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معهد الدوحة الدولي للأسرة
Doha International Family Institute

البحوث لدعم السياسات الأسرية
Research to advance family policies

عضو في مؤسسة قطر
Member of Qatar Foundation

Commission on Population and Development “SDGs, Megatrends and Families: Perspectives from Asia”

Fertility Dynamics in Qatar

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Content

- 🕒 Introduction
- 🕒 Demographic Trends
- 🕒 Methodology
- 🕒 The main factors that affect the fertility decision
- 🕒 Recommendations
- 🕒 Conclusion

Introduction

- 🕒 Qatar has seen significant demographic shifts in recent decades.
- 🕒 Fertility rates are declining, leading to fewer children being born.
- 🕒 The proportion of the elderly population is on the rise.
- 🕒 Unlike many developing countries, Qatar aims to increase fertility rates.
- 🕒 The proportion of Qatari citizens within the overall population is declining.
- 🕒 Fertility rates have sharply dropped from 5.3 in 1986 to 2.9 in 2017.

The Importance of Family

🕒 The Constitution guarantees the protection of the family and notably the elderly under article 21 which reads as follows:

“The family is the basis of the society and is founded on religion, ethics, and patriotism. The law shall regulate adequate means to protect the family, support its structure, strengthen its ties, and protect maternity, childhood, and old age.”

Demographic Trends: The case of Qatar

The population number of Qatar is
3,119,589.



Demographic Trends: The case of Qatar



Aging Population

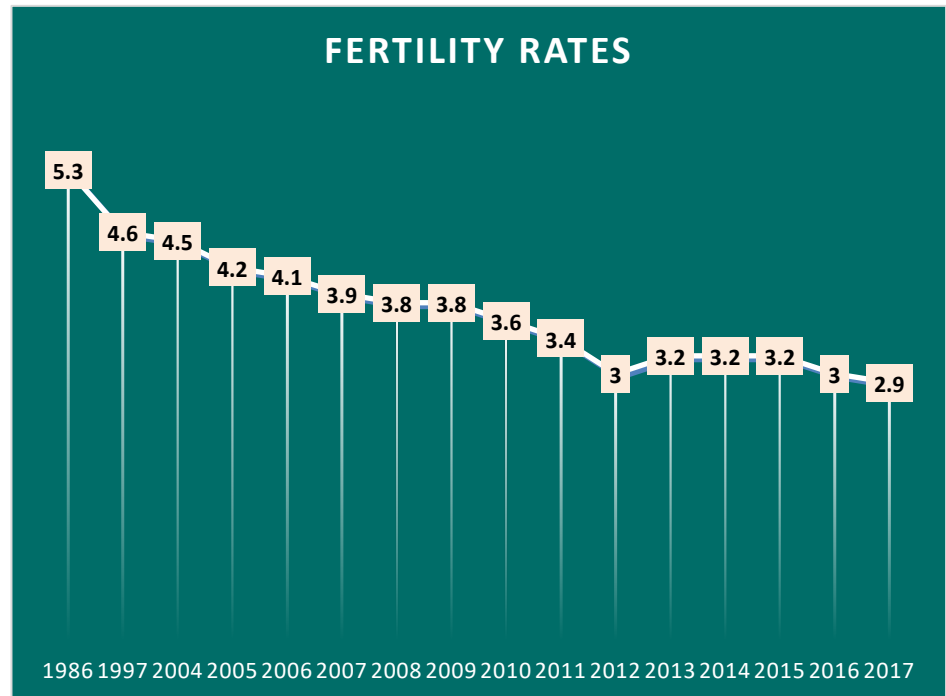
- 🕒 Elderly population in Qatar (65+) increased ninefold over nearly a third of a century.
- 🕒 Life expectancy in Qatar has increased within the range of 77 to 79.
- 🕒 Qatari elderly numbers grew about five times, from 2,707 in 1986 to 12,579 in 2019.
- 🕒 Elderly individuals (aged 60+) are projected to make up 7.8% of the total population by 2035.
- 🕒 By 2050, elderly are projected to be about 30% of Qatar's total population.
- 🕒 Reflects advancements in healthcare services, environmental conditions, and living standards.



