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Independent Study and Mentorship- 3A

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Fertility in Developing Countries

Assessment #13

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Sadeghi, Mohammad Reza. "Access to infertility services in Middle East." *Journal of*

Reproduction and Infertility, vol. 16, no. 4, 2015, p. 179. *Academic OneFile*,

<http://link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/A432894346/AONE?u=j043905010&sid=AONE>

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"Emphasis on fertility control in developing countries neglects the infertile." *Women's Health*

Weekly, 31 July 2003, p. 71. *General OneFile*,

<http://link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/A105872883/ITOF?u=j043905010&sid=ITOF&xid=e82bfc9>

d=e82bfc9.

Assessment:

Fertility treatments have changed the face of infertility in the United States. With treatments such as IUI and IVF available, more and more couples are able to put off dreams of becoming parents to later on in life. The problem with these treatments is that the steep price and lack of insurance coverage does not make procedures like IUI and IVF accessible to everyone.

This is also the case with many developing countries who are beginning to have more and more IVF clinics appear.

Iran is considered a developing country, which means that the initial thought would be that fertility treatments are still developing there as well. However, it has been shown that the development of IVF clinics in the Middle East is much faster than the rest of the world. This is rightfully so, for fertility issues tend to be more prevalent in those countries. With medical assistance still not meeting that of North America, certain infertility issues still persist in some more developing countries in the Middle East. This fact is not very shocking at all because Middle Eastern individuals have been revolutionary to the field of science and medicine. I was, however, shocked to learn that many muslim individuals go through fertility treatments. From past experience I have seen many Christians who do not complete fertility treatments, for they believe it was God's will to not give them children. I assumed this was also the case for Muslims, but like Christianity, there are individuals who differ from the stereotypical norm. In terms of my research, these facts make me curious into conducting more research into the childbearing patterns of different religions rather than ethnicities. I am intrigued by how many people of these religions will stick to their beliefs of differ.

Another fact that I did not know is that many individuals travel for fertility treatments. Therefore, even in the United States, couples can travel across the globe to areas who perform treatments for much cheaper. For example, there are places in the Middle East that have fertility treatments for around \$2,000, as supposed to \$20,000 in North American clinics and doctors' offices. Time is also not on the side of many traditional couples, for a late start to childhood may make these treatments less likely to work and be effective. Furthermore, many couples pursue

traditional treatments that are not scientifically proven to be effective. While I have seen women who have benefited from alternative forms of medicine, such as acupuncture, this is not the case for every approach. However, I do find it interesting that traditional medical practices with little scientific bearing have found their way into American culture. Even the richest individuals are initially trying practices like acupuncture before shelling out thousands on IVF and IUI.

Acupuncture initially started out as a Chinese healing method for all over the body. Many people have claimed that this practice helps with infertility, which means that the needling has made its way into popular culture and is drawing people from all faiths and ethnicities. This is another factor that will be useful in my original work survey, for I may ask two separate questions about the types of fertility treatments those individuals have pursued, which does not have to be in the doctor's office.

Ethnicity has a large influence on childbearing patterns for women. However, within certain ethnicities there are those who have different beliefs and faiths. This fact was something I had never considered before and did not consider the impact of. Fortunately, I have found a new factor to include in my original work and further research once I have received my survey results. More factors are only beneficial for my study because they increase the explanation for certain results.