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Gender Differences in the Elderly Expectations of Their Children in Tehran

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ABSTRACT

Objective: Parents always hold certain expectations for their offspring, and these expectations tend to vary in old age compared to middle-age and youth. Consequently, the primary objective of this study is to ascertain the expectations of elderly men and women in Tehran based on their gender.

Methods: This research adopts a practical orientation, utilizing a deductive-inductive approach and qualitative research methodology. The study is based on documentary analysis and in-depth interviews conducted with elderly individuals residing in Tehran. The statistical population consists of 31 elderly individuals (17 women and 14 men), and interviews were conducted until theoretical saturation was achieved. The analysis of the interviews involved coding and employing the contextual analysis method, leading to the identification and presentation of main categories in the final model for elderly men and women.

Results: The findings indicate that men and women have distinct expectations from their children. The extracted codes were classified into three broad categories: social expectations, societal expectations, and emotional-psychological expectations. Men expressed the highest expectations in the realms of economic and psychological-emotional expectations, while women placed less emphasis on financial expectations and instead prioritized social and psychological-emotional expectations. It is noteworthy that the expectations of the elderly differ when it comes to their sons and daughters.

Conclusions: The gender disparity in expectations has implications not only for the elderly, but also for their children. Expectations outlined for daughters were not applicable to sons, and vice versa. Consequently, it is crucial for the government to pay special attention to these expectations when devising macroeconomic and social programs for the elderly.

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Introduction

Urbanization and industrialization have resulted in significant transformations in various social institutions, such as the family. The traditions of family support for the elderly are being disrupted by modernization and urbanization in numerous developing nations. According to reports issued by the United Nations, it is projected that by 2080, approximately 80% of the global elderly population will reside in developing countries. Addressing the needs and challenges faced by this demographic and endeavoring to find solutions, in conjunction with the extensive support framework provided to the elderly and their families, will also yield substantial economic benefits. (Parvaei, 2019).

Many elderly women (between 60 and 80 years old) believe that their family relationships and relationships have messed them up and left them out socially. The complexity of urban life has caused many elderly women to see integration in social spaces as difficult or even impractical, and most of them confine themselves to the home space and sometimes experience a type of morbid old age. Along with all these cases, severe metabolic changes in the body and muscle weakness and even slowing down of the mind in this period of life have created painful issues and problems for the elderly, which causes a very high sensitivity in this period of life (Grundy & Henretta, 2006). According to the results of the official census of 2015, 9.3 percent of Iran's population was 60 years and older (Safarkhanlou & Ghahroudi, 2017). Based on this, it seems that about eight million people over 60 years of age live in Iranian society, among which the population of elderly women is more than men. The proportion of the country's elderly population during the years 1335 to 1375 did not have a uniform composition. The elderly population of the country increased from 1375 onwards after decreasing during 1345 to 1365. This situation was due to the application of different population policies and ups and downs in the increase or decrease of births due to the application of different population policies. In other words, the population of elderly people aged 60 and over increased by 6.3 times during the last half century, while the population of the whole country increased by 4.2 times during the same period. Thus, since the 2000s, Iran's fertility has been stabilized at an almost low level, and based on the demographic transition theory, it is not expected to experience many changes in the coming years, the consequences of which will be an increase in the population's aging ratio in the coming decades. The population forecast results showed that the elderly population will reach from 4.9 million people to 19 million people in 1420

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and that the aging process of the population is often different between the two sexes (Paravai, 2019).

The elderly, similar to other age cohorts, particularly children and adolescents, necessitate physical, psychological, and social attention as well as a physical setting that is appropriate for their physical state. The family's incapacity to embrace elderly care, along with distinctive social circumstances such as urbanization, modernism, transformations in traditional principles, the clash between the new and old generational value systems, and the unpreparedness to accept the responsibility of caring for an elderly individual, result in the family's inability to adequately fulfill its duties and obligations. This failure not only affects the well-being of the elderly, but it may also subject them to the potential mistreatment from family members (Fathi, 2020).

