

Beijing +15

*The National Report of Improvements of
Women's Status in Islamic Republic of Iran
From NGO Perspective*

شابک : ۹۷۸-۶۰۰-۵۲۸۲-۴۵-۰	شماره کتابشناسی ملی : ۴۵۷۰۶۴۲
عنوان و پدیدآور : Beijing +15: the National Report of Improvements of Women's Status in Islamic Republic of Iran From NGO Perspective/ prepared by Communications Network of Women's NGOs (CNWN), Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV).	
Tehran: Research Institute of Strategic Studies (RISS) , 1390= 2011.	مشخصات نشر :
علوم اجتماعی ۱	فروست :
انگلیسی.	یادداشت :
بیجینگ +۱۵...	آوانویسی عنوان :
شبکه ارتباطی سازمانهای غیردولتی زنان جمهوری اسلامی ایران	موضوع :
زنان -- ایران -- وضع سیاسی و اجتماعی	موضوع :
حقوق زن -- ایران	موضوع :
۳۰۵/۴۰۹۵۵	رده‌بندی دیویی :
HQ۱۷۳۵/۲/ب۲ش۹ ۱۳۹۰	رده‌بندی کنگره :
شبکه ارتباطی سازمانهای غیردولتی زنان جمهوری اسلامی ایران	سرشناسه :
Communications Network of Women NGO's I.R.IRAN	شناسه افزوده :
سازمان دفاع از قربانیان خشونت	شناسه افزوده :
Organization for Defending Victims of Violence	شناسه افزوده :
پژوهشکده مطالعات راهبردی	شناسه افزوده :
Research Institute of Strategic Studies	شناسه افزوده :
فیفا	وضعیت فهرست نویسی :

Beijing +15

The National Report of Improvements of Women's Status in Islamic Republic of Iran From NGO Perspective

- Prepared by: Communications Network of Women's NGOs (CNWN), Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV)
- Publisher: Research Institute of Strategic Studies (RISS)
- Price: 60000 Rials or 12\$.
- Pages: 280.
- First Edition, Tehran, 2011/3000 Copies
- ISBN: 978-600-5282-45-0
- Email: info@risstudies.org
- Address: RISS: No. 7 - Roudsar Street - South Aban Ave. CNWN: 4th Floor – No. 9 Shenasa Street – Valiasr Ave. ODVV: No. 1 Mirsarabi Ave. – North Palestine St. – Keshavarz Blvd. – Tehran – Iran

No part of this book may be reproduced or utilized in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and recording, or by any information storage retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher.

این کتاب با همکاری معاونت فرهنگی وزارت فرهنگ و ارشاد اسلامی چاپ شده است.

Contents

• Forward	i
• Introduction	1
Chapter1: - Women and Poverty	7
• Values supervisory Topic:	9
• Introduction & Background	11
• Current Situation and Achievements	12
• Destitute support institutions	13
• Developing income resources	14
• Provision of financial self-sufficiency	15
• Poverty Gender Indicators	16
• Housing situation	18
• Poverty Research	21
• Government's Actions	22
• Women NGOs Activities	23
• CNWNA activities	25
• Fourth National Development Plan	25
• Obstacles and Challenges	26
• Recommendation to Government	27
• First nongovernmental development plan of the country	28
• Recommendation to Women's NGOs	28
• Conclusion	29
Chapter2 - Education and Training of Women	33
• Introduction & Background	36
• Current Situation and Achievements	37
• Government's Actions	44
• Activities of Women's NGOs	45
• CNWN Activities	46

•	Fourth National Development Plan	47
•	Challenges and Constraints	47
•	Recommendation to Government	48
•	Recommendation to Women's NGOs	49
•	Conclusion	50
Chapter 3 - Women and Health		57
•	Introduction	60
•	Current Situation and Achievements	62
•	Development of Health Services	63
•	Participation of Non-governmental Organizations	65
•	Strengthen Preventive Programs	68
•	Government's Actions	68
•	Women NGOs Activities	69
•	CNWN Activities	71
•	Fourth National Development Plan	71
•	Recommendation to the Government	73
•	Recommendation to Women NGOs	75
•	Conclusion	75
Chapter 4 - Violence against Women		79
•	Introduction	83
•	Current Situation and Achievements	84
•	Eliminate Trafficking in Women	89
•	Government's Actions	89
•	Women's NGOs Activities	90
•	CNWN Activities	91
•	Recommendation to the Government	92
•	The first nongovernmental national development plan	93
•	Recommendation to Women NGOs	93
•	Conclusion	94
Chapter 5 - Women and Armed Conflict		95
•	Introduction	99
•	Charter of Women's Rights and Responsibilities	100

•	Current Situation and Achievements	100
•	Women handicapped in War	101
•	Drug Trafficking	102
•	Refugees women and children support associations	103
•	Landmines	104
•	Nuclear Activities	105
•	Law on Defending Children and Adolescences	106
•	Refugee Women	106
•	Government's Actions	110
•	Women's NGO Activities	111
•	CNWN Activities	112
•	Fourth National Development Plan	112
•	Recommendation to the Government	114
•	The first nongovernmental national development plan	115
•	Recommendation to NGOs	116
•	Conclusion	116
	Chapter 6 - Women and the Economy:	119
•	Introduction	122
•	Current Situation and Achievements	124
•	Prohibition of hard and harmful labor for women	125
•	Work safety procedures	125
•	Provisions of services for urban and rural women	126
•	Female inheritance of moveable property	127
•	Activity Rate	127
•	Government's Actions	130
•	Women NGO's Activities	131
•	Fourth National Development Plans	132
•	Recommendation to the Government	134
•	First nongovernmental national development plan	135
•	Recommendation to Women's NGOs	137
•	Conclusion	138
	Chapter7 - Women in Power and Decision-Making	145
•	Introduction	148

•	Current situation and Achievements	150
•	Non-governmental organizations	151
•	Government's Actions	153
•	Women NGOs Activities	154
•	CNWN Activities	155
•	Recommendation to Government	157
•	First nongovernmental national development plan	158
•	Recommendation to Women's NGOs	159
•	Conclusion	159

Chapter 8 - Institutional Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women	163
• Introduction	166
• Current Situation and Achievements	167
• Women's economic rights	171
• Gender Disaggregated Data	172
• Government's Actions	172
• Women's NGOs Activities	174
• CNWN Activities	175
• Recommendation to the Government	178
• First nongovernmental national development plan	180
• Recommendation to Women's NGOs	184
• Conclusion	184

Chapter 9 - Women and Human Rights	187
• Introduction &Background	191
• Current Conditions and Achievements	192
• Human rights among religious minorities	197
• Government’s Actions	198
• Women NGOs Activities	199
• CNWN Activities	201
• Recommendation to Government	204
• First nongovernmental national development plan	204
• Recommendation to Women’s NGOs	205
• Conclusion	206

Chapter 10 - Women and the Media	207
• Introduction& Background	210
• Current Situation and Achievements	212
• Production Rate for Women in Broadcast Organization	213
• Education and Women in press	214
• Classification of Women's Publications	216
• Women in publishing books	219
• Women in Websites	220
• Image of Women in Radio and Television	221
• Government's Actions	223
• Women NGO's Activities	224
• CNWN Activities	227
• Recommendation to the Government	228
• Recommendation to NGOs	230
• Conclusion	231
Chapter 11 - Women and the Environment	233
• Introduction &Background	236
• The Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran	237
• Article 50	237
• Current Situation and Achievements	237
• Strategies of Sustainable Development	239
• Changing Consumption Patterns	240
• Government's Actions	243
• Women NGO's Activities	244
• CNWN Activities	245
• Fourth National Development Plan	245
• Recommendation to the Government	246
• Recommendation to NGOs	247
• Conclusion	248
Chapter 12 - The Child Girl	249
• Introduction &Background	252
• The Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran	252
• Current Situation and Achievements	253

•	NGOs participation	255
•	Government's Actions	257
•	Women NGO's Activities	258
•	CNWN Activities	259
•	Fourth National Development Plan	259
•	Recommendation to the Government	260
•	Recommendation to Women NGO's	262
•	Conclusion	263

Foreword

We send the most deserved salutations to the high and holy minds of three women in history.

We revere Yukabeh, mother of Moses, Mary mother of Jesus Christ, and Fatima Zahra, the daughter of Mohammad Mostafa (PBUH) the final messenger of God, who guided women towards monotheism, intellectualism, peace, justice and the rearing of a healthy generation. We revere the truth of all Abrahamic religions all of which urge their followers to being good and observe human dignity. We revere Islam which is the youngest divine religion of the world and it's truth is two things, not to oppress and not to be oppressed, and who is there that does not know that in order not to oppress there is need for culture and human upbringing, and for not to be oppressed there is a need for social law and order; and who is there that does not know all these are possible in a peaceful and safe environment. Peace gives a chance for everyone to be calm and justice gives a chance for development, and justice is the prerequisite of the lives of human beings, so that life's blessings are not in the hands of a few alone, and the deprivation and inequality of others, and as history shows, the most deprived of societies are made up of women.

Now and in this time with a justice seeking perspective we turn the painful whimpers of women to loud voices and say: the only way to solve women's problems and deprivation that they are faced with today through nothing else but justice. The demand for justice by women of the world is indicative of women's intelligence and endeavour of women, family and in a world that they live in, and we must know that in the ambience of the realisation of justice, the right to equality is from the human aspect of women, stresses on their right to all opportunities which is in the human dignity of women. It is in the shadows of justice that the "right to be different" arises from women's identity and the necessity for of them to from particular concessions in the developments of human emotions and nobility in preserving the survival of the family and society. It is here that women must not be brought down to the level of being equal to men, and not to deprive them of the "right to be different".

Although women of the world have made accomplishments in education, health and social participation particularly in so-called developed countries, through a series of universal documents and

conventions, nevertheless they still suffer from discrimination, poverty, violence and abuse, armed conflicts, and women get further distant from having justice. It must be said that serious but forgotten concerns such as ignoring her human dignity and honour the growing sex trade, trafficking in women and girls, victimised by greed and poverty still exist which have come under 12 worrying headings by the international community which not only indicates the existence of a deep growing wound within half the world's population but also the body of humanity itself.

The ignoring of the family as the best unit for human birth, rearing, health and development, is the neglect of a world from the "women's right to be different" as a serious but forgotten right.

Today there are many people that have access to international documents, which without any logical or scientific evidence, want to take away women's identity. It's as though having to be indebted to men to receive just services from society. "The right to be different" is an important heading in women's rights which the society must have the ability and capacity to benefit from women and without taking away from them being a woman.

Naturally transparency, continence and dignity of women are neglected in human rights, because women inherently praise their high status and if this God given dimension is threatened by violations and indignity for the enjoyment of men, particularly media violations.

Today we happily witness in the world that the extremist feminists of yesteryear who were extreme in their demand for equality between men and women, and against the family, and they saw the realisation of women's rights through the realisation of these two ideals, have themselves become more moderate and through experiences and realities they have realised that "feminine identity" and the "family unit" cannot be rejected for the realisation of women's rights.

The Network of Women NGOs and the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV) as two institutions active in women's and human rights, according to their objectives and understanding of the society's necessities have undertaken to publish this book as a joint venture.

We hope that this book will be effective towards the realisation of women's rightful rights.

And finally it is necessary to thank all the researchers who assisted in the preparation and compilation of this book, particularly Dr. Ezzat-

ol-Sadad Mir Khani, Shahla Monfared, Sadr-e-dine Balaadi Mousavi for their scientific input, and for translation and re-editing Mr. Haroot Azarian.

We would also like to thank the Office of the Presidency's Centre for Women and Family Affairs for their support. And a special thanks to Ms. Maryam Mojtahedzadeh, Advisor to the President on Women and Family Affairs.

Introduction

The National Report of Improvement of Women's Status in the Islamic Republic of Iran, from NGO perspective, is open to the world when monopoly of world's powers and development of neo-conservatism has subjected women's role and status to new challenges and crisis.

This is while, insecurity, crisis of globalization of neo-liberalism, war and military movements have overshadowed the neighboring countries and US and other countries threats against our country is increasing through mass media.

Monopolized authoritarianism has started its extensive efforts through war, military and political threats, economic sanctions and diverting global public opinion to endanger the achievements of the Islamic World.

So, the only dialogue and reasonable voice that can ensure achievement of sustainable development, peace and global justice is doomed to silence among all the new war weapons. This represents the necessity that the Plan of Religious democracy, which is the peaceful plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran in international arena, to cross over geographical boundaries and reach to other levels and knowledge fields.

The national report of the Network of women's NGOs, in the Beijing +15 Conference 1995 is not only a report but is a mutual dialogue and understanding with the women all over the world regarding knowledge. Focusing on twelve concerns, it builds the basis of this mutual dialogue according to agreements made in the Beijing Platform of Action. However, the universal view of the document, since it is reflecting the global agreements has remained at minimum level and while it is comprehensive but not incompatible, considering the fact that there are still issues that have not been discussed in this document. The issues that have not been reflected, from eastern women's point of view, especially Iranian women (Global Women's Movement) means ignoring moral values and measurable outputs.

Women of the world, especially women in transitional societies have suffered a lot which is as a result of contradictions among individual, family and social roles but the outputs of this situation not only creates exclusively instability in daily life and relations but also confrontation

of multiple identities on one hand and cultural contrasts resulting from globalization have created new crisis for women where the only means to escape from it is through observing moralities and believing in religion.

We strongly insist that stabilization of multiple identities and addressing the serious damages of the recent crisis coming from economic and cultural globalization can come be realized through efforts inspired by the law of “Unity in Diversity” that is the natural divine law. Cultural diversity needs independent identity to communicate with differences but remain a defined identity. In this case the motto of think global, act local will come true.

Iranian women’s experience in the recent years can prove the observation of “Unity in Diversity”. During the last decades, active participation of Iranian women in Islamic Revolution in 1979 caused many changes in the geopolitical situation of the Islamic World and resulted in new action in creating links among multiple individual, social and cultural roles. Also, the heroic success of Iranian women in the “experience of 8 years of imposed war”¹ was another historical catalyst that reinforced the identity of Iranian women. In all these successes the Iranian women proved that they can involve religion and observe religious command in all social arenas and moral unity has always been the core of their diverse activities and they have also applied it in their daily lives and created new acts and its effects (sediment) can be traced in the amendments made to the laws, political, economic and social roles.

The national report of CNWN in the Beijing +15 conference is a tool to present achievements, measures of the governments and NGOs, challenges and constraints during the last few years while, as mentioned above, crisis situation has been dominating the religion. The crisis situations have influenced women’s achievements in religion but at the same time provide opportunities for reinforcement

1. This war started by the order of Saddam and stimulation and support of the US in the southern and western borders of Iran and continued for 8 years and approximately three hundred thousand Iranians were martyred and handicapped and six thousand women were martyred.

and survival of social movements and innovations and creativities to give a new breath of life to Global Women's Movement.

This report has been provided by the effort of CNWN members, experts, and women's society activists. There are different tile frameworks and all have reasonable links and relations with each other.

These chapters include: the criteria taken into consideration in the content, introduction (including background, Constitution, twenty-year vision, women's charter), present condition and achievements, Government's actions, recommendation to the NGOs and conclusion.

Summary Definition of Each Chapter:

Criteria of the content: one of the main elements in development programs is defining the values and criteria where visions originate and consist the spirit of the program. Allocating the first chapter to values and criteria has been due to this approach. Considering the fact that the Iranian society is a religious one and the governing system is based on Islamic governance and leadership of sanctity of Jurisprudence, the dominating values and criteria are inspired by God's Words (the Holy Quran), tradition, approaches Infallibles and contemporary building in the crystallization and theology of late revolutionary leader Ayatollah Khomeini and the revolution leader Ayatollah Khamenei is the Prophet. Defining these values and criteria is to compare the existing situation with the ideal situation.

Introduction: introduction explains and demonstrates the historical and legal changes. This is the reason that in the background the historical base and cultural issues are discussed. The Constitution represents the general efforts of the leaders of the country to achieve the objectives and twenty-year vision which was prepared and defined by Supreme Leader of the Revolution and is the final goal to reach. The Women's Rights Charter, shows the general model of improvements in women's status in all arenas.

Present Conditions and Achievements: this part is the narrative report and is based on extensive research of the groups that has prepared the following report.

Access to real and documented inputs have not been easy by NGOs, especially where weakness of data banks makes information and input collection a real challenge.

So, the research team consisted of individuals who have been involved in the issue and dominating it. This part was to show the outputs of government and NGOs' actions and is define based on (quantitative or qualitative) statistics or activities undertaken.

Government's Actions: this part is a summary of the activities of different governmental bodies who have reported or the information has been collected through observations and interview with governmental authorities. It is worth mentioning that most of the activities are based on development plans of the country but the research group has divided them to twelve pivots.

NGOs Activities: This analysis resulted questionnaires distributed to all NGOs active in the field of women started in the number of women carrying the number thousand around the country. These activities have been analyzed according to twelve pivots of the report and finally categorized into five groups according to institutional activities: capacity building, services, resource mobilization, advocacy and communication and are presented in diagrams.

CNWN activities: the activities of CNWN, although is at general and infrastructure level, are analyzed and organized according to twelve concepts.

Fourth National Development Plan: every 5 years, the government prepares a four year national plan in which women's issues and programs have also been taken into consideration. The topics of the fourth national development plan are addressed according to the twelve topics of the report.

Challenges and Constraints: includes problems that still exist although there have been development measures to address it and the recommendations are based on these challenges and constraints.

Recommendation to the Government and NGOs: these recommendations are based on strategic plans of Beijing Platform of Action, presence of achievements and government and NGOs' activities, and the gap between the existing situation and the ideal situation (vision of the Constitution and with Islamic orientation) and fourth development plan of the country.

Conclusion: is a summary definition of the gaps between achievements, government and NGOs' measures based on provisions of Beijing Platform of Action.

Reasonable relation of the chapters:

The formula has been generated based on the difference of inputs (achievements) and outputs (measures/activities): achievements-measures/activities= challenges and constraints.

The recommendations to the Government and NGOs are based on difference of the expectations (vision and fourth national development plan) with challenges and constraints: vision and fourth national development plan – Challenges = Recommendations

Finally we should thank all those involved in preparing the report, and it should be stated that this report, sure, has shortcomings and there will be efforts to revise the printed report, which will be available soon, both in Farsi and English.

CHAPTER ONE

Women and Poverty

Values supervisory Topic

The Islamic economic system, has a complete wise and supportive view of women, in such way that in its provisions, the legislator has foreseen financial support has prevented women from receiving hardships and being subjected to abuse in many societies. In addition to the principle of the independence and respect for personal property, which says:

الناس مسلطون على أموالهم which means the people can independently make decisions about personal possessions and property of women in the 14th century have made and says:

لِلرِّجَالِ نَصِيبٌ مِّمَّا اكْتَسَبُوا وَلِلنِّسَاءِ نَصِيبٌ مِّمَّا اكْتَسَبْنَ

the first principle is that what people are women and what men have own independence and wealth in various tangible immovable property, and there is never any discrimination in trade, rent, amicable settlement, dormant partnership, various investment, business contracts between men and women.

Islamic law the main problem is that in addition to independent ownership, the transition to another type of ownership has prescribed for women in any legal system, the amount of financial support and it is seen that due to his wife and mother of several financial interest many are entitled. For example, when married women without any commitment to pay is accepted, but the commitment to the marriage with a man is giving dowry. Based on the Quran says of compulsory rights of men to women is dowry payment in this case, the Quran says:

وَأَتُوا النِّسَاءَ صَدُقَاتِهِنَّ نِحْلَةً which means: “And give women their dowries as free gifts, but if they of themselves be pleased to give up to you a portion of it, then eat it with enjoyment and with wholesome result.”

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: “God forgives all sins, but the sin of nonpayment of dowry to the woman.” What’s more important is that in the agreement on the amount of the dowry, the satisfaction and the status of the woman is a condition.

Another financial support issue is the women’s alimony issue, and the Holy Koran not only makes it mandatory for men to provide, but it also sets conditions on its limit being proportionate and logical, to an extent that the hiring of a servant for the wife in proportion to her

status is necessary and the right to provide housing for her is also deemed as protective rights. Instances like this shows that Islam vigorously prevents the preparation the basis for women's poverty, while it also prevents them from becoming tools for the profiteering capitalists. While Will Durant deems the right of ownership in the west as the backing of the support of capitalists, Islam sets a number of measures to ensure the prevention of the woman becoming a tool and to prevent things such as poverty.

In addition to the duties while the government's support of orphans and poor supervision of the financial aspects are the problem. Is that part of the money the government funding has been allocated to women, such as a woman with missing husband and has financial problems. On the other hand through NGOs such as dedication, Nizr, charity, Zakat and spend, fields provides for a serious fight poverty.