Demographic Trends: The case of Qatar

Fertility Changes

- ❏ Fertility is a critical issue in Qatar, as with other Arab Gulf states.
- ❏ Qatar aims to boost population growth rates.
- ❏ This initiative responds to a drop in fertility rates and a lower percentage of citizens in the overall population.
- ❏ Fertility rates in Qatar have seen a significant decline over three decades.



Methodology

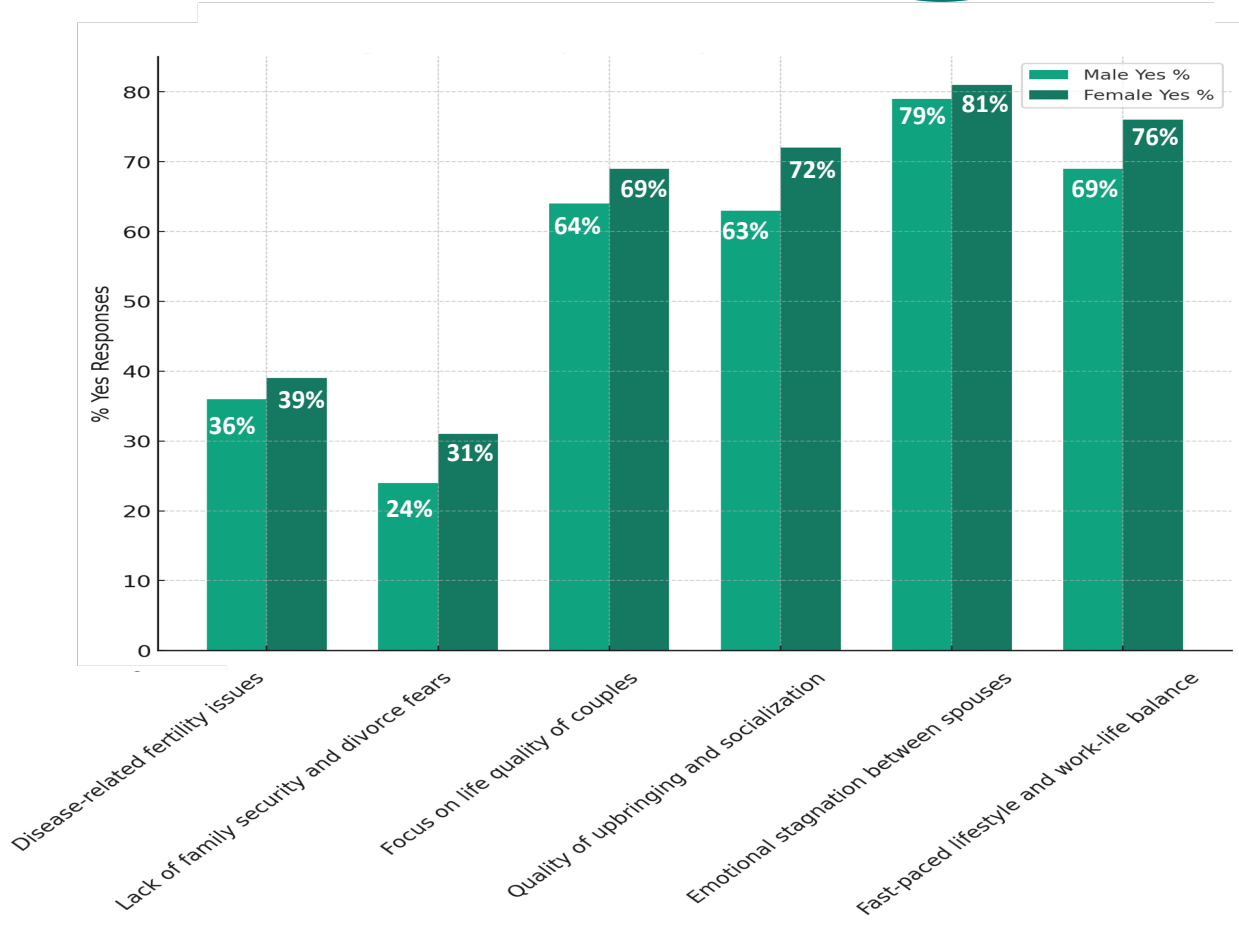
Title of the study: Family Home Caregivers for Elderly People in Qatar	Title of the Study: Social Aspects of Fertility in Qatar
Qualitative research design	Mixed Method Study
In-depth semi-structures interviews with 22 caregivers	Qualitative: semi Structures interviews with 58 Qataris. Quantitative: A survey with 4,271 Qatari participants
5 males, 17 females; Qataris and non-Qataris	51% male, 49% female
Year: 2020	Year: 2023

