

Abstract

Background: Since our country is one of the countries with a low fertility rate and the positive and negative motivations for having children are effective in the unfavorable fertility rate, this study aims to investigate the factors affecting the motivation to have children in women who refer to affiliated comprehensive health centers. It was done at Lorestan University of Medical Sciences in 2022-2023.

Method: This study is a cross-sectional study conducted on 534 women of reproductive age in Lorestan province. Data collection tools included demographic and midwifery information questionnaires and questionnaires on positive and negative motivations for having children. The data were analyzed by t-test, ANOVA, and Pearson's correlation test. SPSS-21 software was used for data analysis.

Findings: No significant difference was observed in terms of positive and negative motivations for having children among different educational levels. The ANOVA test showed that the positive motives for having children in women in the good economic status class are higher than in other groups ($P < 0.05$). Also, there is a relationship between the joy of pregnancy and the history of abortion ($P = 0.027$), care challenges and the number of live children ($P = 0.01$), the joy of pregnancy with the number of previous pregnancies ($P = 0.04$), and between the total negative motivation and the last pregnancy experience ($P = 0.026$) there is a significant relationship.

Conclusion: Positive and negative motivations for having children and their subscales are related to several variables including economic status, previous pregnancy experience, number of previous pregnancies, history of abortion, and number of live children. Therefore, it is recommended to consider the mentioned variables in order to adopt strategies and decisions regarding the youth of the population.

Keywords: childbearing, fertility, positive motives, negative motives