Imam Khomeini

- I don't think there is a worship higher than serving the deprived (men or women).
- Iranian women have both humanly and financially endeavoured greatly. Women have come forward and handed in their jewelry and cash, many of them came forward and gave up all their lives savings, and gave them to the impoverished and deprived, so that homes are built for them.

Ayatollah Khamenei

One of the main objectives of the revolution is to tend to the deprived and impoverished (men and women) to eliminate their problems.

Introduction

Background

The fight against the poverty phenomenon is the oldest challenges of the religious, social and economic experts of Iran and the world. One of the main characteristics of the religious outlines has been addressing the problems of poor and needy. Therefore, eradication of poverty has been among one of the main responsibilities of citizens and the Islamic public and people have always felt responsible towards this.

The existence of interest-free loan accounts is one of the most traditional Islamic banking systems in Iran and the Islamic world, which were established to fill in the economic gaps between the rich and the poor. Bribing and bribe is considered among the ugliest deeds of the human world which deepens the economic gaps and is a sin and those people involved in this bribing are hated by the public.

Principle of consideration for the poor has been among the shop owners and traders of this country since very long ago. They have always been willing to fight against poverty and also to support vulnerable groups of women and children.

Helping the poor has been among the first and oldest responsibilities of traditional funding and charities. The Non-governmental organizations have also based their activities on the experiences of these charities and funding.

From that time women have played a key role in the management of these charity organizations through congregations in religious groups. The victory of the Islamic Revolution caused the attention towards the poor and the needy to be placed in one of the main focal points of the governmental policies; and attention and support was especially made towards women and children.

On numerous occasions the great leader of the Revolution, Imam Khomeini said that the Revolution belonged to the barefooted and the poor, and repeatedly warned the authorities towards tending to the needy and avoiding the accumulation of wealth.

The Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Article 3 (9) The abolition of all forms of undesirable discrimination and the provision of equitable opportunities for all, in both the material and intellectual spheres.

Article 21 (4) The provision of special insurance for widows, and aged women and women without support.

20-year perspective of the country:

Iran will have a healthy society with welfare enjoying food security, social security, equal opportunities, proper distribution of income, family stability, free of poverty, corruption and discrimination and having a pleasant living environment.

Charter of Women's Rights and Responsibilities

- Right to benefit from social security and economic facilities. (Article 108 from Section Three)
- Right of women and girls to enjoy necessary support in case of poverty, divorce, disability, absence of guardian or unqualified guardian, and preparing facilities for their rehabilitation and self- sufficiency. (Article 97 from Section Three)
- Right to enjoy social justice in enforcement of law regardless of gender. (Article 6 from Section One)
- Right to enjoy family facilities, without discrimination between boys and girls. (Article 18 from Section Two)

Current Situation and Achievements

A.1 REVIEW, ADOPT AND MAINTAIN MACROECONOMIC POLICIES AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES THAT ADDRESS THE NEEDS AND EFFORTS OF WOMEN IN POVERTY

Creating Jobs

Gender discrimination and unequal opportunities for women in having access to general training, employment and income and public health are among the factors that cause more poverty among women.

As observed in table 1, the activity rate in the country has increased from 35 percent in 1996 to 40 percent in 2009. This increase for women has been from 9 to 17 percent has been very noticeable. But

the most important point is that the rate of employment among women has decreased in the above period, despite the increase in their activities. According to statistics, from 1996 to 2009, the employment rate has dropped by 1.5 percent. This proportion was 0.5 percent for men and 2.8 percent for women. In other words, the rate of unemployment for women has been 14 percent in 1996 whereas it is 17 percent in 2009.

The main purpose of the rise in unemployment is due to the large active population of the country. In 1996, those who had been born after the Revolution had not yet reached the legal age of 15; therefore the rate of unemployment was 9 percent but in the years 2001 to 2004 the rate of unemployment was more than the rate in 1996 even though the job opportunities had doubled. But the important point here is the 3 percent drop in the unemployment rate from 2001 to 2009, despite the rapid growth of the working age population, and this drop is evident in both sexes, in such way that the women's unemployment rate was reduced from 20 percent in 2001 to approximately 17 percent in 2009, and the men's from 13 to 10 percent.

The main reason for the high unemployment rate among women is due to the high number of highly educated women, and their keenness to find work, because women with high university qualifications in view of the high costs that they have paid, try harder to find work.

Although it must be said that the government's campaigns for the reduction of the unemployment rate has not been limited to men only and women have also been included, but due to the fact that women face some employment restrictions with regards to arduous work or in industrial areas that are far away from their homes. This problem has resulted in unemployment being high among women, Lack of jobs for unemployed women increases their social problems and spreads poverty among them.

Destitute support institutions

Right from the outset of the victory of the Islamic Revolution the necessity for the protection of the needy and destitute has been a particular interest in the Islamic Republic of Iran, and institutions such as the Imam Khomeini Relief Committee were set up in support of the

poor with an emphasis on the preservation of the dignity and value of the family.

On this basis in 1992, approximately 962,000 households with disabled or old heads of household went under support on a full-time basis, approximately half of which (425,000) had women heads of household. The amount of income supplement paid to families with disabled or old heads of household in 1992 was 283103 million rials, and the figure for women's heads of household was 95999 million rials.

In 2002, the number of the number of households under support increased by 50% reaching approximately to 1.5 million people, again half of which having women heads of households. The amount of income supplement to these households in the same year was 3051109 million Rials which has increased by approximately 11 times in comparison to 2002.

(Table 2)

Despite education being free in Iran, some people still need cash support, and in the school year 2002-2003, over one million students were given support, 48.5 percent of which were girls. With the drop in the number of schoolchildren in the 2007-08 school year due to the drop in the population growth the number of supported schoolchildren has dropped down to 800,000, half of which are girls. (Table 3)

Also the number of those being supported by the government to enter university or religious schools has increased over the recent years, in such way that it has increased from 4000 in 2001-02, to 20000 in 2002-03, to 70,000 in 2007-08. (Table 3)

The significant point is the number of female students being covered has been 16 percent in 1992-3 and 47 percent in 1996-7 and 56 percent in 2002-3 which shows a remarkable increase among girls attending university and religious schools.

Developing income resources

In the recent years, billions of Rials of loans has been given to individuals and workshop owners in various fields such as agriculture for the employment of the unemployed and the economic development of the country. For example, the loans given to the vulnerable rural women heads of households is as follows:

According to an Agricultural Bank project with the cooperation of Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation, a loan will be given to rural women headed households to work in agricultural, husbandry, carpet weaving, jajim (rug) weaving, sewing and embroidering and handicrafts and etc. and on this basis over 20,000 women heads of household were given 57 billion rials in loads between 1998 to 2007. In 2007, approximately 8 billion rials were paid to 944 rural women heads of households in loans. (Table 4)

Provision of financial self-sufficiency

Throughout Iran loans have been allocated to keep companies and production companies and natural persons, which the Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation gives to individuals that need it under the title of Self-sufficiency loans or opportunities. The main goal of these facilities is to create self-sufficiency attitude and the increased interest to work and non-reliance on others. In 2002, 165162 households with the population of 772244 individuals were covered by self-sufficiency programs. The number of these households is double the amount it was in. Out of 165162 families, 51733 families were women headed households. The years 2003 to 2007 over 31 thousand households received the facilities covered by self-sufficiency (20 thousand households) or semi-self-sufficient and have to take out pension (11 thousand households). (Table 6)

Employment Facilities

In the Islamic Republic of Iran, in the governmental and private sectors, there are centers for technical trainings and also job finding. Unemployed people refer to these centers and get the necessary training or find a job. By providing the poor with training, the Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation helps these people to become self-employed.

In 2008, more than 63000 individuals were given technical and skills 40 percent of which were women. The number of those being trained in 2007 was 18 times more than those in 1998. Also in 2007, more than 10000 poor people were introduced for job seeking out of which more than 52 percent were women. (Table 6)

Access to Housing

Institutions supporting the poor and needy such as Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation identify the poor women and cover them. As mentioned in table 6, in 2005, 57,000 needy women received technical and job skills trainings and the number is 20 times more than in 1998. Also in 2007, 5520 women received job opportunities.

The provision of housing as a shelter and safe place is one of the most important concerns of the human societies. This concern is unobtainable for the poor and needy. In the Islamic Republic of Iran, Housing Foundation and Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation are active in this field.

For example, in 2007, 555 billion Rials was spent for construction, repair and purchase of housing units for the deprived that included families with women heads of household. For this purpose, 340 billion Rials have been spent to build 11691 units of houses and 164 billion Rials was spent for repairing 38854 houses. The amount spent for the housing for needed people has been 3.6 times more in 2007 compared to the year 2002.

Poverty Gender Indicators

In order to study the Beijing Conference poverty related indicators, in this section we shall attempt to compare some of the indicators in 1993 and 2002. Since the number of women heads of household is very few but because they make up half of the society and are a good sample of poverty, therefore the indicators can be effective on them too.

The data provided by the Statistics Center of Iran for the expenses and income of households has been used in this section. The indicators for the households and families that have the least expenses have been compared in 10 groups. According to table 6, the average number of households in urban areas in 2007 has been 3.9 individuals and this ratio in the households with the lowest group of expenses has been 2.3 individuals. This ratio has been 4.5 and 2 individuals in succession for rural households. The urban households with the lowest expenses group in the years 1993 to 2002 on average from 0.5 to 0.6 individuals were employed. The rural households with the lowest expenses group the average number individuals being 2.8 in 1993, only 0.7 individuals

were employed which in 2002 dropped down to 0.5 and in 2007 down to 0.3 individuals. In other words, in 1993, 2002, and 2007, between 45 to 67 percent of the households with the lowest expenses, no individuals were employed in.

Indicators show that the number of employed people in sample households in urban and rural households and households with total there minimum cost (which are the poorest people of society) is partially reduced.

Literacy among impoverished families

In 1993, 3.4 Individuals were educated out of 4.9 individuals living in urban households. Only one individual was literate in households with the minimum income with 2.2 family members. Although in 2003 the number of households decreased to 4.4 individuals per family, the number of 3.4 of educated individuals remained the same. But in rural areas, the average of educated individuals in the household was 2.9 out of 5.5 individuals in 1993. In 2002, this ratio was 3.4 out of 4.4 individuals and in the households with minimum income the number has been 0.7 out of 2.2.

Household size in 2007 with 3.9 in urban areas 3.1 people were literate compared to the lowest cost group, respectively, 2.3 and 1.3 of people. Household size in rural areas with 5 / 4 people on average every household 3 people are literate compared to the lowest cost group, respectively, has been 3 and 0.6 people.

In the years 1993 and 2007, 53, 41 and 43 percent of urban households set as sample and 58 and 73 percent of rural families taken, as sample with minimum income had no educated one in the family.

Women heads of household

In 1993 more than 80 percent of urban heads of household of the sample community were employed. This figure has been 36 percent among the families with minimum income.

From all the households only 12 percent received non-work income, the ratio of which to households with the lowest costs was approximately 31 percent. The ratio of employed individuals in households with minimum income in 2002 increased to 46 percent

from 36 percent in 1993. The ratio of individuals with non-work income increased from 31 to 37 percent. This ratio for rural families has been 51 and 26 percent respectively in 1993 and 33 and 55 percent in 2002. In 2007, the ratio of the employed among all the households is less, but the ratio of individuals with non-work income has increased, in such way that that in 2007 72.4 percent of rural households were in employment and 23 percent had non-work incomes. This ratio for rural areas, respectively is 79.3 and 16.5 percent. The important point is the noticeable increase in the number of those that receive pensions, and those that receive non-work income in the households are in the first group of costs. In 2007 over 50 percent of urban households and 68 percent of rural households were in the first group of pensioners or those that have non-work income and these rates have respectively been 37 and 55 percent in 2002.

Some of the individuals with non-work incomes probably received pensions from the Imam Khomeini Relief Committee, the Welfare Organization, the Underprivileged and Veterans Foundation.

Literacy levels among heads of household

In 1993 respectively 69 and 83 percent of rural and urban heads of households with the least of costs were illiterate. And in the years 1993 and 2002 this ratio for was reduced to 59 and 53 percent for urban households, and for rural households it increased by 84 and 85 percent. This is while the illiteracy levels for all heads of households in the years 2002 and 2008 have dropped in rural and urban households.

Housing situation

In 1993 the majority of households were housed in the form of ownership of the land or property. The rate is lower for households with the lowest costs than the average rate of all households. In the years 2002 and 2008, approximately 55 and 64 percent respectively of urban households and 85 percent of rural households having the least expenses owned their own property which in comparison to 1993 it has increased.

Also in the years 2002 and 2007 approximately 17 and 26 percent respectively of rural households and 12 and 18 percent of rural households with the least costs lived in their homes free of charge, and these ratios are twice or three times in overall households. Also the households with minimum income who were paying rent in urban areas in the years 2002 and 2007 were respectively 24 and 15.6 percent. This figure is less than the average of urban households which were 18 and 17 percent, whereas in rural regions, only 1 percent of the households with minimum income were tenants, which in relation to all the households 1.6 and 4 percent is achieved. In rural areas due to the values of rent being insignificant, and the assistance given to poorer households are relatively lower.

Households with the lowest of costs have lesser rooms in comparison with other households. In the years 2002 and 2007 urban households with the least costs had respectively 2.4 and 2.3 rooms and rural households had 2.3 and 2.1 rooms, which is less in comparison with 2.7 and 3.6 percent in urban areas and 3.4 and 3.3 in rural areas of the rest of the households. In 2007 approximately 50 percent of urban households with the lowest incomes had one or two rooms which is more in comparison to 15.5% of the rest of the households.

These figures were 69 and 25 percent in rural households. This ratio shows the people with lowest expenses in comparison to the rest of the households have less.

Also in 2007, approximately 13 percent of the sample urban households with the lowest incomes had 4 or more rooms. This figure has been 50 percent compared to other families. This ratio has been 10 and 43 percent in rural families.

Main housing amenities

Te use of main housing amenities for households with the lowest incomes is less than the average households of the country But in 2007, usage of these amenities other than central heating compared to 2002 has increased, in such way that the laying of gas pipelines for households with least expenses in rural areas has risen from 48 to 66 percent, bathrooms from 52 to 69 percent. Also in rural areas, the use of piped water in households with the least income has dropped from 81 to 79.5 percent, electricity from 95 to 95 percent, bathroom from

18 to 30 percent in the years 2002 to 2007. In urban areas notable developments have taken place. But in rural areas aside from bathroom no other development has been noted.

General amenities and household goods indicators

The general amenities and household goods indicators among rural households and in rural areas is less than urban areas. The most important point is that these indicators are mostly better in 2007 rather than 2002. For example, having a colour TV in urban households with minimum income has increased from 29 to 66 percent, refrigerator from 83 to 83 percent, stove from 80 to 86 percent and vacuum cleaner from 14 to 31 percent from 2002 to 2007. Also in rural regions, the usage of refrigerator has increased from 68 to 78 percent, and stove from 55 to 62 percent.

Food and non-food costs

The annual cost for each household on the basis of food and non-foods indicates the poverty level, in such way that the less the income levels of the household, the more the food costs. In other words, this household only deals with other costs once its food costs are met. In 2007, each urban household has spent 81 million Rials(rural, 48.8 million Rials) . This ratio has been 5.5 million Rials(rural, 4 million Rials) among the households with minimum income . The average cost of urban and rural households in the lowest group average cost is less than 10 percent of other households

In 2007, about 94 percent of the income of urban households with minimum income and about 79 percent of the income of rural households with minimum income has been spent for food expenses whereas this figure has been 22 and 37 percent in other households. The less the expenses become, the more the expenses for food becomes. In the expenses for food have been 18 and 32 percent in urban and rural areas.

In 2002 the share of food costs the lowest cost group for urban areas was 70 percent compared with 94 percent in 86 it was lower. This ratio shows despite rising household costs, the share of non-food costs have been reduced too (only 6 percent). In rural areas the food costs in 2002 were approximately 58 percent, which is a lot better than the 79

percent in 2007. The average food costs of households indicates that aside from the quality of the food there are no meaningful differences between households with the least expenses and other households in the consumption of food.

In all the households, wheat, noodles, bread and different meat products and milk and its products and eggs cover more than 50 percent of the food expenses. In 2007, the usage of meat products among households with minimum income has been less compared to other households. Also rural families have spent less money for meat products compared to urban households.

Non-Food Products Expenses

The use of non-foods costs of households indicates that households with low incomes give the food expenditure top priority, and non-foods come second. In households with minimum income, some household goods and amenities are spent for food costs, and is something that happened in 2007 among urban households with the lowest expenditure. In 2007, in urban households with minimum income, more than 20 times and in rural households with minimum income, more than 2 times of the money spent for the non-food products has been spent for housing. This has resulted in the transportation, communications, decorative accessories and personal costs to be negative. Housing has been the most expensive cost for all urban and rural households.

Poverty Research

A.4 DEVELOP GENDER-BASED RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES AND CONDUCT RESEARCH TO ADDRESS THE FEMINIZATION OF POVERTY

Some of the employed, who receive non-work incomes, work for another member of the household without getting any wages. This is more highlighted among rural women. In 1996, about 21 percent of the employed women were working free of charge for the families and this figure has been 41.5 percent for rural women. In 2007, this number increased to 33 percent for all the employed women and about 59 percent for rural women. In 2007, most of the rural women were working without being paid. These people have no insurance and have

no retirement. This is also a major point in the rise of poverty among women.

Government's Actions

1. Women headed households being supported through: legislation of support laws and government policies, rise in their retirement benefits, facilitation of bank loans, housing, creating job opportunities, job loans, attention to professional and technical training.
2. Strengthening women's cooperatives in urban and rural areas through different methods.
3. Implementing the social security project for women
4. Facilitating the establishment of supporting foundations such as micro credit institutions, loan accounts etc.
5. Developing specialized trainings for creating job opportunities and micro credit
6. Establishment of a Ministry for Welfare and Social Security in order to unite the supporting organizations for vulnerable and poor people especially for women headed households.
7. Creating a national job opportunities plan and empowerment of entrepreneur women through cooperation with United Nations Industrial Development Organization in order to establish training centers to eradicate poverty.
8. The project to establish an international labour university for rural women with the cooperation of international organizations and universities
9. Supporting the establishment of women's cooperatives and also increasing the quantity of these corporations with a growth of 253 percent from 1997 to 2003.
Establishment of 176 corporations for women and girls graduated from university and creating 1775 job opportunities for women throughout the country in the years 2001-2004.
10. Facilitating the market for women in international and national level through participating in internal and external exhibition.
11. Allocation of budget from 2001 to-date for the provision of social security for housewives.
12. Improvement of the nutrition of girls and women heads of household and those that receive benefits from the organization

through the distribution of crucial relief goods and distribution of flour.

13. Facilitating the establishment of supporting foundations such as micro credit institutions and different foundations.

14. Establishment of “warm houses” (shelters) by the Tehran Municipality in Tehran for the protection of carton sleepers.

Women’s NGOs Activities

In the women and economy section, 215 activities have been implemented by women’s NGOs. These NGOs tend to give training in order to enable women and training for jobs and also services through financial and non-financial assistance to help them have a better life and also facilities women to have suitable jobs.

NGOs new activities

- Holding meetings or seminars with the subjects related to assistance and poverty eradication with the cooperation of organization and governmental sectors.
- Holding job training classes and also enabling women in different levels and in different cities.
- Social work activities with the aim of helping women heads of households
- Holding exhibition of women’s handicrafts and their arts
- Printing information dissemination brochures in order to provide training requirements of rural women
- Provision of poverty eradication project for the United Nations Development
- Program and the World Bank
- Establishing cooperatives upon the suggestion of women’s NGOs or with their direct participation.
- Giving loans or facilities to help the deprived financially or non-financially for their basic needs or education expenses and marriage costs through NGOs
- Establishing a fund and encouraging Women’s NGOs in order to give services to poor and disadvantage people
- Creating job creating workshops for deprived women and girls
- Creating an institution to support orphan girls

- Giving services through different channels to families specially women headed households
- Collecting financial and non-financial public donations via different methods in support of the poor and underprivileged
- Sensitizing the members of town and city councils to give assistance to women headed households

Assisting the poor has been one of the oldest missions of the grassroots organization. Considering the religious and historical background and customs in our country and fortunately this has turned to an opportunity in the activities of women's NGOs to assist the poor and eradicate poverty during the recent years.

Considering this historic and religious background, it is very fortunate that the provision of social services with the aim of eradication of poverty, is one of the strong points of the activities of women's NGOs over the recent years. The empowerment of the poor and underprivileged through income generating skills and profession training slogan, is a new approach which over the recent years have been set for the projects of these NGOs. Nevertheless, still in many villages and small towns poverty eradication methods such as creation of loan accounts and or the collection of donations is still used and welcomed by the general public.

Therefore the new poverty eradication method which is concentrated on social services activities, skills and profession training, and social work, requires vast resources and facilities, something that many organizations still do not have the capability to bring about and are faced with lack of resources.

