

A SOCIO-ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVE OF HOUSEHOLD BUDGET IN TEHRAN, IRAN

Mohammad Taghi Sheykhi
Department of Social Science
Al-Zahra University, Tehran

Abstract

The paper explores the main determinants of household's socio-economic characteristics in Tehran, Iran in terms of budget and income. It is worth mentioning that the amount of expenditures depends on how the household budget changes. Thus, income and wealth are known as the basic determinants of household budget, and as a result, consumption patterns. Sociologically speaking, despite all the developments occurred in modern household, it is yet threatening the social sphere. Similarly, industrialization has both directly and indirectly affected the structure and function of household life. It is in this backdrop that the present study was carried out through random sampling method in the Tehran city. Findings show that, despite the gradual increase in households' income in Iran, yet they feel poor so far as their budget is concerned. However, the current inflation widens the gap between the expenditures and incomes within households. The data collected through questionnaires have been assessed and interpreted in the last part of the paper.

Keywords: Household Budget, Consumption, Expenditure, Quality of Life, Industrialization.

The present study aims to reflect the socio-economic perspective of household conditions in Iran in the context of household budget. For that, it attempts to reflect the budget status within the households in Tehran. However, income, being a prime determinant of household quality of life, is investigated and assessed in this study. Generally speaking, the research is intended to determine how the lifestyle and ways of the households are affected by the stream of income and technoscience¹ within the household. For this purpose, a number of households were empirically examined.

In the present work, the different ways, in which household budget is prepared, are discussed. It also delineates the financial arrangements mainly related to the socio-economic characteristics of the household for example, total income, the relative contribution of husband and wife and educational backgrounds.

For the purpose of this study, a household is defined as a single person, or a group of people who have the single address as their only or main residence, and who either share one meal a day, or a living accommodation. Non-related members are not included in this definition. For a

