

Studying the factors relative to the being polygamy of the Bashtian Men

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Abstract: Marriage is the start point of the family formation among different cultures. One of the main criterions in this field is the number of wives. This survey is aimed to explore the factors affecting the polygamy. In this regard, using the quantitative performance, the economic and social factors relative to being polygamy of Bashtian men are examined. Data was gathered using some questionnaires. 200 questionnaires were distributed among the polygamous and monogamous men and then they were gathered and analyzed. According to the results, there is a meaningful relationship between polygamy and some factors including the power of men, the men desire for having more than one wife, the educational degree, the man job, the illness of first wife and dissatisfaction from the first wife's family.

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Introduction

Family is the central structure of a society which plays a main role in the social and personal life of each individual. One of the main issues relative to the family is to know the way of its formation and the factors affecting on. The start point of a family formation is choice of spouse which has influence on the performance of the family. There are various kinds of marriage: monogamy and polygamy. This survey is focused on polygamy.

By polygamy, we mean a kind of marriage through which a man can have several wives (Azdanloo, 2005). Polygamy is more current not only among the savage tribes, but also among the civilized countries. During Sasanian period, polygamy was a custom among the Arabs, Jewish and Iranians. Some authors believe that being polygamous of the tribes is rooted in the presence of the women in farmlands or herding. Polygamy is also current among the high – class men of the societies. This is because the men tend to have more children and to strengthen their social position (Arian pour, 1975). The behavior and mental health of such family members is under the influence of special relations (Mujahidi & Birshek, 2003). The happiness of married life is based the characteristics such as cordiality, generous disposition, self – sacrifice and intimacy. Some times, polygamy causes the women to injure each other and turns the family environment into a battlefield. Sooner or later, kindness of the family members changes into hostility. Therefore, through recognizing the factors which affect on the polygamy of the men, we can make some cultures by which the

structure of the family can be strengthened. It is hypothesized that marriage is affected by various social, economic and cultural factors. Therefore, this survey aims to explore the social, cultural and economic factors relative to being polygamous of Bashtian men.

Review of literature

Polygamy is one of the main issues which have been rarely investigated because of the limitation of the traditional society environment. This survey is mainly aimed to explore the qualitative performance of the families.

Monireh Zare (1995) studied the effect of polygamy on the family system. According to the results, %74.7 of the people in her sample believed strongly in polygamy and 24.3 saying polygamy is because of the men's capriciousness. It is worth nothing that all of the men participated in the study believed polygamy means adhering to Islam, but most of the women believed that is because of the men's capriciousness. 1 out of 112 paradigm men was polygamy because he had no child. Although the polygamous men call themselves righteous and believe that being polygamy means adhering to Islam, the women believe that being polygamy of the men affects negatively on the family system.

She concluded that the family system is directly under the influence of some factors including the economic difficulties, number of the children, wide difference of the children's ages, bad educational conditions and difference of the women's ages (Zara& Bibikobadi, 1997).

Shahla Azazi (2000) has studied the effect of polygamy on the performance of the family. She believes that children of the wives of a man have dispute with each other because of the division of their father's heritage. There are many examples of fratricide in the history of both Iran and Europe. There is no heartfelt relation between the children because of the difference of their ages and the presence of stepmother or stepfather. Being absent from the house, the fathers can not have a good relation with their wives or daughters. She argues that the women are usually under the stress of being polygamous of the men (Azazi, 2000).

Aziz Allah Mojahid & Behrooz Brihak (1995) found that the mental health of the women having co – husband is less than the others'. Moreover, the children of the wives of the polygamy men have dispute with each other and sometimes this dispute makes the children criminal (Gharae: Moghadam, 2003).

