Examining the Barriers and Implementation Strategies of General Family Policies with an Emphasis on Women's Rights

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ABSTRACT

From the beginning of history to the present, the family has been regarded in all human societies as the most fundamental social institution, the foundation of societies, and the source of cultures, civilizations, and human history. Attention to this sacred and foundational structure of society, along with its protection and guidance toward its true and elevated position, contributes to the reform of the greater human family, whereas neglect of it leads humanity away from authentic life and toward decline and misguidance. In this context, the aim of the present study is to examine the barriers and implementation strategies of general family policies with an emphasis on women's rights. The research method is library-based and analytical. The research questions include: (1) What are the implementation barriers of general family policies with an emphasis on women's rights? and (2) What are the implementation strategies of general family policies with an emphasis on women's rights? The research hypothesis suggests that among the most important barriers are policy conflicts, the economic conditions of society, and the influence of advertising and media, while among the most important strategies are policymakers' and policy implementers' attention to audience analysis, problem identification, mindset, coordination and consultative capacity, scientific competence, and innovation in policymaking. The findings also indicate that in the domain of family policymaking and women's rights, policies and laws related to family and women have not been able to systematically cover all required areas in accordance with the principle of family-centeredness. Moreover, supporting marital dignity and honor, recognizing women's roles in motherhood and homemaking, emphasizing women's educational and spiritual responsibilities, and empowering family members in responsibility-taking, family interactions, and the fulfillment of their roles and missions are among the most important implementation strategies in this field.

Keywords: *Policymaking; Family institution; Women's rights*

Introduction

In the modern era, with the emergence of cultural, economic, and political transformations, the family has faced numerous challenges. These challenges include changes in gender roles, an increase in the age of marriage, declining fertility rates, rising divorce rates, and the penetration of non-indigenous cultures. The Islamic Republic of Iran has achieved notable progress in promoting the dignity, honor, and social and human status of women, and has undertaken extensive measures in areas such as improving health and education, job creation, ensuring women's security, combating violence against women, and increasing women's social participation through

involvement in decision-making positions. The establishment of women-specific institutions and centers, the drafting and enactment of numerous general and specific laws and regulations in the field of women's rights, the formation and expansion of various social and political movements aimed at defending women's rights, the advancement of women in medical, technological, and educational fields, support for women's employment and economic participation, engagement in economic and entrepreneurial activities, the increase in girls' enrollment at different educational levels and in higher education, actions taken in sports, cultural, and artistic domains, support for vulnerable women, efforts to combat violence against women, and the growing presence of women in legislative and policymaking arenas, together with the statistics reported in these areas, indicate that the Islamic Republic of Iran adopts a distinctive approach toward women, their capacities, and the protection and promotion of women's rights. In this regard, some of women's demands in the Islamic Republic of Iran have been realized across legal-judicial, social, political, economic, cultural, educational, and health dimensions (1).

Issues such as the establishment of family courts, the presence of female judges in courts, judicial support for the rights of women and children, guardianship of unmarried daughters and women without husbands over their unmarried children, women's legal right to inherit from the deceased husband's pension benefits, the prohibition of early marriage for girls before puberty, granting Iranian nationality to children born to Iranian women married to foreign men, the possibility of part-time employment for working women, and social insurance for homemakers are among the achievements realized through the pursuit and enactment of relevant legislation. In the years following the Islamic Revolution, based on constitutional principles and through the enactment of laws by the Islamic Consultative Assembly and other legislative bodies, women's status in political, social, cultural, and economic arenas has improved (2).

However, despite all the efforts undertaken, women's rights have not yet been fully and comprehensively realized. A review of the general family policies indicates that although the overall situation of women has improved after the Revolution, the Constitution provides greater capacity for further enhancement of women's status. Despite these efforts, due to certain problems and barriers, the situation of women has not yet fully aligned with the principles enshrined in the Constitution, and achieving full improvement based on the progressive constitutional principles requires a long and sustained path of continuous effort in this field.

