Iranian Evolutionary Educational Psychology Journal
IEEPJ
University of Hormozgan
Online ISSN: 2588 - 4395
Homepage: https://ieepj.hormozgan.ac.ir

Evaluating the Expectations of the Elderly from Their Children by Gender in Tehran

Zahra Ali Bakhshi[1]✉, Shahla Kazmipour Sabet[2]

1. Doctoral graduate of Women's Studies and Research, University of Religions and Denominations, Qom, Iran, Member of the Department of Islamic Science, Payam Noor University, Tehran, Iran, Zahraalibakhshi@pnu.ac.ir
2. Associate Professor, Department of Demography, University of Tehran, Tehran, Iran

Article Info

Article type:
Research Article

Article history:
Received 01 Apr. 2023
Received in revised form 10 Jun. 2024
Accepted 15 Sep. 2024
Published online 01 Dec. 2024

Keywords:
Family,
Old Age,
Economic Expectations,
Psycho-Emotional expectations,
Social Expectations

ABSTRACT

Objective: The elderly possess distinctive anticipations from their offspring, shaped by their extensive life experiences and comprehension, in addition to the challenges associated with aging, such as diminished physical capabilities. It is imperative that these anticipations be recognized and addressed, as they may manifest either overtly or covertly. Nonetheless, the identification of the expectations harbored by aging parents concerning their children is crucial.

Methods: With regard to practical orientation, employing a deductive-inductive methodology, and classified as quantitative research, the current study was premised on the systematic collection of data from specialists in gerontology, whose statistical population comprised university academics and researchers actively engaged in the field of aging. The statistical sample included twelve individuals, with data gathered separately for elderly females and elderly males. A random sampling technique was employed for the selection process. The acquired data were subsequently analyzed utilizing the Best-Worst Method (BWM), with MATLAB software facilitating the execution of this analytical approach.

Results: The analysis revealed a disparity in expectations between male and female elderly individuals regarding their children. Among the male cohort, the paramount anticipations included economic involvement, preservation of assets and property, alongside the imperative of respect. Conversely, for the female elderly population, the foremost expectations encompassed respect, companionship, empathy, a sense of responsibility, aspirations for a prosperous life from their progeny, coupled with the acceptance and reverence of the elderly being of significant importance.

Conclusions: The findings elucidated that gender plays a pivotal role in shaping expectations from offspring during the later stages of life, with economic and financial anticipations being predominantly significant for men, whereas relational, emotional, and social expectations hold considerable value for women.

Cite this article: Ali Bakhshi, Z. & Kazmipour Sabet, S. (2024). Evaluating the Expectations of the elderly from their children by gender in Tehran. *Iranian Evolutionary Educational Psychology Journal*, 6 (4), 175-192.
DOI: https//doi.org/ 10.22034/6.4.175
© The Author(s).
Publisher: University of Hormozgan.
DOI: https// doi.org/ 10.22034/6.4.175

[Downloaded from ieepj.hormozgan.ac.ir on 2026-10-15]
[DOI: 10.22034/6.4.175]

Introduction

Today, the empirical investigation of aging and its associated phenomena is predominantly conducted within the discipline of gerontology, which emerged as a formal academic field in the 1950s and is currently available at the postgraduate level in numerous esteemed universities globally. This burgeoning body of knowledge examines the psychological, social, and biological underpinnings of aging, alongside practical methodologies and strategies aimed at enhancing the quality of life during this particular stage of human development (Sinha & Singh, 2023). Contemporary research findings in this domain indicate that aging, akin to childhood, adolescence, and adulthood, constitutes a distinct phase of human development characterized by transformations across various physical, cognitive, emotional, social, moral, and sexual dimensions. These transformations arise from the intricate interplay and convergence of a myriad of biological, psychological, and social determinants (Freitas et al., 2010).

This phenomenon has triggered a demographic alert regarding the impending wave of aging, and in the absence of meticulous investigations and comprehensive initiatives in the realm of population rejuvenation, it will be increasingly challenging to mitigate the consequences of population aging. Projections concerning demographic shifts have revealed that the elderly populace is anticipated to escalate from 4.9 million in 2016 to 19 million by 2021, with the caveat that the aging trajectories of males and females exhibit notable differences (Danesh & Yekdast, 2022). Although Iran has not yet attained the same level of aging as that observed in more developed nations, the enhancements in health standards coupled with declining fertility rates suggest that the proportion of the elderly population will similarly rise in forthcoming years, paralleling trends in certain developed countries. The inability to adequately address the fundamental requirements of the elderly, coupled with their social isolation and the prevalence of mental and behavioral disorders, constitutes a direct consequence of this emerging trend. In Iran, the absence of an effective social support and treatment framework for the elderly exacerbates the challenges faced by this demographic segment. Furthermore, empirical studies have demonstrated that feelings of loneliness and social isolation among the elderly exert profoundly detrimental effects on their mental and physical well-being. For instance, numerous investigations have established a correlation between loneliness and elevated blood pressure, increased levels of depression, and heightened mortality rates among older adults (Knodel & Chayovan, 2012).

