

Dear Citizen,

Greetings and Respect,

The present questionnaire has been designed to examine the factors related to the reluctance to have children among couples who are childless or have only one child in **Fars Province**. This study has been approved by **Shiraz University of Medical Sciences** under the ethics code **IR.SUMS.REC.1401.722**.

Your precise and complete responses to the questions will help us conduct this research correctly. It should be noted that this study does not require your **name or surname**, and the collected information will remain **completely confidential**, used solely for this research. The estimated response time is approximately **15-20 minutes**. Additionally, these questions are designed for **married men and women**.

Thank you for your cooperation.

**Health Policy Research Center,
Shiraz University of Medical Sciences**

Filtering Questions:

1. Are you willing to participate in this research?

2. Are you currently married?

3. Do you have no children or only one child?

4. What is your nationality?

5. What is your spouse's nationality?

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6. In what year did you get married?

(Please write the full 4-digit year)

7. How old are you? (in years)

8. How old is your spouse? (in years)

9. How many years have you been living together under the same roof?

10. In which province, were you born (according to your birth certificate)?

(If born outside the country, select the tenth option.)

11. Was your birthplace a city or a village?

12. In which province was your spouse born (according to their birth certificate)?

(If born outside the country, select the tenth option.)

13. Was your spouse's birthplace a city or a village?
14. Based on your and your spouse's place of birth, how would you assess the cultural and traditional differences between you two?
15. Which of the following areas is your current residence located in?
16. Is your current place of residence a city or a village?
17. What is your religion/faith?
18. What is your spouse's religion/faith?
19. What is the highest level of education you have completed?
20. What is the highest level of education your spouse has completed?
21. What is your current primary occupation?
22. What is your spouse's current primary occupation?
23. Who is the primary source of income in your household?
24. How would you describe your household's income compared to expenses?
25. What is the kinship relationship between you and your spouse?
26. How willing are you to have more than one child?
27. How willing is your spouse to have more than one child?
28. Is the gender of the child important to you or your spouse?
29. If your preferred conditions and your spouse's support were available, how many sons would you like to have?
30. If your preferred conditions and your spouse's support were available, how many daughters would you like to have?
31. Who makes the decision regarding having children in your household?
32. How much do you and your spouse agree on the number of children you want?
33. If you and your spouse do not agree on having children or the number of children, what is the main reason for this disagreement?

(If you agree, write "We agree.")

Please answer questions 34 to 71 on the following pages regarding the factors influencing your decision to have no children or only one child with a "Yes" or "No."

34. My spouse and I recently got married, and we prefer to spend some time together without children to enjoy our time or get to know each other better.

- 35.** Many years have passed since our marriage, and we do not wish to have children or more than one child, as it is not a priority for us.
- 36.** My spouse and I have a young child and prefer to maintain an appropriate age gap before having another child.
- 37.** From the beginning of our marriage, my spouse and I agreed never to have children.
- 38.** Having one or more children would disrupt our peace, which is the main reason for our reluctance to have children.
- 39.** My spouse or I believe that having one or more children would interfere with our marital responsibilities.
- 40.** My spouse or I do not feel ready for the responsibilities of parenthood.
- 41.** My spouse or I prioritize our professional responsibilities, making it difficult to have one or more children.
- 42.** Given the importance we place on raising children, balancing this with our work responsibilities seems impossible or difficult.
- 43.** My spouse or I are relatively old, and having (more) children would be risky.
- 44.** My spouse or I believe that having one or more children does not align with our social class.
- 45.** Having no children or only one child is common in our families, which has influenced our decision.
- 46.** Interference or advice from our families prevents my spouse and me from making an independent decision about having children.
- 47.** Most of our friends and colleagues have no children or only one child, influencing us to follow the same path.
- 48.** My spouse or I believe that having children negatively affects a woman's physical appearance, discouraging us from having (more) children.
- 49.** My spouse and I prioritize the quality and future of our children over their number.
- 50.** My spouse and I prefer adopting and raising orphaned or neglected children instead of having biological children.
- 51.** My spouse or I are infertile, and due to high treatment costs, we have not been able to seek medical help.
- 52.** My spouse or I are infertile, and despite treatment efforts, we have not been able to have children.
- 53.** My spouse and I are close relatives, and we fear giving birth to a disabled child.
- 54.** My spouse or I have a chronic illness (other than infertility) that prevents us from having children or poses health risks during pregnancy.
- 55.** The first pregnancy and childbirth experience was very difficult for my spouse or me, making us afraid of having more children.
- 56.** Due to complications with our first child (miscarriage, stillbirth, neonatal death, or disability), my spouse or I fear having another child.
- 57.** There is a history of disability in my or my spouse's family, making us hesitant about having (more) children.
- 58.** My spouse or I are deeply concerned about child education and upbringing in society, making us reluctant to have (more) children.
- 59.** My spouse or I prioritize continuing our education over having children.
- 60.** My spouse or I prioritize immigration over having children.

- 61.** Due to marital conflicts, I am uncertain about the stability of our relationship and prefer to have no children or only one child.
- 62.** My spouse or I lack a stable income, job security, or sufficient financial resources for pregnancy and childbirth expenses.
- 63.** My spouse or I lack a stable income, job security, or financial resources for child-rearing expenses (such as food, clothing, healthcare, etc.).
- 64.** My spouse or I lack financial resources for our child's education (kindergarten, school, etc.).
- 65.** My spouse and I do not have independent housing, which is the main reason for not having more children.
- 66.** My spouse or I have children from a previous marriage, and we do not wish to have more.
- 67.** My spouse and I have no confidence or hope in the improvement of the social situation (including the future of young people, etc.) in the country, and this factor has negatively influenced our decision to have children.
- 68.** My spouse and I have no confidence or hope in the improvement of the economic situation in the country, and this factor has negatively influenced our decision to have children.
- 69.** Seeing the increasing trend of young people emigrating abroad has negatively influenced our decision to have children.
- 70.** My spouse and I have no confidence or hope in the proper enforcement of laws or the establishment of social justice in the country, and this factor has negatively influenced our decision to have children.
- 71.** Media and social networks (satellite channels, WhatsApp, Instagram, Telegram, etc.) have significantly influenced my or my spouse's inclination toward not having children or having only one child.