting elderly
- 4-Consensus inside the family has a direct and indirect (through empathy) influence on rejecting elderly

Methodology:

The method was descriptive-explanatory in path, practical in goal, depth-width in amount, and cross-sectional in time, data collection method has been survey. The study population have been included all residents in Kahrizak nursing house in a group and compared to all elderly living in 22 districts in Tehran. The sample size was 400 in general—two groups, each 200 of Kahrizak elderly and elderly living with family in Tehran. They were investigated by two separate questionnaires-made. The sampling method was simple random in the first group (Kahrizak elderly) and it was multi-stage cluster in the second group (Tehran city families). The tools to collect the data have been the questionnaire made by researcher. The obtained numbers to measure the tools reliability have been presented in the following reliability. Also, to measure the tools validity, nominal validity has been used. The following table shows the internal consistency reliability of research variables has been studied.

Table 1: Obtained alpha to each research variable.

Cronbach's alpha coefficient		Variables
Elderly questionnaire at nursing house	Elderly questionnaire at home	
0.938	0.945	Human relationships quality
0.773	0.755	Empathy within the family
0.879	0.869	The total questionnaire

Findings:

There were selected the elderly living in the home and the elderly living in Kahrizak out of 400 respondents from both groups—52% men and 48% women out of elderly living in the home. The mean age of male respondents was 74 and the mean age for women was 72. 54% men have been among the elderly living in the nursing house—the mean age for men is 77 and for women is 79 years. The mean age for men living in home is 77 and for women is 79. In the case of marital status, the highest percentage pertaining to married men living in the home has been 59% and the highest percentage in elderly living in the nursing house pertains to widowed women by 70%. The predominant nation of Fars consists of 40% men and 50% women, then it is the Azarian nation by 40% men and 24% women. 46% elderly living in the home are illiterate and 40% elderly living in Kahrizak are illiterate as well. 73% elderly living in the home have had the monthly income and its average has been 16000000 Rials per month, while 92% elderly living in Kahrizak have pronounced that do not have any income and their income average is 3100000 Rials. Most repetition for respondents living in the home is housekeeping and more than one fourth of respondents (28%) living in nursing house have been technical workers are engaged in Kahrizak nursing house. Half of elderly living in the house had the car, while 94% elderly living in the nursing house have no vehicle. The housing situation of elderly living at home demonstrates that 65% respondents have the private home, but most of the elderly in Kahrizak do not have any home and selected the option other. 41% elderly living in the house had the low health, 32% have the moderate health, and 27% have stated that they are in a good condition in health, but the results suggest that 49% elderly living in nursing house are low in health, 31% are moderate, and 20% are greatly healthy. A question addressed family members on caring for elderly physical health. 5.8% elderly living at home stated that their health are being greatly cared for, while 5.1% elderly living in nursing house have considered this kind of caring very much and 19% very little. 5.2% elderly living in the home want help from the others very much to provide their health, this number is 5.27% about elderly living in nursing house. 5.43% elderly living in the house have the nice feeling about adults, but only 5.18% among the elderly living in the nursing house have the nice feeling. 65% elderly living in the home have evaluated their life purposeful, orderly, and cheerful, while most elderly living in the nursing house—79%—have evaluated their life noisy, cluttered, boring, or tedious. The most important results of research include:

One of the most important parts of family structure is human communications quality, i.e. keeping or rejecting the elderly is the way of the function of communication, understanding, consensus, and the art of dialogue management.

There is a significant difference between human communication quality, in other words it can be said that keeping or rejecting the elderly is the way of the function of communication, understanding, consensus, and the art of dialogue management.

There is a relationship between the type of family structure on trust within the family and elderly in the family.

