

Anticipation of Iran's Elderly Population until 2026

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ABSTRACT

The major aim of the current study is on predicting population ageing indexes in various provinces of Iran until 2026. In this research study secondary analysis of head counting data together with a Spectrum software prediction were used. As shown by the estimations, all the population ageing indexes in various provinces will be affected by the three factors of a) low fertility rate, specifically in larger provinces; b) population ageing among the people born during the baby boom 1980-1996; and c) increased average length of life and life expectancy, in particular among the elderly population. Based on the predictions, the annual growth rate of the persons aged 60 years and over for the periods of 2011-2016; 2016-2021; and 2021-2026 would respectively be 3.2%, 4.3%, 4.2%, which is more than twice the total growth rate. The highest pace of population ageing during the period of 2011-2016 among all the provinces nationwide belongs to the following provinces: Alborz 27.2, Tehran, 27.1, Mazandaran 25.3, Guilan 25.3, Isfahan 19.2, Fars 17.93, Semnan 17.8, Bushehr 17, Qazvin 12.8, and Markazi 10.6. In these provinces, a plethora of population will be at the age of retirement by that time; therefore, right policy actions in tandem with appropriate reforming policies should be taken into consideration. The index of pressure coefficient caused by population ageing indicates that the provinces of Tehran, Guilan, Mazandaran, Alborz, Isfahan, Fars, Kermanshah, and Qom would be under highest level of pressure caused by population ageing. According to the differences among the provinces in terms of levels, models, and trends of ageism in the form of simultaneous differences at the levels of indexes, flexible, dynamic, region and time-relevant retirement policies are suggested to be applied. It is also proposed to regionalize conditions and regulations according to demographic models of ageism as well as economic and social conditions specific to any region together with particular conditions of any pension fund in each of the provinces.

Keywords: Ageing indexes, Population projections, Pressure coefficient index, Pension funds