

The Correlation of Women's Economic Participation & Demographic Window of Opportunity in I.R. Iran

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Introduction

Iran is experiencing a demographic window of opportunity, which can lead to valuable economic results. Women as a half of the population can play an important role in economic activities and contribute to the economic growth, leading the country to reap Demographic Dividend(DD). Moreover, women's economic participation boosts productivity, increases economic diversification and positive development outcomes. In Iran women economic participation is not favorable and varies at the provincial level. Moreover, development in different provinces of Iran is not the same therefore identifying the correlation between development indicators in the provinces and its relationship with women's economic participation is crucial for decision makers to identify the obstacles and planning for further steps.

Methods

The method of this research is quantitative analysis. The population of women aged 15-64 considered, from which the required indicators will be obtained.

Secondary data of the 2016 census and a 2% sample of the census at the provincial level are considered.

In this study, the obtained data were analyzed at two levels of descriptive statistics and inferential statistics.

Results

Table 1, illustrates the economic participation in general for men and women in country which is equal to 70.34% percent and 14.28% percent, respectively. This percentage in the age group of 15-19 years is 19.80% for men and 4.67% for women. The reason for this low percentage for this age group is mostly the engagement of young people in education and training. In the age group of 20-24 years, which is the age of entering the labor market, economic participation is 53.37% for men and 11.85% for women, which is a significant difference. In this age group, most young people are in education, which is more for girls. The 25-29 age are mostly graduated from university and are working in various socio-economic sectors. Economic participation for men in Tehran province in this age group is 85.02% and for women is 3.91%. The difference between the employment of men and women in this age group is equal to 63.25 percent and the ratio of economic participation of men to women in total country is equal to 2.04, which indicates a significant gap in employment between men and women. The ratio of male to female economic participation indicates a lower employment rate for women than for men.

Results

Table 1: Economic Participation – Total Country

Age group	Economic Participation by Men	Economic Participation by Women	Ratio of female to male labor force participation	Percentage difference
15-19	19.80	4.67	23.59	15.13
20-24	53.37	11.85	22.21	41.52
25-29	85.02	21.76	25.60	63.25
30-34	90.10	20.77	23.06	69.33
35-39	92.60	20.14	21.75	72.46
40-44	91.11	16.50	18.11	74.62
45-49	88.78	14.20	15.99	74.59
50-54	77.62	10.83	13.96	66.79
55-59	68.30	8.32	12.18	59.98
60-64	51.56	8.06	15.64	43.50
65+	19.74	4.91	24.85	14.84
Total	70.34	14.38	23.59	55.96

Chart 1: Age-Pyramid of Male and Female in Labor Market

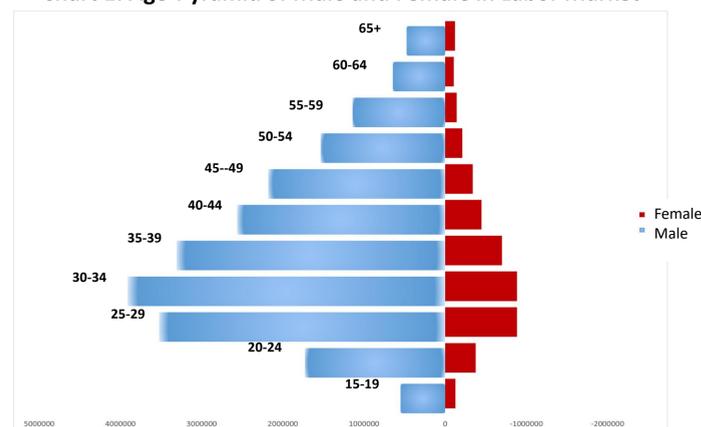


Table 2: Correlation Coefficients of Relationship Between Development Dimensions and Women Economic Participation

Development Dimension	Pearson's Correlation	P-value
Economic	0.074	0.707
Socio-Cultural	-0.017	0.932
Education	0.202	0.045
Demographic	0.061	0.759
Health	0.094	0.635
Date, Technology, and Communication	0.107	0.337
Infrastructure	0.242	0.023

Conclusion

Findings show that in all provinces there is a significant difference between the economic participation of men and women in all age groups. In the relationship between development dimensions and women's economic participation, the results of the study shows that education and infrastructure have a positive relationship with women's economic participation, which indicates the need to more invest in education and infrastructure. Despite of young women's high education in country, the level of economic participation of them is low.