Since modern and capacity-building organizations do not have a long history in Iran and the rest of the world, it is necessary to pay attention towards the femininity of poverty, initiatives with regards to planning, exchange of experiences, information dissemination and furthering links with the public to draw their trust, voluntary help must be put in their working agendas.

CNWN Activities

- Poverty eradication workshop and giving micro credit to rural women as a mechanism for improving the situation of women
- Presentation projects to the Municipality in order to set up goods made by women trade stalls, by women.
- Presenting legal projects to the Parliament regarding the exemption of women from paying court expenses related to the family cases payment of salary of the employed women or female workers to their relatives
- Facilitating the establishment of centers to support the sick and those effected by Bam earthquake
- Setting up of aid accounts for women's NGOs.

Fourth National Development Plan

Fourth National Development Plan of the country is:

- Identifying the poverty line and also the identification of proper programs to organize the services for giving support in order to cover all the population living under the poverty line and a social security system, for the full covering of the population below absolute poverty line, and relative poverty line, and follow-up and the continued registration of the effects of economic and social plans on the poverty line situation, population below the poverty line, and those below dehak 3 income, and the poverty gap and the compensation of the economic and social plans for the bottom dehak 3 income through the strengthening of their purchasing capability; the government is obligated to identify and cover all households that are living below the absolute poverty line till at least the end of the second year of the plan in full by all the departments of the social security system (Chapter Eight: article 95)
- Providing legal support, social consultations, defending the individual, family and social rights of the poor (Chapter Eight: article 95)
- Provision of special insurance through supporting activities for women heads of households with the priorities for orphan children (Chapter Eight: article 96)

- Provision and compilation of a comprehensive project to enable women heads of self and households with the cooperation of other organization and institutions and NGOs and approving it in the Cabinet in the first 6 months of the first year of the program (Chapter Eight: article 97)
- Increasing the monthly pension of needy families and those that are without heads of household and women heads of household covered by support groups on the basis of 40 percent of wages in the first year of the Plan (Chapter Eight: article 97)
- Developing social support, social security, unemployment insurance creating development methods Social support for those employed in open market Rehabilitation of disabled and the equal chances of women and men and also strengthening women through access to proper job opportunities (Chapter Eight: article 101c)

Obstacles and Challenges

- The rate of women's official salaries is very low in the country (16.7 percent in year 2009). The low rate of this activity prevents them from having pension rights when they become senior citizens. And in view of the life expectancy of women in 2007 was 70.4 years whereas the figure for men for the same year was 67.6 years, and the possibility of their survival after their husbands' deaths is more than not, which causes poverty among women.
- The majority of women that are working (33 percent in 2007) are domestic family workers who do not receive any wages, and most of them either do not have any savings, or do not have retirement pension rights and this further increases women's poverty
- Following the death of their husbands or those that have never married are further threatened by poverty following their fathers' death.
- Poor participation of women in decision making processes and also their inability to defend their own social rights.
-

- Further spread of poverty among women, rural and especially rural women in deprived regions
- Non-discrimination in allocating subsidies among poor and rich people in the country
- Not labeling housekeeping as a career and consequently not being entitled to insurance and retirement benefits.

Recommendation to Government

- Strengthening the budget to fight poverty through establishing donor foundations in trade and industrial state and private companies through giving them loans and tax exemptions
- Strengthening the traditional networks to eradicate poverty such as loan foundation and also supervising the method of assistance given to them
- Provision of free of charge or cheap access to legal services such as legal education especially for poor women or those with low income
- Placing the “gender justice” analysis views in the implementation of loan programs and also structure balancing and economy developing programs
- Special attention to the poorest and most vulnerable women’s groups that include the elderly, girls, women refugees and migrants, and disabled women
- Strengthening the set supervising mechanism to guarantee the success of the eradication of the femininity of poverty programs
- Further commitments to make legislative and administrative amendments to provide complete and equal access to economic resources and other properties, credits, natural resources and suitable technology
- Supporting new loan provision methods that include methods that link credit to women’s services and development, and the provision of credit facilities for rural women the opening of special access pit for giving loans to women that do not have collateral

First nongovernmental development plan of the country**Method:**

- Provision of minimum living particularly for vulnerable women

Actions:

- Identification of women who are ready to work
- Defining and promoting domestic works
- Introduction of vulnerable women to relevant institutions
- Setting up of a data bank on women's employment and insurance situation
- Education of women towards increased benefits from existing opportunities towards the improvement of living conditions and increasing emotional well being
- Strengthening of preventive programs for the improvement of women's health

Recommendation to Women's NGOs

- Stress on the implementation of a program in a framework (the organizations should have a long term program and also follow the goals set in the program)
- The necessity for information exchange in the field of poverty eradication through holding more seminars. It seems that the seminars that have been held so far are not sufficient enough.
- Poverty eradication programs to be implemented in local level through encouraging the participation of the public. Even though these methods are being implemented by some NGOs but it has not spread among all NGOs follow.
- The use of models and successful experiences of other countries in the field of local development
- Attracting the support and reliance of public, religious leaders and social sources to get their assistance in poverty eradication program with new methods
- The year 2005 is the global year of micro credits. These credits can be good devices for poverty eradication and they can create job opportunities. At the present time, women's NGOs have some experiences in this field. However, it is recommended that the NGOs become more active in the field of micro-credit.

Conclusion

Right from the outset of the victory of the Islamic Revolution, in the Islamic Republic of Iran, the necessity to support the poor and the needy has been given special attention and several institutions such as the Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation, the Housing Foundation, the 15 Khordad Foundation and hundreds of charity accounts have been established to help them. They have also insisted on the preservation of the dignity of family, emphasizing on the eradication of poverty based on empowering women and training skills among them.

The employment of women is one of the factors that can reduce poverty. According to a 2009 survey, 40 percent of the population of 10 and above ages of the country and 64 percent of men has been active. Out of this number 17 percent have been women, which is one quarter of the men. At the same time, 89 percent of the country active population has been employed. This number has been 83 percent among women. The rate of unemployment among women has been 17 percent which is about 1.8 times more than the men rate of unemployment. These indicators that show the difference of activities and employment of men and women can show the situation of women in poverty to some extent.

According to the findings of a 2007 survey on the workforce that was conducted by the Statistics Centre of Iran about one third of employed women (32.6 percent) and 58.7 percent of employed rural women do not get paid for their work and worked for the other members of the family. This ratio is 9.4 percent for urban women. Not receiving wages means that most of these individuals are not insured, and will not receive retirement pensions in the future either. These factors result in women, particularly in their olden years to have economic problems, particularly if they lose the breadwinner of the family and not receive pensions. Although the Shahid Rajaei of the Imam Khomeini Relief Committee provides the financial support for rural senior citizens.

The campaign against poverty policies within the Third Development Plan has been one of the main practices of the economic planning, although the uncoordinated in the economic policies and young population growth, banking system in the private sector with high interest rates, and the mismanagement of some government officials

and distancing from the original revolution's values based on living a simple life, have all prevented efficient control of poverty, particularly among women and children.

Stressing on the importance of the eradication of poverty in the Fourth Development Plan and the allocation of extended credit for this matter, although draws a big perspective, but it is necessary for the fulfillment of old values to avoid luxuries, change of consumption patterns and seeking assistance from NGOs must become main policies in the implementation of these plans.

Tables and Graphs:

Table 1. Activity, employment and unemployment rates of the population (10years of age and over)1996-2009

Year	Activity rate			Employment rate			Unemployment rate		
	Female	Male	Male & Female	Female	Male	Male & Female	Female	Male	Male & Female
1996	9.1	60.8	35.3	85.6	91.3	90.6	14.4	8.7	9.4
2001	11.9	62.1	37.2	80.1	86.8	85.8	19.9	13.2	14.2
2006	12.2	68.8	40.9	74.5	87.1	85.3	15.5	12.9	14.7
2009	16.7	63.9	40.5	82.8	90.2	88.9	17.2	9.8	11.1

Source: SCI, 1996*2006 Census – SCI, Statistics of Employment and Unemployment Characteristics in Families

Table 2. Number of Financially Supported Families and Amount of money paid 1992-2002

Year	Families		Amount of money paid	
	Total	Families with women headed households	Total	Amount of money paid (in Million Rials)
1992	962056	425489	283103	95999
2002	1491952	771042	3051109	711385

Source: Imam Khomeini Relief Committee, Statistical Report, 2002, pages 32 and 35

Table 3. Number of Students supported by the Imam Khomeini Relief Committee in 1992-2003

Academic Year	Number of Student at Schools				Number of Student at Universities			
	Boys and Girls	Boys	Girls	Percentage of Girls	Boys and Girls	Boys	Girls	Percentage of Girls
1992-3	333673	---	---	---	4006	3349	657	16.4
1996-7	752076	404248	347828	46.2	17237	11718	5519	47.1
2002-3	1049335	540082	509253	48.5	19542	8631	10911	55.1
2007-8	774207	387152	387055	50	68888	25600	43288	62.8

Source: Imam Khomeini Relief Committee, Statistical Report

Table 4. Number of rural women headed households and the loans paid to them for employment and agriculture section 1998- 2002

Year	Number of Women	Loans paid (in Billion Rials)	Percentage of change in loans in comparison with the previous year
1998	1801	2.3	21.1
1999	1212	1.98	13.9
2000	1367	2.24	13.1
2001	2292	5.08	126.8
2002	2252	5.38	5.9
2003	1964	5.4	-12.8
2004	3103	9.9	58
2005	3527	12.9	13.7
2006	1744	8	-50.5
2007	944	3.8	-45.9

Source: Imam Khomeini Relief Committee, Statistical Report, Page 218

Table 5. Total households self-sufficient by 2003 - 2007

Year	total	Self-sufficient and out of coverage	Stand alone and cut off half pension
2003	11469	6846	4632
2004	8433	5579	2854
2005	5837	3941	1896
2006	3565	2508	1057
2007	2268	1600	668

Table 6. Number of technical and vocational trainings and provision of job opportunities, 1998-2007.

Year	Number of trained				Job opportunities provided			
	Male and female	Male	Female	Percentage of woman	Male and female	Male	Female	Percentage of Woman
1998	6053	3200	2853	47.1	5191	2210	2981	57.4
1999	12029	7546	4483	37.3	5011	2408	2603	51.9
2000	40771	24716	15955	39.3	5202	2554	2650	50.9
2001	46159	25871	20281	44.0	962-	5219	2401	45.7
2002	63743	38167	26676	40.1	8340	3999	4341	52.1
2003	69512	42319	27193	39/1	6797	3170	3627	53/4
2004	134941	77836	57105	42/3	29763	18187	11576	38/9
2005	123941	66684	56992	46/1	33828	17736	16092	47/6
2006	101970				18649	7122	9527	61/8
2007	109322				10485	4965	5520	52/6

CHAPTER TWO

Education and Training of Women

Values of the supervisory Topic

One of the most fundamental of human rights where gender has no role in, is the right to education and learning. It is here that in one of his messages the Prophet of Islam stresses on education for humanity and states:

كَمَا أَرْسَلْنَا فِيكُمْ رَسُولًا مِنْكُمْ يَتْلُو عَلَيْكُمْ آيَاتِنَا وَيُزَكِّيكُمْ وَيُعَلِّمُكُمُ الْكِتَابَ وَالْحِكْمَةَ وَيُعَلِّمُكُم مَّا لَمْ تَكُونُوا تَعْلَمُونَ

“even as we have sent among you a messenger from among you who recites to you our communications and purifies you and teaches you the book and the wisdom and teaches you that which you did not know” (Al-Baqara Surah, verse 151)

And by education it is not meant as fake or wasteful learning. It means mankind must believe in whatever it knows and one of the most important messages of God’s prophets is makes people be committed to practice what they know. No other school gives as much importance to education and learning. It is here that many of the religious texts are allocated to education and scientific services. There is an unbreakable bond between mankind and its degrees which is due to science and faith, and in most Islamic decrees, the dignity, guidance and happiness of mankind is dependent on knowledge. And it is here that the Holy Koran says: “say: are those who know and those who do not know alike?” (Az-Zummar Surah, Verse 9).

قُلْ هَلْ يَسْتَوِي الَّذِينَ يَعْلَمُونَ وَالَّذِينَ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ

The word science has been used over a thousand times in the Koran. In some verses for example in Al-Ahzab Surah, Verse 34 states: “and keep to mind what is recited in your houses of the communications of Allah and the wisdom;”

وَاذْكُرْنَ مَا يُتْلَىٰ فِي بُيُوتِكُنَّ مِنْ آيَاتِ اللَّهِ وَالْحِكْمَةِ

The Prophet of Islam stressed that learning is compulsory for every man and woman:

طَلَبُ الْعِلْمِ فَرِيضَةٌ عَلَىٰ كُلِّ مُسْلِمٍ وَ مُسْلِمَةٍ

And he said: “Learn wisdom if the right is in the heavens”:

اُطْلُبُوا الْعِلْمَ مِنَ الْمَهْدِ إِلَى الْلَحْدِ

Religious philosophy also states: “If you knew what joys the outcome of education brings, you would pursue education, even though it might force out to sail on seas and oceans and spill your blood.”

Imam Khomeini

It is necessary for all the illiterate to learn and all literate brothers and sisters rise up to teach. The Ministry of Education and Training must arise with all its facilities that it has. Oh you faithful brothers and sisters mobilize for the eradication of this painful problem and route the problem .

Ayatollah Khamenei

Our Muslim women and girls must follow the path of education and knowledge further and with more vigour. One of the most crucial tasks is the literacy of women.

Introduction**Background**

Training and education has become widespread among people and promotion of women’s education level is the main achievements and success of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the last few decades.

Deeming education and training as holy in Islam, the stress of religious and political leaders particularly the great revolution leader on literacy, the increase of the confidence of traditional and religious families to education and training environments following the victory of the revolution alongside the expansion of schools and the observation of religious rules and moral security in girls schools, the growth of higher education centres and the change of lifestyles and people’s incomes are some of the success factors of the country in this regard.

Moreover, training and education is free and this is the main factor leading to its widespread among people and the fact that all levels of the country have access to training and education which is clearly defined in the Constitution.

The Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Article 30

The government must provide all citizens with free-education up to secondary school, and must expand free higher education to the extent required by the country for attaining self-sufficiency.

Paragraph 3 of Article 3 of the Constitution states: free education and physical training for everyone at all levels, and the facilitation and expansion of higher education.

Perspective

Twenty years perspective of the country:

To have access to advanced science, capable in the production of science and technology based on superior share of human resources and social investment in the national production.

Charter of Women's Rights and Responsibilities

76. Right to enjoy regular literacy, educational promotion and facilities for women

77. Right to enjoy higher education up to the highest scientific level

78. Right to acquire specialized skills and educations both quantitatively and qualitatively up to the highest levels

Current Situation and Achievements

B.1 ENSURE EQUAL ACCESS TO EDUCATION

Equal Access to Education

In the Islamic Republic of Iran, according to the constitution, general education is free for all groups of the population. The reason that Islamic Republic of Iran emphasizes on education is that Islam has emphasized on education and the Prophet of Islam has stated: "One should learn from birth to death".

Table 1 shows the literacy rate of the six year olds and above population in 1986, 1996, 2006 and 2007 on the basis of gender and regions. The aim of this table is to show the nondiscrimination between urban and rural regions and between both sexes in reaching full literacy of all the population.

From 1986 to 2007, the literacy rate among the population of 6 years old and above increased from 62 to 86, which represents a growth of 24 percent. The growth rate of literacy among men has been 84.7 percent in 1996 and it has reached 90 percent in 2007. The same rate for women has been 74.2 percent in 1996 and 81 percent in 2007. The interesting point is that the difference between literacy rate of men and women has decreased from 10 percent in 1996 to 8 percent in 2007. In 1956, only one percent of rural women were literate and the difference in literacy levels between men and women has been 15 percent so that 7 percent of women and 22 percent of men have been educated (Center of Statistics of Iran, *Summary of General Census of the Country*).

Primary Education

In urban areas the literacy rate is higher than rural areas but the gap is narrowing. as the Literacy rate in urban areas than rural areas but dwindle in the distance is. In 2006, about 90 percent of the population aged 6 and more urban areas were literate, about 13 percent more than in rural areas is. In 1986 and 1996 this gap, respectively 25 and 15 percent respectively. This difference between men and women, can be seen that the difference between in rural areas is higher. Literacy rate in 2007 only 7 percent of men with 93 percent more than the difference for women in rural areas is 12 percent. The literacy rate of rural women has increased by 20 percent.

The ratio of the population that registered in primary school to the total population at this age has been 90.5 percent in 1996 and in 2007 this ratio increased to 97.4 percent. This ratio increased from 92.3 to 97.5 percent for boys and 88.7 to 97.4 percent for girls. The statistics show that approximately 2.5 percent of boys and girls have not received basic education in this period (ICPD & MDG, *SCI Selected Indicators in Iran*).

The tiny gap between boys and girls indicates there is no gender discrimination in public education. Education is difficult in some rural areas where the number of households is very low, or the nomadic population that still migrates in the winter and summer. In this event boys have better opportunities to travel to close by villages to attend

schools. Perhaps the tiny difference between boys and girls is due to this factor.

In 1997 in rural areas, the ratio of students in primary education was at 97.7 percent, which was 97.8 percent for boys and 97.7 percent for girls. In rural areas this ratio for students in primary education was 96.9 for boys and 96.7 for girls, which still there seems to be hardly any difference at all.

These ratios in the secondary school education for girls and boys in urban areas respectively are 93.5 and 98.7 percent, and in rural areas 87.1 and 95.9.

The ratio of students who reached fifth grade and those in first grade was 92.2 percent 1999, 92.6 percent for boys and 91.8 percent for girls, which has a noticeable difference to the minimum 80 percent defined in the document of the Beijing Platform for Action.

Among the provinces of the country, with 99 percent, Tehran has the highest ration of students in one primary school level in 5 levels and Sistan and Baluchistan with 76.6 percent has the lowest. Lack of possibilities to continue education due to economic problems and lack of family support is the reason of low education level in Sistan and Baluchistan.

It is worth mentioning that this ratio is 80 percent less than the one defined in the Beijing Platform for Action that this rate for girls in Sistan and Baluchistan with 72 percent is less than 80 percent. This rate for girls in other provinces is higher than 80 percent and for men in Sistan and Baluchistan it is 80.2 percent.

University Education

The share of acceptance of girls to state-run and private universities in the country has over the last few decades increased, and this share has at times been more than men.

The number of female students accepted in governmental universities increased from 29 percent in 1986-87 to 54 percent in 2005-06, and 42 percent in 2007-08. In Azad Islamic University (nongovernmental university) the share of university acceptance increased from 41 percent in 1991-92 to 55 percent in 2005-06. Number of female students has also increased.

The share of girl university students and graduates has increased to such an extent that in the 1996-97 academic year the share of girl students increased from 36 to 42 percent and in Azad University from 41 to 43 percent.

In the 1996-97 academic year 31.6 percent of state universities graduates out of 52,352 were girls, and this ratio in the year 2006-07 was 130,504 reaching 50.7 percent. The ration for Islamic Azad University graduates out of 65,303, for girls reached from 44 to 49 percent (170,369)

Skills Training

Some activities have taken place for skills public education and for employment by the Technical and Professional Training Organization of the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Science, resulting that the number of trainees increased from 142000 in 1996 to 425,000 in 2002 and 897000 in 2007. Also the number of students in various years of education, and also the share of girl students has increased. Also the number of students in different academic years and the share of girl students has increased. In such way that associate degree students is a way for employment, and the figures for 1996-97 is approximately 27,000 girls in state-run universities and 30,000 in private universities (Azad University). In the 2007-08 academic year respectively it reached to 147,000 and 170,000. In this year the female associate degree students in state-run and private universities respectively were at 46 and 38 percent, and in comparison to undergraduate students they were less.

The number of students in different levels has increased in the last few decades. Students in state-run and private centres increased from 460,000 in the 1996-97 academic year to approximately 1 million in 2003-04, and 3,391,825 in 2006-07. Out of the total number of these individuals (both universities) 1,456,126 having a share of 42.9 percent were girls. Also professional and specialized female doctorate students gradually took an increase from 21,000 (1996-97) to approximately 26,000 (2004-05) to 33,000 (2007-08).

Social Participation in Promotion of Education

Provision of university education, employment planning, economic, social and work experience skills for young women for the purpose of resulting in the readiness for full participation in society, with the cooperation of parents, NGOs, that include youth organizations and associations and the private sector of trained and graduated force of the country has noticeable increased over the last three decades, particularly for women. This is in such way that the numbers of graduates of higher education centres have doubled from approximately 150,000 in 1996-97 to approximately 308,000 in 2006-07. This increase has been double for women just like men.

Women graduates of state-run and private higher education centres has risen from approximately 60,000 to 150,000.