[Downloaded from ieepj.hormozgan.ac.ir on 2026-10-15]

[DOI: 10.22034/6.4.175]

The divergent circumstances of elderly men and women, in conjunction with additional disparities related to residency (urban versus rural) and familial status (whether they reside independently, head a household, or are under the guardianship of offspring, etc.), engender distinct needs that warrant consideration (Yates et al., 2007). Indubitably, neglecting this issue in the realm of policy formulation will precipitate significant challenges and a potential population crisis in the future. Considering that the proportion of elderly individuals receiving support from organizations is projected to rise in the ensuing years, discerning their social, cultural, and economic aspirations assumes critical importance. Unfortunately, to date, distinct and requisite services tailored specifically for the geriatric population have not been adequately provided in a separate manner nor have they garnered sufficient attention. The increasing neglect and apathy towards the elderly within both societal and familial contexts, shaped by contemporary individualistic ideologies, is on the rise (Fathi, 2020).

According to the research undertaken, it is imperative to acknowledge that there exist considerable psychological disparities between females and males, indicating that their psychological states are not equivalent. Males exhibit a heightened propensity to pursue superiority and dominance within the domestic sphere, while females tend to engage more deeply in fostering emotional connections and fostering a sense of intimacy with other family members, suggesting that these necessities are fundamentally influenced by the prescribed roles of each gender in societal contexts. Consequently, it is critical to recognize that the anticipations held by elderly women and men regarding their offspring are divergent, and it would be erroneous to categorize their needs as homogeneous (Fihel et al., 2019). Proximity to one's parents can enhance the provision of assistance and foster suitable emotional and psychological interactions; however, it is not an essential condition for the delivery of support. Numerous studies indicate that adult offspring residing at a distance continue to extend aid to their elderly parents. Adult children who have migrated long-distance, whether abroad or to remote urban locales, consistently provide instrumental support to their parents (Fihel et al., 2019).

The expectations of parents were scrutinized in a study conducted by Nouri and Farsi (2018), titled "Expectations of Elderly Residents in Nursing Homes," which encompassed a statistical sample of low-literate and illiterate elderly individuals. This investigation delineated the findings into four categories: 1. Physical care and the fulfillment of physical health requirements, 2. Social support and the affirmation of the status and dignity of the elderly, 3. Emotional support and the preservation of the privacy of the elderly, and 4. Financial support and the satisfaction of the essential needs of the elderly. For instance, the findings presented by Gholizadeh and Shirani (2010) reveal that the level of

[Downloaded from ieepj.hormozgan.ac.ir on 2026-10-15]

[DOI: 10.22034/6.4.175]

life satisfaction among married elderly individuals surpasses that of their single counterparts. Therefore, while governmental and various private and supportive organizations can significantly contribute to the care of the elderly, their role cannot be equated with that of the family unit. In light of the findings from various studies in this domain, it is evident that biological aging is intricately linked to psychological and social dynamics. The outcomes of these investigations have demonstrated that experiences of loneliness and social isolation among the elderly yield profoundly adverse effects on their mental and physical well-being (Knodel & Chayovan, 2012). Nevertheless, certain elderly individuals may face circumstances that preclude them from cohabiting with family members for a multitude of reasons, leading them to reside in facilities designated under various appellations such as "nursing homes" or "nursing hospitals." A plethora of studies have explored the lifestyles of the elderly residing in these centers from multifaceted perspectives. The findings of numerous studies have illustrated that elderly individuals living in domestic settings exhibit superior quality of life and mental health compared to their counterparts residing in nursing homes (Nouri & Farsi, 2018).

Given that the current investigation is undertaken in Tehran, which is recognized as the most populous urban center in Iran, the dynamics of occupational relationships and the economic exigencies associated with residing in this metropolis are substantially more pronounced compared to those in lesser urban areas. In certain instances, this has led to a failure in adequately fulfilling some of the expectations that parents hold for their offspring. Furthermore, empirical evidence indicates that male individuals in our societal context are more likely to attain employment than their female counterparts. Consequently, this disparity in employment results in men possessing greater financial autonomy, which subsequently engenders divergent demands and anticipations from women within the societal framework. It is imperative to acknowledge that the gender-based distinctions among the elderly, as well as their corresponding lifestyles, exhibit variability, and the expectations and types of demands they impose on their progeny (both daughters and sons) have become differentiated as a result. Accordingly, the fundamental inquiry of this research is: What is the significance of the expectations held by men and women in accordance with gender in Tehran? This paper endeavors to elucidate this inquiry.

Material and Methods

In accordance with the established principles of the research methodology, the orientation of the current investigation was implemented; its primary approach was characterized as deductive-inductive, and in

[Downloaded from ieepj.hormozgan.ac.ir on 2026-10-15]

[DOI: 10.22034/6.4.175]

terms of research classification, it was quantitative, derived from a survey targeting experts, whose statistical population encompassed specialists (university professors and researchers actively engaged in gerontological studies and the needs of the elderly) within the domain of aging. A purposive sampling technique was employed, culminating in the inclusion of 12 experts in the study. For the purpose of data collection, a paired comparison questionnaire, informed by the analytical framework established by Alibakhshi et al. (2023), was utilized, which addressed the expectations of the elderly in Tehran regarding their offspring, differentiated by gender (Tables 1 and 2), and the resultant data were subjected to analysis and interpretation using the Best Worst Method (BWM).