Research Background

Khān Moḥammadī et al. (2024) conducted a study entitled *Identifying Factors Influencing the Implementation of General Family Policies in Iran*. The research population consisted of university professors, policy researchers, and informed policymakers in the relevant field, from whom 15 participants were selected using purposive sampling. The research instrument was a semi-structured interview. The data were analyzed using thematic analysis, resulting in the identification of 202 basic codes, which were categorized into 9 overarching themes and 24 organizing themes. The extracted themes included policy instruments (desirability and appropriateness); legal factors (policy conflicts); structural factors (continuous monitoring, role transparency, and the provision of efficient implementation mechanisms); economic factors (financial resources and overall economic conditions); cultural factors (advertising, media, education, and cultural development); technical and substantive factors (policy clarity, goal orientation and planning in policymaking, policy efficiency and effectiveness, feasibility and implementability, and policy inclusiveness); factors related to the target community (acceptance, alignment, motivation, and willingness); and factors related to policy designers and implementers (commitment, capacity, and willingness) (3).

Najafī Rastāghī et al. (2021), in an article entitled *Foresight and Explanation of Trends, Evidence, and National Considerations in Policymaking for the Family Institution in Iran*, found that the country requires a comprehensive pathology of trends influenced by the discourse of modernity in the family sphere, and that effective steps are necessary to move toward values and beliefs rooted in the Iranian-Islamic family discourse in order to promote the formation, consolidation, and transcendence of this divine institution (4).

The findings of Mūsawī Vīāyeh et al. (2020), in a study entitled *Investigating the Characteristics of Family Policy in Iran Based on Thematic Analysis of Upland Documents*, indicate that the core themes of family policy in Iran include an emphasis on marriage and the necessity of family formation, inequality of gender roles and the sexual division of labor within the family, emphasis on childbearing and child-rearing as the most important functions of the family, and the reproduction of kinship networks and the preservation of family stability through emphasizing the desexualization of the public sphere and the observance of women's hijab and chastity (5).

Bāgherī et al. (2020) also conducted a *Critical Review of Family Policy in Iran and the Strategic Requirements for Family-Centric Policymaking*. Their findings indicate the existence of institutional and organizational disorder in the family policymaking arena and highlight the duality between the "family institution" and the "market institution." Family-related policies and laws have thus far failed to systematically cover all necessary dimensions in accordance with the principle of family-centeredness; rather, they have predominantly reflected a development discourse with an economy-centered approach, rendering family-centeredness marginal. Where support exists, it has often targeted individual family members rather than the family institution as a whole (6).

Āmerī and Khosravī (2018) examined family-centeredness in employment laws, along with its opportunities and obstacles. Their findings suggest that in the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which—based on Islamic law—assigns significant importance to the family and procreation, legal employment policymaking has paid attention to supporting the family (7).

Khān Moḥammadī and Aṣlī Pūr (2017), in a study entitled *Designing the Thematic Network of the General Policies of the Family System Based on the Interpretive Structural Modeling Method*, found that the themes of these policies are structured across three levels. The first level refers to the ultimate goals of these policies, namely the consolidation of the Islamic family; the second level addresses the cultural approach; and the third level explains the contextual and enabling factors governing the model (8).

Ooms (2019) examined the topic of *The Evolution of Family Policy* and concluded that the establishment of family affairs commissions at the state level can help transform family policy into a more visible, attractive, effective, and organized component of policymaking (9).

Mackie (2015) likewise identified factors such as stakeholders, objectives, evidence, and policy judgments as influential determinants of the effective and successful implementation of such policies (10).

Theoretical Framework: Components Governing Family Policymaking

With the expansion of theories related to government, governance, and policymaking in recent decades, along with the growth of governmental organizations, bureaucratic relations, and the extension of state influence across various domains, the family has become one of the institutions most affected by public decisions. On the other hand, as previously noted, the increasing complexity of social life and the multiplicity of influencing sources have led to major transformations in the family institution (11). These transformations include an increase in the age of marriage, a rise in the number of female-headed households, a reduction in family size, mediatization,

secularization, consumerism, individualization, and fluidity between contradictory values. This situation further underscores the necessity of appropriate state intervention in this domain to protect the family. Based on this premise, general considerations can be articulated both regarding the policy approach and the process of government policy implementation.