The increase in the number of women graduates has existed in all academic levels. The number of female students at technical and specialized PhD level has increased from 5574 in governmental and private universities in 1996-97 to 6124 in 2003-04.

Education Expenses

According to the Constitution public education is free in Iran. Education is free from primary school all the way to specialist PhD levels. The number of female graduates at professional and specialist doctorate and complementary education levels rose from 5574 (state-run and private universities) in 1996-97 to 6124 in 2003-04.

In the years 1986 to 1996, the number of schoolgirls increased from 6.4 million to approximately 10 million, and in the years 2003-04 and 2008-09 due to a reduction in population growth the number of schoolgirls also dropped to 8.6 and 7 million respectively. The interesting point is with the drop in the number of schoolgirls, their shares have increased, in such way that in the 1986-97 school year approximately 42 percent of student population of the country were girls, the rate increasing to 47 percent in 1996-97, and further to 48 percent in 2003-04 and 2007-08, which shows a significant increase in the schoolgirls population.

Equal Access to Education

The increase of the ratio of schoolgirls from 42 percent in 1996-97 to 48 percent in 2003-04 and 2007-08 and the increase in number of female state-run university students from 36 percent in 1996-97 to over 53 percent in 2003-04 indicates women's further access to education. Number of girl students from 42 in 1986-87 has increased to 48 percent in 2007-08 and the ratio of girl students in governmental universities from 36 percent in 1996-97 has increased to over 53 percent.

The Beijing Platform for Action (Fourth World Conference on Women) - Strategic objective B.4. Develop non-discriminatory education and training states: Develop training programmes and materials for teachers and educators that raise awareness of their own role in the educational process, with a view to providing them with effective strategies for gender-sensitive teaching; (83.c.)

Aside from decentralized trainings, there is the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) which has over 50 years history in Iran. This association is an educational In Iran, there is an Association of Teachers and Parents with 50 years of history and is an organization dependant on thought of parents and teachers to strengthen the links of families and school to achieve the goals of defining and creating the sense of responsibility among parents and teachers and raise awareness among teachers and trainers regarding education issues of children, adolescence, and young students according to their social needs.

B.3 IMPROVE WOMEN'S ACCESS TO VOCATIONAL TRAINING, SCIENCE, AND TECHNOLOGY, AND CONTINUING EDUCATION

Improvement of women's access to education

In line with increasing the number students the share and number of students in the main groups of education fields have also increased, in such way that the ratio of girl students has respectively increased from 36 and 41 percent in governmental and private universities and in 1996-97 it reached to over 40 in 2007-08 (42.5 percent at governmental universities and 44 percent at private universities. In the medical field the share of girl students increased from 52 percent at

governmental universities and 83 percent at Azad University in 1996-97 to 57 and 85 percent in 2007-08.

Also in technical and engineering fields, the share of girl students during 1996 to 2003 has almost doubled and the number of these students in private and governmental universities has almost become 4 times more. In art fields, the number of girl students has increased from 53 to 71 percent and the number of 12000 has increased to 71000. In all fields, the number of boy students has decreased in 2007-08 in comparison to 1996-97.

Education fields based on increasing women's income

Over the last ten years, the number of girl students has increased in agricultural and veterinary fields. In 1996-97 the number of female students has increased from 7887 at governmental universities and 2554 at private universities to respectively 58000 and 32000 in 2007-08 also the number of female students in agriculture and veterinary fields has increased from 24% and 6% in governmental and private universities in 1996- 97 to 51% and 29% in 2003-04 which is a significant growth.

Women's participation in scientific and technical fields

In the past, there very few girl students in technical and agricultural fields was rare but presently the numbers of increased. In 1996-97 at governmental universities, 701 students were studying in agriculture and veterinary and 1093 students were studying in vocational fields while in 2003-04 these numbers became 8 and 13 times more and reached to 6168 and 13872 respectively. The ratio of girl students in these fields in 1996-97 it was 13 and 6 percent while in 2006-07 it reached to 53% and 30% which shows women's interest in these fields over the recent years.

Also, at Azad university has opened opportunity of studying in agricultural and vocational fields for women so that in 1996-97 only 8.3 and 7.6 percent of the students were girls while this ratio reached to 29 and 22 percent in 2007-08. Also the number of students in these fields increased from 160 and 623 in 1996-97 to 19 and 18 times more to 3068 and 10936.

B.4 DEVELOP NON-DISCRIMINATORY EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Non- discriminatory Education

In Iran, especially after the Islamic Revolution, there has been special emphasis literacy and comprehensive education without discrimination between men and women. This policy resulted in not only the number in the number of students but also the number of teachers and trainers at higher level education also increased. In 1986-87 only 2292 female professors were teaching at governmental universities and this number at private universities was 2285 while in 2007-08 these numbers increased to 5.8 and 5.4 times respectively and reached 13195 and 12450 whereas the number of male teachers has not increased with the same ratio.

Also, the ratio of female teachers at governmental and private universities in 1986 was respectively 16 and 12.5 percent and in 2007-08 it reached 21 and 22 percent.

According to the statistics provided in this chapter, considering that the number of female students and teachers is increasing it seems that education conditions are good for women in the country so that there is now the concern to increase men's education and it shows that in this stage there is no discrimination.

Government's Actions

- Expanding education particularly in deprived regions
- Implementing vocational training for girls deprived from education and attracting them to primary education courses
- Holding literacy classes and improving education levels among those in prisons and support measures in the country
- Expansion of boarding schools for girls
- Allocating literacy activities mostly to rural areas for women
- Implementing self-reliance plans at boarding schools
- Training female trainers for skills training of girls and teaching computer skills to them
- Empowerment of headmistresses in nomadic schools
- Development of scientific and sports education among schoolboys and girls

- Amending article 3 regarding sending students to other countries for education to facilitate the sending of unmarried girls abroad.
- Allocation of a portion of women's studies course in universities and a masters degree for academics
- Eradicating gender cliché in education and training materials
- Holding trainings on rights as a pilot project in 6 provinces of the country
- Establishing women's study center and groups at 7 universities
- Training 150 female trainers for NGOs in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior

Activities of Women's NGOs

In general, 268 activities have been undertaken by women's NGOs, most of them in other cities and the target groups have been mainly deprived and vulnerable women. The activities have been mainly empowerment trainings.

- Training workshops for empowerment of women's NGO members or other target groups with the aim of empowerment and creating gender sensitivity and promoting participation in various cultural and social activities
- Holding conferences and technical meetings for training and providing opportunities for information exchange with the officials of the Islamic Republic with the aim of sensitization towards women's issues.
- Publication of training materials and books for further clarifications in women's issues
- Creating training groups for women associated to NGOs are guided by nongovernmental organizations
- Training women heads of household, rural and vulnerable women and young girls for empowerment, income generation and entrepreneurship for women
- Creating spaces for organizational learning in certain women's NGOs
- Individual and group consultations to diverse groups of women regarding reproductive health, and life skills after marriage

- Creating opportunities as institutes and schools to promote women's access to education, conducting research and study process
- Establishing libraries for women in deprived areas to promote women's access to written literature
- Meetings and speeches with Q&A opportunities for information dissemination to women
- Providing funds to girls to continue education that have been deprived from education
- Book publication, holding book review meetings and also organization of book exhibits
- Providing training materials and tools
- Presentation of scientific articles and holding meetings regarding women's education issues.

The training activities of women's NGOs are usually based on two types of trainings including training members and general women's groups.

The significant growth of NGOs during the last years, have made empowerment through training a strategic activity for both governmental authorities and the NGOs themselves. Most of the allocated budget by government has been spent on trainings especially workshops. However, these trainings are basically limited to members of the NGOs and have not reached public groups of women.

Also, training materials are at initial stages and they don't follow any standards. Fortunately however, the training groups on gender issues are being formed and increasing, though weak information dissemination prevents increase of technical and scientific knowledge. One of the main steps of NGO activists has been establishing the trainer network of NGOs.

CNWN Activities

- Planning and creating non-governmental management course at MS level at Azad University
- Planning a specialized library as resource for NGOs
- Conducting research on women related issues such as the establishment of the Imam Khomeini Doctrine on women's issues.

- Conducting research, and developments, marriage and marital relations in Iran, Tehran province in particular.

Fourth National Development Plan

The government should undertake the following actions to ensure equal access to education, enhancement of knowledge, skills and promotion of using human resources, especially girls in qualitative and quantitative development of public educations:

- Development of necessary basis for the implementation of education programmes for all
- Making education till 8th grade compulsory, in proportion to provision of opportunities and gradually in regions that the Education and Training Department announces, in such way that it is fulfilled by the end of the Fourth Development Plan.
- Meeting the educational needs of women and girls for the purpose of playing their roles and duties in individual, family and social affairs.
- Increasing the practicality levels and promotion of women workers' skills through short term training courses (article 54)

The right to general literacy of women and promotion of facilities and access to training and higher education and obtaining technical skills (paragraphs 67 through 78)

Challenges and Constraints

- Lack of balance between working opportunities and level of education of women
- Lack of girls' school space and necessity to expand their education and recreation spaces.
- Despite the Government's efforts, still the vocational and technical fields for girls are less than boys
- Though girls achieve better than boys; but due to cultural barriers in the families, level of girls continuing to pre-high school is less than boys
- Although the primary school books have been revised there are still cliché pictures of girls in those books

Recommendation to Government

- Eradication of gender discrimination in allocating university scholarships
- Efforts to make use of hardworking and functional women in the highest ministerial levels
- Strengthening professional counseling in schools, in such way that is without discrimination and gender sensitive, and the provision of education programmes to encourage girls to continue onto university and technical training to expand their future job perspectives
- Improving women's crucial role in research programs, advocacy and formal agricultural and food item production training
- Providing education materials for trainers and teachers to equip them with gender sensitive strategies of teaching
- Supporting gender researches at all levels especially at MS and above degrees
- Prioritizing provisions of recreation and sport centers and 24 hour schools for girls in remote areas
- Recognizing informal literacy and skills training of women and girls in education system
- Promoting electronic education to enhance women's and girls access to training sources.

First nongovernmental national development plan

Method:

- Help to amend and promote the education and research system with regards to attitudes towards women

Measures:

- Review of the country's research and education system with regards to women
- Review of related laws and guidelines

Method:

- Preservation and promotion of women's social status and preparation of the basis for their development and advancement

Measures:

- Preparation of educational films
- Necessary measures for women's equal access to jobs
- Introduction of citizens to classic Iranian teachings regarding humanity

Method:

- Empowerment of women in proportion to society's needs

Measures:

- Help in the compilation of books and holding education classes and counseling
- Holding of job creation courses

Method:

- Expansion of interaction with relevant NGOs

Measures:

- Identification of relevant NGOs
- Holding of consultative meetings
- Exchange of agreement letter for the exchange of knowledge, information and expressions

Method:

- Expansion of members training

Measures:

- Identification of active members of the network
- Introducing them to domestic and international institutions for relevant training
- Transference of the results of the training to all the members
- Holding of education workshops on the management of nongovernmental network

Recommendation to Women's NGOs

- Providing workshop training methods for vocational programming leadership, social and living skills training to promote young girls' participation
- Diverting training strategies toward external target groups especially local communities
- Encouraging adults and families to education to promote public level of education reinforcement of sport and recreation

spaces and trips for young girls to compensate for shortcomings of education system

- Strengthening sports, recreation and science trips for young girls, to make up for the official education system's shortfalls.
- Standardizing gender training materials and literature for NGOs and enhancing these trainings toward integrating gender issues in other technical fields of NGOs such as environment, and health to prevent segregations
- Provisions for preparing written literature from women's knowledge which exists traditionally in different culture of Iran such as methods of preserving food items, herbal medicine,...
- Volunteer training to disabled, displaced, and refugee women who don't have access to formal training centers (creating informal schools for them)
- Requests for presence in meetings and programming committees for women in governmental structures
- Reinforcing e-learning centers
- Monitoring training budgets of the government for women and submitting evaluations to authorities to amend policies and programs for girls
- Creating gender sensitive consultation centers for directing girls in education
- Implementing advocacy and cultural activities in cooperation with religious and local social leaders to encourage families to permit their daughters to continue education.
- Support, design and implementation of new housekeeping management education

Conclusion

The efforts of Government to expand and develop training and education and proper social, and religious arena and deep roots of necessity of training and education in Iranian customs and traditions has eliminated illiteracy among boys and girls in Iran. Also, encouraging middle age and old people to literacy through special centers is also a promising step in this regard.

The measures taken show that the level of literacy in 1986 has been 62 percent and at this stage it has reached to approximately 85 percent. The level of literacy among rural women in 1956 was only 1 percent while in 2004 it reached to over 70 percent.

However, the number of male graduates and professors at universities is more than women (in 1996-1997 there were 34 percent graduates from university where in

2006-2007 it reached to 49.6 percent). Nevertheless, it is expected that in the future the number of female graduates will be more than males and in further far future the ratio of females involved in training will be more than it ratio now which is 21 percent.

In the past, tendency of girls to technical engineering and agricultural courses has been less but now the interest has increased. In the recent years, the girls are more interested in medical and art fields so that the ratio of girls in these courses in double of the boys.

Training and education situation of the country shows that training and education level of women in Iran is higher than the provisions of the Beijing Platform for Action and the MDGs.

Tables and Graphs

Table 1: Literacy rate of six and above year olds population of the country

Description	1986	1996	2006	2007
male & female	61.8	79.5	84.6	85.7
male	71	84.7	88.7	90
female	52.1	74.2	80.3	81.4

Table 2 – Number of schoolchildren of the country on gender basis

year academic				sex ratio
	total	male	female	
1991-92	15940091	8830014	7110077	44.6
1996-97	18588130	9921855	8666275	46.6
2001-02	17882515	9359952	8522563	47.7
2003-04	16611449	8635008	7976441	48.0
2004-05	15815638	8192973	7622665	48.2
2005-06	15422085	7972123	7449962	48.3
2006-07	14984301	7741044	7243257	48.3
2007-08	14485604	7474081	7011523	48.4

Source: Annual Statistics of the Country

Table 3 - Number of those accepted into universities and higher education by gender

Academic year				sex ratio
	total	male	female	
1991-92	71433	50765	20668	28.9
1996-97	158056	90600	67456	42.7
2001-02	205026	98589	106437	51.9
2003-04	261401	120399	141002	53.9
2004-05	266470	123503	142967	53.7
2005-06	340526	154669	185857	54.6
2007-08	655797	379280	276517	42.2

Source: Annual Statistics of the Country

Table 4 - Number of those accepted Azad universities by gender

Academic year	total	male	female	sex ratio
1991-92	74682	44009	30673	41.1
1996-97	148745	82845	65900	44.3
2001-02	172810	86241	86569	50.1
2002-03	182009	87164	94845	52.1
2003-04	257793	126292	131501	51.0
2004-05	297637	154325	143312	48.1
2005-06	372024	167575	204449	55.0

Source: Annual Statistics of the Country

Table 5 - Students of Islamic Azad University by sex

Academic year				sex ratio
	Total	Male	Female	
1996-97	613468	362872	250596	40.8
2001-02	806639	416571	390068	48.4
2003-04	968206	486616	481590	49.7
2004-05	1098491	568498	529993	48.2
2005-06	1197521	622706	574815	48.0
2006-07	1289637	696199	593438	46.0
2007-08	1302569	734619	567950	43.6

Source: Annual Statistics of the Country

Table 6 - Students of universities and higher education centers by gender

Academic year				sex ratio
	Total	Men	Women	
1991-92	344045	247076	96969	28.2
1996-97	579070	369907	209163	36.1
2001-02	759870	381505	378365	49.8
2003-04	923913	430493	493420	53.4
2004-05	1018980	469410	549570	53.9
2005-06	1191048	534201	656847	55.1
2006-07	1538874	650075	888799	57.8
2007-08	2089283	1201107	888176	42.5

Source: Annual Statistics of the Country

Table 7 - Teaching staff in universities and higher education public by gender

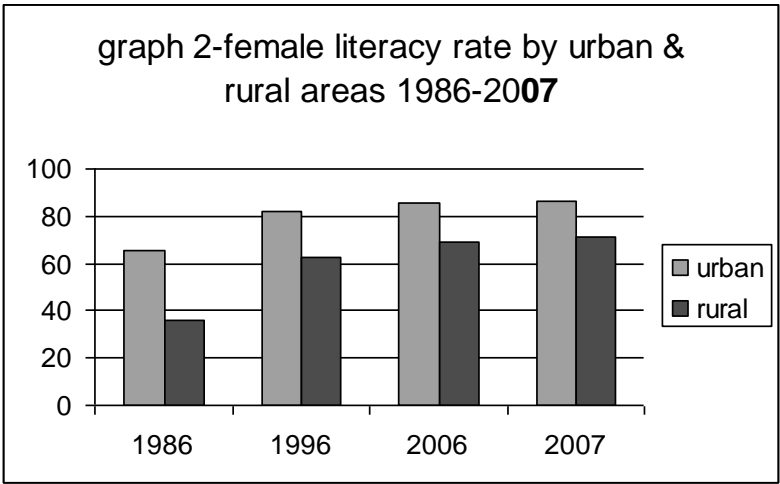
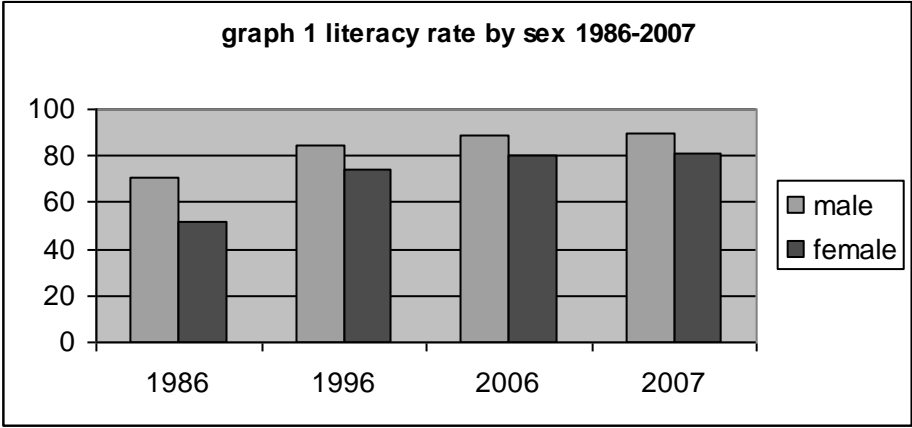
Academic year	Total	Men	Women	sex ratio
1991-92	25208	20923	4285	17.0
1996-97	40477	33306	7171	17.7
2001-02	54969	44899	10070	18.3
2003-04	67775	55362	12413	18.3
2004-05	72889	59701	13188	18.1
2005-06	78135	62203	15932	20.4

Source: Annual Statistics of the Country

Table 8 - Teaching staff Azad university by gender

Academic year	total	male	female	sex ratio
1996-97	18228	15943	2285	12.5
2001-02	24266	20509	3757	15.5
2003-04	34423	28902	5521	16.0
2004-05	36348	29415	6933	19.1
2005-06	43933	35286	8647	19.7
2006-07	51993	40983	11010	21.2
2007-08	56255	43805	12450	22.1

Source: Annual Statistics of the Country



CHAPTER THREE

Women and Health

Values of the supervisory Topic

Rights in Islam women's health in several important and accuracy has been emphasized.

- A. Physical health and nutrition
- B. Sexual health
- C. Psychological and moral security
- D. Environmental health

But health nutrition physical and hadith verses related to nutrition and alimony are. The health of the two is significant for:

- A. Health materials and appearance
- B. Being halal and the inward cleanliness

Health materials in its appearance in some verses in detail and has some brief verses. For example, a verse, stated: " فَلْيَنْظُرِ الْإِنْسَانُ إِلَى طَعَامِهِ "

which is verse 24 of Abasa Sura "then let man look to his food," which means man must pay careful attention to his food. More emphasis on plant foods are forbidden loves and be Halal meat and determines the best way to feed and people will draw the proper utilization of calls and " يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ كُلُوا مِمَّا فِي الْأَرْضِ حَلَالًا طَيِّبًا " which is

verse 168 of Baqara Surah that says, "o men! eat the lawful and good things out of what is in the earth, and do not follow the footsteps of the shaitan; surely he is your open enemy" the other hand, health appearance and inward Food and moderation and away from lavish to stress and malnutrition. Benefits even in the sea, the " لِيَتَأْكُلُوا مِنْهُ لَحْمًا طَرِيًّا "

makes it clear. On the other hand, follow all the above cases the provision of nutrition of women, particularly when counts are essential reproductive health and nutrition for the breastfeeding mother has special needs. For example, such alimony he stated:

" وَعَلَى الْمَوْلُودِ لَهُ رِزْقُهُنَّ وَكِسْوَتُهُنَّ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ " means that the father needed food

and clothing needs based on his wife and conventional method provided reasonable norm said. Even the time of fertility or breastfeeding mother and child health care and this problem is serious in Islam so that even in divorce alimony in charge of disarmament The man's wife has been removed from the shower. But to credit the owner's mother being carried in both nutrition and health observance, stated: " وَإِنْ كُنَّ أُولَاتٍ حَمْلٌ فَأَنْفِقُوا عَلَيْهِنَّ حَتَّى يَضَعْنَ حَمْلَهُنَّ ". In this verse, the

emphasis on the rejection of male disadvantage women in crisis to

divorce, the alimony be desirable during pregnancy and lactation period respects the right breast and right, as God's verdict announced compulsory duty be.

