



## Attitudes of women heads of households to remarriage

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### Abstract

One of the important factors that threaten the family structure, it is a single parent, especially if children are in families headed by mothers live. Functionalist vision of a single parent family is a disorder for any reason, but especially the second marriage for women is challenging. Social and cultural factors vary from society to society, with the dramatic effects of the marriage or remarriage of women heads of household. This article is the result of a survey of female-headed households non married (divorced and husband died) through interviews with 93 women heads of households between 26 and 40 years who had at least one dependent child is doing. Results showed that the female heads of households, number of children from his previous marriage to remarriage in attitude level is a major obstacle. The those around's attitude toward remarriage (72%) has a direct impact on the attitudes of female heads of households. In 63% of cases, the women have a higher status in terms of employment and social, were less likely to remarriage her probably the to avoid loss of its economic position or lack of need. The sense of commitment and loyalty to the late spouse in the a lack of female heads of households tend to remarry influence and the number of suitors, as a potential factor stimulus in front strong tradition, is not effective in changing attitudes on female heads of households is than to remarriage.

*Keywords: Social and cultural factors, women heads of households, marriage, remarriage*

### Introduction

The family as a fundamental element of any society can be considered. At least from the perspective of sociology there is of the family in the world and different cultures. But the more accepted definition can be a group of people who knew the family directly connected with and responsible adults of childbearing shaped (Giddens, 1996: 390). In Iran, the family based on marriage is not necessarily that marriage between a man and a woman who by virtue of the social contract, their reproductive rights in society and live together permanently or temporarily gain (Shayanmehr, 1998: 59). Traditionally considered male householder (Safa, 1999), but the scientific definition for the head of household, household member in the household is known as such. Householder usually is responsible for providing all or part of the costs of major household decisions about how to spend household income (Iran Statistical Center, 2006: 10). Some of these families died for reasons such as death, divorce and remain married woman with a child or children of the family to survive the often headed

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by women. Women heads of households are women without regular attendance or support an adult male, are responsible householder. (Seedmirzaei, Abdullahi et al., 2011: 83). The absence of one parent in the family, a negative effect on family structure and children, especially imports. But studies show that the death of the mother, rather than her husband's influence is likely to strongly influence children's the absence of mother complications. As behavioral disorders and depression in children who have lost their mothers to children without parents have been reported, but according to some researchers father's death, the family of the affected child, mother the trouble and the children will not influence his absence relentless (Khazrtaj, KHanjani et al, 2009: 66-65). Although many factors could increase pressure on Economic, Social and Cultural absence of male breadwinners in the family as the traditional head of the woman. One way out of this pressure, remarriage can be female-headed households. However, interest or lack of interest in women-headed households to remarry is affected by different factors in this paper examines the social and cultural factors affecting the remarriage are discussed.



## Problem Statement

The sudden transfer of guardianship of her husband caused insecurity and a series of additional functions that loss of income, raising children and taking on a dual role (father and mother) are included. As a result, an adverse effect on women's mental health and it creates new the health problems (hemmati, Mahdavi et al., 2013: 48). Female-headed households face many problems in our culture. The major issues that women face negative attitudes towards them. Attitude, mental and neurological state of readiness that are organized through experience and influence the direction or dynamic responses of the individual, against all objects or situations that are related to it, is (Karimi, 1996: 263). These women are forced to survive under heavy look and deal with all kinds of threats and insecurity (Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, 2011: 5). In societies where women owe their social standing and security of the men in the family knows, a woman without a husband, for many men, as an opportunity and a naked body appears to intend to possess and enjoy it. It was a different size, which is undesirable and without appropriate conditions started to demand marriage and other issues, such as temporary and leads to rape (Abbaszadeh, Boodaqui et al., 2011: 148).

Since the employment situation of women in Iran, like many developing countries, the situation is not desirable, women have fewer job opportunities, often in the informal sector with little wage work (Shahande, Mohammad Beigi et al, 2006: 31) .

However, some female-headed households in temporary marriage as a solution to meet their basic needs and more economic and security needs attention. But sometimes, due to the exclusion of families and children, ignore to meet this need through temporary marriage (Zahed and Kheiri Khameneh, 2011: 63). According to one of the executives also one of the problems of female-headed households, remarry them and their fear of marriage (Anvari, 2014: 4).