Family Empowerment

One of the core approaches is attention to family authority. Family agency in alignment with societal interests is considered essential for the state, and the prerequisite for this is the existence of strong and empowered families capable of managing the socialization of their members. A weak family that, for various reasons, struggles to fulfill its responsibilities and exercises limited control over its members, at best assumes a merely supportive role toward its members and a passive role toward society (6). By contrast, when the family institution enjoys strong authority, it becomes the primary source of norms as well as the moral and educational reference for its members. As a result, in addition to properly fulfilling its own roles, most norm-setting institutions can exert influence through the family channel, thereby reducing the impact of other potentially destructive sources.

From this perspective, family authority requires a form of supervision combined with support and care, rather than undue rigidity or injustice. The appropriate stance is facilitative rather than managerial. Accordingly, the state or government must ensure that implemented policies do not undermine family authority or disrupt familial functions. The responsibility for individual upbringing rests primarily with the family—especially men as heads of households—and if the state seeks to play a role, it should act as a supporter and advisor rather than a substitute. However, in practice, following the Islamic Revolution, the strong emphasis placed by the state on the family institution, coupled with families' perceptions that the Islamic government is the sole agent responsible for Islamizing society, led to the transfer of some inherent family responsibilities to the state. Consequently, the state assumed many intrinsic family functions, resulting in diminished parental attention to child upbringing and skill development, the transformation of the family into a primarily supportive institution, increased governmental costs, and the emergence of parallel and often ineffective structures in the family domain (12). Therefore, the appropriate approach in this field is state facilitation rather than direct administration.

Positioning the Family at the Core of Public Policies

Beyond policymaking specifically focused on the family, it is essential that macro-level and operational public and social policies also consider their impacts on the family sphere. According to the General Family Policies issued in 2016, the family should serve as the central axis of laws and regulations, programs, executive policies, and all educational, cultural, social, and economic systems, particularly housing and urban development systems (13). Achieving this objective requires structural reforms and systematic planning in public policymaking. A process must be established whereby policies, laws, and programs explicitly clarify their relationship with the family and clearly articulate which aspects of family life they affect.

Selecting Appropriate Policy Instruments

Although law is the exclusive and, in many respects, the most important instrument of the state, governments possess a range of tools to influence society and the economy (14). With the development of governance theories in policymaking literature, new capacities have emerged that emphasize activating civil and community institutions

rather than relying solely on rigid legal measures. This consideration is particularly important in family policymaking, given the unique characteristics of the family institution, and thus warrants serious attention (15).

Adopting a Systems Perspective in Policymaking

Another critical issue is that in the contemporary era—marked by interdependencies among various domains and the complexity and intertwinement of social issues—most problems stem from multiple and diverse causes. Therefore, simplistic and single-sector solutions should be avoided, and instead, comprehensive cultural, social, and economic perspectives should inform clearly articulated programs aimed at addressing family-related challenges (16).

Strategic Planning for Normative Institutions

While it is necessary for all institutions and organizations to consider the family in their policies and programs, state normative institutions require particular attention in this regard. Alongside religion and the family itself, the education system and the media system are among the most influential normative institutions. The education system can strengthen the family institution through curricula and educational content, as well as through cultural socialization of younger generations. Similarly, the media system has the capacity to present desirable models and institutionalize family values through both direct and indirect messages (17).

Given that significant components of these two systems are under state control, deliberate efforts and planning are required to produce or reproduce family-centered values in order to reinforce and consolidate the family foundation. However, observation of the current situation suggests that, beyond general statements, no coherent policy or strategy exists for the family institution within these systems. Not only do they fail to advance the ideal family model, but they also contribute to weakening it. At present, the education system promotes modern values—particularly among girls—rather than cultivating the younger generation based on a coherent family-centered value system. The national media system appears to follow a similar trajectory; although it occasionally addresses family issues in direct messaging, its indirect content—such as television series and advertisements—largely promotes modern lifestyles (18).