Another of the highly regarded women's health is observing sexual health of women and rape them out of different forms of family privacy. Here that the highest crime sexual assault is considered in Islam through such laws as the sexual violence to prevent the serious. On the other hand, cause any loss of family time and even rape of his wife forbids its area as far as the Quran explicitly sexual relationship during the period and forbids women to do both to sin and considered for provides the atonement.:

"وَيَسْأَلُونَكَ عَنِ الْمَحِيضِ قُلْ هُوَ أَذًى فَأَعْتَزِلُوا النِّسَاءَ فِي الْمَحِيضِ وَلَا تَقْرُبُوهُنَّ حَتَّى يَطْهُرْنَ".

Questions to women's menstruation period, say the harassment of women in these conditions are physical, then you should observe the situation and ask them Do not sexual intercourse during this period.

Another important issue in Islam is highly regarded legislator mental health and mental security of the legislators in his various positions, their families, especially spouses and children to observe and respect the necessary security conditions to invite them to. Particularly in the center of family love and lovemaking and advice on affairs and work with calls: "لَا تُضَارُّوهُنَّ لِتُضَيِّقُوا عَلَيْهِنَّ" examples of cases this is the Quran.

Ayatollah Khamenei:

Business knowledge and expertise in the medical field, like the rest of the profession, is compulsory for men but for women is more obligatory, because the field is less among women

Introduction

One of the most important characteristics of the Iranian society is the attention to health and hygiene and its institutionalization as a cultural and historical process and a religious philosophy. This is while the respect of the status of the mother and taking care of women during pregnancy and feeding, and importance of the health and natural growth of the child have strong traditional and religious roots. This is why the leaders of the country and the administrators of health and

hygiene matters pay special attention to women and children's health, and have taken effective and advanced actions in this regard; to such an extent that currently the executive patterns of the Islamic Republic of Iran have been welcomed by international organizations and other similar countries and they have all benefited from these successful experiences.

Perspective

The twenty years perspective of the country:

A society enjoying health, welfare, food security, social security, equal opportunities, proper distribution of income, strong family structure, far from poverty, corruption, discrimination and benefiting an appropriate environment.

The Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Article 29

To benefit from social security with respect to retirement, unemployment, old age, disability, absence of a guardian, and benefits relating to being stranded, accidents, health services, and medical care and treatment, provided through Insurance or other means, is accepted as a universal right. The government must provide the foregoing services and financial support for every individual citizen by drawing, in accordance with the law, on the national revenues and funds obtained through public contributions.

Charter of Women's Rights and Responsibilities

1. In this Charter, "right" means ability, advantage and immunity and "responsibility" means the obligations upon women towards others.

47. Right to enjoy physical and psychological health in the individual, family and social life considering women's characteristics at different stages of life and the responsibility of securing it as well

49. Right of participation of women in policymaking, planning, management, execution and supervision in the fields of health and treatment, particularly, that specified to women

Current Situation and Achievements

Increased women's access to appropriate, affordable and equality health care

C.1 INCREASED WOMEN'S ACCESS THROUGHOUT THE LIFE CYCLE

TO APPROPRIATE, AFFORDABLE AND EQUALITY HEALTH CARE, INFORMATION AND RELATED SERVICES

An indicator that represents gender discrimination is mortality rate of children since they are the most vulnerable against diseases. Table 1 shows the infant mortality rate of 81 thousand in 1986 to about 24 thousand in 2006, has been and in all these years the mortality rate of girl infants has been less than boy infants. In 1986, the mortality rate of children, boys and girls accordingly was 81 and 75 per 1000 where in 2006 it was 26 and 23 per 1000, which represents a significant decline.

Though, in the history of the country, baby boy preference existed, at this stage the baby boy preference has decreased and it can only be traced in certain rural of deprived provinces of the country. According to a research conducted with barren women, 53 to 51 percent of urban and rural women said that there is no difference between baby boy or girl (Ministry of Health and Medical Education, *Population and Health*, 2000, p. 80). 11 to 12 percent of urban and rural women were willing to give birth to a baby boy and accordingly 14 to 11 percent were willing to have a baby girl. This research shows that preference among children is to the benefit of boys in urban areas and to the benefit of girls in rural areas. In general, baby preference is to the favor of girls. In another research conducted with a target group of pregnant women, 21 percent preferred baby boys and 18 percent preferred girls and 61 percent said that it doesn't make any difference to them.

Increase of Life Expectancy

One of the main health indicators which is also an indicator of development, is life expectancy. This indicator shows the probable length of life of an individual from birth. According to this indicator, table 2, the life expectancy has increased during the last 20 years. It shows that this increase has been more in women than men so that

difference of one year of life expectancy between men and women in 1986 has reached 2 years in 2006.

In 2006, the life expectancy of men has approximately been estimated as 71 that is 12.5 years more than 1986. Increase of life expectancy among women has been 14 years since in 1986 it has been 60 while in 2006 it has reached over 73 years.

Development of Health Services

Health and medical centers have been active in different urban and rural areas of the country conducting vaccination and delivering treatment services and they are expanding.

The clients of these health centers are mostly women who refer for vaccination of their children and themselves, family planning and women's hygiene services. The number of these health centers reached 8634 in 2007 which means that comparing to 1986 they doubled and 6076 units of these centers are in urban and 2558 units are active in rural areas (Center of Statistics of Iran, *Annual Statistics of 2007*, page 644).

Family planning takes place in these centers and special health care is given to mothers in case of emergency delivery in urban and rural health centers. Moreover, in rural areas, there are smaller units called Health Houses where each unit covers one or more villages of approximately 1500 inhabitants.

Health house is the first unit that delivers basic health care services in rural areas. These health houses started their activities in 1996 with approximately 14000 units covering 84 percent of rural population. In 2006, this number reached 17000 and its coverage reached over 98 percent. Similar to health centers, the services of health houses are mostly for women. One of the main responsibilities of these health houses is to complete the life diagram of the population. This diagram is a piece of paper of 50x70 cm, containing 7 tables and 5 concentric circles printed in four colors containing different information such as demographic information according to age and sex of children, delivery situation, maternal mortality rate and causes, utilization of iodine salt and family planning. As far as it can be seen, the activities of health centers not only are not less from women than men but it is more.

Decreased maternal mortality rate and pre-delivery health care

Maternal mortality rate that represents deaths of mothers due to different events during delivery per 100000 has significantly decreased in Iran so that from 150 per 100000 live births, it has reached approximately 35 per 100000 in 2006.

Also, with regards to pre-natal care, 93 percent of mothers who have had delivery during 1999 to 2000, have been under special care for at least once where this ratio in urban areas has been 95 and in rural areas has been estimated to be 90 percent. Ratio of individuals who have been taken care for at least twice is 91, 93, 88 percent and mothers who have been taken care for at least six times during these years are estimated to be 80, 82, and 75 percent (Ministry of Health and Medical Education, *Population and Health*, 2000, p. 50).

Abortion

Considering that life supersedes death, therefore in the Islamic Republic of Iran, abortion is prohibited and illegal; but in case the specialist doctor diagnoses that continuation of pregnancy will be associated with risks for the mother or the fetus suffers abnormalities threatening the life and health of mother, with legal permission, abortion is possible.

There are cases of illegal abortion, which take place in unhygienic places by specialist doctors or other individuals out of the sight of the law.

In Islamic Republic of Iran, abortion is not an acceptable way of family planning and women undergoing abortion illegally, according to the articles 482, 622, 673, and 624 of Islamic Penal Law, according to their involvement, are sentenced to 3 to 5 months of imprisonment and also paying blood money and retaliation. According to most religious scholars, if pregnancy threatens mother's life, abortion is allowed. Regarding abnormalities, there are different ideas but most of them accept aborting in case of abnormality of life threatening situations before soul comes to the fetus.

Decrease of Infant Mortality Rate

Infant mortality rate in our country, from 35 per 1000 in 1996 dropped to 24 per 1000 in 2006. This rate was 3 per 1000 more in boys than girls in 2006. Tehran province has had the minimum number and Sistan and Baluchistan province have had the maximum rate. From 1996 to 2001, more than 10 per 1000 deaths have decreased in Sistan and Baluchistan province, while the decrease rate in Tehran was at 3 per 1000. The infant mortality rate in Iran in 1996 was even less than estimated rate of the Platform for Action of 2015 to be 35 per 1000.

Mortality rate of children under 5 in 1996 was approximately 46 per 1000, which is less than provisions of 2015. In the recent years this ratio has reached to less than 30 per 1000, which is significant.

Generally, the health indicators of Iran are much better than other developing countries but they are still less than developed countries.

Promotion of Breast feeding

Breast feeding provides sufficient food till 6 months of age and babies don't need any other kind of food even water; breast feeding promotion has been taking place in Iran through posters and brochures rendered by health centers of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education and promoted to mothers by face to face advocacy of health workers. According to the statistics only one percent of children under 2 have never been breast-fed. 90 percent of children up to one year, 80 percent up to 1.5 year and 40 percent up to 2 years have been breast-fed (Ministry of Health and Medical Education, *Population and Health*, 2000, p. 80).

Participation of Non-governmental Organizations

Different governmental departments such as the Ministry of Health and Medical Education and the Welfare Organization have cooperated with different NGOs involved in health issues at different levels. This cooperation consists of funding NGOs' health projects for women.

Many high rank managers of health departments have acknowledged establishment of NGOs and implementing advocacy and capacity building projects in the field of health for women in the last decade whereas the managers act of establishing NGOs is contrary to the definition and function of a real NGO but this step has been efficient

in the sense of creating norms and implementing certain projects that can't be undertaken in the structure of governmental organizations. NGOs have played a crucial role not only in implementing projects but also since the last two years they have been actively involved in governmental meetings of decision making and policy making.

Quality Promotion of Medicine

According to the National Drug Policy of Iran which was reviewed and approved on 15 May 2004, all drugs available in drug market of Iran including those for family planning should meet national and international standards.

According to this policy, auditors of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education pay periodical visits to drug providers and observe different stages of production regarding taking into account the rules of productions by the producers.

Promotion of Nutrition

A national review on the micro nutrients of iron, zinc, vitamin A and E in different age groups in 11 geographical areas shows that 38 percent of children between 15 to 23 months suffer from anemia (Sheykh- ol Islam, Robabeh, Director of Nutrition Promotion Department of the Ministry of Health and Medical Education). In other areas, anemia reaches 60 percent.

In 1995, anemia among girls of 14 to 20 years of age in the country was at 31 percent and due to the provisions in 2001, this rate decreased to 18 percent which represents a proper growth.

According to the Beijing Platform for Action; from 1990 to 2000, anemia should decline to one-third. Considering the estimate made, anemia has decreased by 70 percent over 6 years. Anemia is a significant problem among pregnant women though health network has not been very successful in its supplementary iron project.

In the Ministry of Health provisions have been made to deal with anemia, including: nutrition education, promotion of sanitation including: water supply, dealing with parasitical diseases, sanitary disposal of wastes and increased access to health services.

Considering poverty, and malnutrition, in first, second and third Economic, Social, and Cultural National Development Plans,

eliminating poverty has been one of the main objectives of the government since it has a direct impact over malnutrition.

In the chapter of Health Promotion and Improving Quality of Life (chapter 7) of health development, human security, and social justice (third chapter) in the rules and regulations of the fourth five-year Economic, Social and Cultural National Development Plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran, it has been stated that “It is the responsibility of the government to take the following actions to change the approaches and massive promotion of health and quality of life of Iranian citizens, observing comprehensiveness and effectiveness, adopting proper expedients, policies and strategies for promoting health and quality of life of people in all aspects and also institutionalizing of management, policy making, evaluation and coordination in the territory and also food security and nutrition in the country and preparing appropriate food basket and decreasing diseases caused by malnutrition and expansion of public health in the country:

1 - Establishing “Health and Food Security Supreme Council” by integrating the Food and Nutrition Council with the Health Supreme Council.

2 - Provisions for training to promote culture and raise awareness regarding malnutrition.

3 - Allocating funds, credit, banking facilities and subsidies for production, support, distribution and consumption of food items to achieve appropriate food basket and providing resources for advocating healthy food among meals of students and also supplementary feeding for deprived populations.

4 - Provisions of general plan of decreasing food items.

5 - Provisions of general plans for food security.

These goals and objectives have also been referred to not only in the fourth plan but also in the first, second and third development plans.

Access to potable water

Access to piped water which is one of the health indicators is in good conditions so that almost 100 percent of urban families enjoy pipe water.

In rural areas in 1996 almost 71 percent of the families had access to pipe water whereas in 2006 this ratio increased to 83.5 percent.

Strengthen Preventive Programs

C.2 STRENGTHEN PREVENTIVE PROGRAMMES THAT PROMOTE

WOMEN'S HEALTH

The Islamic Republic of Iran approved the *Family Planning and Population Law* in 1993 and based on this law:

- The Ministry of Education will be responsible to accommodate modules of population and mother and child care effectively in related curricula.
- The Ministry of Culture and Higher Education and the Ministry of Health and Medical Education will be responsible to create a training session covering population and family planning in all majors.
- The Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance will be responsible to provide opportunities for active participation of journalists, directors and other artists cooperating with that organization to prepare programs regarding population and family planning to promote general awareness.
- The Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting Organization is responsible to provide programs to be broadcasted through radio and TV to promote level of public awareness to provide mother and child health and population.

Government's Actions

1 - Promotion of life expectancy among women through: increasing literacy level of women, promoting reproductive health through educating pregnant women, increased attended delivery, benefiting of insurance facilities by pregnant women, advocating breast-feeding, cultural development regarding women and girls' nutrition, supplementary iron provisions for girl students at school, labor laws and mandates for working pregnant and lactating women, implementing pilot projects of integrated health care for mothers, providing contraception, encouraging and empowering men to support their wife in raising children and family planning, preventive, curative and rehabilitation provisions and promotion of women and girls' psychological health status, screening breast cancer, advocating food

security for women, reinforcement and development of sport for women, providing training material and films.

2 - Prevention of HIV/AIDS through trainings of recognizing AIDS and its preventive measures to students at pre- high school and high school levels. Implementing “Healthy Family Project” through training of sexual behavior, psychological needs, addiction and HIV, measures to care of HIV suffering people through establishing centers and institutions, educating people through mass media and holding specialized seminars.

3 - Advocating and rendering health services through volunteer forces: employing volunteer forces in form of NGOs, Bassij, health workers, young cooperation forces for development.

4 - Health of the elderly: implementing special projects for elderly, training them on healthy living methods after aging.

5 - Expansion of research and surveillance by holding scientific seminars and training for women and young girls and reserving credit for research projects at provincial levels.

6 - Increasing the number of rural health houses, urban health centers and mobilized health units for families, implementing the project of healthy family.

7 - Establishing pre-marriage consultation centers, sexual hygiene, holding consultation and training sessions in cultural and social centers for women, creating psychotherapy and psychological health centers.

8 - Consulting private sectors for general health services delivery.

9 - Changing attitudes of health authorities of the country towards rights (health is a public right) and participatory methods (moving from “Health for everybody” to “Everybody for Health”).

Women’s NGOs Activities

“Sustainability” is the main characteristic of most Women’s NGO activities in the field of health. A sum of 235 activities has been undertaken by women’s NGOs in this field. Most of these activities have been training focused and massive measures have been taken for sharing information and promoting women’s awareness. Variety and innovation of these activities deserves appreciation.

- Holding scientific, training and empowerment seminars on different issues of women's health concerns including reproductive health, women and obstetrics, preventing addiction, family planning, supporting disabled people and analyzing gender issues.
- Holding training workshops on different topics of health such as reproductive health, nutrition for women, psychological health, preventing special addictions of women, family planning, breast-feeding and cancer.
- Taking action to inform and raise awareness in women prisons through training and consultations on narcotics and addiction.
- Delivering consultation services and holding consultation sessions for women and girls in need (including legal, family and psychological consultations) to promote women's health status.
- Cooperating with governmental organizations such as health centers and secretariat of Anti-Narcotic Department and the Ministry of Health and Medical Education in implementing different projects for women.
- Signing letters of agreement with hospitals and clinics to render free services to patients suffering special diseases.
- Conducting research about women's psychological health, productivity models in Iran, family abnormalities and prevention of smoking among women.
- Providing brochures and training materials regarding food security and other health issues for women.
- Preparing scientific articles on women's role in preventing addiction in family.
- Submitting proposals on women's health from puberty to adulthood to government organizations.
- Rendering medicinal services to disadvantaged women, especially in deprived areas. - Communication with specialized medical institutions to render services through them.
- Covering the medical costs of those seeking assistance, especially women in need of these services.
- Establishing medical clinics, committees of prevention of AIDS at local level, constructing public baths and health

institutes and networks to distribute information on women's health issues.

- Holding sports competitions with the aim of increasing women's health
- Holding recreational and hygiene camps for women and girls

Women NGOs have been active in the field of capacity building and training, which have been reinforcing measures of these organizations during the recent decade. The main point is that the training models and workshop management methods have made them practical and useful for governmental organization or private sector sharing similar missions. So, we can claim that these NGOs, considering their approach to women's health, have been able to create a new and successful wave of training in the country and government organizations and private sectors owe it to civil society.

These organizations have had innovations in rendering services and advocacy activities and they have been able to cover most of the topics that were out of governmental programming structure.

CNWN Activities

- Holding puberty health workshops for young girls in two phases by the support of UNESCO.
- Holding consultative- training workshop on reproductive health in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Medical Education to promote NGOs' cooperation in rendering services to the population.
- Establishing a consultation center and responding to the needs of women referring to solve different family, education, professional problems and to advocating living skills.

Fourth National Development Plan

Related parts in the Fourth National Development Plan to health and women's issues are as follows:

- Programming and planning training courses to promote health and healthy living methods(fourth chapter,Section T,Article 5).
- For increased efficiency of health services system in the country and reinforcing and developing medical services

insurance system the following steps will be taken: B- Up to the end of the Fourth Development Plan, Supreme Council of Medical Services Insurance will establish facilities for health insurance focusing on family medicine and referral system (Chapter 7, Section B, Article 91).

- Providing especial insurance (in form of support programs) to support women as the head of the family and individuals with no support with the priority of orphan children
- (Chapter 8, Section G, Article 96).
- Promotion of psychological health, expansion of social assistance, reinforcing family structure and empowering individuals and groups at risk (Chapter 8, Section A, Article 98).
- Government, six months after approval of this law, should take measures to prepare and implement strategic documents of rendering services, promoting social, medical and living level of people (Chapter 8, Article 99).
- The right to physical and mental health

Challenges and Constraints

- -Imbalance of indicators in different provinces of the country and lack of contingent plans for all provinces
- Significant increase of medical and paramedical graduates and their lack of involvement in health centers though there is a great need.
- Population growth in areas where health indicators are low
- Lack of statistical information on issues such as illegal abortion, patients suffering HIV and plans for solving problems
- Increasing number of newborn and population growth due to increasing number of women at marriage and reproductive age (due to population growth at the first decade after the Revolution)
- Malnutrition among low-income families.
- Existing norm constraints in promoting advocating and preventive measures in AIDS and women's addiction and research on violence against women.

- Unison in population control policy and family planning for all provinces, if some people overall fertility rate is lower than the level of substitution.

Recommendation to the Government

- Necessity of diversified education fields at university level regarding women's health and expanding research on social damages related to women's health especially violation against women, street women, AIDS and etc.
- Women's presence in the realm of top decision making and policy setting arena
- Enhancing inter organizational innovations through drawing semi-governmental organizations such as Red Crescent and Medical Workers Organization toward independent and autonomous organizations.
- Supporting private sector and providing special facilities and encouraging them to work for women.
- Reviving health network and preserving its quality and involving NGOs in health network.
- Creating norms in sexual health and AIDS using norm creating tools such as religious leaders and media: enhancing TV programs regarding women's health and focusing on issues such as AIDS, violence against women and sexual health.
- Comprehensive information distribution among ministries that have common mission in the field of women's health such as ministry of health and welfare organization.
- Increasing synergy in improving and promoting women's health through attracting men's participation and family members in relative programs.
- Enhancing the level of health from an illness-free level to complete physical, psychological, and social health.
- Reinforcing women NGO participation with a women's health approach in high rank decision making levels such as Supreme Council of Health and involving them in monitoring and evaluation of health projects for women.