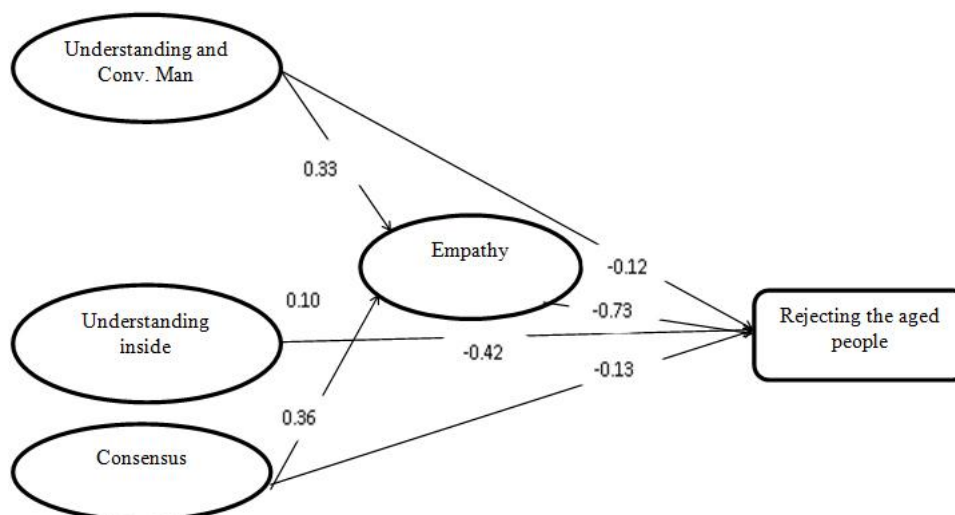
The empathy in the family is an effective and significant element to keep or reject the elderly. In other words, it can be said that the empathy in the family is an effective and meaningful element to keep or reject the elderly. Weber, philosopher and classical theorist based on Kozer believes that motivations can be interpreted the human actions in culture context and galaxy of actor subjective meanings by interpreting the human behavior and speeches. We can comprehend the human action if only get the subjective meanings which are attributed to the actors' behavior and also the others' by the actors [5]. Sympathy for the elderly within the family which is experiencing the biologic changes, physical erosion, and elderly disability is easy and abstention with regard to sharing the culture and awareness of the elderly mental and physical needs and this is important for families to what extent they consider the mission and give the priority to the elderly in the family.

The elderly social-economical base affects his/her position in the family, so that the elderly who personally has the social-economical base is being host in the family and the one who doesn't have the kind of base is being sent to the nursing house.

The following table shows the direct and indirect effect of each study variables:

Table 2: Direct and indirect effect of independent variables on rejecting the elderly people.

Total effect	Indirect effect	Direct effect	Dependent variable	Independent variables
-731.0	-	-731.0	Rejecting the elderly	Empathy inside the family
-629.0	-202.0	-427.0		Understanding and conversation management
-542.0	-422.0	-120.0		Understanding inside the family
-398.0	-268.0	-130.0		Consensus inside the family



Model 1: Analyzing the path among dependent and independent variables.

To analyze the path on rejecting the elderly, all the variables were introduced to Regression program. The variables "trust within the family", "empathy within the family", "consensus within the family", "understanding and conversation management", and "understanding within the family" were introduced as the independent variables and "rejecting the elderly" is the main and ultimate variable of the study. In this section, we analyze the results from the test of path factors which affect the family structure. It should be said that independent variables have affected the elderly rejecting in three ways (A. the effect just direct, B. the effect just indirect, C. effect both direct and indirect) and by different beta coefficients.

The variables affect the dependent variable directly:

The variable "empathy inside the family" (by coefficient -0.73) has the reducing effect on elderly rejecting. In other words, more empathy inside the family, less elderly rejecting would happen.

The variable "understanding inside the family" (by coefficient -0.12) has the reducing effect on elderly rejecting. In other words, more increment on understanding inside the family, less elderly rejecting would happen.

The variable “understanding and conversation management” (by coefficient -0.42) has the reducing effect on elderly rejecting. In other words, more increment on understanding and conversation management, less elderly rejecting would happen.