Table 1. Expectations of male elderly people

Categories	Core category	Expectations
Preserving property until you are alive	Capital preservation and asset protection	Economic
Selling property		
Preserving property		
Getting old	Economic participation	
Consulting on family financial matters		
Not consulting on family financial matters		
Living your children's lives	Living assistance to the elderly	
Reasonable desire to spend on parents		
Elderly son	Helping to meet living expenses	
Spending money		
Pensions		
Taking care of parents	Creating a happy and friendly atmosphere	Psycho-affective
Showing feelings to parents		
Motivating the elderly		
Creating a happy atmosphere at home		
Trusting children	Building trust and confidence	
Consulting with parents on matters		
Ignoring small mistakes		
Creating the possibility of travel	Creating the possibility of travel	
Consulting to respect parents	Showing respect	
Not disrespecting them		
Early visitation	Continuous communication	Social
Continuous visitation		
Continuation of the visit		
Proper use of technology	Informational support	
Teaching technology		

[Downloaded from ieepj.hormozgan.ac.ir on 2026-10-15]

[DOI: 10.22034/6.4.175]

Table 2. Expectations of female elderly people

Categories	Core category	Expectations
Achieving independence	Independence and autonomy	Economic
Not sparing property	Preserving capital and maintaining assets	
The comfort of the elderly		
Creating excitement at home	Creating a happy and friendly atmosphere	Psycho-affective
Creating a sense of happiness at home		
The constant presence of children at home		
Expecting early visits	Continuous and orderly visiting	
Continuous visits		
Sense of responsibility	Sense of responsibility	
Children's good life	Good life for children	
Understanding the conditions of the elderly	Companionship and sympathy with the elderly	Social
Taking care of the health of the elderly		
Inquiring about their well-being		
Advising the elderly	Participation of the elderly	
Involving them in family affairs		
Mutual understanding	Acceptance and honor of the elderly	
Respecting the presence of the elderly at home		
Respecting	Respect	
Sense of responsibility	Maintaining order and discipline	
Being organized		

The Best-Worst Method (BWM) was introduced by Rezaei (2015). The foundational principle of this methodology is predicated on the matrix of pairwise comparisons, thereby establishing a resemblance to the Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP). Nonetheless, the evolution and exposition of this method have been directed towards enhancing the decision-making process in contrast to alternative methodologies. A notable advantage of the Best-Worst Method (BWM) is its minimal computational demand relative to other decision-making frameworks. Hence, the acquisition of knowledge regarding this method can significantly assist researchers in addressing decision-making challenges involving numerous indicators (Rezaei, 2015).

The BWM technique is regarded as one of the most contemporary and pragmatic multi-criteria decision-making methodologies employed for the weighting of decision-making factors and criteria. Within the Best-Worst method, the decision-maker identifies the best and worst indicators and criteria, subsequent to which a pairwise comparison is conducted between each of these two indicators, designated as the best and worst, alongside the remaining indicators. The problem is subsequently reformulated into a linear programming problem, thereby ensuring that the weights of the indicators are derived in a manner that minimizes the absolute discrepancies among the weights (Rezaei et al., 2018).

[Downloaded from ieepj.hormozgan.ac.ir on 2026-10-15]

[DOI: 10.22034/6.4.175]

Steps of the Best-Worst Method

Step 1: A comprehensive set of decision-making criteria is established. The criteria (C1, C2,…, Cn) influencing the decision-making process have been delineated through an examination of the literature and consultations with experts.

Step 2: The decision-maker ascertains the best (most significant, most favorable) and worst (least significant) criteria.

Step 3: The best criterion is identified and evaluated in relation to other criteria on a scale ranging from 1 to 9.

$$A_B = \left(a_{B1}, a_{B2}, ..., a_{Bn}\right)$$

In the established relational framework, the best criterion is juxtaposed with the first criterion, with this comparative analysis persisting until the final criterion is reached. The apex value of these assessments will be 1, which represents the comparison of the best criterion with itself.

Step 4: The worst criterion is identified and evaluated in relation to other criteria on a scale ranging from 1 to 9.

$$A_W = \left(a_{W1}, a_{W2}, ..., a_{Wn}\right)$$

In this relational context, the worst criterion is compared with the first criterion, with this analytical process continuing until the last criterion is addressed. The base value of these evaluations will also be 1, indicative of the comparison of the worst criterion with itself.

Step 5: The optimal weight of the criteria is computed $\left(W_1^*, W_2^*, ..., W_n^*\right)$. To ascertain the optimal weight, the maximal absolute difference between $\left|\frac{W_B}{W_j} - a_{Bj}\right|$ and $\left|\frac{W_j}{W_W} - a_{Wj}\right|$ is minimized for all J.