The first nongovernmental national development plan

Method:

- Help to promote the physical and mental health of women

Measures:

- Creation and expansion of mental health NGOs
- Follow through in the setting of deprived women's nutrition intake improvement programme
- Identification of women's mental health issues
- Development and expansion of cultural, arts and recreational programmes especially for women towards the creation of happiness and increasing their energy.

Method:

- Efforts to develop women only recreational and sports facilities
- Identification of legal vacuums in relevant spheres

Measures:

- Exchange of letters of agreement between sports centres with regards for the use of women
- Follow up on women's sports championships

Method:

- Strengthening national, regional and international cooperation with regards to combating women's AIDS and drug addiction

Measure:

- Increasing women's awareness of AIDS
- Efforts to remove cultural obstacles in the methods of combating AIDS

Method:

- Strengthening the constructive role of women in the development and promotion of their own health and the family and the blooming of their children's talents and family economy

Measures:

- Preservation of the role of women in raising their children
- Preservation of the Iranian and Islamic cultural indicators

Recommendation to Women NGOs

- Informing networks focusing on women's health in different specialized and defined topics such as AIDS.
- Preventing duplications and repeating or copying previously done activities by other governmental organizations and NGOs and paying special attention to the existing gaps on women's health and organizing the activities according to the needs.
- Reinforcing regional and international cooperation in dealing with AIDS, addiction, prostitution and enhancing activities fields to transnational levels.
- Focusing on specialized activities and special organization mandates.
- Interrelation of health and women's health issues, necessity of contingency in training materials, while focusing on one topic and ignoring other health issues declines impact on target group.
- Paying special attention to research and increasing activities in media on health, women's health and providing written literature in this field.

Conclusion

Infant mortality rate of children is an indicator of health and also is used as an indicator for development. The mortality rate of children in developing countries is 50 per 1000 while this indicator in Islamic Republic of Iran is 24.5 per 1000 and in developed countries is less than 10 per 1000.

The infant mortality rate of girl child in 1986 was approximately 75 per 1000 while in 2006, during 20 years; it reached to 24 per 1000, which is almost a third. It is worth mentioning that most of medical and health indicators of the country for women have better status compared to men and in the recent years there have been significant changes. As an example, the life expectancy is another indicator of development; in 1986 it has been one year more among women compared to men whereas in 2008 this difference reached to 3 years (in 2008 life expectancy of women was 73 and life expectancy of men was about 70).

At the moment, the health development indicators for women and children in the country are more developed than the indicators stated in the Beijing Platform of Action.

Advocacy regarding breast-feeding by governmental and private centers has promoted breast-feeding in the first year to 80 percent that is more than the rate in developing and developed countries.

In Islamic Republic of Iran, abortion is not accepted as method of family planning and prevention of abortion except in case of necessity has saved innocent children's life.

The health centers in 2006 reached to 8634 units and compared to 1987 it Has more than tripled and service rendered in health centers to women is more than those given to men. Maternal mortality rate shows the incident of mothers' death at the time of delivery is among 100 thousand births; in Iran this rate has significantly decreased so that from 150 per 100 thousand live births it has reached to 35 per 100 thousand in 2006.

Table 1: Infant Mortality Rate

	1986 ⁽¹⁾	1996 ⁽¹⁾	2001 ⁽¹⁾	2006 ⁽²⁾
Boy	80.7	38	34.5	25.8
Girl	74.5	32	29.6	22.9

1-Statistics Center of Iran

2- Center for Health Statistics for Women and Families

Table 2: life Expectancy at Birth , Iran

	1986	1996	2001	2006
Male	58.48	67.0	67.6	71.1
Female	59.33	69.8	70.4	73.1

Department of Health and Medical Education

Table3: Active Health Houses in terms of covered population

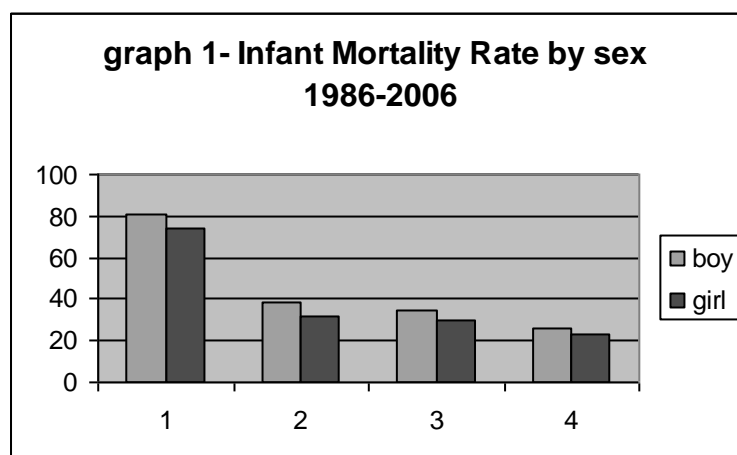
Year	Health centers			Rural Health	Rural population	Percentage of overage Health
	Total	Urban	Rural			
1996	5797	2041	3756	14146	19363345	84.1
2002	7345	2388	4957	16022	19905106	88.5
2003	7534	2404	5130	16175	20797467	92.1
2006	8288	2502	5786	17139	21700965	98.1
2007	2558	6076	8634	17151	21960135	-

Calendar for National Statistics

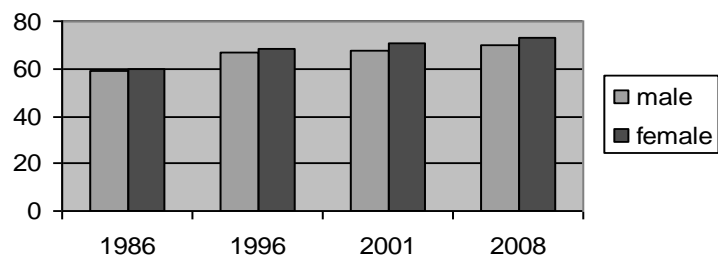
Table 4: Household with sustainable access to an improved water source, Iran

	1996	2006
Urban	96.2	99.5
Rural	70.7	83.5

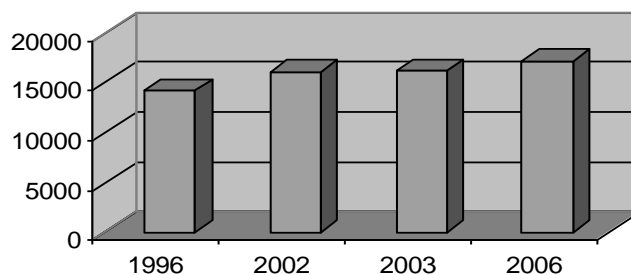
General population and housing census



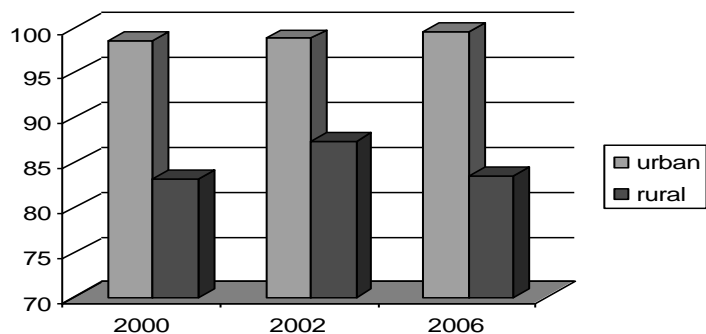
**graph 2-Life Expectancy at Birth
by sex 1986-2008**



**graph 3- Active Health House in Rural
,1996-2006**



**graph 4 - Proportion of Population with
sustainable access to an Improved water source,
2000-2006**



CHAPTER FOUR

Violence against Women

Values of the supervisory Topic

Islamic legislative system that carries provisioner principles of security and tranquility in the following individual and family social. First element of supply security of women, faith, and God has said lies: "he it is who sent down tranquility into the hearts of the believers that they might have more of faith added to their faith-- and Allah's are the hosts of the heavens and the earth, and Allah is knowing, wise (Al-Fath Surah, verse 4) as the vision of Islam faith, confidence and most important factor is individual and social peace. Based on Quran coordinate community of brotherhood and equality of religious faith are counts. Here that the unity of Muslims calling them enemies of the divisions and it opens and says: "and hold fast by the covenant of Allah all together and be not disunited, and remember the favor of Allah on you when you were enemies, then he united your hearts so by his favor you became brethren; and you were on the brink of a pit of fire, then he saved you from it, thus does Allah make clear to you his communications that you may follow the right way" (Al-Emran 103) In addition, any issue of social and domestic violence against women big sin and a crime has been considered. For example, in the house addressed to men that "do not seek a way against them" (An-Nisa, 34) that allowed you to their home and family system will permit violation. In addition to the support and protection while spouses of each other, said: "it is made lawful to you to go into your wives on the night of the fast; they are an apparel for you and you are an apparel for them; Allah knew that you acted unfaithfully to yourselves, so he has turned to you (mercifully) and removed from you (this burden); so now be in contact with them and seek what Allah has ordained for you, and eat and drink until the whiteness of the day becomes distinct from the blackness of the night at dawn, then complete the fast till night, and have not contact with them while you keep to the mosques; these are the limits of Allah, so do not go near them. thus does Allah make clear his communications for men that they may guard (against evil)" (Al-Baqara, 187) Your support and be bound to support each other and maintain clothing and Hafez are together. To respect the other hand, mother and wife of dignity is the most important religious orders. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) to this continuous emphasis and order were essential If their Updated: "do not degrading to women, except those who are around the area of

human knowledge and human suffering are complex." Stressed Islam in support of peace and rejection Violence against women is as much that even after a divorce, stated: "divorce may be (pronounced) twice, then keep (them) in good fellowship or let (them) go with kindness" (Al-Baqara, 229). Even a chapter to chapter "Divorce" is devoted to the behavioral rules that man when divorce border moderation and be not out of human values. For example, the Chapter stated:

" لا تخرجوهن من بيوتهن "

You eject the women from their homes are not. While the provision for home and needs a man to his wife.

The social field of any physical and sexual violence against women and prestige are not allowed. And the ruling social security system to provide women with privacy infringement expensive to treat social security law and the criminal penalties to violations. And discussions about, and suspended from the social security has been provided.

Imam Khomeini:

If a man has abused the woman, Islam prohibits and if he does not listen he must be hit with Had, and if he still does not listen, a clergy must annul the marriage.

Ayatollah Khamenei:

The society, morally and legally is duty bound to strongly confront those that think the violation of their wives is their right.

Woman must own to find her own dignity and must not be oppressed just for being a woman. This thing is very bad. What cruelties that have been committed against women which is known as cruelty and is also not known as cruelty, but are in fact cruelty. Just like encouraging them to being consumers, and useless makeup and heavy expenses turn women into commodities. This is a great cruelty to women.

Women have historically been oppressed, pay attention to them, it's a historical cruelty, therefore if this battle is fought in a rush and without hindsight, undoubtedly it fight will fall back.

Introduction

Background

The Iranian society is based on the rich Islamic-Iranian culture and is a society based on a culture of peace and friendship and considers violence in the family very bad. Peace and kindness is an old moral custom in Iran and kindness and guarding children and women's dignity is respected and is against violence and those who apply violence.

Considering the fact that Iranian society is following values and is bound by moral principles and respecting mothers is very important and has special status in public culture. Since long ago, public and family atmospheres have been safe environments for women.

With the change in social relations and necessity for women's presence at work and in the society, growth of city dwelling, women attained new roles which were not according to patriarchy which had the role of supporting and protecting women. This caused more violence against women in the country. Although the existence of powerful social capitals and strong family relations on one hand and sensitivity of leaders and governmental implementers on the other hand regarding violence against women still remains in a scattered and weak form.

The Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Article 21

1. Create a favorable environment for the growth of woman's personality and the restoration of her rights, both the material and intellectual;

Article 22

The dignity, life, property, rights, residence, and occupation of the individual are inviolate, except in cases sanctioned by law.

Perspective

The twenty years perspective of the country:

The creation of a society based on morality and Islamic, national and the Revolution values and also preserving human dignity and rights, which benefits from the efforts of social and judicial security.

Charter of Women's Rights and Responsibilities

61. Right to be immune from verbal and behavioral aggression of others and responsibility of treating members of society with respect

5. This Charter does not intend to stipulate the manner of implementation of rights and responsibilities, although it is a necessity to guarantee it, observing the structure of laws.

11. Since the Charter aims to state women's rights and responsibilities, the mention of individuals or institutions in charge of the implementation of these rights has been avoided. Undoubtedly, this Charter is a basis for policymaking, planning, and legislation on women's issues in all organizations.

44. The right to divorce the husband in the failure to reconcile following going to court and producing good reason and also observation of divorce law.

Current Situation and Achievements

Measures to Prevent Violence

D.1 TAKE INTEGRATED MEASURES TO PREVENT AND ELIMINATE

One of the main steps taken by the government over the last eight years, has been establishing the National Committee of Elimination of Violence against Women in the Center for Women's Participation (Center for Women's Affairs and Family) with membership of many representatives from related bodies and representatives of NGOs and universities. This committee was following two different issues: first, the efforts for legal recognition of the Committee to institutionalize their campaign and second, was preparing a national plan of action to address violence against women. Some scattered measures were taken by other organizations in this regard. Although, these actions are effective but since they are not integrated the level of efficiency is not really defined. A sample of these activities is the efforts of the Welfare Organization in establishing "Health Houses" and Crisis Intervention Centers. There has not been enough dissemination of information regarding the existence of these houses and centers. So, the referral rate of women to these centers cannot be estimated. It seems that besides establishing such centers, the Welfare Organization should also apply to train men and women so that female victims

would know that they can report these cases to related organizations. Training female police officers is another activity that can help to address violence against women.

Legal Support

To provide access for female victims to court and legal awareness of their rights, an amendment was made to essential qualifications for selection of judges so that the supreme judge can select and recruit qualified women to serve as consultants to the judiciary bodies of the government, special civil courts, researcher judges.

Some amended laws to support women and girl-child exposed to violence are as follows:

Amendment of article 1173 of civil law to remove guardianship of the child from parents in case immoralities are detected. Cases of abandon, meaning that the man leaves the house for 6 to 9 continuous months without any reason, addiction, beating, bad behavior of the spouse, or incurable psychological disease, divorce is approved. The law to support children and adolescence to support individuals under 18 and punishment of child or adolescence abuse.

D.2 STUDY THE CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES OF VIOLENCE AGAINST

WOMEN AND THE EFFECTIVENESS OF PREVENTIVE MEASURES

Domestic Violence Against Women

National research on domestic violence against women, in 28 provinces of the country, has been a joint project between the Center for Women's Participation and the Social Department of the Ministry of Interior conducted in collaboration with the Ministry of Science since 2001 up to now. This project has five phases and is based on claims of 12 thousand and 596 women and 2 thousand and 66 men selected from 100 thousand complaint cases referred to family court, Legal Medical Department, Police, Welfare Centers, Martyrs' Foundation and Foundation for Handicapped (Bonyard-e Janbazan) during 1996 up to 2001 and compared to 45 indicators of domestic violence rate against women. According to this national research

conducted in 28 provinces, average rates of different stages of women's life show that in the first year of marriage, financial problems, after first child, middle- age, and pregnancy are the most vulnerable years of a women's life and violence reaches its minimum rate at the time of high income, before sexual relation, old-age and during working days of a week.

The overall estimate in 28 provinces show that 60 percent of the families covered in the research, since the beginning of their marital life have experienced violence for at least once in its general definition. 30 percent have at least once experienced serious physical violence and 10 percent of these families have experienced temporary of permanent damages of these violence.

Education

The review of individuals education levels show that those individuals involved in violence in its general type from the beginning of marital life: illiterate, post-graduate, and BS degree holders in physical violence, second type: illiterate, MS degree holders and above in psychological, verbal violence, illiterate, post-graduate and BS degree holders have presented maximum and minimum violence and in the damages caused by violence, threats and physical violence such as sexual, financial, legal and violence related to divorce and violence in deprivation from social, mental, and educational violence is significantly different in various education levels involved in violence.

Income

Level of income and its impact over violence shows that in families with 752260 Rials up to 3000000 Rials expenditure, maximum and minimum rate of violence can be observed regarding general indicators and damages caused by violence.

Health and Sanitation

According to the research conducted regarding factors influencing domestic violence against women, considering the responses given by women suffering from different diseases and those suffering depression and psychological problems or having spouses suffering the abovementioned cases, have experienced domestic violence more

than others and violence harms and damages have been more among those consuming any kind of medicine. On the other hand, violence against women having children with two kinds of diseases and women with healthy children face the maximum and minimum rate of violence.

In 2004, two thousand and 165 cases of harassment have been reported in the country; out of which 550 have faced physical violence, 495 have faced psychological violence, 884 have faced armed threats, 236 have faced sexual violence and 3 of them died due to incurable damages caused by violence.

Husband killing

According to the conclusions of a field study conducted in the women murderers ward of Evin, the reason of husband killing among 86 percent of these women, is the violence conducted against them. The research results show that more than 83 percent of these murders are because of husbands' adultery. Fear from the husband and feeling despised is also the reason of 80 percent of cases of husband killing.

Main Causes of Violence

The main causes of domestic violence against women in Iran are:

- Being away from religious trainings and models that invite people to kindness and love.
- Weakness of laws and special support system for women.
- Lack of counseling centers and special courts for violence against women.
- Lack of knowledge of couples regarding their rights and legal duties.
- Economic dependency of women to men for living expenses.
- Misinterpretation of religious commandments and advertisement of wrong practices.
- Lack of mass media coverage in violence against women.
- Consideration of divorce as shameful and believing to continue marital life in anyway possible.
- Weakness of religious beliefs and values regarding human behavior with women.

Creating a social support network to render services and establishment of police for women including high rank police officers and

amendment or change of civil and criminal laws containing violence and possibility of a safe house for women are some of the strategies to control or eliminate domestic violence.

Suicide Preventive Measures

The suicide preventive measures are: establishment of health houses, pseudo-family centers, crisis telephone lines, family consultation centers, organization of pre-marriage counseling centers, provision of a new education curriculum including “Rights and Knowledge of Family” in education system, promotion of culture regarding women’s status, provisions for more serious punishment of men who commit spouse abuse against their wives, establishment of a ministry of social welfare to render effective services to vulnerable or affected people.

Advocacy to Combat Different Types of Violence Against Women

In Iran, at the time of the Supreme Leader of the Revolution, and his warnings regarding domestic violence, authorities found their way and people came to know that they should seriously apply to improve the situation. Although, violence against women has a low rate according to the national researches and in comparison with some other countries, even that is not accepted considering our religious beliefs and it cannot be justified. This attention also involved film editors since 1999 to address violence against women and many movies on the related theme were made thereafter. This also involved other social groups. University students conducted researches on violence against women for their final thesis and media presented this issue in different pages, books were also published. NGOs, started their participatory training workshops since then in Tehran and other provinces and some other organizations applied to support female victims of violence and established special consultation centers for female victims. In this way, not only in public arena but also in their private life, women’s human rights were preserved.

Eliminate Trafficking of Women

D.2 ELIMINATE TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND ASSIST VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE DUE TO PROSTITUTION AND TRAFFICKING

The bill of combating trafficking of people was approved in the Islamic Parliament. After certain reports of trafficking in women received by the Ministry of Interior, the Islamic Republic Government submitted this bill to the Parliament. According to this bill, forced import and export of women for prostitution, enslavement or marriage is considered trafficking and it will be punished if it is one of the cases mentioned in the law otherwise it will have two to ten years imprisonment and fees two time more. Also the Government of Islamic Republic of Iran has signed the additional protocol of the Convention on the Rights of the Child regarding child abuse in pornography.

Government's Actions

- 1 - Establishment of the National Committee of Elimination of Violence against Women (1997-2002).
- 2 - Creating public sensitivity and public campaign against violence through holding workshops.
- 3 - Allocation of paragraph C of article 111 of Fourth National Development Plan to preventive measures and legislations combating violence against women.
- 4 - Change and improving attitudes regarding women's issues by revising books and omitting cliché pictures of women.
- 5 - Revision and amendment of discriminative laws regarding divorce and minimum age of marriage.
- 6 - Revision of notes in article 638 law regarding moral crimes and changing whipping to imprisonment and fee.
- 7 - Stopping stoning and efforts to find a substitution.
- 8 - Revising recruitment of police forces so that women are employed to combat female social seditions.
- 9 - Establishing family courts to employ legal consultants in the court.
- 10 - Support and empowerment measures such as crisis centers, health houses and safe houses.
- 11 - Providing gender sensitive programs and health trainings to recognize gender based violent acts.

12 - Caring for women and girls in different ages who have experienced violence.

13 - Medical and health services for girls and women with disability and vulnerable and marginalized and victims of violence and abuse.

14 - Medical and health services to all girls and women in different ages against violence and abuse.

