The factors affecting Childbearing Intention in Employee women in Birjand: Application of the theory of planned behavior

Toktam Alizadeh[1], Mitra Moodi[2], Fatemeh Salmani[3], Asieh Moudi[4] *

[1] Student Research Committee, School of Health, Birjand University of Medical Sciences, Birjand, Iran.(toktamalizadeh76@gmail.com)
[2,3] Social Determinants of Health Research Center, School of Health, Birjand University of Medical Sciences, Birjand, Iran.
[4] Department of Midwifery, Qaen School of Nursing and Midwifery, Birjand University of Medical Sciences, Birjand, Iran.

Abstract

Background: Childbearing is one of the most important determinants of population fluctuations. Identifying factors affecting childbearing is necessary for the proper implementation of population programs. This study aimed to determine the factors affecting childbearing Intention among Employee women in Birjand based on the theory of planned behavior.

Materials and Methods: In this descriptive-correlational study, 405 Employee women in the offices of Birjand city in 2022 were selected by stratified random sampling and completed a two-part questionnaire including demographic information and questions related to the theory of planned behavior. Data were analyzed using SPSS v 19 and Pearson's correlation, logistic regression, independent t-test, and ANOVA.

Results: The mean age of the participants in the study was 37.82±6.39 years and mean number of current children was 1.77±0.92. The mean score of childbearing intention was 8.80±3.06, the attitude was 66.04±11.50, the subjective norm was 27.03± 6.95, and perceived behavioral control was 32.90±7.80. Also, there was a significant negative and direct relationship between all the Constructs of the theory of planned behavior and childbearing intention (P<0.01). The variables of age, the number of current children, and the ideal number of children were predictors of childbearing intention. According to the standardized beta coefficients, the strongest predictor of intention was the number of current children (β = -0.464).

Conclusion: The findings showed that various demographic factors are efficient in childbearing intention. Findings of this study can provide a picture of current situation of factors affecting childbearing intention in society and be used as a guide for the authorities in fertility planning.
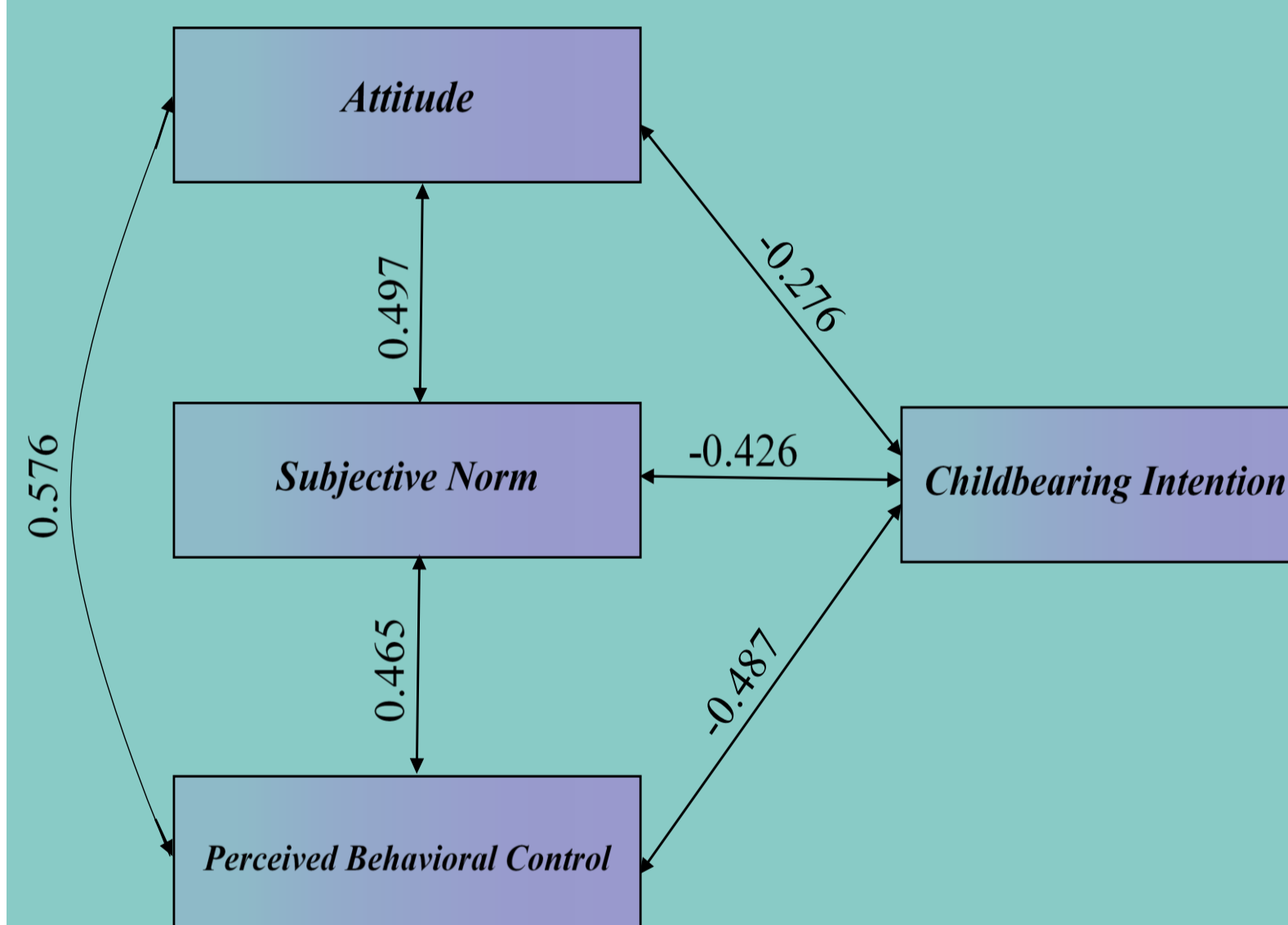
Keywords: Attitude, Fertility, Intention, Women