On the other hand, Iran is an eastern and religious society, and in popular culture and Islamic Sharia, there are many recommendations on kindness to parents. Parents are directly mentioned six times in the Holy Quran (Israa, 23; Nesa, 36; Baqarah, 83, Anam, 151; Ahqaf, 15, Ibrahim, 62). In the Qur'an, seven duties are mentioned for children towards their parents, which are: respect, benevolence, obedience, politeness, care in old age, support and supplication for parents. Some research shows that in a family-oriented society, care is more based on social obligations and regulations than on emotional relationships (Aghajani et al., 2018). From a long time, taking care of elderly parents has naturally been the responsibility of children. In the past, large families were common and old age did not constitute long periods of life. Therefore, the pressure of caregiving was not so challenging because the number of elderly people was small and the number of caregivers was high. But today, with demographic changes, caring for the elderly has become a problem.

Parents, particularly in their advanced years, hold certain hopes and requirements for their offspring. Given the alterations and shifts in personal and societal ways of life, these expectations have, in certain instances, been overlooked. To illustrate, we can focus on the subsequent concerns. The occurrence of single child families and the phenomenon of immigration present a couple of challenges that will confront us. As per demographic data, 35% of Iranian households consist of a single child or have no children (Mohammadi & Esmaeilivand, 2017). The one-child phenomenon has become widespread in the society. This problem has consequences, part of which affects the family, especially their elderly parents. Usually, families with several children can divide the

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responsibilities among themselves when their parents are old, but the responsibilities of only children will be heavier, and it should be explained that how are elderly parents' expectations of them fulfilled (Mohammadi & Esmaeilivand, 2017). Another phenomenon such as migration and children's distance from their parents is one of the significant and effective factors on the relationship between them and their elderly parents. It is necessary to investigate, in addition to the feeling of loneliness that is created for elderly parents, how are their expectations and demands according to the dimension of distance and distance. accepts (Fihel et al., 2019).

Proximity to parents facilitates help and proper emotional and psychological connection with parents, but it is not a prerequisite for providing support. Several studies show that adult children who live far away continue to help their aging parents. Long-distance migrants who live abroad or in distant urban areas regularly provide instrumental support to their parents (Fihel et al., 2019).

Expectations of parents were examined in Nouri and Farsi research (2018) under the title of expectations of elderly residents of nursing homes with the statistical population of illiterate and illiterate elderly, and this investigation was presented in 4 divisions 1. Physical care and provision of physical health needs 2. Social support and respect for the status and dignity of the elderly 3. Emotional support and privacy of the elderly 4. Financial support and provision of the basic needs of the elderly. Other studies have shown that older adults value maintaining positive and strong relationships with family members as much as they expect family members to value their independence. In Murphy's study, it has been shown that the family as a vital source of support helps the elderly to maintain and continue their social interactions and protects them from issues such as loneliness, social isolation, and depression (Drageset et al. 2008). In the study of Yazdanpour and Sam Aram (2011), the relationship of the elderly's belonging to the family and the respect of the family members to their quality of life has been confirmed and the role of the family has been revealed. Supporting the improvement of the mental and physical health of the elderly. In addition to these, living with family members plays an important role in strengthening the positive feeling and attitude of the elderly towards life. For example, the research report of Gholizadeh and Shirani (2010) indicates that the level of life satisfaction among married elderly people is higher than that of single elderly people. Therefore, although the government and other private and supportive institutions can play an important role in caring for the elderly, it cannot be compared with the role of the family.

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Based on the results of studies in this field, biological aging is closely related to psychological and social processes. The results of these studies have shown that loneliness and social isolation among the elderly have severe negative effects on their mental and physical health (Knodel & Chayovan, 2012). Despite this, some elderly people may be deprived of living with their family members for various reasons and be settled in centers with different titles such as "nursing home" or "nursing hospital". In various studies, the lifestyle of the elderly in these centers has been examined from different angles. The results of many researches have shown that the elderly living at home have a better quality of life and mental health than the elderly living in nursing homes (Nouri and Farsi, 2018).