Michael Tartlet (2005) has theorized that most of the African men have more than a single wife and the women are always pregnant. Africa is the poorest country of the world. Tartlet has asked, "Does the prohibition of being polygamous affect on the economic development of the Blacks?" he has used the polygamy model for answering this question and examines the effect of monogamy rule in this framework. He concludes that based on the monogamy rule, the number of pregnant women and the difference of husbands' and wives' ages will be decreased. Moreover, this rule increases the ratio of capital to the internal net income. When a polygamous man is authorized, the number of birth is high. Therefore, the marriage means investing capital. As a result, prohibition of remarriage causes the pregnancy to decrease by %40 and it also increases the country's saving and production by %70 and %170, respectively. He concludes that the government can improve the economic performance of the Africa through prohibiting polygamy of the men (Tertilt, 2005).

During his study about the Kuwaiti and Emirian patients, Chaney (1985 – 1988) found that the wives of polygamous men have more psychoses (Quoted from MOjahid & Birshek, 2001).

In a large sociological study in Dubai, Ghubash , Bebington & hamedy concluded that the divorced women ,Widows and the wives of polygamous men are mainly in danger of suffering from psychoses.

Oyefeso & Adegoke have theorized that the children of polygamous men are under the mental pressures including the struggles between the rival wives, the competitions between the mothers and insufficient cares. Further, the young boys of such men suffer more than the others from psychoses.

Owuamanam argued that the youths of polygamous men have low self – confidence compared to the others. Evaluating the educational progress of the children of monogamy and polygamy families, Cheri an found that the children of polygamy families have lesser educational progress compared to the children of monogamy families. Because the women compete with each other to attract the attention of their husband, the polygamy families may be disordered (Bites & plug, 1996). As a result, in most of the studies about polygamous men, the various psychoses resulted from polygamy have been studied. Moreover, the studyers have not presented hypotheses in proportion to the factors affecting on being polygamy of Iranian men. Reviewing the evidences, this is no suitable study relative to such issues in Iran (Mojahid & Birshek, 2003).

Theoretical bases

Since the marriage and polygamy of men is the main relations established under the influence of some factors, sociologists have presented some view points about these factors. Polygamy of the men can be studied from anthropological and sociological perspectives.

-viewpoints of anthropologists:

Riviera, German anthropologist, believes that societies in which polygamy is customized follow various principles for the first and second marriages. One of these principles is to marry into the widow of the brother. He argues that being polygamy of the men follows various strategic objectives:

- 1- Demographic objective: to stable the tribe through having children
- 2- Economic objective: to increase the work forces through making money and making the parents secure
- 3- Political objectives: to establish the peace through increasing the family nets
- 4- Religious objective: to attract the Gods for supporting the women's tribes
- 5- Spiritual – social objective: to appropriate a top social position for the men.
- 6- Spiritual – material objectives: to satisfy the lust when a woman is pregnant (Rivier, 2005)

This study is aimed to test some of the main hypotheses including marring the widow of the brother, infertility of the woman and the social and economic significance of the males.

In "the cultural anthropology", Denial Bates & Fred plug theorized that only the old wealthy men can remarry. From the viewpoint of a man, the women are the main economic advantage. Not only can the women bear the boys who help their fathers

in political battles, but also they bear the girls who are lovely. Therefore, this is to say that women are the source of health, power and social position. It seems that polygamy is a custom among the political societies who impose the courageous ability of the men on the women (Bates & Plug 1996). Therefore, the viewpoint of Bates and Plug is used for studying the economic and social factors which affect on the polygamy.

Some authors argue that being polygamy is one of the characteristics of Patriarchy period. Chiefs of the tribes were endowed with a miraculous power and their properties showed their social and political position. Regarding this hypothesis, the women were the main part of the chiefs' properties. Morgan believes that the modern monogamy is the changed form of the old group marriage (Roohol Amine 1995).