Background

In recent years, significant demographic changes have occurred around the world and fertility and having children are the major determinants of demographic fluctuations. Decrease in the fertility rate and the transformation of natural fertility into controlled fertility, the construct of the population has gradually shifted from youth to old age. Iran has currently the lowest fertility rate in the Middle East.

Having children is multi-factorial, and various individual, psychological, economic, social, cultural, demographic, and biological factors affect it. Identifying factors affecting childbearing is necessary to implement population policies and programs. Therefore, this study was conducted to determine the factors affecting the intention to have children among working women in Birjand based on the TPB.

Methods

This descriptive-correlation study (cross-sectional type) was conducted in 2022 on 405 Employee women in the government offices of Birjand city.

women selected by stratified random sampling. The data collection tool was a demographic questionnaire and questionnaire on the intention to have children designed based on the TPB and using by brainstorming, studying sources, and the existing questionnaire. Data were analyzed using SPSS v19 and Pearson's correlation, logistic regression, independent t-test, and ANOVA.

Results

The mean age of the participants in the study was 37.82±6.39 years and mean number of current children was 1.77±0.92. The variables of age, the number of current children, and the ideal number of children were predictors of childbearing intention. According to the standardized beta coefficients, the strongest predictor of intention was the number of current children (β = -0.464).

