VID Colloquium

Population and Individual Ageing in Iran

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The main purpose of this research is to address intergenerational relations between the elderly and their children in transitional Iran which will be presented in two parts. The first part relies on a formal demographic point of view in which it will be documented that how mortality decline has been increasing the size of population aged 60 years old and over, however the paradoxical effect of individual ageing has probably had a key role in slower increasing proportion of aged population. Here we use the national censuses taken from 1966 to 2011. Following a rapid decline in fertility, population growth in total has decreased from more than 3 percent during 1966-89 to less than 1.7 percent during 1986-2011. This rate has increased of 2.2 percent to 4.3 percent for population aged 60+. This is a simple but very clear indicator of the effect of individual ageing. Using a cluster sampling strategy, 527 family households with 2474 members from Tehran, the inter-generational relationship between the elderly parents, their children, and other members in their social networks will be addressed in the second part of this research. Answers to the question, what support exists for the elderly when needed, are often simplified as "their children", yet, there are related issues which need deeper inquiry such as the extent and scope of children's support and whether it is possible to compensate this support. In the context of the second phase of the demographic transition period, the size and the sex composition of family networks among the examined (present generations of) elderly are found to be large for both sexes. Despite the high number of children who have migrated, there are still a significant number of them remaining children who are accessible by their parents, and the family support network is still dominated by filial support. Some of aids that parents, especially mothers, receive from their children is not replaceable by other sources of support. In addition, there is a sex-specific tendency to meet some important needs, such as nursing and long term car, and most of the elderly parents rely on their daughter in these conditions. However, because of similar group structures, the extended family and non-family support networks remain relevant in providing significant emotional and financial support to the elderly. This condition will be inevitably changed in post-transitional Iran. For next generations which will be certainly much bigger in size (more than 25 million people), below level of fertility not only will be reducing the number of children, but also it tends to reduce the probability of being both son and daughter in the elderly's family. This is a new challenge for policy-making which needs to be addressed and must be also seen from macro approaches.

About the presenter
Majid Koosheshi is an Assistant Professor of Demography at the Department of Demography, University of Tehran. He holds a PhD and MSc in Demography from the University of Tehran, and a BSc in Social Research from Tabriz University in Iran. His research work focuses on the demography of ageing in Iran, in particular intergenerational relationships, family support and the health status of the elderly. He is also interested in demographic techniques especially those applying in mortality estimation from defective registered data. He has an interest in methodological developments in demographic methods such as indirect estimation techniques. Majid Koosheshi was a member of the Executive Council of the Population Association of Iran from 2011 to 2014. He has been the Chair of Division of Population Research at the Institute of Social Studies and Research, the University

of Tehran since 2011. Over the last decade he completed a comprehensive study on ageing in Iran, which included issues such as elder abuse, health status, co-residency in old age, intergenerational exchange and social and family support of the elderly. In 2012, he conducted a UNFPA project on Population Ageing in Iran in collaboration with Dr Khosravi and Dr Alizadeh. He is currently conducting another UNFPA research project on assessing registration data on death and causes of death for the Civil Registration Organization of Iran.