Taking into account the constraints of negativity and the summation of the weight conditions, the problem can be articulated as follows:

$$\sum_j W_j = 1 \qquad \min \max_j = \left\{\left|\frac{W_B}{W_j} - a_{Bj}\right|, \left|\frac{W_j}{W_W} - a_{Wj}\right|\right\}$$
$$Wj \geq 0 \text{ for all } j$$

The aforementioned nonlinear model possesses the capability of being transmuted into a linear model, as delineated by Rezaei (2015) in the following manner:

[Downloaded from ieepj.hormozgan.ac.ir on 2026-10-15]

[DOI: 10.22034/6.4.175]

$$\min \ \xi$$
$$\left|\frac{W_B}{W_j} - a_{Bj}\right| \leq \xi$$
$$\left|\frac{W_j}{W_w} - a_{Wj}\right| \leq \xi$$
$$\sum_j W_j = 1$$
$$Wj \geq 0 \text{ for all } j$$

By employing MATLAB software to resolve the aforementioned equation, both the weight values and the inconsistency rate can be simultaneously calculated (Rezaei, 2015).

Results

This study aimed to separate the expectations of elderly women and men from their children in two different groups, and conducted interviews and coding. First, the analyses for elderly men were presented, and then the elderly women were presented. Having the opinions of the experts, there are two ways to reach the results of the experts' opinions. The first and more common way is to calculate the weights for each expert and the geometric result of the opinion of all the experts at the end, and the second is to present the result of the weights at the beginning to form equations that are not common.

Below, an example of the equations obtained for the first expert in the men's group can be seen. This device was formed for each expert in each group and the resulting weights were taken. Considering the transformation of the problem into a linear modeling problem, the stated equations can be analyzed and the optimal weights calculated. For this purpose, a program written in the MATLAB environment was used and the weights were calculated as follows. It is important to note that by entering the cost function value (in the present study, the cost function is considered to be the inconsistency rate value) among the variables to be calculated, the inconsistency rate can also be easily calculated for the answers provided. An example of the first expert analysis for men is presented below. In both groups, the analysis was performed in the same way for each expert, and the resulting results are presented separately for each group.

[Downloaded from ieepj.hormozgan.ac.ir on 2026-10-15]

[DOI: 10.22034/6.4.175]

$$\min \ \xi$$

$$\left|\frac{W_4}{W_1}-4\right|\le\xi; \quad \left|\frac{W_4}{W_2}-4\right|\le\xi; \quad \left|\frac{W_4}{W_3}-2\right|\le\xi;$$
$$\left|\frac{W_4}{W_5}-5\right|\le\xi; \quad \left|\frac{W_4}{W_6}-5\right|\le\xi; \quad \left|\frac{W_4}{W_7}-4\right|\le\xi;$$
$$\left|\frac{W_4}{W_8}-4\right|\le\xi; \quad \left|\frac{W_4}{W_9}-6\right|\le\xi; \quad \left|\frac{W_4}{W_{10}}-3\right|\le\xi;$$
$$\left|\frac{W_1}{W_9}-4\right|\le\xi; \quad \left|\frac{W_2}{W_9}-6\right|\le\xi; \quad \left|\frac{W_3}{W_9}-7\right|\le\xi;$$
$$\left|\frac{W_4}{W_9}-8\right|\le\xi; \quad \left|\frac{W_5}{W_9}-5\right|\le\xi; \quad \left|\frac{W_6}{W_9}-3\right|\le\xi;$$
$$\left|\frac{W_7}{W_9}-5\right|\le\xi; \quad \left|\frac{W_8}{W_9}-5\right|\le\xi; \quad \left|\frac{W_{10}}{W_9}-6\right|\le\xi;$$

$$W_1+W_2+W_3+W_4+W_5+W_6+W_7+W_8+W_9+W_{10}=1$$
$$W_1,W_2,W_3,W_4,W_5,W_6,W_7,W_8,W_9,W_{10}\ge 0$$

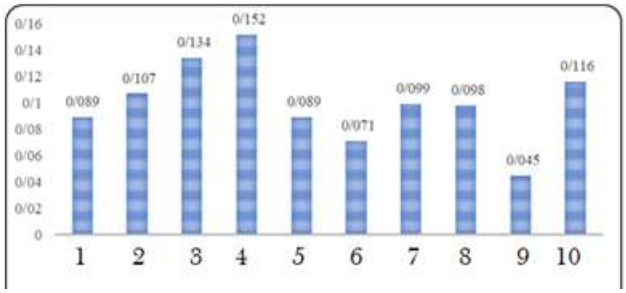

Diagram 1. Rectangular chart of the weights of the criteria entered into the research by the first expert for men

1. *Continuous visitation 2. Informational support 3. Capital preservation and asset protection 4. Economic participation 5. Living assistance to the elderly 6. Helping to meet living expenses 7. Creating a happy and friendly atmosphere 8. Building trust and confidence 9. Creating the possibility of travel 10. Showing respect*

Based on the results presented for this expert, it was observed that, as expected, criterion number four (economic participation) was recognized as the best criterion, followed by capital preservation and asset preservation, and respect. Next, the inconsistency rate can be calculated for these

[Downloaded from ieepj.hormozgan.ac.ir on 2026-10-15]
[DOI: 10.22034/6.4.175]

responses. It is worth noting that the value of ξ in the equations presented is calculated to be 0.0015, which can be used to calculate the inconsistency rate. According to the table 3 and relationship below, the inconsistency rate can be expressed in the observations made.