Strengthening Family Roles

Another overarching approach involves indirect support for the roles of women and men within the family, as the proper fulfillment of these roles leads to a healthy family and, consequently, to the well-being of the Islamic society. In this context, male headship and female roles of wifehood and motherhood are considered among the most fundamental family roles, and the state should design policies to facilitate their effective fulfillment (5). Economic stabilization, employment creation for household heads, enhancement of the status and social value of wifehood and motherhood, alongside increased awareness and improved attitudes toward these roles, constitute some of the most important programs that should be pursued by the state (19).

Barriers to Implementing the General Family Policies with an Emphasis on Women's Rights

The Family Policymaking Circle of the Growth Center has focused on the General Family Policies for one year. After extracting the themes and concepts of the General Family Policies and preparing an analytical report on the

actions taken in relation to these policies, the circle identified structural, legal, and cultural shortcomings in their implementation. Despite the inclusion of specific principles concerning women and several general principles within the General Family Policies, weaknesses and deficiencies exist in current laws as well as in executive and judicial practice. These include the following:

1. Barriers arising from gaps in the legal text or the use of concepts and terms that lead to divergent and contradictory interpretations.

2. After the victory of the Islamic Revolution, one of the problems in legislation—and even in the issuance of regulations—has often been haste in drafting and approving measures without obtaining thorough and expert opinions.

3. A category of laws has been drafted and enacted in accordance with jurisprudence, but due to the absence of adequate jurisprudential review and the lack of sufficient or complete information prior to the Revolution, they require revision.

4. A category of laws is based on jurisprudential fatwas and has followed the dominant (well-known) opinion, whereas in the same topics there are less well-known fatwas that, given contemporary exigencies, are more compatible with current issues. The Constitution, in its initial ruling regarding the Guardian Council, explicitly refers to the necessity that the Council's jurists be aware of the requirements of the time and contemporary issues in order to align laws with jurisprudential opinions.

5. Legal and executive gaps in areas where jurisprudence provides clear solutions—or where Islamic law has no negative stance—and where proposing solutions is not impossible and can be addressed through legal and sociological studies, including certain aspects of family rights.

6. Some laws and regulations lack a precise jurisprudential basis and are instead the product of the legislator's thinking and beliefs, or of customs and traditions that extract incorrect and undesirable habits into legal norms.

7. The absence of precise, coherent, and robust rulings regarding emerging and novel issues, combined with deferred rulings, incomplete implementation, or insufficient attention to the consequences and effects of issued rulings.

8. The lack of jurisprudential specialists within the executive apparatus of government and policymaking institutions.

9. The need to revise jurisprudential and legal definitions and terminology in accordance with contemporary needs and conditions.

10. Inadequate parliamentary oversight over the implementation of the country's Fourth Development Plan, including follow-up on deferred rulings, goals, and measures related to women's affairs, and evaluation of executive management performance.

11. The lack of strong enforcement guarantees for laws and the absence of unity of practice in their implementation.

12. Generalities and the absence of explicit, precise, and measurable indicators regarding women's rights in laws.

13. The classification and prioritization of women's problems does not follow a clear system, and in some instances efforts are directed toward amending legal provisions that do not meaningfully address women's principal problems.

14. The absence of a precise definition of "gender culture" in laws.

15. The lack of an exemplary judicial system for women who cannot file a lawsuit or complaint in their spouse's place of residence, and the necessity of creating legal representation mechanisms and specialized adjudicatory procedures to prevent violations of women's rights—highlighting, in turn, the need for specialized procedures for family courts (19).

16. The lack of appropriate security bases for women and the need for comprehensive support by the judiciary for deprived women and victims of violence.

17. Insufficient attention to arbitration in family courts and the need to revisit and reform arbitration-related laws.

18. Inadequate use of female specialists and the need to promote women across all judicial levels and to benefit from women's capacities in various parts of the judiciary, including the issuance and execution of rulings.

19. The existence of certain inappropriate and negligent attitudes in addressing women's issues, and the need for training and cultural change in judicial attitudes.