15 - Preparation, approval and implementation of policies to combat processes affecting women such as forced marriage or early marriage.

16 - Holding meetings and allocation of periodicals to the issue of violence against women and recommendations to revise laws to the Parliament through The Social and Cultural Council of Women.

Women's NGOs Activities

Prevention and elimination of violence against women is an issue that women' NGOs are interested in and there have been a lot of group efforts in this regard. Since, violence against women has deep root in patriarchal attitudes and mostly happens in private such as home, it needs a lot of activities to eliminate it. Women's NGOs have conducted 28 programs in this regard.

- Holding technical meetings regarding violence against women in different event (such as International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women)
- Holding meetings and training workshops regarding violence against women and violation free relations and criminology of violence.
- Holding meetings for awareness raising and consultation regarding violence against women in marginal areas of Tehran and other cities and group movements for awareness raising.
- Research and study of public attitudes regarding domestic violence, trafficking of women, violence against women and prostitution and self-burning.
- Preparing literature regarding violence against women and publishing newsletter.
- Preparation of articles regarding different types of violence, combating strategies and circumstances of violence.

The activities of NGOs have been very limited considering Beijing 12 critical areas.

It seems that women's NGOs should pay more attention to the problem of violence against women, especially by awareness raising and training activities. Moreover, group and organized efforts or women's NGOs can be more effective. NGOs have not been active in the field of preparing literature and written sources which focuses more on research and study.

CNWN Activities

- Training workshop on "Puberty health for the girl child", Elimination of discrimination against women, reproductive health
- Statement to support Iraqi, Afghan and Algerian women
- Establishing consultation centers

Fourth National Development Plan

Fourth National Development Plan of the country:

The government should undertake the following activities to improve women's participation in society and expanding participation levels in the country.

- Necessary measures to prepare preventive programs and legislations to combat violence against women
- Efforts to eliminate the roots of violence against women and gender inequality
- Promotion of women's mental and physical health to benefit from their potentials
- Establishment of temporary shelters and provision of counseling centres
- Having the right not to be verbally and behaviorally abused by others, protection of life and property and dignity of women and moral and material damages (paragraphs 40, 61, 11)

Challenges and Constraints

- Lack of defined mechanisms in governmental bodies to organize and plan for national campaigns to combat violence against women in the country.

- Presence of wrong attitudes, being away from Islamic culture in the society which is the main reason of violence against women, especially in some tribes.
- Legal gaps and lack of support systems to protect female victims of violence
- Advertisement of some violent practices in mass media
- Lack of centers to protect female victims of violence.
- Lack of research regarding trafficking of women, especially lack of realistic statistics in this regard.

Recommendation to the Government

- Legislation to combat and eliminate violence against women and approval of laws to increase punishment for violence actors against women and compensation to the victims.
- Legislation of national committee on elimination of violence against women so that its approvals can be put in force and implemented.
- Involve women's experience in legislations regarding violence against women.
- Recording, collection and dissemination of information regarding violence statistics through hospitals, Medical department of government, legal bodies so that a more detailed perspective can be formed regarding violence against women.
- Educating men and changing their attitudes, especially their behavior with their spouse and other women in work areas or other public places.
- Addressing violence through media that can have a crucial role in campaigns to combat violence against women and eliminate wrong attitudes regarding women.
- Expanding hotlines for counseling services for female victims of violence, especially in the other cities..
- Facilitating NGOs' activities for women regarding elimination of violence against women and assisting female victims of violence.

The first nongovernmental national development plan

Method:

- Identification of violence creating processes against women

Measures:

- Recognition of women of their social rights
- Recognition of women of labour and social affairs laws
- Recognition of the focal points of social damages
- Women's familiarization to their social rights

Method:

- Preparation of preventive programmes and legal and legislative measures for the elimination of violence against women

Measures:

- Expansion of counseling centres for women and girls
- Promotion of the culture of fight against violence through the mass media with the assistance of artists
- Preparation of educational programmes for schoolgirls for their empowerment

Method:

- Public education and promotion of law abiding, order, conciliation and healthy living

Measures:

- Strengthening women related units in the religious scholars and the radio and TV
- Increasing the legal knowledge of women, legal and legislative measures to eliminate violence against women.

Recommendation to Women NGOs

- Fostering a legal culture, especially regarding women's human rights, dissemination of information, and training. Also, provisions of probable violent practices by women's NGOs can help to mitigate incident of violence against women.
- Identify needs of female victims of violence through those NGOs rendering support services to these groups.
- Counseling for female victims of violence in different levels in different areas of the country by the NGOs.

- Combating violence against women is a vast activity and needs cooperation between women's NGOs. So it is recommended that NGOs keep contact and close collaborations to create a network.
- More investments for research regarding violence against women in the country through NGOs active in research.

Conclusion

In an overall view, the Islamic Republic of Iran has reacted to combat violence against women and during the last years, measures have been taken to eliminate violence against women. Widespread measures of the government in amending laws to ensure protection of girl child against violence and establishment of support and empowerment centers such as crisis centers, health centers and safe houses is worth mentioning.

Still violence is a city phenomenon and is increasing but female victims of violence are inactive to react against it. Through media, training and consultation there is an effort of norm building and reducing and combating violence and to make it accepted publicly. Sure, the pace of reducing violence will increase.

On the other hand, since kinds of domestic, street and occupation are explicit there is no mechanism to combat violence against women with gender-perspective violence.

Now, the governmental, political, and religious leaders employ the existing moral, believes and cultural capacities to be effective in combating violence in social arenas.

Graphs:

CHAPTER FIVE

Women and Armed Conflict

Values of the supervisory Topic

Religions of the most important objectives of peace and security of societies. The most important factor is that faith and love of link security is in the hearts of human beings. Based on the Quran messages to its international human altruism, compassion Tillage, and rejection of violence and despotism and its central emphasis on pluralism and unity based on monotheism and accepting invites right. If the Quran that the Prophet stated: "say: o followers of the book! come to an equitable proposition between us and you that we shall not serve any but Allah and (that) we shall not associate aught with him, and (that) some of us shall not take others for lords besides Allah; but if they turn back, then say: bear witness that we are Muslims" (Al-E-Miran Sura, 64) in this verse explicitly all celestial religions from a harmonious relationship based on right and proper integration invites and if the term "Talva" gives reference to is that in This invitation, growth and excellence is human and any division and obstinacy and hostility through despotism and domination and power circuits on benefit is very rejection of reformists to master the system of rural social and human personality Don counts. Is that people interpret the Quran Saba quoted the queen is: "surely the kings, when they enter a town, ruin it and make the noblest of its people to be low, and thus they (always) do" (Al-Naml Sura, 34) means that when kings and ethnic Fereidoon through to enter the war affected society to corruption and social system turns them over time. That a principle of peace and compromise, has invited National Basketball Association important. But when the air through worship and the United Nations and cruel oppression, war is possible, women and children from direct involvement in armed battle is open to any infringement of them very poor counts. Although the presence of women in some areas of military activities and logistics Bob Vjvb defense manpower and equipment necessary particularly special time counts, but the main responsibility for the jihad affects men and women develop the operating and development and human population trained generations of children are quiet and risks of armed robbery and assault around these concerns are distressing. Here the Amir of believers Ali (AS), these stated: "I been sent home that evening a man of Muslim woman and non-Muslim woman who lives under the protection of the Islamic government has entered their earrings and bracelets and the loot taken.

Imam with great sadness here, stated: If the Muslims of this traumatic experience the discomfort does not die down. Here that differences in the duties and duty men and women in Islam based on wisdom is that the division of tasks has been regarding them naturally.

Imam Khomeini:

- If brave and human building women are taken from nations, then nations shall be drawn to defeat
- Oh wouldn't it be wonderful if mankind reaches such maturity that it replaces its rifles and machineguns with pens
- Women, men and children are examples that under the dropping of bombs and from hospital beds sing martyrdom songs, and with amputated arms and legs wish to return to the human building frontlines.

Ayatollah Khamenei:

- Brave, aware and resisting and patient women of Iran, during the revolution, during the war, whether on the front or behind the front, or inside their homes, they had active presence everywhere
- If Muslim women did not make the effort, this revolution would not have been victorious, the enforced 8 year war would not have had an outcome.
- If women did not show their faith, patience, resilience, honour, and optimism against the damages of war, and the sacrifices of the men and the youth, the war would not have been won. If the mothers and wives of the martyrs showed impatience the eagerness towards the holy war would have evaporated from the hearts of men, it wouldn't have been impassioned like this. In the battlefields women played first class roles.

Introduction

Background

Islamic Republic of Iran, due to its geopolitical situation in the Middle East and independent foreign policies has always been threatened by super power governments. Still the traces of 8 year forced war of Saddam against Iran can be seen that left martyrs, captives and more than 500 thousand handicapped men and women and the life of those injured in chemical attacks is in danger. The affects of this war will continue for another generation among martyrs' families. Existence of hundreds of mines that are not de-mined is another horrible event left from the imposed war that is a potential threat to women and children residing in these areas. Hosting hundreds of Afghan and Iraqis and problems of refugee women is another crisis caused by the US and its dependant governments. These events have caused pain to Iranian's independent and peaceful spirit and brought about significant achievements without foreign assistance by using internal resources.

The Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Article 3

11.all round strengthening of the foundations of national defence to the utmost degree by means of universal military training for the sake of safeguarding the independence, territorial integrity, and the Islamic order of the country;

Article 152

The foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran is based upon the rejection of all forms of domination, both the exertion of it and submission to it, the preservation of the independence of the country in all respects and its territorial integrity, the defence of the rights of all Muslims, non-alignment with respect to the hegemonist superpowers, and the maintenance of mutually peaceful relations with all non-belligerent States.

Article 154

The Islamic Republic of Iran has as its ideal human felicity throughout human society, and considers the attainment of independence, freedom, and rule of justice and truth to be the right of all people of the world. Accordingly, while scrupulously refraining from all forms of interference in the internal affairs of other nations, it supports the

just struggles of the mustad'afun against the mustakbirun in every corner of the globe.

Perspective

Twenty years perspective of the country: A safe, independent, and powerful society with defense order based on total prevention and unity of people and government. Having mutual and productive relation with the world based on dignity, knowledge and expedient

Charter of Women's Rights and Responsibilities

126. Women's right to benefit from necessary support for safeguarding physical integrity and prevention of transgressions against reputation of women during the time of war, captivity, and military occupation;

124. Women's right and responsibility of legitimate defense of self and others, religion, country, life, property and reputation;

125. Women's right and responsibility to participate in affairs and endeavor towards the maintenance and promotion of world peace;

Current Situation and Achievements

Participation of Women in Conflict Resolution at Decision-Making Level

E.1 INCREASE THE PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION AT DECISION-MAKING LEVELS AND PROTECT WOMEN

LIVING IN SITUATIONS OF ARMED AND OTHER CONFLICTS OR UNDER FOREIGN OCCUPATION

Active involvement of women in defending borders of Iran during 8 years of the war and establishment of women mobilized groups as part of armed forces, women as legal social workers in the Martyrs' Foundation (Bonyad Shahid), led women to be involved in military decision making levels, preserving peace and security and preventing massive damages of war on women and young girls and families of the martyrs of the imposed war.

Major levels of women's involvement in decision making are: establishment of Office of Women's Affairs in the Cultural

Department of the Armed Forces, Office of Women's Affairs at the Defense Ministry, and Council of Women's Representatives at the Defense Ministry and presence of women in technical research Councils of the Defense Ministry.

Women handicapped in War

Due to the imposed war of Iraq against Iran, 6400 were martyred, 6200 women became handicapped and 10 women were war captives and now over 60,000 women are head of households after the war.

Foundation for the Oppressed and Handicapped (Janbazan) every year has allocated for women whose husband became handicapped in war and the amount for handicapped women is more than those for men.

Also, monthly pension of handicapped women is 25% more than others and they enjoy advantages in education, housing, insurance, medical issues and employment. There are also other kinds of facilities for the war affected families.

Military Expenditures

E.2 REDUCE EXCESSIVE MILITARY EXPENDITURES AND CONTROL

THE AVAILABILITY OF ARMAMENTS

From the beginning of the Revolution, by the order of Supreme Leader of the Revolution, the Islamic Revolution Guards were formed to defend the Revolution ideals beside the Islamic Republic Military Forces. During the imposed war, the armed forces had a crucial role in defending the borders of the country and establishing security for people of Iran and after war has focused its activities on reconstruction in sustainable development such as constructing dams, building roads.

Although the Islamic Republic of Iran is faced with military and political threats, among countries of the Middle East, has allocated a small portion for military objectives and defense structures. While the Middle East is now a crisis stricken region in the world and has experienced two wars in the last two decades such as the war in Iraq, Iraq's war against Kuwait, and the invasion of the United States to Afghanistan and Iraq.

Drug Trafficking

In the Islamic Republic of Iran, according to Article 33 for Anti-Narcotic Campaign, a secretariat with the chairmanship of the President, who is the highest decision and policy making level, was formed to campaign, prevent addiction and rehabilitation of addicts. The objectives of this secretariat is campaign against drug trafficking and abuse of drugs and using all facilities and resources including implementing, judiciary, cultural, and education to achieve a society free of addiction and drug trafficking.

According to the abovementioned law, this secretariat and other ministries, organizations and institutes, governmental and non-governmental have the following responsibilities:

- 1 - Preventing addiction and curing addicts to drugs and supporting individuals at risk to prevent addiction to drugs and narcotics
- 2 - Curing and rehabilitation of addicts
- 3 - Provisions for the post-freedom period
- 4 - Provisions to protect and immunity of at risk and cultural, guidance, advocacy measures to mitigate the demand rate

It is worth mentioning that the Islamic Republic of Iran has common borders with Afghanistan, which is the main center of narcotic production in the region and is the front line of drug trafficking to Europe and other countries; while receives no serious support from Europe in implementing this duty.

Weapon Trade

According to the law, weapon trade and having them on board is illegal and the criminals will face legal measures.

Anti Human Trafficking Campaign

Regarding human trafficking; lately a law has been approved against trading children and women, which is called Anti-Human Trafficking Campaign Law that is covered in the section for “Violence Against Women”.

Refugees women and children support associations

In recent decades always host large number of refugees has been part of many of these refugees were women and children who escaped the fire of war are border cities. Who for several years now and each time the individual is considered the Iranian society and needs and have their own special problems. Recognizing this need that some NGOs including the Association to support refugee women and children was formed in 1991 and activities to reduce the suffering entered the refugee women and children was formed in 1991 and activities to reduce the suffering of women enter and refugee children, regardless of the circumstances ethnic, racial and national and even their religion in order to put.

The main activities of nongovernmental organizations focused on Afghan refugees and the purpose of index Empowerment and capacity building of Afghan women is society. The low age of marriage, high fertility rate, high illiteracy and low rates of health problems Afghan women refugees in Iran and therefore support the efforts of the Association for education and health needs, health, family planning, literacy and professional training has focused on women.

The end of the war in Afghanistan and return the refugees to their country the members of this forum and its activities based on the empowerment of Afghan women and their active participation in the reconstruction and development were focused on their country and do the same for different projects that intend to return Afghan Women the country were held. One such program, plan to train "Health Volunteers is so far in the provinces of Khorasan, Sistan and Baluchestan Tehran and held it during the girls about 300 Afghan immigrants in an eight-week period for Health Volunteers are trained. Because the limited number of female doctors and traditional culture can prevent Afghanistan alone that women are faced with male doctor. People trained in this project interface role between male and female physicians are held by patients and settle in female patients with clinical problems doctors are introduced. Other design forum held courses for "nurse midwife is. The course for girls 6 to 9 have a literacy class is held, is in the majority of the labor done in Afghanistan is home to men and women to their ethnic prejudices

hospitals can not accomplish much, people to help labor, their healthy train.

The same coordinates as necessary with the Ministry of Health of Afghanistan and international NGOs in Afghanistan in the health network work done and agreed that girls see here and graduate education are in the health system are working in Afghanistan and at least themselves in the service provider to other women. Course with Iran University of Medical Sciences as a period of six months and held four focus that this axis include family health, family planning, maternal and child health, nutrition and healthy Introduction of diseases and environmental health. The project, which Tehran is successful, is located in the cities of Mashhad and Sistan and Baluchistan also be implemented. Credit plan that funds the rebuilding of Afghanistan and place the Afghan government are provided. Period "for retraining teachers autonomous schools" also has other programs that this community by providing educational opportunities to Afghan children will be held.

The Afghan people in a few years non-formal teachers in schools to teach self Afghans have paid, the necessary work experience and education have all series Forum holding short courses for people with their teaching and training methods to standard is met.

Holding an international conference aimed to identify problems, design rights and Afghan refugee women and children, holding a seminar entitled "Afghan refugee children, forming numerous training courses for growth and raise awareness of Afghan women, Afghan women to support economic activities and industries to help sales hand them to review ways Empowerment workshops participation of Afghan women in rebuilding Afghanistan and how they influence the political are some of the programmes of this association over the recent years.

Landmines

Iran and Egypt are two of the most polluted countries of the world with landmines.

According to the prediction of the Ministry of Defense, which has the responsibility for mine clearance, the clearance of minefields shall be completed by March 2011. According to the Mine Clearance Centre

to-date 83% of the affected border regions have been cleared and 100 thousand hectares remain to be cleared in Khuzistan, Ilam and Kermanshah provinces.

Although there have been trainings and informing bulletins have been installed to prevent drastic events, since these mines have merged into the land after years and there are not enough equipments for cleaning them, after Egypt that has the largest mine fields to defend its borders with Palestine, Iran is the second country of landmine lands.

Nuclear Activities

The Islamic Republic of Iran is facing nuclear threats of Israel government and is the neighboring country to Pakistan that is conducting nuclear test continuously, but Iran is conducting its nuclear activities under the supervision of UN and the Agency of Atomic Energy agencies. The peaceful and scientific activities of the Iranian Atomic Energy are as follows:

- 1 - Rendering technical services in nuclear scientific and technical fields
- 2 - Conducting researches in nuclear scientific and technical fields and its application in industries and services
- 3 - Production and distribution of radio isotope and other equipments needed for application of atomic science and techniques in Iran
- 4 - Conducting researches regarding energy sources available in nature that are not used and efforts in using the experience of other countries in this regard through communication

As it has been mentioned in the objectives of Iran Atomic Energy Organization all nuclear activities are for peaceful purposes and the Islamic Republic of Iran as the member of Atomic Energy Agency is aware and monitoring all his atomic energy commitments.

Law on Defending Children and Adolescents

E.3 PROMOTE NONE-VIOLENT FORMS OF CONFLICT RESOLUTION

AND REDUCE THE INCIDENCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSE IN CONFLICT

SITUATIONS

The law to defend children and adolescences was approved in 2002 by the Parliament. According to this law, children and adolescences under 18 (Iranian calendar) are supported by this law. Some of the issues of this law are as follows:

- Any kind of harassment that threatens physical and psychological health of children and adolescences or creates moral damages is prohibited.
- Trade and abuse and of children and child labour to implement illegal actions such as trafficking are forbidden.
- Any kind of torture or physical and psychological abuse of children and ignoring the physical and psychological health and deprivation from education is prohibited.
- Child abuse is a public sin and doesn't need any complaint.
- Law related to women is covered in human rights of women and violence against women sections.

Refugee Women: Supporting, assisting and education of refugee women, displaced women in need of international help and internally displaced women.

Since 1979, following the political and armed conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq, Iran has been hosting nearly four million refugees. Open door policy of Islamic Republic of Iran gave the opportunity to Iraqi and Afghan refugees to reside in Iran for long years. Of course, fall of Taliban in Afghanistan in 2001 and Saddam in 2003 and establishment of relative peace in these countries, significant number of these refugees have returned to their countries of origin but due to insecurity and lack of education, health facilities and social welfare and lack of work opportunities especially in Afghanistan has created stagnancy in repatriation process. So, Iran is still facing a huge community of refugees that are not willing to go back because of

improper living situations. In between, women form 45 percent of Afghan refugees and 48 percent of Iraqi refugees.

The characteristics of this population are: low age of marriage, high reproductive rate, low level of literacy, and health due to their rural and nomadic origin. Vast distribution of this refugee community in villages and cities of Iran and residence of only 7 percent of them in the camps has given the Iraqi and Afghan refugees to live beside Iranian people and enjoy health, education, welfare and social facilities. So that there are significant changes among them, especially women.

Health of Refugee Women

The main concern of refugee women health is high reproductive rate and low level of hygiene among them. The aforementioned TFR for Afghan women was 5.3 .

Rural, health networks, introducing health and treatment measures through curative services network in the country has decreased mortality rate among refugees in general and more specifically among children, pregnant and lactating women so that mortality rate of pregnant women has reached 75 percent and mortality rate of children reached 90 percent.