Table 3. Maximum value of ξ based on the number of variables

Criteria number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Max. ξ	0	0	0.52	0.88	1.10	1.24	1.34	1.40	1.44	1.48	1.51

$$Consistency = \frac{\xi}{Consistency\ \ index\ \ (max\ \ \xi)} = \frac{0.0015}{1.48} = 0.001 \cong 0.1\%$$

Based on the results observed, it can be stated that the level of consistency of the first expert's response was high, and the answers provided by him were sufficiently accurate, and the results are highly reliable.

The same process was followed for all male and female experts, and the final ranking was presented on this basis, which is discussed below.

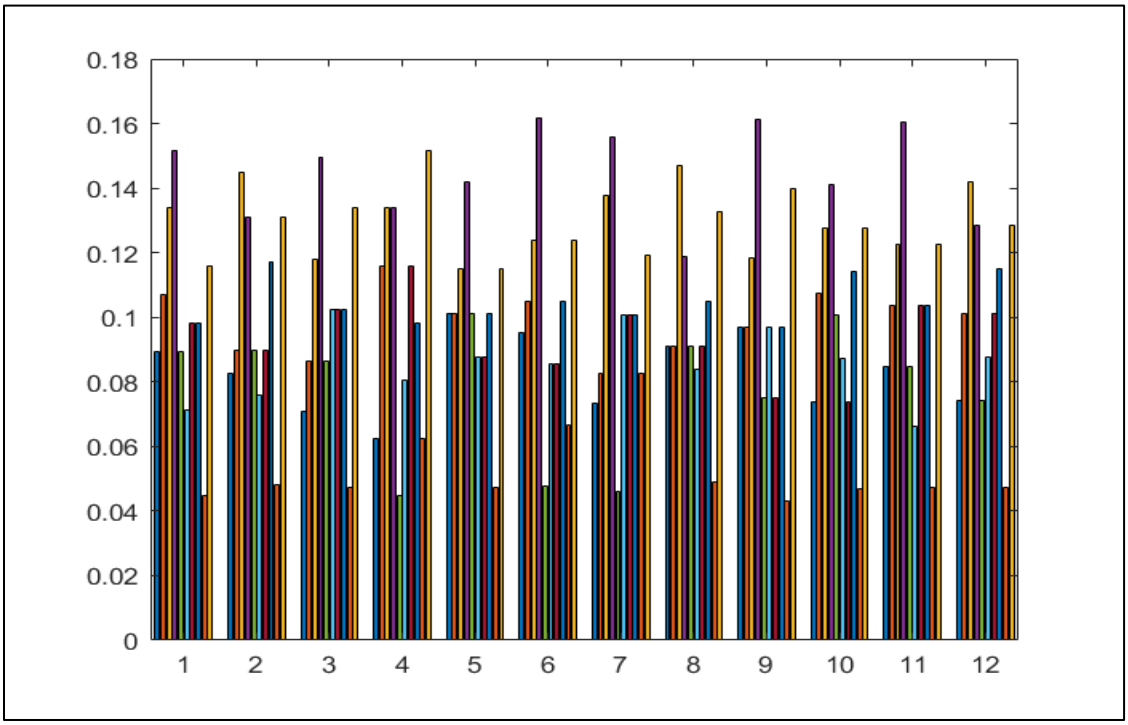

Diagram 2. Rectangular diagram of the weights obtained from each of the experts for the criteria related to elderly men

[Downloaded from ieepj.hormozgan.ac.ir on 2026-10-15]

[DOI: 10.22034/6.4.175]