- *viewpoints of sociologists:*

Based on the sociological viewpoint, the social exchanges of people leading to the social transformation are studied (Adibi & Ansari 2004). People have personal tendencies. These tendencies don't create joint objectives. It is hypothesized that people have selfish motivations. Therefore, motivation is either personal or private. It, so, refers to the personal desire for achieving goals. Authorities argue that emotional rewards compensate the financial loses. People are interested in satisfying their lust. Every person should be generous. Some authorities believe that when person can not satisfy each other, there is no social relationship between them.

Nevertheless, persons should pay a price to get profit. This price is related to the attempt of a person to satisfy others (Adibi & Ansari 2004).

One of the principles proportional to the exchange theory is social confirmation. This principle can be regarded as a creating factor. Due to exchange theory, there is a wide variety of rewards from which the social confirmation is of great importance (Adibi& Ansari 2004). Hymens argued that people act more better when they are encouraged (Ritzer 1998).

Because the Bashtians have tribal characteristics, they pay no attention to their personal tendencies. Tennis believes that the Bashtians have the characteristics of a spiritual society. He regards the following as the characteristics of a spiritual society:

1) *Organic intention*

In spiritual societies, persons seek serving each other. Organic intention is the main criterion of a spiritual society by which this society is separated from the superficial society. In superficial society, the human relations are under the influence of intention.

2) *Intimate relations*

People living in a spiritual society know each other's reaction. Therefore, they calm each other during bad conditions.

3) *Constant relation*

People who live in spiritual societies are acquainted with the past things of each other and this is because such societies are not so developed.

4) *Absolute relation of a few people:* Being small of spiritual society improves its quality. Therefore, the relation of people is improved and they have a good relation with each other (Sarokhani, 1994).

Tunis relates the following characteristics to the superficial society: intension, extensive, thoughtful and formal relation (Sarokhani, 1994). This is to say that the exchange theory is proportional to the superficial society. Therefore, this theory is not in proportion to the investigation of economic, social and cultural factors affecting on the choice of spouse.

Theoretical framework

Among the mentioned theories, the River's, Bit's & plug's viewpoints were chosen. Morgan has presented an evolutionary theory. He has regarded polygamy as one of the fivefold stages of marriage and argues that we have recently entered to the monogamy stage but evidences show that polygamy is prevalent in many modern societies. Therefore, it is not suitable to use the Morgan's theory in this study.

According to the exchange theory, people have personal aims and desires. All people may need something, but they have no joint goal. It is hypothesized that the unique and personal aims make people selfish. When persons are not satisfied from each other, there is no social interaction between them (skidmor, 1996). The exchange theory's adherents believe that the incomes are guaranteed by receiving reward. Expense refers to make effort in order to satisfy others. Profit means the difference between reward and expense. It is achieved when the reward is more than the expense (Skidmor, 1996). Due to exchange theory, persons seek the suitable opportunities for increasing their rewards. For example, a married person regards the followings as the resources of rewards:

- The pleasurable relation with the wife
- Explicit profits (assets)
- Peace of mind caused by the marriage

Riviera's theory of polygamy is a suitable theory, because it emphasizes on the marriage to the widow of the brother and the importance of bearing boys as the key factors affecting on polygamy phenomenon.

Bits & Plug have theorized polygamy phenomenon as an economic advantage which wealth, authority and social position of the men is based on. Therefore, in order to study the social and economic factors affecting on polygamy phenomenon, this theory is valuable.

William Gad argued that the structural changes are suitable for studying the economic, social and cultural factors which affect on the polygamy phenomenon.

Study hypotheses

H1: there is a relationship between the educational degree of men and polygamy phenomenon

H2: there is a relationship between the men's job and polygamy phenomenon

H3: there is a relationship between the illness of first woman and the polygamy phenomenon

H4: there is a relationship between compulsory marriage and polygamy phenomenon

H5: there is a relationship between imitation of men and polygamy phenomenon

H6: there is a relationship between the custom of marrying the widow of the brother and polygamy phenomenon

H7: there is a relationship between religious precepts and polygamy phenomenon

H8: there is a relationship between the men's desire and polygamy phenomenon

H9: there is a relationship between women's infertility and men's polygamy

H10: there is a relationship between women's bearing daughter and men's polygamy.