The main factors that affect the fertility decision

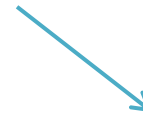
- 🕒 Personal Factors
- 🕒 Economic Factors
- 🕒 Structural and Contextual Factors
- 🕒 Educational Factors
- 🕒 Factors related to Work-family Balance Policies
- 🕒 Health Factors



Personal Factors



Economic Factors



Costs of Marriage,
weddings and
houses

Costs of
upbringing

Increased
family income

Decreased
house space

The cost of raising
children leads couples
to have fewer children.



63%



87%

High costs of marriage
lead to a decline in
marriage rates.

Structural and Contextual factors

Delayed marriage
and increased
singlehood rates

Increased rates of
divorce

Independence of
nuclear families

Increase in the
percentage of
single-parent
families



73%

The rate of
singlehood is
increasing



86%

Marriage at older
ages leads to lower
fertility rates



49%

Nuclear family
independence affects
fertility rates

Educational factors

Level of Couples education and the number of children.



Believe there is no relation

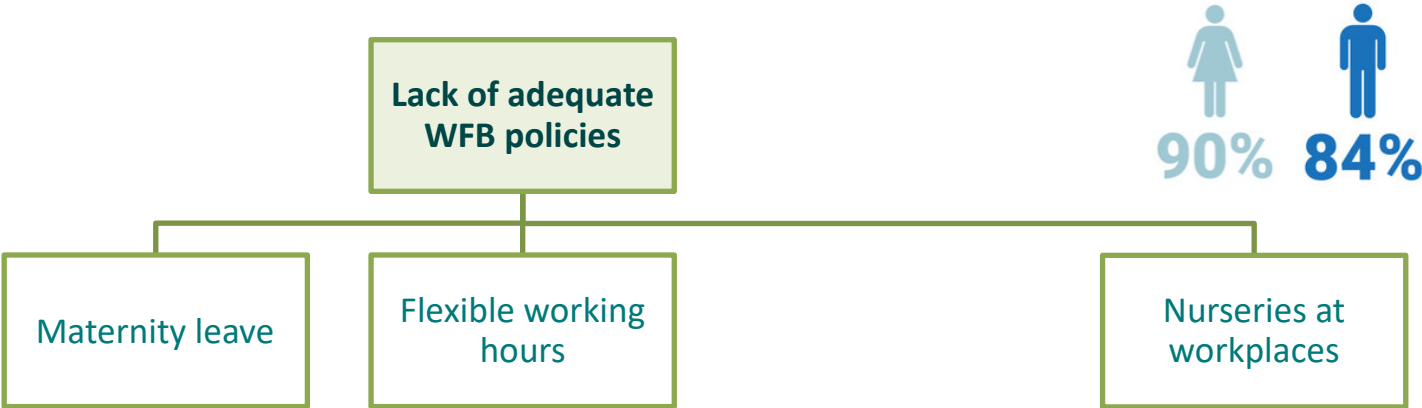
Women educational-employment status and the fertility decision.

Wife's higher education than husband.