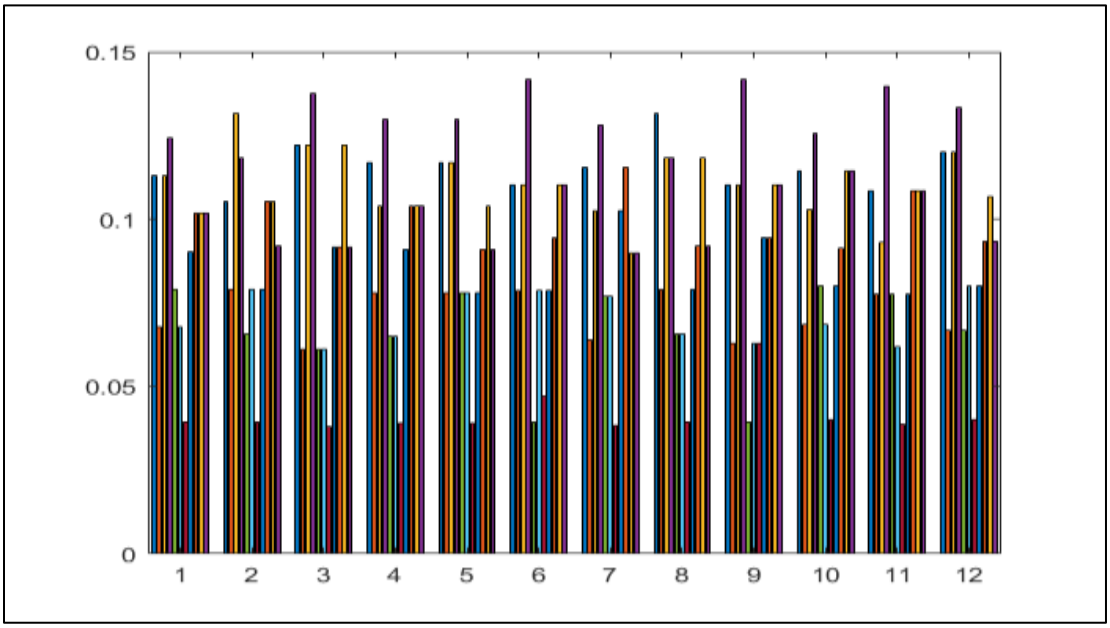

Diagram 3. Rectangular diagram of the weights obtained from each of the experts for the criteria related to elderly women

The following is a diagram of the final weights obtained from all the experts' opinions, which can be seen in the rectangular diagram 4.

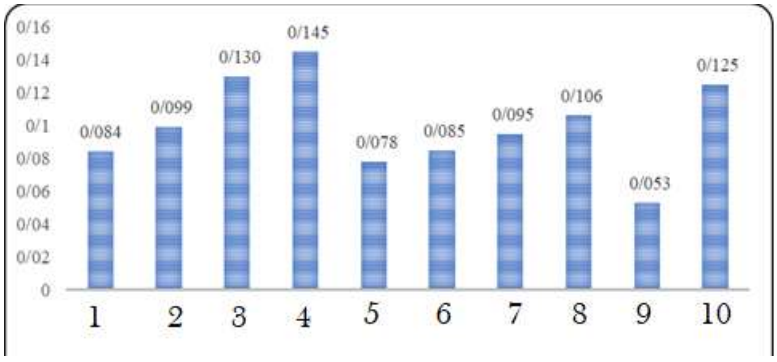

Diagram 4. Rectangular diagram of the distribution of the resulting weights of all experts for elderly men
1. *Continuous visitation 2. Informational support 3. Capital preservation and asset protection 4. Economic participation 5. Living assistance to the elderly 6. Helping to meet living expenses 7. Creating a happy and friendly atmosphere 8. Building trust and confidence 9. Creating the possibility of travel 10. Showing respect*

[Downloaded from ieepj.hormozgan.ac.ir on 2026-10-15]

[DOI: 10.22034/6.4.175]

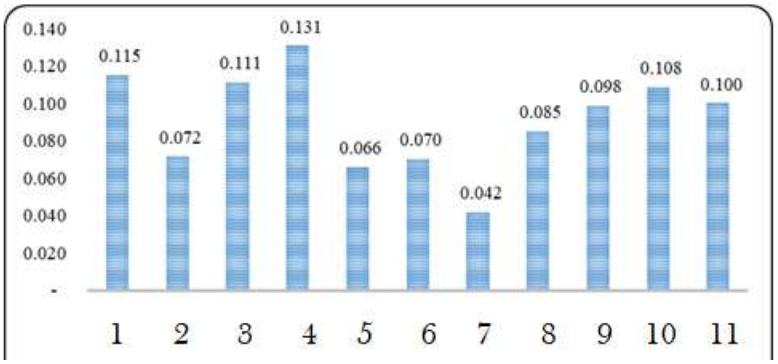

Diagram 5. Rectangular diagram of the distribution of the resulting weights of all experts for elderly women
1. Sympathy and empathy 2. Engaging the elderly 3. Acceptance and respect for the elderly 4. Respect 5. Maintaining order and discipline 6. Independence and autonomy 7. Preserving capital and maintaining assets 8. Creating a happy and friendly atmosphere 9. Continuous and orderly visiting 10. Sense of responsibility 11. Good life for children

The results shown indicate that for men, economic participation, preservation and maintenance of property, and respect are the most important criteria, and for women, respect, acceptance and honor of the elderly, companionship and empathy, a sense of responsibility, and the expectation of a good life for children are the most important criteria.

Next, the compatibility rate for men and women should be calculated so that if this rate is high, the data can be corrected or some experts can be interviewed from the beginning.

$$Consistency = \frac{\xi}{Consistency\ \ index\ \ (max\ \ \xi)} = \frac{0.0045}{1.48} = 0.003 \cong 0.3\%$$

$$Consistency = \frac{\xi}{Consistency\ \ index\ \ (max\ \ \xi)} = \frac{0.0013}{1.51} = 0.0086 \cong 0.8\%$$

The results obtained indicate the appropriateness of the compatibility rate of the responses and the results can be extended to the entire statistical population.

