The CONSEQUENCES of POPULATION AGEING in TURKEY:

A Country at the onset of Population Ageing

Sebnem Canpolat

Turkish Statistical Institute
Phone (90) 312 310 99 06, Fax: (90) 312 311 81 41
e-mails: sebnemb@hacettepe.edu.tr and sebnemcanpolat@tuik.gov.tr

Extended Abstract

Turkey is undergoing this demographic transformation like many parts of the world. Even though the proportion of the elderly and other indicators of ageing indicate that an age structure of Turkey is relatively younger when compared to the populations of developed countries, increase of the elderly population in "absolute numbers" is noticeable and the number of older adult is equal to total population of some small European Countries. It is projected that the population over age 65 will be 4.8 million in 2010, 7.9 million in 2025, and 17 million in 2050 in Turkey (TURKSTAT, 2006). Old-dependency ratio will probably triple between 2000 and 2050, from about 9% in 2000 to about 28% in 2050.[1] This means that at the end of this period each working-age adult will have three times as many older adults to support as is the case in year 2000.

In this study, firstly some social, demographic and economic characteristics of elderly population are described by using data of the latest nationwide 2003 Demographic and Health Survey (TDHS) and the last population census. Primary objective of this study is to determine co-residence pattern of the elderly from 2003 DHS data (for family typologies Household lists and Leslett family typology will be employed).

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[1] United Nations (online version, *2003 World Population Prospects, the 2002 Revision*, United Nations Population Division, available from http://www.un.org/esa/population/unpop.htm).

The changes in the share of the older population and its size have profound implications for families. In Turkey, it is often assumed that the family will automatically take on the responsibility of caring for the elderly. Other objectives of the study can be outlined as the following:

i. To comprehend the changes in the co-residence data through using 1993, 1998, and 2003 DHS data,

ii. To determine what sort of family structure, in the future, the elderly population will live in by employing household projection method,

iii. To demonstrate, with a demographic point of view, the economic demand the co-residence change will create and to perform forecasts regarding the issue.