H11: there is a relationship between the men's dissatisfaction of the first women's family and polygamy

H12: there is a relationship between misunderstanding of the couple and the men's polygamy

H13: there is a relationship between the men's income and polygamy phenomenon

H14: there is a relationship between men's welfare possibilities and polygamy phenomenon

Study methodology

This is a descriptive survey in which data was gathered by use of a questionnaire. The questionnaire included some closed questions. The sample includes 200 monogamy and polygamy men of Basht region who were randomly selected with the help of statistics and registration administration. The variables used in the survey include: Educational degree. By educational degree, we mean a person's years of receiving education which is classified as the following:

- 1) Being illiterate

- 2) Elementary

- 3) Guidance

- 4) Secondary

- 5) High education

Family income: it is referred to the income of the family at the end of month.

Welfare possibilities: welfare possibilities refer to those possibilities includes personal house, personal car, television, personal library, Radio, Phone, Mobile, Computer and Internet.

Job kind: by job kind, we mean a set of activities by which a man makes money. There are two kinds of jobs:

Free job and governmental job

Infertility of the first wife: it means that the first wife is unable to bear a child.

Illness of the first wife: it refers to when the first wife has a disease under the influence of which she can not bear a child.

Disagreement of man with his first wife: lack of agreement between man and first wife in some affairs such as baby – sitting, proprieties, financial and living affairs.

Marrying compulsorily: when the man is obliged to marry a woman by his parents

The man dissatisfaction from the family of his first wife: when the man has a dispute with his father – in – law / mother- in- law

Imitation: when a man imitates another's manner and chooses another spouse

Marrying to the widow of the brother: when man misses his brother and is compelled to marry his brother's widow

Religious precepts related to polygamy: it refers to a set of rules by which the men's choice of spouse is limited.

By polygamy, we mean the union in marriage in which a man marries two women simultaneously.

Findings

Educational degree and polygamy

Educational degree of men is an independent variable. The relation between this variable and polygamy is studied by use of chi square test. Degree of freedom (df) and meaningfulness level (ml) of this variable have a meaningful relationship with the dependent variable. In results, hypothesis 1 is confirmed. As shown in table below, the polygamous men are always illiterate.

Table 1 shows the relationship between educational degree and polygamy

Job kind and polygamy

The kind of men's job is another independent variable examined. As shown in table 2, there is a direct relationship between the two variables. Therefore, hypothesis 2 is accepted because of the values of DF, ml and chi square. This is to say that those having free jobs believe in polygamy.

Table 2 shows the relationship between job kind and polygamy.

Illness of first wife and polygamy

Illness of first wife is another independent variable studied by use of chi square test. As illustrated in table 3, there is a meaningful relationship between the two variables because of the values of chi square, df and ml. Furthermore, most of men having an ill wife have a tendency to polygamy. On the other hand, most of polygamous men are those who have ill wives.

Table 3 shows the relationship between the illness of first wife and polygamy

Marrying compulsorily and polygamy

Being compulsory of first marriage is another independent variable examined by square test. As seen in table 4, there is a meaningful relationship between the two variables because of the meaningfulness level. Therefore, those who are married compulsorily tend to have another wife. When a man chooses his wife, he doesn't tend to remarry.

Table 4 shows the relationship between marrying compulsorily and polygamy

Imitation and polygamy

Imitation is another variable studied by chi square test. As shown in table 5, there is a meaningful relationship between the two variables. In result, hypothesis 5 is accepted .in other words, imitation is not regarded as the cause of being polygamy.

Table 5 shows the relationship between imitation and polygamy

Custom of marrying into the widow of brother and polygamy

Custom of marrying into the widow of brother and polygamy is another variable studied by use of square test. From table 6, with respect to the values of square test, DF and ml, there is no meaningful relationship between the two variables. Therefore, hypothesis 6 is not accepted. Results show that 3 out of 100 men marry into the widow of their brother.