Quantitative and qualitative studies have shown that for the elderly, only knowing that the person is available when needed and not necessarily his physical presence, can be relaxing for the person. The elderly prefer to receive more emotional support from those around them than just instrumental support. On the other hand, changing cultural/social conditions can affect the perception of support. Currently, in developing countries such as Iran, along with changes such as the growth of urbanization, the emergence of the modern family, and changes in intergenerational exchanges, the entry of the elderly into the lives of their children is more limited, and the children themselves are less obliged to meet their needs. Their aging parents know that as a result, the belief that children are the best support for the elderly is fading. While there are still traditional expectations and approaches regarding receiving support for children in parents (Nazari et al., 2017).

Considering that the current investigation was carried out in Tehran, which happens to be the largest metropolis in Iran, the work relationships and economic pressures for residing in this city are significantly greater in comparison to smaller cities. Consequently, in certain instances, this has led to the failure of children to adequately fulfill the needs of their parents. Furthermore, based on the examined cases, the employment rate of men in our society surpasses that of women. This implies that men possess a greater degree of financial independence, resulting in distinct demands and expectations from women within society. Hence, it is crucial to acknowledge the gender disparities among the elderly and their distinctive lifestyles, including their varying levels of expectations and demands in contrast to their children. The primary objective of this research was to identify these expectations.

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Materials and Methods

Based on the fundamental principles governing the research process, the present study adopted an applied orientation. The main approach employed in this study was a combination of deductive and inductive reasoning. Furthermore, with respect to the type of research conducted, it was determined to be qualitative in nature, as it made use of documentary studies and in-depth interviews with elderly individuals residing in Tehran. The specific statistical population for this study consisted of elderly individuals in Tehran. To ensure a comprehensive and representative sample, a total of 31 elderly individuals were included in the research. This sample size was determined to be sufficient in order to achieve theoretical saturation, a point at which no new information or perspectives emerged from the collected data. Among the 31 participants, there were 17 elderly women and 14 elderly men, thereby providing a balanced representation of both genders. Importantly, theoretical saturation was reached within both of these groups. In order to obtain valuable and reliable data, it was essential to obtain informed consent from the elderly participants prior to conducting the interviews. Consequently, all interviews were recorded with the explicit consent of the elderly individuals involved. Subsequently, the text from the questionnaires utilized in the interviews was inputted into the MAXQDA software for further analysis. The recorded interview texts were thoroughly examined and systematically coded in order to identify key categories and subcategories. These findings were then meticulously organized and presented in various tables, which were further classified according to gender.

Results

This study conducted interviews and coding in two distinct groups in order to differentiate the expectations of elderly men and women from those of their children. Firstly, the findings pertaining to elderly men were analyzed and presented, followed by the presentation of the outcomes for elderly women.

Expectations of elderly men

Considering the fact that men were more present in the community because of their jobs, and their presence has made them realize that the family has differences with the community and they are less in search of social expectations. By examining the codes extracted from the men's interviews, it can be found that men have their own economic and psychological needs from their children,

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and some of these expectations are more in the proper use of the father's savings for the children, as well as maintaining the respect and position of the father in the family. have been. In the following, the results of the reviews and coding conducted on the interviews have been presented, and then an overview of the results of men's expectations along with a part of the interviews has been presented (table 1).