20. Limited access to legal aid services and the need to expand such services, particularly for female clients lacking sufficient financial means.

21. Lack of coordination and divergence of judicial rulings in family courts and the need to establish unity of practice to prevent discretionary decision-making, enhance the stability of judicial rulings, and ensure appropriate oversight.

22. Inadequate and non-specialized guidance and social work units in family courts given the volume of cases, and the need to expand counseling services—especially for female clients—and to enable access to specialized and experienced legal advisors by separating counseling offices for women and men (6).

23. The expansion of certain crimes in contemporary society without legal recognition and without the anticipation of appropriate punishments aimed at offender reform.

24. Women's insufficient familiarity with religious and legal rights.

25. Insufficient attention to the ethical dimensions of family life in legislation.

26. The absence of a clear criterion of public interest (maṣlaḥa) in governmental rulings.

Implementation Strategies for the General Family Policies with an Emphasis on Women's Rights

Goal 1: Realizing the Islamic perspective regarding the importance of the family's status, dignity, and functions within the Islamic system.

Strategies:

- Outlining a model of a balanced family and clarifying the model characteristics of the ideal family in Islam;
- Consolidating the family's doctrinal foundations and empowering it cognitively and ethically in order to guide it along the divine path and strengthen Islamic culture;
- Expanding public awareness of the family's importance and functions, including child upbringing and education, cultural transmission, and human capital development;
- Enhancing security and meeting the family's material and spiritual needs, and providing protection in cultural, psychological, economic, and social dimensions;
- Meeting children's material, spiritual, and emotional needs within the family to increase family members' sense of belonging to one another (2).

- Ensuring and improving women's mental, physical, and social health across different life stages, and providing necessary facilities and appropriate services at these stages (e.g., pregnancy, nutrition, type of work, child custody, etc.);
- Strengthening the personality and authentic status of women and men as parents and spouses, and emphasizing their essential role in human development and in raising a thriving generation within the family.

Executive Policies:

- Explaining the biological, educational, psychological, and emotional functions of the family as the most important context for societal cultural development through media and school textbooks;
- Honoring families of revolution "sacrifice" (e.g., martyrs, veterans, former prisoners) and meeting their material and spiritual needs;
- Introducing successful women as role models for society, while considering their success in motherhood and wifehood;
- Honoring and commemorating the family by designating specific days of the year to the family and introducing exemplary families (19).

Goal 2: Supporting the formation, consolidation, and transcendence of the family institution and preventing its dissolution and collapse.

Strategies:

- Facilitating marriage as a divine covenant, encouraging youth to form families, and explaining the role of chastity and self-restraint in individual and social health;
- Increasing couples' awareness of the role of healthy sexual relations in strengthening emotional bonds, enhancing vitality, and improving life satisfaction;
- Enhancing couples' awareness regarding marital rulings, family planning, mutual rights and duties, and softening legal relations through good character;
- Reforming women's patterns of participation and social, economic, and cultural roles in ways aligned with family roles and women's elevated values;
- Increasing young people's awareness of appropriate and religiously grounded spouse-selection criteria, moderating expectations, and reducing ceremonial burdens associated with marriage;
- Increasing couples' awareness regarding emotional exclusivity toward the lawful spouse and attending to one another's psychological and instinctive needs;
- Strengthening ethics, spirituality, and intimacy in the family to prevent ظلم (injustice) and the erosion of family foundations and to reinforce family stability;
- Empowering family members through necessary skill acquisition to meet essential family needs;
- Strengthening parents' constructive and guiding role in young people's marriage, preserving cultural compatibility between families, and reinforcing supportive roles toward children.