Although the exact number of female-headed households can not be announced, but some believe that more than 37 percent of households are female-headed world (Tanyna Boldaji, Forouzan et al., 2010: 10). In Iran, women heads of households declared no precise figures because the number of households under the protection of any such

committee or not well or are under the tutelage apparent grandfather. In fact, the mother and woman's family, the head of the family. However, about one million and 640 thousand households in the country live under Relief Committee and one million and 173 thousand people under the Social Welfare, the 467 thousand people are no institutional (Ghorbani, 2014: 8).Based on the 2011 census, the share of female-headed families reached to 1.12% of the total households (Eftekhari and Payandeh, 2014: a). 8.10 percent of female-headed households are in Mazandaran (ibid: 5), of which 1920 households, female head of the "Behshahr city" are covered by the committee. (www.emdad.ir/news)

## Research literature

Zahed and Kheiri Khameneh (2011) in an article entitled Attitudes of women heads of household under the guise of temporary marriages Shiraz Imam Khomeini Relief Committee has concluded that despite the need to have a spouse and cognitive rather than female-headed households Positive temporary marriage, less than half of them are interested in this type of marriage. The main social pressures prevent them from bowed to this kind of marriage. According to the results, it is observed that the emotional needs of female-headed households are among the most important needs that they are searching, but sometimes, due to the exclusion of families and children, to meet this need through temporary marriage ignore ; in any case, the number of female-headed households in temporary marriage as a solution to meet their basic needs and economic and security needs more attention. Nazoktabar and Veysi (2008) in an article called social, economic and cultural province female-headed households, have found that social, cultural and educational importance of female-headed households are, on top of all the problems of female-headed household is located. They have some of the most important factors in this women's problems have been identified as: lack of attitude and positive outlook for remarriage among women heads of household, spouse and family involvement around with married children, the lack of financial support, emotional and psychological ill safe and growing community concerns and specific problems of women-headed households and ....



Khosravan, Salehi, Ahmadi and Mansourian (2011) experience in qualitative research as heads of households, widows have noted that the major problems of the changing role of women, sexuality suspicions and doubts, supervised by relatives and friends and Payydh to especially the ladies, the men's sexual demands, sexual slander, label poverty and insecurity of life and work is in place. Among the causes of the lack of interest of women to remarry interest to the spouse and children of the spouse also has the sense of commitment to their fate. Moeedfar and Hamidi (2007) in qualitative research that was conducted in Tehran found that one of the major problems of these women, their bodies is the problem of insecurity. Since man is not the head of the women, their bodies for many men society as an opportunity or an unattended item appears. Most women experience from men like demand formula desires improper, inappropriate and even exceed their marriage. Other problems fueled insecurity for them and their social relations hurt. have lost, trapped in the narrow circle of their intimate relationship with their children. The consequence of a loss of social relationships, psychological imbalance. These women and their children from higher levels of stress, anxiety, depression and other mental unrest. Safa (1999) in an article called free market and the marriage market, structural adjustment, labor conditions and relations among Dominican women workers, pointed out that the weakening labor market for women and increase the role of women in the male breadwinner family work. The gender shift in the composition of the workforce, some women have been encouraged to resist remarriage, which help in the way of marital instability and female-headed families show a tendency to expand. Wagmiller, Gershoff, Veliz and Clements (2010) in an article entitled interrogative whether married single mothers to improve the academic success of children? To the conclusion that married single mothers, but statistically significant relative improvement in the academic achievement of their children communicate. However, this result in more children whose mother rather to remarry, have been denied.

#### **The importance and necessity of research**

However, the death of a parent or divorce can occur in any society and single-parent families there. When the householder to the wife and mother to be,

creates issues with considering the social and cultural fields, in connection with the public image of female orphans who are heads of households, is important. With regard to the issues facing these women may largely be resolved remarriage, identify factors influencing the decision to remarry or no interest in remarrying focus of this article is.

#### **The theoretical framework**

Some of the actions associated with the role, social and historical phenomenon, and are strongly influenced by values. Parsons action is limited to the values and norms that govern the society. He says a social action consists of a series of choices that are made by the agent and the agent was done by reference to the motive and value (Skidmore, 1996: 76). Talcott Parsons emphasizes the importance of social norms and values in order to maintain order in society was stressed. Social order based on private profit oversee the rules and the development of shared value systems that provide meaningful way that puts one among a set of actions, select the appropriate actions, there is (Stones, 2000: 154). In view of functionalism, particularly in Parsons theory, there is nothing in society is not without reason and existence is necessary. Based on this theory, the theory of structural functionalism agreement, from the perspective of common values and norms of society, fundamental and social order based on implicit agreement stresses and social changes have systematic coordination and knows (Ritzer, 1995: 118). On the other hand Parsons as the theorist is believed that the survival of the society for amending the general value system that include all members and structures of the system. Such a value system to meet the needs of all of that, more than ever, it is general and abstract. Moving towards generalized norms often lead to feelings offended certain smaller groups and this in turn may lead to new standards of strength, tension and social changes than the social system should be distinct and to pursue it is integrated (Dillin, 2008: 371). According to this theory, female-headed families with the natural and traditional families are at odds, in fact, the emergence of this group of households is a deviation. The social construction of components or elements of it should afford each task and function well afford (Navabakhsh and Molaei, 2010: 88). In fact, the absence of his father and mother could not be any element of the dual



role of mother and father Nkrdh→Ast the same time be in the position of supervisor. On the other hand should not be ignored any stretch of the functionalist view of mankind has achieved a confirmed positive action, positive action, in other words its function is active (Roche,1997: 108). The impact of four factors affecting the overall model of social phenomena functionalist perspective is as follows:

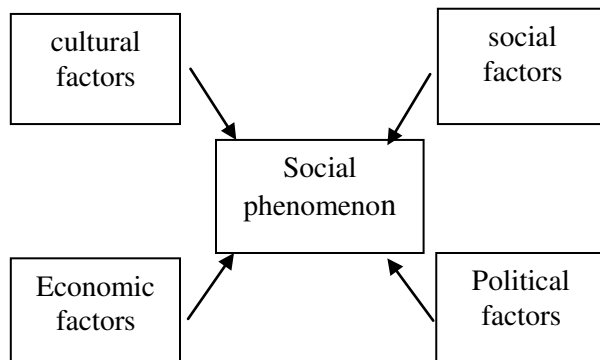


Figure 1: functional model of factors affecting social phenomena

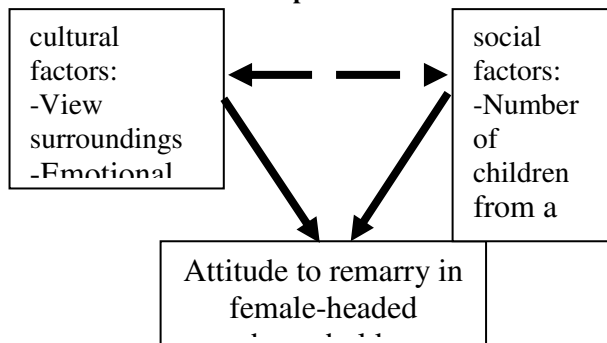


Figure 2: The theoretical model research

**Hypotheses**

**The main assumptions:**

- 1.It seems that the attitude and attitude toward remarriage female-headed households affected by social factors.
- 2.It seems that the attitudes and attitudes towards remarriage female-headed households affected by cultural factors.

**Minor research hypotheses:**

- 1.It seems that the number of children per woman-headed households on their attitude to remarry effective.

- 2.Seems separation from spouse (divorce or death) are considered as female-headed households is effective to remarry.
- 3.It seems that the emotional support from family and attitudes related to remarry.
- 4.It seems that social status and career-oriented women heads of households linked to remarry.
- 5.seems to be the attitude of the suitors for remarriage affects women heads of households to remarry.

**Sample and Methodology**

Due to the nature of the subject of the survey is used. The population consisted of women heads of households covered by the Imam Khomeini Relief Committee, which the "Behshahr" city 1920 persons. However, in this article only woman died or divorced households that own their own expense and provides child. Due to the lack of interest to participate in this study population, taking into account the confidence interval (d = 0.1) and based on the sample of 93 women heads of households, for example, was set up to answer questions that were chosen, provided that at least a child of their marriage. The validity of the study, validity (teachers sociology) is measured and the reliability of Cronbach's alpha was used to test the value of alpha is 0.73.

**Findings**

Earlier findings related to the main assumptions and detailed research, the first part features some important background information on the importance explanation offered.

**The study describes the characteristics of female-headed households:**

Ages	26-30	31-35	36-40	Sum
Number	14	41	38	93
Percent	15%	44%	41%	100%

Table 1: Respondents ages

Information Table 1 shows that most women of middle age however, it should be noted that in this era of highly active man is age, emotional and sexual needs.



**Attitudes of women heads**

Business Classification	Home Jobs	Government jobs	The unofficial part-time jobs	Financial support for families	Other funds	Sum
Number	8	25	31	14	15	93
Percent	9%	27%	33%	15%	16%	100%

**Table 2: Occupation of respondents**

The home jobs in Table 2 consisted of native foods cooking, sewing, hairdressing and government jobs all official and full-time jobs as teachers and staff have been included. Informal jobs were part-time clerk, laborer and seasonal agricultural work at home people as workers. sponsored by relatives, often related to family support was the father of the woman who was the head of household. the proceeds from his inheritance and children, such as income from agricultural fields and other sources of financing, mainly belonging to divorced women who paid the fee to pay dowry.

According to Table 3, 57% of the subjects lost their husbands during the 2 to 8 years, and 43% of divorced women is also one to 5 years had passed since the divorce.

Because supervision	Divorce	Death of husband	Sum
Number	40	53	93
Percent	43%	57%	100%

**Table 3: because the head of household**

According to the data of Table 4, the highest number of dependent children of these women is 1 child 44% of the samples included. It is also the goal of having women are heads of households studied had at least one child. Also among these households is a family with 5 children.