Table 1. Expectations of elderly men

Categories	N	Main category	Category type	Expectations
Preservation of property until survival	3	Capital preservation and asset preservation	Causal conditions	Economic
Selling property				
Preservation of property				
getting old	3	Economic partnership	Causal conditions	
Advising on family economic matters				
Not consulting in family economic matters				
Spending their own children's lives	2	Livelihood assistance to the elderly	Causal conditions	
Reasonable demand in spending for parents				
big boy	3	Help with living expenses	Causal conditions	
financial assistance				
pension				
Taking care of parents	4	Creating a happy and intimate atmosphere	Causal conditions	Psycho-affective
Expression of feelings to parents				
Motivating the elderly				
Creating a happy atmosphere at home				
Trust in children	3	Building trust and confidence	Causal conditions	
Consultation with parents in matters				
Ignore small mistakes				
Making travel possible	1	Making travel possible	Causal conditions	
Consultation to respect parents	2	To respect	Causal conditions	
no disrespect				
Early visit	3	Continuous visit	Causal conditions	Social
Continuous meeting				
Continuation of the visit				
Correct use of technology	2	Information support	Causal conditions	
Teaching technology				

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Economic expectations: In this variable, the gender difference of the elderly plays a significant role in the expectations of the elderly from their children and its difference. The results showed that elderly men had high economic expectations, which is because fathers tried to reduce economic difficulties for their children with their savings, and they expect their children to do their best to maintain and or have proper use of these assets. It is even seen in some cases that it is expected that these funds will be spent in line with the needs of the parents. In the following, examples of interviews on the expectations of elderly men from their children are presented.

"In this context (using one's property), I have to tell you that we made a lot of effort, and now we have some money. I only asked my children to have this property as long as I am alive and from it. Take care, now I have a lucky son who tells me, "Dad, sell me a car so that I can start a business with it, or it doesn't matter." My daughter tells me, "I don't know if you have such and such a bank account, lend me some money, and this kind of talk is a lot." It doesn't suit my mood and I don't like it very much. It is true that I should support them, but they have reached an age where they want to try and build their lives. These talks are beyond my age".

Men always play the main role in the economic activities of the family. It can be said that men feel this role on their shoulders until the end of their lives, and even if they have reached old age, they feel this sense of responsibility. Therefore, ignoring the elderly men in this responsibility will be a bit boring for them, and therefore they have these expectations from their children to keep this responsibility in mind as much as they can, along with all the expectations they have from their children. In this case, one of the elderly men said:

"This daughter of mine consults me a lot in any field that she wants to do, even considering that she is going to work now and her hand is in her pocket, but still, if she wants to do something or spend money on the house, or any economic issue, she will always consult with me. He does a consultation and this is very happy for me and I can feel that I am still a member of that family and they consider me".

In contrast to the previous expectation, there is also this expectation among elderly men that their

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children will allocate part of their income to them. In fact, this expectation has arisen when the economic conditions require that the elderly cannot survive with their incomes, and they expect this especially from their male children to help them in this field.

"In this situation, most of the old men and women like us don't have a job. Finally, if there is a pension, which many of us don't have, we can turn our lives around. "Now, personally, I don't have a home, I don't have much income, so if one day my lips want to come to me, well, I will be embarrassed here, definitely in front of him. The least I expect is that the children will have financial help for their parents, how about the likes of me, so that this grandmother of my grandfather can visit her grandson safely. In this way, the respect of the grandparents will be better preserved and tomorrow, if there is a need for intervention or advice from the grandparents, it will be much better if it is the other way around, then the status of these people will definitely decrease".

Psychological-emotional expectations: In this range of expectations from their children, elderly men focus more on the aspect of respect and expectations close to economic expectations, such as making it possible to travel. Both genders of the elderly emphasize the issue of creating a warm and intimate atmosphere at home when their children are in their presence and at home. This warm and friendly atmosphere can be created by taking care of parents, showing feelings to parents, motivating the elderly or creating a happy atmosphere at home.

"Well, you see, I expect my children to be happy and enter the house happily, and to raise the spirits of me and their mother. It is not unreasonable to expect that servant of God, they are also doing their best, but they are very busy in our lives, and life is putting pressure on them".

One of the expectations that elderly men have from their children, especially male children, is that their children should not harm their trust with their behavior, and this is very important for them.

"Thank God, Alhamdulillah, I reached this age. I don't tell my children that I didn't see mistakes, I saw mistakes, but I saw mistakes that could be ignored, and they didn't make so many mistakes

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that I wanted to be very distrustful of them, and now I'm at this age. I am relieved that I have the right place, they are going, what they are doing is the right thing, I hope that God will bless them".