Executive Policies:

- Launching a nationwide movement for simplifying marriage, prioritizing a cultural approach and the participation of all promotional and cultural institutions;

- Educating and promoting a culture of chastity and ethical commitment to consolidate the family foundation and prevent social deviance;

- Expanding family education and counseling centers before and after marriage, and emphasizing the necessity of governmental support for these centers to provide affordable services;

- Evaluating and revising existing laws, drafting necessary supportive laws, and adopting appropriate measures to monitor proper implementation of laws to strengthen the family institution;

- Establishing and expanding guidance and counseling centers alongside family courts, and strengthening them through increased professional capacity of existing staff;

- Preventing and legally combating corruptive factors and strictly avoiding sexual stimulation of youth outside the framework of marriage;

- Providing necessary facilities for material and spiritual support of young families during education and military service (employment, job placement, housing provision, loans, and expansion of counseling centers) (17).

- Correcting social perceptions regarding the distribution of marriage-related economic burdens (dowry, wedding ceremonies, bride-price, and similar practices);

- Expanding genetic counseling centers and facilities for screening serious diseases, and conducting pre-marital medical tests in equipped laboratories to inform couples of their physical and psychological conditions;

- Establishing community-based organizations centered on scientific and religious institutions and actors, and utilizing women's participation within these organizations to support the family institution.

Goal 3: Enhancing the cultural level of family members to enable the family to perform its essential role in cultural development and societal reform.

Strategies:

- Explaining the religion-based systemic view of women's position in the family and emphasizing the enhancement of women's role in cultural development and in the consolidation and dynamism of the family and society;

- Strengthening coordination and expanding the quantity and quality of activities and outputs of all cultural institutions in order to improve the status and role of the family;

- Developing research on the family and its functions and disseminating findings to society, officials, and national planners;

- Increasing family awareness regarding the preservation of dignity of family members, especially in relation to guardianship, care, and livelihood provision for disabled and incapacitated parents;

- Promoting positive aspects of national and local customs related to the family to strengthen family and societal culture;

- Promoting a culture of simplicity and presenting appropriate consumption models within the family (20).

Executive Policies:

- Examining and identifying legal, economic, and cultural issues and problems of family members through comprehensive national research;

- Providing the necessary facilities to enable optimal use of family members' leisure time.

Goal Four: Organizing National Policies, Policy Lines, Laws, and Programs toward the Formation, Preservation, and Consolidation of the Sacred Family Institution

Strategies:

- Prioritizing the family as the most fundamental social institution and considering its interests in policymaking, legislation, and all planning processes that affect the family;
- Reforming the national education system with due attention to the shared and distinct characteristics and roles of women and men, and to the necessity of teaching essential skills for individual and social life, as well as enhancing the capacities of girls and boys in the roles of motherhood, fatherhood, and spousal partnership;
- Creating convergence and coordination across all policies and planning initiatives related to the family in order to improve the conditions for family formation, consolidation, and transcendence.

Executive Policies:

- Establishing an appropriate governmental structure aimed at family-oriented planning and at coordinating programs and policies of governmental agencies in matters related to the family;
- Defining evaluation indicators for policies and methods, and measuring progress based on the model of a balanced and exemplary family and a coherent, robust perspective on the family;
- Monitoring the performance of all institutions—especially visual media—with regard to culture-building in the establishment, dynamism, and sustainability of the family, and continuously assessing the alignment between policymaking and actual performance.

Goal Five: Reforming Public Attitudes and Eliminating Misconceptions Regarding the Rights and Duties of Family Members

Strategies:

- Expanding the participation of family members in decision-making processes and strengthening the spirit of responsibility, cooperation, and mutual assistance within the family;
- Enhancing public awareness of the social conditions and positions of each family member and emphasizing the necessity of flexibility in structures, activities, and roles to consolidate the family foundation.

Executive Policies:

- Developing and revising school textbooks, educational materials, and public education programs with the aim of teaching proper conduct, ethics, and the mutual rights and duties of family members.

Goal Six: Expanding and Deepening Authentic Islamic Culture within the Family to Raise a Healthy, Faithful, Responsible, and Effective Generation in the Development of the Self, the Family, and Society

Strategies:

- Guiding and encouraging couples to strengthen religious faith and Islamic culture, to become familiar with duties and proper conduct before pregnancy, during pregnancy, and with appropriate child-rearing methods across different developmental stages;

- Enhancing parents' awareness to ensure the fulfillment of children's rights in nutrition, physical and psychological health, scientific and cultural upbringing, and the enjoyment of fair and just parental treatment;
- Assisting parents in empowering and preparing children to assume and perform their future responsibilities in individual, familial, and social life (14).