Number of children	1 child	2 child	3 child	More than 3 children	Sum
number of Women	41	24	27	1	93
Percent	44%	26%	29%	1%	100%

**Table 4: Number of children from a previous marriage**

It should be noted in connection with Table 5, among women who have no matchmaking 6 women have been divorced for about a year had passed since their separation and one with 5 children are husband had died.

The number of suitors	Nothing	1	2	3	More than 3	Sum
number of Women	7	15	42	13	16	93
Percent	8%	16%	45%	14%	17%	100%

**Table 5: Number of suitors after her husband's death or divorce**

**Social and cultural factors affecting the remarriage of women-headed households:**

The results of the evaluation of the hypothesis is as follows:

independent variable	Statistical indicators	Attitude, female-headed households to remarry
View surroundings	Spearman	0.724
	Significant level of a domain	0.028
	Number	93

**Table 6: Spearman correlation coefficient between the attitude of the people and the attitudes of women heads of households to remarry**

According to Table 6, the attitude and the attitude of people towards remarriage remarriage female-headed households in which there is a significant level of 0.72 is 0.028. The attitude of people to remarry in the attitude of female-headed households and have a positive direct impact hypothesis is confirmed. It applies higher than



average. According to Table 7, the social and professional status of women heads of households and their attitudes toward remarriage there but this is the inverse relationship between the rate of -0.63 to 0.033 is a significant level. It means that the level of higher social status and occupational person he has a negative attitude toward remarriage. It applies higher than average. It should be noted for measurement of their social position and job title of the nominal variables and variable level of quality and attitude was upgraded to arrange for consideration was.

Independent variable	Statistical indicators	Attitude, female-headed households to remarry
Social and occupational status	Spearman	-0.635
	Significant level of a domain	0.033
	Number	93

**Table 7: Spearman correlation coefficient between social status and job tend to remarry**

According to Table 8, the square is double 1.834 and 0.023 impact due to the significant number of children from a former marriage itself is effective in the attitude of women heads of households to remarry. The hypothesis is confirmed. Results showed that none of the women who have had more than 2 children had a positive attitude toward their second marriage.

According to Table 9, the chi square is equal to 1.24 and 0.041 Given the significant effect of the separation of former spouse (the husband's death or divorce) the attitude of female-headed households is effective to remarry. And confirm the hypothesis in throughput. The findings also showed that women are less likely to remarry her husband had died.

According to Table 10, the chi square is 0.82 times and also due to the significant number of suitors 0.081 female-headed households had no significant effect on the attitude and hypothesis can not be confirmed.

Number of children in female-headed households	Average	chi square	Deviation from average	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference		The significance level
				Low level	High level	
	3	1.834	0.227	1	5	0.023

**Table 8: Chi square on the effect of children on women heads of household attitudes to remarriage**

Type separation (divorce or her husband died)	Average	chi square	Deviation from average	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference		The significance level
				Low level	High level	
	1.5	1.24	0.227	1	2	0.041

**Table 9: Chi square in relation to the impact of separation on approach to remarry female-headed households**

The number of suitors female-headed households	Average	chi square	Deviation from average	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference		The significance level
				Low level	High level	
	2.7	0.82	0.227	1.2	4.2	0.081

**Table 10: Chi square in relation to the impact on attitudes to marriage suitors of this female-headed households**



## CONCLUSIONS

Although single-parent families headed by women, the abnormal shape of family life from the perspective of functionalism, but today as comprehensively single parent families in the world, in Iran, these families generally for the death of her husband, divorce, disability husband, addiction and be seen. In this study, female-headed families were only due to the death of her husband or divorce, female-headed households claimed responsibility. The results indicate that attitudes strongly influenced by factors such as female-headed households in terms of family and social base and their job is. Cultural point of view around the most important factor is that it can be referred to the common custom While the women of the people, unfaithful former spouse (including spouse) or be considered in case of divorce, remarriage image lewd act quickly to bring them to others, afraid. 72 percent of these women, their decision is influenced by the opinion of others have.

On the other hand, however, the attention of suitors were mostly informal working women but to their place in society as well as financing, a tendency not to remarry at 63% of the subjects applies to the study confirmed the Safa (1997) was is.

The number of children from a previous marriage also creates a major obstacle in the attitude to remarry, in addition, the type of separation, divorce or death of a spouse, which is also the head of the woman, the attitude of these women to remarry been effective. The results of Khosravan and colleagues (1392) confirm. One of the hypotheses examined in this study the effect of suitors in the attitude of women towards marriage is this, that this hypothesis was not confirmed, it seems there are children, employment and occupational status and attitude of the people and the traditions of the society is much stronger than stimulants because there are areas of potential suitors in other words, is to marry again.

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