SOME DETERMINANTS OF PARENTAL EXPECTATION FROM ELDER CHILDREN TO SUPPORT THEIR YOUNGERS IN RURAL FAISALABAD

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The study was conducted in rural areas of Faisalabad district. A sample of 500 parents was selected from two rural communities. The main objective was to find out differentials, if any, between socioeconomic characteristics of the parents and their expectations from elder sons and daughters to financially support their youngers. The results showed that education and income of the respondents led to differentiation regarding their expectations for financial support from elder children to those younger to them. Highly educated and rich parents had lesser expectations than less educated and poor parents.

INTRODUCTION

Zand (1987) conducted a pilot study to assess the 'Economic value of children' in Pakistan. The number of men and women interviewed was 782. The respondents were asked to tell family size as part of their experience, their expectations from their children, and their perceptions for children and family size. The average number of living children was found as 3.9 per family. The mean age at marriage was 26.3 years for men and 20.0 years for women. The average number of living children for currently married women of age 40 to 45 was 5.6. The number of living sons was greater than the number of daughters and preference for additional sons, even among those who already had 2 living sons, was common among all respondents. Among factors affecting the size of family, age at marriage showed the most effective impact on the average number of living children. Women married at below 15 years had on average 5.2 living children. Those who married at the age of 15 to 20 had 4.2, while for those who married at 20 to 25 years age, their average

number of living children did not exceed 3.3. A similar downward trend was observed for the desired number of children as well as the ideal number of children.

Almost all parents showed their desire to obtain financial help from their children. They hoped their sons would contribute for family expenditures when they started earning. They asked them to give financial support to their younger brothers and sisters getting education. These expectations and aspirations were mostly shown for or from the working sons. A small minority of parents wanted financial participation of daughters because a majority of parents did not allow their daughters to work. A negative relationship was found between the education and income of the parents and the economic value of the children. It showed a decrease in the economic value of children with socioeconomic advancement. The parents would not seek the financial help and support from their children with betterment in social condition of the parents. The following were the major objectives of the study: To know about the socioeconomic characteristics of the parents of rural Faisal-

abad and to find out the parental expectations from elder children to support their youngers.

the relationship between the socioeconomic characteristics and reproductive behaviour of the respondents.

Table 1. **Distribution of respondents family size by their expectation from elder sons to support their youngers**

Expectations of support from elder sons to youngers	Family size						Total	
	1 - 3		4 - 5		6 +			
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Not relevant	6	1.20	1	0.20	1	0.20	8	1.60
No	0	0.00	6	1.20	5	1.00	11	2.20
It depends	6	1.20	4	0.80	15	3.00	25	5.00
Yes	74	14.80	131	26.20	246	49.20	451	90.20
Not necessarily	0	0.00	0	0.00	5	1.00	5	1.00
Total	86	17.20	142	28.40	272	54.40	500	100.00

METHODS

The survey was conducted in two rural areas of district Faisalabad. Two randomly selected localities of Faisalabad district, namely Gatwala and Sadhar were taken.

Five hundred respondents were selected at random. The respondents were head (father) of the households having at least one child of age ten or more. Mostly the heads of the families were fathers but in case of their death/absence, mothers were interviewed. As literacy level is very low, so it was decided to conduct face to face survey by using well designed interviewing schedule. The interviewing schedule was in English language but interview was conducted in native language (Punjabi) with full care so that the meanings of words, sentences and phrases did not change. Interview was conducted individually either at respondent's house or at his shop. Percentage and Chi-square values were calculated to study

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Family size by expectation from elder son to support their youngers: In Pakistan, families set up, particularly in joint family system, elder brother has an important role to provide social, economic and moral support to their youngers. It is usually the case with socially poor who have large families but do not have the sources to support all the children. So, whenever the elder one starts earning, parents expect him to support the youngers.

The information given in Table 1 indicates that a huge majority of the respondents have expectation that their elder sons should give monetary support to their younger brothers and sisters in terms of their school fees, uniforms, pocket money, etc. About 50% of the respondents who have such expectations also have large family size. It means that expectations from elder sons to help the family economically is one of the

Table 2.   Distribution of respondents' qualifications by expectation from elder sons to support youngers

Education	Expectation of support from elder sons to youngers													
	Not relevant		No		It depends		Yes		Not necessarily		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Illiterate	5	1.00	6	1.20	12	2.40	139	27.80	1	0.20	163	32.60
Primary	1	0.20	2	0.40	11	2.20	142	28.40	0	0.00	156	31.20
Middle	1	0.20	0	0.00	1	0.20	81	16.20	3	0.60	88	17.60
Secondary	1	0.20	0	0.00	0	.00	57	11.40	1	0.20	59	11.80
Intermediate	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	14	2.80	0	0.00	14	2.80
Graduation	0	0.00	1	0.20	0	0.00	15	3.00	0	0.00	16	3.20
Postgraduation	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.20	3	0.60	0	0.00	4	0.80
Total	8	1.60	9	2.20	25	5.00	451	90.20	5	1.00	500	100.00