Executive Policies:

- Creating coordination and strengthening connections between the family and educational and training institutions to enable families to better fulfill their responsibilities;
- Promoting the positive effects of women's appropriate social participation on family life, child upbringing, and household management;
- Monitoring the observance of justice among children and avoiding any form of gender-based discrimination.

Goal Seven: Safeguarding the Family from Social Harms and Crises and Supporting Families Affected by Harm

Strategies:

- Enhancing the awareness and capacities of family members regarding social and familial norms, deviance, and harms in order to enable appropriate responses to life's problems and crises;
- Protecting families and preventing their vulnerability through comprehensive efforts to combat all forms of social deviance and harm (such as addiction, divorce, runaway behavior, and similar issues);
- Adopting appropriate measures to support affected families and to reduce the damages resulting from familial and social crises;
- Taking appropriate measures to protect women against abuse by family members and against immoral and unlawful behaviors (21).

Executive Policies:

- Providing necessary education to girls and boys regarding spouse selection to ensure their physical and psychological well-being in life and to prevent social harms prior to marriage;
- Teaching families logical and practical methods for resolving problems before resorting to organizations and legal authorities;
- Drafting supportive legislation and extending comprehensive social insurance coverage to homemakers, widows, the elderly, female heads of household, and children without guardians;
- Providing economic support for homemakers by formally recognizing homemaking as an occupation in order to prevent potential harms;
- Meeting the material and spiritual needs of impoverished and unprotected families, particularly female-headed households;
- Confronting social offenders, corruption and prostitution networks, violators of public honor, and promoters of vulgar culture, with the aim of ensuring security and safeguarding the integrity of families.

Discussion and Conclusion

The implementation of family policies requires, on the one hand, appropriate budgeting, financial provision, credit allocation, and support from the national banking system, and on the other hand, the availability and empowerment

of human resources. Other economic factors affecting the implementation of family policies in the country include economic instability, inflation, economic recession, sanctions, and related conditions, all of which have had significant impacts on the livelihoods of families and on institutions associated with the family sector. Education, upbringing, and the development of families; improvement in the quality of the national education system; cultural cultivation; efforts to foster a sense of national cohesion, self-regulation, and avoidance of destructive individualism; and discourse formation are among the cultural factors linked to family policies.

Regarding policy conflicts—one of the legal factors influencing the implementation of family policies—it can be noted that while policies such as encouraging childbearing, granting breastfeeding leave to mothers, and covering childcare costs are intended to support families, in practice they exclude women who are not formally employed. This exclusion contradicts policies aimed at encouraging family formation, as mothers who are homemakers and therefore unable to participate in formal employment are deprived of these benefits. The appropriateness and suitability of policymaking instruments constitute another critical factor in family policies, referring to the effective use of modern technologies, relevant and efficient software, and sufficient diversity across related policy domains.

In summary, the state, as a managerial and political institution, is responsible for regulating social relations, maintaining order, administering justice, and ensuring public welfare. Accordingly, state intervention in the family sphere must be carried out with care and with due consideration of the distinctive characteristics of this institution. Family empowerment, placing the family at the center of public policies, selecting appropriate instruments to address challenges, adopting a systems-based approach to policymaking, engaging in precise planning for normative institutions, and strengthening family roles constitute the core components of family policymaking. Therefore, given the central importance of the family institution in societal structures, the state should prioritize a facilitative and supportive role rather than direct administration. Moreover, educational and media institutions must play an effective role in promoting family values and reinforcing the foundations of this institution.

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Authors' Contributions

All authors equally contributed to this study.

Declaration of Interest

The authors of this article declared no conflict of interest.

Ethical Considerations

All ethical principles were adhered in conducting and writing this article.

Transparency of Data

In accordance with the principles of transparency and open research, we declare that all data and materials used in this study are available upon request.

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