

SINGLE CHILD FAMILIES AND CONFLICT OF FAMILIES

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Due to the financial crisis during the war between Iran and Iraq, the growth rate of population in Iran decreased from 3.6% to 1.4% in a 20 year period while the age of marriage tended to rise to 25. Most young people preferred to be single and spend their energy on academic studies to have a stable life. For the couples, it became the rule to have only one child so that the parents can support him/her financially or emotionally. There were some benefits for families and society such as the reduction of the number students in the schools and more freedom for women to work out of the house. After twenty years, the age mean of population is increasing toward 40 and there is a great generation gap between the elderly and the youth. On the other hand, most of the children are coming up a new challenge. They suffer from loneliness at home and from lack of verbal communication with siblings. The researches show that the tendency of children to participate in social and group activities has declined to the extent that social presence of children in streets has fallen to one-third. Peer - to- peer relationship is now very limited for children as they must be at home to be supervised by parents. This new life style has had a direct effect on children's personality and academic achievements.