Table 3.   Distribution of respondents income by expectation from elder sons to support their youngers

Expectation of support from elder sons to youngers	Income (Rs.)										
	10,000		10,001 - 24,000		24,001 - 50,000		50,000 +		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Not relevant	4	0.80	4	0.80	0	0.00	0	0.00	8	1.60
No	1	0.20	6	1.20	3	0.60	1	0.20	11	2.20
It depends	1	0.20	15	3.00	8	1.60	1	0.20	25	5.00
Yes	33	6.60	208	41.60	178	37.60	32	6.40	451	90.20
Not necessarily	0	0.00	3	0.60	1	0.20	1	0.20	5	1.00
Total	39	7.80	236	47.20	190	40.00	35	7.00	500	100.00

Chi-square = 27.023.

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Table 4. Distribution of respondents' income by expectation from the elder daughter to support youngers

Expectation of support from elder daughter to youngers	Income (Rs.)									Total	
	10,000		10,001 - 24,000		24,001 - 50,000		50,000 +				
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	n	%
Not relevant	3	0.60	12	2.40	7	1.40	2	0.40		24	4.80
No	16	3.20	126	25.20	89	17.80	23	4.60		254	50.80
It depends	12	2.40	63	12.60	45	9.00	6	1.20		126	25.20
Yes	8	1.60	35	7.00	48	9.60	4	0.80		95	19.00
Not necessarily	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.20	0	0.00		1	0.20
Total	39	7.80	236	47.20	190	38.00	35	7.00		500	100.00

Table 5. Distribution of respondents' qualifications by expectation from elder daughters to support youngers

Education	Not relevant		No		It depends		Yes		Not necessarily		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Illiterate	9	1.80	93	18.60	31	6.20	30	6.00	0	0.00	163	32.60
Primary	8	1.60	81	16.20	46	9.20	21	4.20	0	0.00	156	31.20
Middle	6	1.20	36	7.20	23	4.60	23	4.60	0	0.00	88	17.60
Secondary	1	0.20	30	6.00	14	2.80	13	2.60	1	0.20	59	11.80
Intermediate	0	0.00	9	1.80	4	0.80	1	0.20	0	0.00	14	2.80
Graduation	0	0.00	4	0.80	7	1.40	5	1.00	0	0.00	16	3.20
Postgraduation	0	0.00	1	0.20	1	0.20	2	0.0	0	0.00	4	0.80
Total	24	4.80	254	50.80	126	25.20	95	19.00	1	0.20	500	100.00

Chi-square = 32.816.

important reasons for large families in Pakistan.

Qualification by expectation from elder sons to support their youngers: In a pre-modern society with high mortality and high fertility rates, human beings are the principal economic resource. Even as youngsters, they can help in many tasks, and as they mature, they provide the bulk of labour force that supports those, such as the aged, who are no longer able to support themselves. Many times as mortality declines and the need to have large numbers of children no longer exists, the need for labour or the need for old age security may still be given as a reason for continuing to have many children. In most societies, males have been valued more highly than females. Thus, it is easy to understand why many families would continue to have children until they have at least one son. Further, if babies are likely to die, a family may have at least two sons in order to increase the likelihood that one of them will survive to adulthood.

Table 2 shows very interesting results that expectation from the elder sons to support their younger children financially is decreasing by increasing the parents education. The reason may be that highly educated parents do not want to make their elder sons to face economical problems and they themselves support all the children because they are economically sound and they know the bad physiological and sociological impact of these expectations on their children. Chi-square value also confirms these results.

Income by expectation from elder sons to support their youngers: The data given in

Table 3 show that parents with high income have lesser expectation from elder sons to support their younger children. The reasons may be that these parents are economically sound and they themselves give support to all the children.

Income by their expectation from the elder daughters to support youngers: Table 4 indicates that more than 50% of the respondents do not have expectation from their elder daughters to support their younger brothers and sisters. It is observed that as the level of income of respondents increases, the expectation from daughters for help decreases. Only 19% of the respondents have the expectation from their daughters to help their youngers.

Qualification and support of youngers from the elder daughters: The information given in Table 5 indicates that there is an association between the education of parents and expectation from the elder daughters to help their younger sisters and brothers.

It may be noted from Table 5 that as the level of education of respondents increases, the expectation of help from the elder daughter decreases. Chi-square value also indicates that there is a strong relationship between education and expectation of help of younger children from the elder daughters.

REFERENCES

Zand, M. 1987. The Economic Value of Children: National Inst. of Population Studies, Islamabad, Pakistan.