Social expectations: According to the mediation of gender in this research, social expectations are different between elderly women and elderly men. Considering that men are often employed and deal with different people in the social environment, the social expectations they have from their children are limited to only two categories: early and continuous visits and informational support. Some of them have been examined in the following interview. One of the elderly men has stated that:

"I expected a lot from my daughter, and I expect her to visit me at least twice or thrice a week, to ask how I'm doing, to tell my father what things you lack, what things you need, and to provide them for you and to talk with his children. I want to see my grandchildren and when I see them, I come to Kiev. I don't have any work or hobbies anymore. The only hobby is to see my grandchildren and my children, to be around them and have a good time".

Considering the fact that men were familiar with all kinds of modern technologies at their workplace and were dealing with mass communication devices of their time, now and at the time of old age, they need to acquire this information and modern knowledge, of course, they do not expect that this knowledge acquisition will and daily information and informational support is not so complex and it is sufficient to meet the elderly's needs. In this regard, old age said:

"I didn't understand what you mean by information support, but what I understood is how much the children give us information about the world around us, the world of today's economy and everything that is now. If this is true, well, I can almost say that they don't give us any information. We understand and every information we get from TV, radio and now our friends talk to us in the park".

Expectations of elderly women

The expectations of elderly women are completely different from those of elderly men. Elderly

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women are more concerned about the independence and autonomy of their children than elderly men, and they also do not expect much from their children in terms of providing for their living expenses. But the important point is that elderly women expect that their capital and assets will be protected by their children. In the following, some points and a part of the conducted interviews were presented in order to understand the contents stated in the table 2.

Table 2. Expectations of elderly women

Categories	N	Main category	Category type	Expectations
Achieving independence	1	Independence and autonomy	Causal conditions	Economic
Not withholding property	2	Capital preservation and asset preservation	Causal conditions	
The comfort of the elderly themselves				
Create excitement at home	3	Creating a happy and intimate atmosphere	Causal conditions	Psycho-affective
Create a sense of happiness at home				
Constant presence of children at home				
Looking forward to seeing you soon	2	Meditate and regularly	Causal conditions	
Continuous meeting				
Responsibility	1	Responsibility	Causal conditions	
Good life children	1	Good life children	Causal conditions	
Understanding the conditions of the elderly	3	Companionship and sympathy with the elderly	Causal conditions	Social
Taking care of the health of the elderly				
Greeting				
Advice from the elderly	2	Involving the elderly	Causal conditions	
Interfering them in family affairs				
Understanding	2	Accepting and honoring the elderly	Causal conditions	
Compliance with the presence of the elderly at home				
To respect	1	To respect	Causal conditions	
Accountability	2	Maintain discipline	Causal conditions	
Being regular				

Economic expectations: The expectations of elderly women are completely different from those of elderly men. Elderly women are more concerned about the independence and autonomy of their children than elderly men, and they also do not expect much from their children in terms of providing for their living expenses. But the important point is that elderly women expect that their

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capital and assets will be protected by their children. In the following, some interviews in this field, which were coded based on them, were presented. One of the interviewees stated:

"The fact that they can maintain their independence and not rely on us is the biggest help they can give us. Our age does not have the elasticity of their problems".

As can be extracted from this interview, elderly women do not have much economic desire and expectations from their children and the rest of the statistical sample expressed this issue explicitly. **Psycho-emotional expectations**: Considering the mediating role of the elderly's gender in this research, the expectations of elderly women are different from those of elderly men in this part. In fact, in this part, most of the expectations of elderly women have a compassionate side for their children. According to the interviews conducted in this section, it can be extracted the point that in addition to the needs of the elderly and what they expect from their children, most of the expectations of elderly women are maternal and compassionate, and there is a big difference from the expectations of elderly men in this regard. Elderly women, like elderly men, also expect their children to visit them constantly, and this visit should be passionate and full of feelings and expressions.