Table 6 shows the marrying into the widow of brother and polygamy.

As illustrated in table 7, there is no meaningful relationship between the variables religious precepts and polygamy because of the value of meaningfulness level. Therefore, this variable is not accepted.

Table 7 6 shows the relationship between religious precepts and polygamy

Personal desire of man and polygamy

Desire of man is another independent variable studied by use of chi square test, df and ml. with respect to the results, this is to say that hypothesis 8 is confirmed. As seen, only %5 of monogamous men has a tendency to remarry. On the other hand, %23 of polygamous men believes in polygamy. Therefore, the polygamous men have more tendencies toward this phenomenon.

Table 8 shows the relationship between desire of man and polygamy.

Polygamy and degree of agreement between man and his first wife

The relation between polygamy and husband's and wife's agreement was studied by use of regression test and in the form of two – variable equation. This test was used because the independent variable has two categories. Therefore, such variables are studied by use of regression test. With respect to table 9, the Wald number is %4 and it shows that the independent variable criterion (B) is not meaningful. Also, with respect to the meaningfulness level, there is no meaningful relationship between the two variables.

Income of man and polygamy

The relation between income of man and polygamy was tested by use of regression test. As seen in table 9, the Wald number is .269 and it shows the meaninglessness of the independent variable criterion (B). The meaningfulness level shows that there is no relationship between the two variables.

Welfare possibilities and polygamy

In order to evaluate the relationship between the men's welfare and polygamy, this variable was examined by use of regression test. From table 9, this is to say that there is no meaningful relationship between the two variables.

Table 9 shows the relationship between possibilities and polygamy.

Multi – variable analysis

In order to investigate the relation between the independent variables of the study and the independent variable polygamy, the regression test was used. Tables 10 and 11 show the results. Table 10 includes the variables used in regression equation at stages. Variable 1 is infertility of the first wife. The Wald number is 43.584 showing the meaningfulness

of independent variable criterion (B). It shows that there is a meaningful relation between infertility of first wife and polygamy of men (%99). The second variable is bearing daughter (B=1.615). R=0.745 and it shows that there is a meaningful relationship between the two variables. The Wald number (20.199) shows the meaningfulness of the independent variable criterion (B).

The third variable is the men's dissatisfaction from the family of his first wife (B=0.278). It is clear that there is a meaningful relationship between the two variables because R=0.761. The Wald number is 5.188 and it shows the meaningfulness of independent variable criterion (B).

Regression equation:

$$Y = -2.081(\text{infertility}) + 1.615(\text{bearing daughter}) + 0.278(\text{dissatisfaction}) + 3.814$$

Table 10: choice of variable

-2 logs show the suitability of the model. The smaller this number, the more suitability is. The zero shows the complete suitability of the model. This criterion is 139.317, 109.712 and 104.156 for the variables infertility, bearing daughter and dissatisfaction, respectively. Therefore, it is a suitable criterion.

Model X^2 : this criterion evaluates the effectiveness of variable of the equation. When x^2 is high, the variables are effective. As seen in table 11, the degree of chi square is increasing and it shows the effectiveness of the available variables.

Improvement: by this criterion, the change of 2 log likelihood is examined. With respect to table 11, the chi square value is improved under the influence of second variable. Moreover, when the third variable decreases, the 2 log likelihood criterion is changed meaningfully.

Correct prediction: the value of dependent variable is compared to the predicted dependent variable by use of correct prediction criterion. Based on the table below, there is no meaningful difference between the predicted percentages (%81.9, %87, and % 86).

Table 11 shows the suitability of the model for used variables

Conclusion

This survey was aimed to investigate the factors related to being polygamy of Bashtian men. In past, polygamy was a custom among the people of Iran. Evidences show that some variables, including infertility of first wife, bearing daughter and dissatisfaction from the first wife's family, are the main factors affecting on the polygamy of men. In this regard, this is to say that marriage is under the influence of cultural and social behaviors of traditional societies.