The variable “consensus inside the family” (by coefficient -0.13) has the reducing effect on elderly rejecting. In other words, more increment on consensus inside the family, less elderly rejecting would happen.

The variable affects the elderly rejecting indirectly (through the other variables), in addition to direct effect:

The variables which affect the ultimate dependant variable (rejecting the elderly) indirectly, through the mediate dependent variables, in addition to direct effect include:

The variable “understanding inside the family” has a reducing effect on rejecting the elderly an addition to direct effect (by coefficient -0.12) through the variable empathy within the family (by coefficient 0.32).

The variable “consensus within the family” has the reducing effect on rejecting the elderly in addition to direct effect (by coefficient -0.13) through the variable empathy within the family (by coefficient 0.376).

The variable “understanding and conversation management” has the reducing effect on rejecting the elderly in addition to direct effect (by coefficient -0.42) through the variable empathy within the family (by coefficient 0.10).

Discussion and conclusion:

Despite of poverties in the today’s chaotic lives in major-cities the majority of families make sacrifice immediately in our culture if the elderly who is the family veteran is on inevitable life passing and needs for help by increasing the age. In some families the attachment and sacrifice have not been instilled and taught by incorrect acceptance on behalf of the society, particularly in the families in which the child is dear. Sometimes, the teaching has been in existence, however the limitation doesn’t allow the family to care after the disabled elderly. It is considered as the nuclear family dysfunction in our cultural system, although it is low in abundance. The paper is a pace to create two types of ideal families attempt to respect and keep the elderly against the second group send s their elderly to the nursing house for some reasons. As it was mentioned in the study results the most important effect to reduce the risk factors of devoting elderly to the nursing house and withholding him/her from the family care is the “empathy within the family” (by effect coefficient around 0.7). It is shown in regression and analyzing the path that “empathy within the family” (by coefficient -0.73) has the reducing effect on rejecting the elderly. In other words, by increasing the empathy within the family the elderly rejecting would be decreased.

According to us the family with no empathy in which no attention is being paid to teach the responsibility in family and social interactive actions alongside the eliminating the biological needs ground the individual-orientation and neglecting the parents during the senility. We pointed out the understanding the interactive actions and sensitivity to comprehend the actors subjective meaning to create the empathy and sacrifice in the family in the theoretical section inspired by the action directed to Weber’s value.

In our country major-cities the phenomenon living in apartment has increased through immigrating to the cities from the rural area. Moving to the larger cities provide the field to change the spirits and attitudes in addition to changing the life style. Doorkim put the approach in an imaginary trend form investigates passing the human societies from the pre-industrial age (before urbanism) to the industrial age (urbanism) in an organic attachment passing form. On his view, the reason for getting the situation to the mechanical attachment is division structure.

Labor division is a reaction to control the limited resources. Durkheim is also believed on internalization the morality through teaching, particularly attracting the social moral by the person sociability. It means the social morality is primarily in existence on cultural level, however the individuals internalize it. According to Durkheim the common morality penetrate in us and some part of our personality is formed. On Durkheim perspective the urban environment and urbanity trend are of the factors causes providing the situation to the phenomenon “anomy” due to increasing the social changing trend. The lack of ability to adapt to changes is shown as digressing from the group conscious awareness and loosing the social attachment and its social effect is different side effect and diseases [4]. The results from the study approve our cultural principle record. The purposeful action but focused on value is the requisite for social and family, especially the interactive action with elderly. The positive emotional relationships and communicative action cause the understanding and empathy. The factor affecting the most the family communicative action in analyzing the path is the sympathy among the family members. Having the transitional character and replacing oneself for the elderly prevent from resent by greeting with anger, being skeptical, hesitant, and slow reaction to the people around by elderly. If understanding, consensus, and in a word the art of conversation management in the family are applied, the interests and integration of family cause providing the calmness to all family members.

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