Discussion

In the context of Iranian culture, the elderly have perpetually occupied a distinguished and revered status. This status is characterized by a profound level of respect and appreciation. The elderly, in conjunction with governmental entities, familial structures, and societal frameworks, fulfill a

[Downloaded from ieepj.hormozgan.ac.ir on 2026-10-15]

[DOI: 10.22034/6.4.175]

pivotal role. The experiential knowledge and counsel provided by the elderly can be harnessed and recognized as invaluable resources within the societal milieu. As a pertinent social phenomenon, the issue of aging has garnered significant attention owing to the burgeoning elderly population and the concomitant transformations in both collective and individual lifestyles. The lived experiences of the elderly encapsulate the entirety of their internal and external life realities. This matter encompasses the physical, psychological, and social dimensions intrinsic to the elderly's existence. To ameliorate the prevailing conditions experienced by the elderly, reflective studies and empirical research across a spectrum of scientific disciplines are conducted. Such research endeavors aim to instigate change, rectify inadequacies, or enhance the living circumstances of the elderly.

In this context, the primary objective of the present investigation was to ascertain the relative significance of the expectations held by elderly women and men regarding their offspring in Tehran. To elucidate these dimensions, a questionnaire was disseminated among academic specialists in gerontology. Subsequent to the completion of data collection, the information was analyzed employing the Best-Worst Method (BWM) model utilizing MATLAB software.

Drawing upon aging theories within the framework of planning theory, it is posited that as individuals advance in age and confront the realities of elderhood, there is a concomitant decline in physical capacities, thereby necessitating physical assistance. Consequently, it is imperative for children to engage with their elderly relatives, providing care, fostering empathy, and aiding them in various tasks. Furthermore, in alignment with the theory of withdrawal, the elderly require economic, emotional, and psychological support, particularly as they retreat from societal engagement; thus, children are compelled to assist their elderly parents from this vantage point. Conversely, the activity theory posits that the elderly, having liberated themselves from numerous obligations, possess a need for active engagement and responsibility within the family structure, which can be articulated as a requirement for familial participation. This participation may encompass the involvement of the elderly in executing significant household responsibilities and activities, as well as offering counsel and support to their children.

In accordance with Maslow's hierarchy of needs, one fundamental requirement of the elderly is the attainment of respect, and it is incumbent upon children to prioritize the respect accorded to their elderly parents in their lives. Additionally, as individuals age, their emotional and

[Downloaded from ieepj.hormozgan.ac.ir on 2026-10-15]

[DOI: 10.22034/6.4.175]

psychological needs are accompanied by physiological necessities, including the imperative to safeguard their financial resources and ensure the preservation of their assets; hence, children should exhibit diligence in the safeguarding and maintenance of their parents' capital and assets.

Independence and autonomy constitute a critical dimension that addresses the safety requirements of the elderly population. By facilitating opportunities for travel, offspring can fulfill the emotional and social needs of older individuals, as delineated in Maslow's hierarchy of needs. Furthermore, in accordance with Maslow's framework, children who possess a heightened sense of responsibility are positioned to satisfy cognitive needs, uphold discipline, fulfill aesthetic requirements, and demonstrate acceptance and respect toward the elderly, thereby enabling opportunities for travel that cater to their transcendental aspirations.

Islamic epistemology posits that the elderly hold a distinguished status, wherein, subsequent to the veneration of God, the imperative to exhibit kindness and respect for their rights is underscored; honoring the elderly is equated with the glorification of God, as articulated by Imam Ali (peace be upon him), who posits that "The value of every person is equal to the good he does." A salient illustration of kindness is the affection extended to parents by their offspring, encompassing a spectrum of approaches, including social, emotional, psychological, and economic dimensions. The gender of the elderly significantly influences their expectations from their children, a dynamic that is observable in the prioritization of selected items. Among elderly males, the foremost priority is predominantly associated with their economic anticipations.

Lasker et al. (2023) elucidated in their investigation conducted in Bangladesh that governmental entities ought to augment financial allowances for the elderly during the two distinct phases of senescence. Given that many families encounter challenges in providing care for their elderly parents, it can be inferred that economic expectations experience a concomitant decline. In the Iranian context, where traditionally men bear the obligation of financial sustenance, in instances of economic hardship and insufficient livelihood, elderly males exhibit heightened economic expectations in comparison to other anticipatory dimensions (social, emotional-psychological) from their children, particularly their sons. There exists minimal disparity in emotional-psychological expectations between the two demographics of elderly men and women, with their demands in this context being relatively congruent. Pang et al. (2003) concluded that the elderly prioritize the need for care and the continuity of visits from their children above all else, while

[Downloaded from ieepj.hormozgan.ac.ir on 2026-10-15]

[DOI: 10.22034/6.4.175]

financial independence is regarded as essential for maintaining relational equilibrium. They assert that the support provided to children should be calibrated to a degree that does not compromise their autonomy, particularly in terms of financial independence.