Correlation between Constructs of TPB

Demographic factors affecting childbearing intention
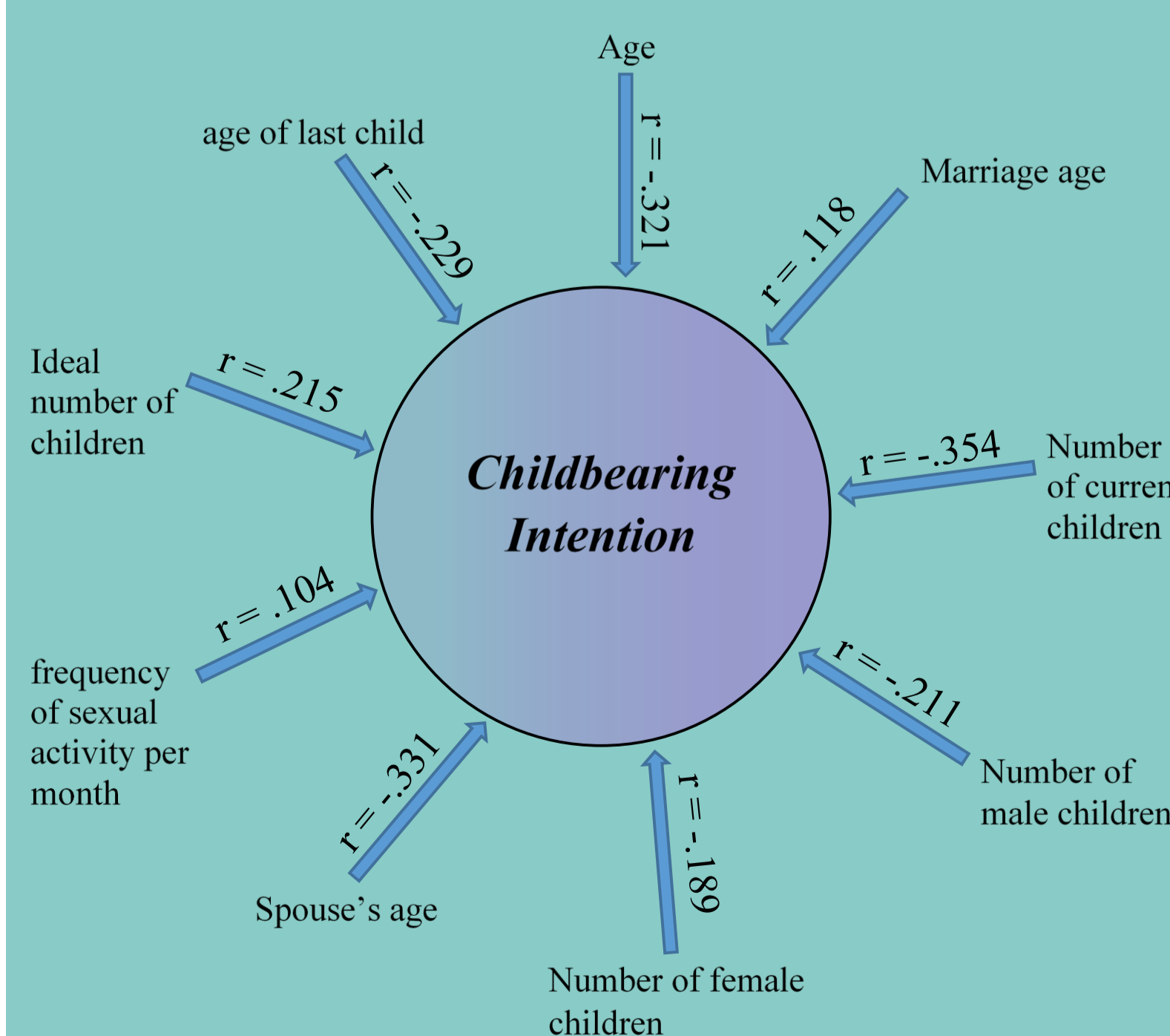
Conclusion

The findings showed that various demographic factors are efficient in childbearing intention .

Also, the theory of planned behavior can be presented as a suitable framework for designing and implementing educational interventions with the aim of creating intention in people.

Findings of this study can provide a picture of current situation of factors affecting childbearing intention in society and be used as a guide for the authorities in fertility planning.

One of limitations of this study was target population whom were merely employee women in government offices. It is suggested to conduct more research on housewives and employee women in the private institutions.

References

1.Lee JN, Hwang MJ. Determinants on the number of children among married women in Korea. Journal of Population and Social Studies [JPSS]. 2019;27(1):53-69.

2.Ghaffari F, Motaghi Z. Factors Affecting Childbearing Based On Women's Perspectives: A Qualitative Study. J Navid No. 2021; 23(76):33-43.

3.Lee JJ, Kang CH. Factors Related to Childbirth Intention of Migrant Women in Multicultural Marriages in Korea. Iranian journal of public health. 2020;49(8):1447-54.