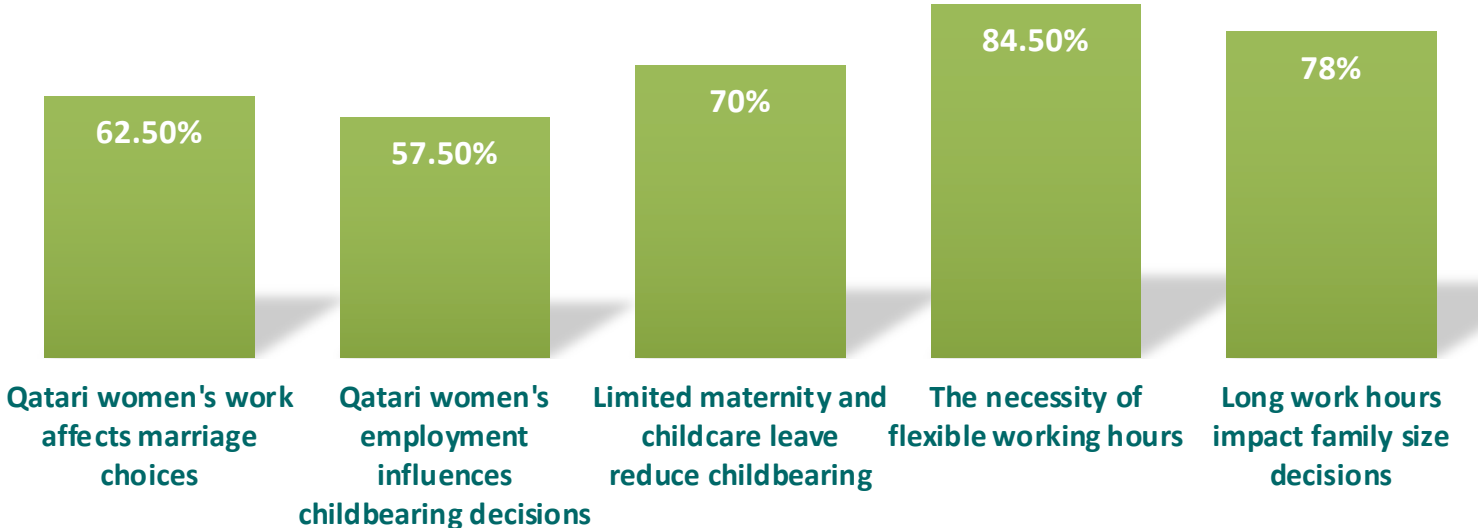


Believe there is no relation

Factors related to Work-family Balance Policies



■ Males and Females



Health Factors

Bio-medical treatment and the increase of genetic technology use



44%

Believe there is increase in sterility

Healthy lifestyle and fertility rates

Fitness and outfits impact on reproduction

Gender preference in births



33%



30%

Believe that gender is determined for reproduction

Recommendations

🕒 **Balancing Work-Family Policies**

- Modify labor laws for six-month paid maternity leave, with an unpaid extension option.
- Mandate employers to create free workplace nurseries.
- Support part-time work for mothers.
- Promote remote work and performance-based evaluation.

🕒 **Financial Support Policies**

- Set up marriage and child development funds.
- Subsidize childcare and education expenses.
- Construct state-funded wedding halls.
- Accelerate housing support for newlyweds with child-based incentives.

🕒 **Fertility Awareness Policies**

- Initiate campaigns on the importance of population growth and economic participation.
- Reform marriage traditions for better partner knowledge.
- Advocate for healthy lifestyles and sports, especially for women.
- Address family role evolution, stressing dual parental involvement.
- Enhance research on demographic trends.
- Mandate pre-marital courses and health screenings.

Conclusion

- 🕒 Urgent need to address the shift towards an aging population.
- 🕒 Essential to correct declining fertility rates.
- 🕒 Implement recommended policies to prevent workforce shrinkage and the decline of Qatari population.
- 🕒 Align with Qatar National Vision 2030's focus on human development.
- 🕒 Conduct demographic projections to plan for healthcare, employment, and social services.
- 🕒 Proactive measures are crucial to support both current and future generations.
- 🕒 Policies must balance the development of a young workforce with the care of an aging population.

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Thank you

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