Nevertheless, concerning societal expectations, elderly males and females shared a consensus on one specific criterion: respect. In both genders, parents anticipated that their offspring would uphold their respect. In this context, Zelalem et al. (2021), through empirical research conducted on elderly rural parents, deduced that the elderly held the perception that their children's sense of obligation towards them was feeble and untrustworthy, alongside the observation that the behaviors exhibited by their children and grandchildren were frequently overlooked. One salient factor influencing the dynamics between children and their elderly parents is the surrounding environment. The geographical proximity of parents to their offspring significantly enhances their communication and facilitates greater support received by the elderly from their children. Consequently, Pang et al. (2003) concluded in their investigation in this domain that Chinese immigrants residing in the United States were notably influenced by the cultural milieu of that nation; furthermore, it was observed that Chinese elderly individuals who had immigrated to the United States harbored higher expectations from their neighbors compared to their children, suggesting that offspring also respond to parental expectations shaped by their environmental context. The societal expectations of the elderly were similarly articulated as critical issues regarding the anticipations the elderly hold for their children. This category of expectation, akin to economic expectations, exhibited variance contingent on the gender of the elderly individuals. Females manifested heightened social expectations from their children in comparison to males, who, in contrast, did not possess substantial expectations in this domain.

[Downloaded from ieepj.hormozgan.ac.ir on 2026-10-15]

[DOI: 10.22034/6.4.175]

Data availability statement

The original contributions presented in the study are included in the article/supplementary material, further inquiries can be directed to the corresponding author.

Ethics statement

The studies involving human participants were reviewed and approved by ethics committee of University of Religions and Denominations.

Author contributions

All authors contributed to the study conception and design, material preparation, data collection and analysis. All authors contributed to the article and approved the submitted version.

Funding

The authors did (not) receive support from any organization for the submitted work.

Conflict of interest

The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

[Downloaded from ieepj.hormozgan.ac.ir on 2026-10-15]

[DOI: 10.22034/6.4.175]

References

Alibakhshi, Z., Kazemipour, S., & Barzegar, K. (2023). *Gender Differences in the Expectations of the Elderly from Children in Tehran* University of Religions and Sects,]. Qom.

Danesh, R., & Yekdast, R. (2022). Reducing the growth rate of Iran's population and its effects on the country's power and national security. *Defense-Human Capital Management*, *2*(3), 1-27. https://jdhcm.iamu.ac.ir/article_711205_e1835bde7e92b2aa62722dbc57064104.pdf

Fathi, E. (2020). The phenomenon of population aging in Iran. *Ijoss Iranian Journal of Official Statistics Studies*, *30*(2), 387-413.

Fihel, A., Kalbarczyk, M., & Nicińska, A. (2019). *Children's proximity and non-family support to elderly adults in Europe*.

Freitas, M. C. d., Queiroz, T. A., & Sousa, J. A. V. d. (2010). The meaning of old age and the aging experience of in the elderly. *Revista da Escola de Enfermagem da USP*, *44*, 407-412.

Gholizadeh, A., & Shirani, E. (2010). The relation between personal, family, social and economic factors with the rate of life satisfaction of aged people of Isfahan. *Journal of Applied Sociology*, *21*(1), 69-82.

Knodel, J., & Chayovan, N. (2012). Inter-generational family care for and by older people in Thailand. *International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy*, *32*(11/12), 682-694.

Lasker, S. P., Chowdhury, S. H., Mithila, T. T., & Hossain, A. (2023). Elderly expectation toward their family, society, and government: A cross-sectional observational study. *HEALTH SCIENCES QUARTERLY*, *3*(2), 117-125.

Nouri, A., & Farsi, S. (2018). Expectations of institutionalized elderly from their children. *Iranian Journal of Ageing*, *13*(2), 262-279.

Pang, E. C., Jordan-Marsh, M., Silverstein, M., & Cody, M. (2003). Health-seeking behaviors of elderly Chinese Americans: Shifts in expectations. *The Gerontologist*, *43*(6), 864-874.

Rezaei, J. (2015). Best-worst multi-criteria decision-making method. *Omega*, *53*, 49-57.

Rezaei, J., Kothadiya, O., Tavasszy, L., & Kroesen, M. (2018). Quality assessment of airline baggage handling systems using SERVQUAL and BWM. *Tourism Management*, *66*, 85-93.

[Downloaded from ieepj.hormozgan.ac.ir on 2026-10-15]

[DOI: 10.22034/6.4.175]

Sinha, N., & Singh, N. (2023). Revisiting expectation confirmation model to measure the effectiveness of multichannel bank services for elderly consumers. *International Journal of Emerging Markets*, *18*(10), 4457-4480.

Yates, L. B., Karasik, D., Beck, T. J., Cupples, L. A., & Kiel, D. P. (2007). Hip structural geometry in old and old-old age: similarities and differences between men and women. *Bone*, *41*(4), 722-732.

Zelalem, A., Gebremariam Kotecho, M., & Adamek, M. E. (2021). "The ugly face of old age": Elders' unmet expectations for care and support in rural Ethiopia. *The International Journal of Aging and Human Development*, *92*(2), 215-239.

[Downloaded from ieepj.hormozgan.ac.ir on 2026-10-15]

[DOI: 10.22034/6.4.175]