"My daughter comes to our house with so much excitement that when she enters the house, the atmosphere of the house changes, and her father and I are alone with each other, and when she comes, she changes the atmosphere so much and makes us feel good, of course, my son is like this all the time. who visits us and tries to come back to us with joy and spirit so that we don't get bored".

Social expectations: Social expectations are different in elderly men and women. Because women often do not expect much from their children, their highest expectations appear in the social aspect. In fact, here we can point to the mediation of the gender of the elderly, which manifests itself in expectations. Another social issue related to the elderly is their participation in the administration of family affairs, which is more evident in women. This can be extracted from the interviews of elderly women in this case. As an example, one of the elderly women said:

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"Sometimes there are problems and things happen at home where the children do a series of tasks without our coordination and do not use our experiences at all, which can cause problems for them later and sometimes cause them to make wrong choices. They remember that they have a mother and father, and sometimes they ask us for advice that things may have become very serious and the situation has become very bad, in such cases, their father is just greedy".

Earlier, it was previously mentioned that the distinction in expectations based on gender had an impact not only on the elderly population but also on children. Expectations that were attributed to female children were not ascribed to male children, and vice versa. However, in accordance with the nature of the research, the gender variable pertaining to the elderly was included in the model as a mediating factor. Ultimately, the expectations held by the elderly toward their children were categorized into three overarching groups: social expectations, economic expectations, and psychological and emotional expectations.

Discussion

The aim of the present study was to determine the expectations of elderly men and women from their children in Tehran. In this direction, to determine these dimensions, interviews were conducted with the elderly in Tehran until theoretical saturation was reached. After completing the interviews, the text of these interviews was transferred to MAXQDA software and analyzed. The interviews conducted with elderly men and women had different results and different codes were extracted from their interviews, but in general, the extracted codes were divided into three general categories: social expectations, economic expectations, and emotional-psychological expectations. Then, the gender of the elderly was considered as a mediating element, which finally led to the extraction of a model in which the expectations of the elderly men and women were drawn according to their gender. In the extractive model, in the category of social expectations, men have two types of requests for early and continuous visits to them and informational support, in the category of economic expectations, there are four types of requests for maintaining their capital and assets, contributing to the family's economic activities, assigning personal income to them and providing for living expenses and in the category of emotional-psychological expectations, there

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were four requests to create a warm and intimate atmosphere, gain trust and confidence, create the possibility of travel and respect.

However, in the model extracted for elderly women, in the social expectations section, the items of empathy and sympathy with the elderly, sharing the elderly in family affairs, accepting the elderly as a member of the family, respecting and maintaining discipline were extracted. In the section of economic expectations, the items of independence and autonomy and helping to preserve their assets and capital, and in the section of emotional-psychological expectations, the items of creating a warm and intimate atmosphere, early and continuous visits to them, sense of responsibility and good life of children were extracted.

As stated, gender acts as a variable or a mediating factor in this research, and the type of gender of the elderly has a significant impact on the expectations of the elderly from their children. This effect can be seen in the extracted items. For men, the most repetition is related to their economic expectations from their children, which can be said that the government does not meet the expectations of the elderly from this point of view, as Lasker et al. The elderly will increase and due to the high cost of treatment for the elderly in this country, the families of the elderly often have disorders in their interactions with each other. In fact, financial shortages strengthen these expectations among the elderly, but if the elderly do not have financial problems and the lack of financial resources is not their mental concern, it can be said that economic expectations will subside. In Iran, due to the fact that traditionally most men are known as the breadwinners of the family, it makes men have more economic expectations from their children. But the emotional-psychological expectations in both groups are almost the same and it shows that the expectations of the elderly men and women are the same in this matter.