Traditional society refers to the society in which it is very important to have boy. In such societies, men seek a way to solve their personal problems. They tend to have a powerful wife who can bear several boys. Sometimes, illness of first wife and bearing girl are the two factors affecting on polygamy. On the other hand, results show that there is no direct relationship between income of man and life possibilities. Polygamy has no direct relation with the economic condition. In Basht region, polygamy is a symbol, not a real need. It seems that their problem can be solved by polygamy.

At two – variable level, it was cleared that there is a meaningful relationship between polygamy and variables such as the man's desire, job kind and educational degree.

Table 1: relationship between educational degree and polygamy

Education	Number of wife		Total
	Monogamy	polygamy	
Illiterate	43	31	74
elementary	21	34	55
Guidance	8	15	23
Secondary	20	11	31
High education	8	7	15
Jurisdictional	0	2	2
Total	100	100	200

Table 2: relationship between job kind and polygamy

Job kind	Number of wife		total
	Monogamy	polygamy	
Free	66	81	147
Governmental	34	19	53
Total	100	100	200
	Df=1		MI =%16

Table 3: relationship between the illness of first wife and polygamy

Illness of first wife	Number of wife		Total number
	Monogamy	polygamy	
No	96	69	165
Yes	4	31	35
total	100	100	200

Table 4: relationship between marrying compulsorily and polygamy

The man's role in choosing his wife	Number of wife		total
	Monogamy	polygamy	
Extremely high	76	23	99
Relatively high	17	21	38
Partly	7	45	52
Relatively low	0	8	8
Extremely low	0	2	2
total	100	100	200
	Df= 1		MI= 0.733

Table 5: relationship between imitation and polygamy

Imitation	Number of wife		Total number
	Monogamy	polygamy	
No	95	96	191
Yes	5	4	9
Total	100	100	200
	Df= 1		MI=0.733

Table 6: marrying into the widow of brother and polygamy

Marrying into the widow of brother	Monogamy / polygamy	Total number
No	96.97	193
Yes	4.3	7
Total number	100.100	200
	Df=1	MI =0.700

Table 7: relationship between religious precepts and polygamy

Religious precepts	Monogamy/polygamy		Total number
No	97	99	196
Yes	3	1	4
Total number	100	100	200
	Df=1		MI=0.312

Table 8: the relationship between desire of man and polygamy

The man's desire to polygamy	Monogamy/polygamy		Total number
No	95	77	172
Yes	5	23	28
Total number	100	100	200
	Df=1		MI=0.000

Table 9: relationship between possibilities and polygamy

variable	B	R	S.E	Wald	df	ml	Chance ratio
Agreement of husband and wife	-0.001	0.000	0.020	0.004	1	0.948	0.999
Income level	0.000	0.002	0.000	0.269	1	0.604	1
Welfare possibilities	%34	0.001	0.074	0.215	1	0.643	1.035

Table 10: choice of variable

variable	B	R	S.E	Wald	df	ml	Chance ratio
Infertility of first wife	-2.081	0.647	0.315	43.584	1	0.000	0.125
Giving birth daughter	1.615	0.745	0.359	20.199	1	0.000	5.027
Dissatisfaction from the first wife's family	0.278	0.761	0.122	5.188	1	0.023	1.321
Fixed number	3.814		0.916	17.342	1	0.000	45.354

Table 11: suitability of the model for used variables

Stage	Improvement			Model			-2 log likelihood	Correct prediction	variable
	Df	sig		Df	sig				
1	128.108	1	.000	128.108	1	.000	139.317	81.9	infertility
2	29.605	1	.000	157.713	2	.000	109.712	87	Daughter giving birth
3	5.556	1	.000	163.269	3	.000	104.156	86	Dissatisfaction

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