Watt et al. (2014) by researching the expectations of the elderly in Sri Lanka, stated that the elderly population is increasing in this country, which is also happening in Iran. Watt et al. (2014) concluded that the elderly need care and continuity of visits with their children more than anything else. Even as elders supported their children, they feared losing their independence and considered financial independence important to maintain relationship balance. Kagitcibasi and Ataca (2015) also confirmed this issue and stated that the values attributed to children define the role of children as providers of parents, and children's care of the elderly will become a normal thing. But regarding

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the emotional-psychological expectations, the elderly had the same opinions on one point, which was respect. In both genders, parents expected their children to respect them.

In this case, Nouri and Farsi (2018) stated that elderly parents expect four basic expectations from their children, including meeting the physical health needs of elderly parents, providing social support and respecting the dignity of elderly parents, providing emotional support and protecting privacy. Elderly parents are divided, which is in line with the items extracted from this research. One of the topics that was extracted from the interviews with people in this research was that the elderly expected their children to consider them as a member of the family and to accept them as a member of the same family. In this regard, Zelalem et al. (2020) concluded with a study on elderly rural parents that elders felt worthless in terms of their children, grandchildren and in general the youth. Compared to how they behaved with their parents, the elderly believed that their children's sense of commitment was weak and unreliable, and the interactions were described by the elderly as degrading, embarrassing, and insulting. As it was also mentioned in the interviews, most of the elderly people had expectations from their children according to the current conditions of the society, which according to their limitations, they feel that they fell short of their expectations or that expectation was not fulfilled by their children.

Peng et al. (2003) concluded in their research that Chinese immigrants to the United States of America were influenced by the culture of that country, and Chinese elderly who had immigrated to that country had higher expectations from their neighbors than their children. It can be said that children are influenced by their environment. But the social expectations of the elderly were among the things that were extracted from their interviews. This type of expectation, like economic expectations, had many differences of opinion with the difference in the gender of the elderly. Women had more social expectations from their children than men. This was despite the fact that men did not expect much from their children in this regard. Also, women saw their social expectations more from their daughters than from their sons. Also, Cong, and Silverstein (2012) stated that elderly women in Chinese villages expect more from their daughters and do not react much to the migration of their sons. They also stated that elderly men do not have a particular reaction to this issue and it is not very important to them. Also, parents expected their children to visit them regularly. An important point is that elderly parents nowadays usually have more than two children. While this issue in Iran is moving towards one child and eventually two children.

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Gustafson and Baofeng (2014) in their research on Chinese one-child and two-child families concluded that the elderly are never interested in living with their children and only a small percentage agreed to this, but most of them They believed that their children should take care of them in their old age.

By examining all of these topics and conducting research, along with analyzing the research findings, it can be generally concluded that in Iran, due to its rich and high culture in the realm of family, the tradition of respecting parents is deeply ingrained in the background of this country. This tradition is upheld by children, who view it as one of their duties. However, it is important to note that children not only feel the duty to respect their parents, especially elderly parents, but there are also other expectations that elderly parents have from their children, which were explored in this study. The main purpose of this research is to carefully and cognitively examine the expectations of elderly parents from their children. Given the complexity of relationships and interpersonal interactions in today's world, studying such fields holds great significance. The complexity of personal relationships and interactions has not only impacted children, but also parents, resulting in changes in parents' expectations of their children. While it may have been sufficient in the past for parents to expect respect from their children, this is no longer the case in today's world. The expectations that parents have of their children have undoubtedly increased and evolved. The findings of this research reveal that elderly parents have expectations of their children that some children may not be aware of.

These expectations may be intriguing for children to learn about. However, it is crucial to acknowledge that this research did not encompass all of the expectations that elderly parents have of their children, as parents may have withheld expressing all of their desires due to their selfless and kind nature. This can be seen as a significant limitation in this study. Additionally, it can be argued that parents who are financially well-off will have different expectations of their children compared to other parents. This issue can also be seen as another constraint in this research. Although the topic of children's migration was touched upon during the interviews, it was not considered as a key factor, and the parents did not provide any insights into their expectations of their children who have migrated. This can also be seen as another limitation in this study.

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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. The patients/participants provided their written informed consent to participate in this study.

Author contributions

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

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