Unfortunately, repatriation process since 2003 has created concerning restrictions for access of women to health facilities, especially family planning services that can surpass the positive measures undertaken during the last two decades.

Education of Refugee Women

According to the statistics, only 19 percent of Afghan refugees that have come to Iran after 1979 were educated and this was only 5 percent for women. This estimate in 1992 reached 44.4 percent and in 2002 it was 50 percent. In this regard, some mutual projects with international organization have been undertaken to encourage girls to education in the camps and in this projects each months 5 kilos of oil has been given to girl students.

One of the main important in girls' education since 2003 is the repatriation process and restrictions in the education system for refugee children. In this regard, high school fees for registration in

governmental schools and governance of traditional values in refugee families in prioritizing boys for education has led to considerable drop in girls education that unavoidable has led to early marriages and continuous deliveries in low ages and threatens physical health and hygiene and prevents development.

Employment of Refugee Women

It is worth mentioning that job opportunities for educated and skilled refugee women don't exist in the camps and cities, except those who are involved in refugee schools for informal education of refugee children. Refugee women have rural origin, have low education or are illiterate. These women are mostly involved in traditional economy activities such as carpet weaving, husbandry, and agriculture and faced restrictions after settlement in urban areas of Iran. It should also be mentioned that refugee women's efforts in adapting themselves to living condition is a valuable and potential diagram that can be used in paving the way for their development.

This estimate is based on different projects, implemented by Iranian or international non-governmental organizations with the aim of promoting employment, self-employment, social participation and education achievement of refugee women in

Iran. Although, due to restrictions, only a small portion of refugee women have been covered by these projects but it showed that these projects are the best tool to communicate and access women with rural origin where cultural and social values restricted their social activities. The impact of working women on economic situation of the family where refugee status can spoil these opportunities. There are cases where women have completed any training course with lots of difficulties and then due to lack of opportunity for working they have not been able to use their skills and assist their families.

Women Headed Households

Women who are head of households among refugees face more problems. According to formal statistics in 2004 out of 2249050 Afghan refugees living in Iran 5488 were women as heads of families who have lost their husband with family members above one and 260 divorced women that had to take care of the family who, due to low

education, financial problems, lack of proper job, lack of support from family, governmental organizations, NGOs and international organization are living under hard circumstances.

Social Security of Refugee Women

In Iran, due to common religious, cultural, and social values with Iraq and Afghanistan, refugee women enjoy relative social security and have been safe from sexual violence, abuse and rape based on gender. This is because of social values and the nature of expanded family structure where women rarely use family support and this might be the reason that refugee women are less interested in going back to their countries and live under traditional, cultural and social circumstances of Afghanistan.

Legal Status of Refugee Women

One of the main concerns of legal status of refugees is the status of Iranian women, who have married Afghan and Iraqi refugee men because of their long presence of two decades in Iran and the result is tens of thousands of Iranian/Afghan and Iranian/Iraqi refugee children that due to not being registered and legal gaps and social and political concerns of Iranian government in recognizing these marriages, these children don't have ID cards and identity.

There is another dimension to this problem. Considering the repatriation of Afghan refugees to their countries of origin, the destiny of 32 thousand Iranian women married to Afghan men remains ambiguous, which is a serious challenge.

The fact is that according to nationality laws of Iran, if an Iranian man marries a foreign nationality woman, the wife attains Iranian nationality but if an Iranian woman marries a foreign nationality man, attains the nationality of the husband. Only those who have Iranian father are considered Iranian.

It is worth mentioning that Afghan and Iraqi refugee women who form a population of 1200000 people, during these two decades have been under circumstances where they have not been able to enjoy cultural and social facilities of the country, however, they have been able to use education, training and health facilities like Iranian

citizens. Whatever they have learned is considered a human investment.

E.4 PROMOTE WOMEN'S CONTRIBUTION TO FOSTERING A CULTURE OF PEACE

The other achievement was the initiative of the Former Iranian president in providing the plan of Dialogue among Civilizations as a solution to the challenges of twenty first century for a peaceful life and sustainable peace building in 2000. opportunities for research for women at universities and creation of tens of books through women and active women at governmental and NGO level in speeches and international conferences with a peaceful approach.

Support of Women's governmental centers from NGO activities for supporting refugee and displaced women even in the neighboring countries leaded, peace and anti war coalitions, advocating dialogue among Iranian women and women from other countries are other achievements.

Red Crescent, as a public organization, have had achievements in peace building and attracting women and young girls for relief and first aid activities and preventing refugee and displacement diseases and rendering emergency aid to women.

Government's Actions

- 1 - Hosting millions of Afghan and Iraqi refugees, most of them women and children
- 2 - Forming expert teams to assess the situation of Iranian spouses of Afghan refugees to defend their rights
- 3 -Creating opportunities and friendly atmosphere to promote women's role at decision making and defend decision building levels
- 4 - Allocation of budget and facilities to women, especially war handicapped women, in the imposed war of Iran and Iraq and martyr families (wife and daughters) regarding employment, medical issues, insurance, housing and education.
- 5 -Participation in international conferences regarding peace and agreements of cooperation with some countries regarding women's role in dialogue among civilizations and expanding the culture of dialogue and peace.

6 -Preserving art and scientific works regarding expansion of peace culture and dialogue among civilizations, emphasizing on women's' role in the imposed war and guarding peace.

7 -Sacrificing 4000 police officers in the fight against drugs trafficking

Women's NGO Activities

Women's NGOs have not been active in this field, except those involved in peace and refugee issues. They have conducted the following:

- Celebrating days and events on peace and refugee (world refugee day, world peace day) and also for martyrs of the imposed war
- Training courses for Afghan teachers in Iran
- Consultation and legal services to Afghan refugee women in Iran
- Conducting research on the identity of Afghan women in the edge of tradition and modernity
- Creation and support of self-employed women's network for Afghan refugee women as heads of families residing in Iran
- Coordination to attract people's assistance for refugee camps in Iran
- Supporting war affected women
- Collecting biography of women martyrs and soldiers of the imposed war

Lack of interest among NGOs in supporting women and children in armed conflict and allocation of few activities in supporting and guarding peace, represents the fact that civil society has not put peace in its agenda. However, during the imposed war, the CBOs and local community of women has been active in supporting and defending women and children against damages of war.

People of Iran have been actively protesting against the invasion of the US to the neighboring countries and its threats against Iran but the leadership initiative of these movements have not been for NGOs. The reason, on one hand, is due to the fact that these organizations have not been able to enter society levels and on the other hand, the

sensitivity of government on this issue and turning it to a national issue has made civil society less responsible.

Considering the invasion of the US in two neighboring countries (Afghanistan, Iraq) there are new movements and coalition to defend and guard peace which are Considering the national and public potentials and sensitivity and the valuable experience of women's local communities in defending peace and anti war campaigns, women's NGOs should be more active in this regard in the future.

CNWN Activities

- Formation of refugee women's committees under the supervision of international network commission
- Participation at marginal meeting of human rights regarding discrimination against minorities and women, Geneva 98
- Participation and speech in the meeting of religion and peace in Jordan in 98 Statement of supporting women of Afghanistan
- Protest against trampled rights of women in Kuwait and condemning killings in Algeria Celebrating international day of anti narcotic campaign in collaboration with 21 NGOs in 2002

Fourth National Development Plan

- The government should implement the following within 6 months after the approval of this law and make provisions for strategies of rendering services to war handicapped, honorable families of martyr, handicapped and captives' families (with an approach of empowerment and improving their education, and cultural situation and preserving their job and make provisions on implementation of the statement. In all employment programs starting from employment of allocation of advantages the handicapped families should be in priority and the government should apply for their job stability (chapter eight, article 99).
- Employing all national facilities and potentials to prevent transit of drugs and trade in the country (Chapter eight, section 5 and article 97).

- Providing freedom and security needed for growth of social organizations to preserve children and women's rights (Chapter eight, section D, article 100).
- Advocating unity and respectful concepts regarding social groups and different tribes in national culture (Chapter eight, article 100).
- The government should take steps to advocate peace culture and lack of violence and peaceful life among nations at international relations to achieve dialogue among cultures and civilizations (Chapter nine, article 110).
- The government should implement the following to promote security and social order:
 - a) Public education and advocating culture of observing law, order and healthy environment
 - b) Expanding ways and border ways to promote information exchange with other countries of the region and neighboring countries to stop crime, trafficking of stuff and narcotics, illegal transit and ...
 - c) Campaign against social disorder, political and civil violence (Chapter ten, sections B and Z, article 119).

Challenges and Constraints

- The existence of the domineering nature of powers, which in practice has made the region dangerous and threatening for Iran and other countries, and the first victims are always women and children.
- Illegal entrance of displaced people to Iran for work while Iran suffers unemployment
- Legal gap regarding marriages among Iranians and refugees and their children's status
- Heavy expenses of living in Iran for refugees and lack of foreign and international aid since 2005 considering the fact that Afghan women have more children than Iranians and their expense of education and health is higher
- Pressure of international threats over Iran to prevent nuclear peace technology in the country for scientific practices

- Massive production of drugs in eastern neighbor country (Afghanistan) of Iran and Iran becoming the front line of drug trafficking
- Serious physical and psychological damages for women and children living with a addict head of family
- Existence of many mine lands after the imposed war of Iraq against Iran and physical threats for children.

Recommendation to the Government

- Facilitate the employment of refugee women and providing education facilities for refugee women in the fields of literacy, education, health, family planning and vocational training
- Facilitating legal fields and solving legal problems of marriage of Iranians with refugees and legal support of their children
- Facilitating international measures and support to refugee women and girls in Islamic Republic of Iran and dissemination of information and advocacy regarding efforts of Iran in supporting refugees in the last years
- Strengthening mine clearing technologies and developing researches and facilitating mine cleaning actions in marginal areas
- Strengthening women's role and ensuring their presence in decision making levels regarding issues of preserving peace and prevention advocacy
- Encouraging researchers and authors to conduct researches and write books regarding importance of peace, affects of armed conflict over women and children and documentation of memories of war affected women and refugees of war
- Promoting peace culture through schoolbooks and facilities for NGOs to advocate peace and supporting displaced and refugee women and children.
- Determination and resilience towards independence and the peaceful advantages of nuclear energy

The first nongovernmental national development plan

Method:

- Adoption of suitable policies and practices for the prevention, reduction and elimination of the suffering of women and efforts to prepare the necessary grounds to promote their educational, health and employment conditions

Measures:

- Education of women to raise their general knowledge and awareness how to demand rights to just and sustainable peace in the region and the world.
- Support for the establishment of people's institutions for education and information dissemination towards increasing determination and resolution for independence and the national peaceful benefits in right of access to nuclear energy, and the necessity to confront the domineering nature of powers who have in practice caused a threat to the world.
- Strengthening of just and sustainable peace culture through educational workshops and the mass media
- Talks with the state, regional and international officials over necessary support for refugee women and girls in Iran
- Efforts to determine the various proportions of abused women in camps through the preparation of periodic reports on their latest conditions
- Protection and defense of the rights of women refugees through necessary training and communication with relevant departments

Recommendation to NGOs

- Organized attention to the issue of peace considering the geopolitical situation of the country, threats of global imperialism leaded by the USA and defending Iraqi and Afghan women and children from foreign invasion
- Reinforcing social and public bases in supporting peaceful provisions of NGOs and cooperation with Basij (Mobilized forces) and other organizations defending peace

- Reinforcing international anti war coalitions in the region through active presence in this coalition and hosting bases of defending peace as a country experienced in peace issues
- International advocacy regarding the services of Iranian nation and government in hosting refugees and respecting peaceful life with refugees
- Active presence in refugee camps and scattered communities in the country especially at border areas to solve damages of refuge among women and children and their empowerment by attracting support and assistance of the government
- Planning projects for legal support of refugee women and children against crimes such as drug trafficking that men impose to their families
- Attention to cleaning mines in sensitive and residential areas and training of women in those areas and attracting support of governmental authorities in this field.

Conclusion

The Islamic Republic of Iran has been drawn into various crisis situations and armed conflicts. Besides experiencing 8 years of war due to neighboring two countries involved in war, has been on the way of narcotics trafficking transit and human trafficking among neighboring counties but has put its efforts to protect women and children vulnerable against conflict situations.

Although, Iranian nation suffered major damages during imposed war of Saddam against Iran, it has had a successful reconstruction period. The main portion of Iran's financial resources has been used to reconstruct damaged areas without asking foreign assistance. During this period, Iran has also been costing hundreds of Afghan refugees as a human responsibility and during these last two years Iraqi population has been added.

The weak point of Islamic Republic of Iran is that considering the extensive capacities of Iran during imposed war, hosting refugees and combating narcotic trafficking, has always been away from advocating and advertising its achievements. The main success of Iran in health has been population growth control and promotion of reproductive health during war without any decline in health budgets.

This means that development has always been top in the agenda even at the time of war.

Considering that all governmental and armed forces efforts in preserving women in armed conflicts are military there is no exact estimation of its achievements.

Programs and measures of government in supporting martyrs' families and refugee women and supportive measures shows that Iran has been successful in mitigating the affects of armed conflict over women and children.

Graphs:

CHAPTER SIX

Women and the Economy

Values of the supervisory Topic

Quran explicitly with the balance between work and stress to pay and stated: “men shall have the benefit of what they earn and women shall have the benefit of what they earn” (Al-Nisa sura, 34) everyone receives his wages, and women also deserve a decent wage and work like no one else can do about interest violation to be. “o you who believe! do not devour your property among yourselves falsely, except that it be trading by your mutual consent” (Al-Nisa sura, 29) means the people of faith, never their property without consent Do not use together except through trade based on consent. In addition, the lack of Islamic financial abuse than women, stated: “o you who believe! it is not lawful for you that you should take women as heritage against (their) will” (Al-Nisa sura, 19) a people of faith, is not lawful for you women who inherit Enjoy your distress and not making them hard to ask of their financial rights Become the owner. On the other hand create any harm to women are forbidden and illegal counts. “and do not injure them in order that you may straiten them” (At-Talaq sura, 6). On this basis, women, half of the population of nations to allocate, heavy weight and self-sufficiency in production and employment can make the necessary while using their property being. Here the religious thought, women as agents and managers can serve economic system is put. If the parties when the characteristics of Chapter men and women deserve to speak among brings, said: “surely the men who submit and the women who submit, and the believing men and the believing women, and the obeying men and the obeying women, and the truthful men and the truthful women, and the patient men and the patient women and the humble men and the humble women, and the almsgiving men and the almsgiving women, and the fasting men and the fasting women, and the men who guard their private parts and the women who guard, and the men who remember Allah much and the women who remember-- Allah has prepared for them forgiveness and a mighty reward” (Al-Ahzab sura, 35) means parallel to the origin of God in the society of men and women being produced, to place their economic system stressed service stated.

Imam Khomeini:

- They have distorted women's freedom to such an extent that they think Islam has come to force women to stay at home. Why should we be against women's education? Why should we be against their education?
- You women that have been tasked with an Islamic-human job, be determined because you are continuing to do this task for God, and you shall succeed.

Ayatollah Khamenei:

- In Islam, a woman is the owner of her wealth, makes no difference whether her husband is happy or unhappy about it, her father is happy or unhappy about it. She can spend her accumulated wealth and possessions, and it's none of anyone's business. Islam's view is that in the support for women's economic independence the world is 13 centuries behind.
- It is a crime if a woman does not have the opportunity to use her property at free will.

Introduction**Background**

Historical and cultural background of Iran, and economic independence of women in Islamic Sharia has recognized women's ownership since long ago and has always been respected.

The Holy Wife of the Prophet, Khadijeh, was a famous businesswoman, who allocated all her money to invite people to Islam. Having these models, historically, women have been involved in income generation and business as the most traditional occupation for women. Presence of good practices such as preventing waste and control over expenditures are some of the good characteristics of women.

Moreover, Islamic Law and civil rights and right for business in Iran honors and respects women's ownership over their property and doesn't consider them responsible for family expenses and has

considered wage for housework and breast-feeding. Patriarchy has deprived women from all their economic rights and women are always economically dependent to men.

Demographic changes and increasing number of young girls seeking jobs, migration to big cities and change of economic patterns, increasing level of education of women and increasing occupational demands and needs, change of traditional models and roles of women in the family and desperate need of middle income families to have two income sources leading to simultaneous employment of the couple have drawn governmental programmers and implementers, other beneficiary groups especially NGOs rendering services attention to women's role in economic development along with sustainable development. Also, serious efforts of governmental leaders to eliminate poverty and supporting vulnerable groups have created more occupational opportunities for women.

The positive aspect of women's employment in Iran is: immunity of laborers from affects of globalization of economy. This process is due to major anti oppression policies of the country.

The Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Article 3 :

12.the planning of a correct and just economic system, in accordance with Islamic criteria in order to create welfare, eliminate poverty, and abolish all forms of deprivation with respect to food, housing, work, health care, and the provision of social insurance for all;

Article 28

Everyone has the right to choose any occupation he wishes, if it is not contrary to Islam and the public interests, and does not infringe the rights of others. The government has the duty, with due consideration of the need of society for different kinds of work, to provide every citizen with the opportunity to work, and to create equal conditions for obtaining it.

Perspective:

The twenty years Perspective of the country:

Iran reached the first economic, scientific and technology levels in South West Asia region (including Middle East, Caucas, and other

neighboring countries) emphasizing on software movement and science production, accelerated and continuous economic growth, relative increase of per capita income and reached complete employment.

Charter of Women's Rights and Responsibilities

98. Woman's right to receive fee from the husband for housekeeping upon her request and right of supporting woman's efficiency resulting from her housekeeping on family economics and national income

93. Right to determine and receive marriage portion from the husband and having a say regarding it

104. Women's right to enjoy equal salary and benefits, in conditions equal to men and other women;

107. Right to enjoy facilities, standards and rules proportionate to women's family (as a wife and mother) responsibilities in their hiring, employment, promotion and retirement during the period of employment

99. Right of ownership of personal property and benefit from it with the observance of legal and lawful limits

Current Situation and Achievements

F.1 PROMOTE WOMEN'S ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND INDEPENDENCE, INCLUDING ACCESS TO EMPLOYMENT, APPROPRIATE WORKING CONDITIONS AND CONTROL OVER ECONOMIC RESOURCES

Economic Rights and Independence of women in employment

According to Article 6 of the *Labor Law* of the Islamic Republic of Iran, derived from 19, 20, and 28 principles of the constitution, forcing people to work in a special field or abuse is prohibited and people of Iran, from any tribe or race, should enjoy equal rights and race, color and language will not bring advantage from anybody and men and women should be supported equally by law and every body is allowed to choose the job he/she likes in case it is not against Islam and public benefit and right.

Prohibition of hard and harmful labor for women

In the *Labor Law* of the Islamic Republic of Iran there has been a special attention to women. According to the Article 70 of the above law, it has been prohibited for women to do hazardous, hard and harmful works and also carrying heavy things without using mechanical devices for women labors. (the agenda and also identification of type and amount will be suggested by the Labor High Council and will be approved by the Minister of Labor and Social Affairs.)

The labor law of the Islamic Republic of Iran does not only permit the employer to fire pregnant women but it gives special attention to them. A part of this law is described below:

- Maternity leave for female labors will be 90 days. At least 45 days of this leave should be used after the labor. For delivery 14 days will be added to the following leave.
- After the maternity leaves become to an end, the laborer will be back to work and this time will be considered as the service period in the archives with the approval of the Social Security Organization.
- The Salary of maternity period should be paid according to the regulations of the Social Security.
- If the physician determines that the work is hard or hazardous for the pregnant laborer, then the employer should give her a more comfortable task until the end of maternity without deducting any amount from her salary.
- In workshops where there are many women laborers, half an hour time is given to mothers out of every three hours to breastfeed the baby. This time will also be considered as their working hour. The employer should also establish a center for children such as nurseries according to the number of children and their ages.

Work safety procedures

The *Labor Law* insists that any dispute between the employer and the employee or interns regarding the implementation of the *Labor Law* and other regulations such as agreements or contracts should be solved

also among them at the first stage or it should be discussed among the Islamic Labor Council and if it is not settled, it will be discussed by the high level officials.

The Justice Department should implement the proclamation issued from the labor authorities. This regulation is valid for men and women including labor women and pregnant women.

Prohibition of forced labor and child labor

According to the regulations of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the *Labor Law*, it is prohibited to hire individuals under 15 years of age and is only permitted for the age of 15 to 18 with the physical permission of the Social Security Organization every year. The physician identifies the type of job and also the physical ability of the teen aged laborers. If the physician prescribes that the work is not suitable for the teenager, then the employer should change the task.

- The working hours of a teen aged laborer is half an hour less than the regular laborers.
- Referring any kind of extra task to the laborer and also asking them to work during nights and also hard and hazardous tasks and carrying unlimited weight without mechanical devices is strictly prohibited for teenager laborers.
- In those jobs that do not match the health situation or the moralities of the teenager, the minimum age of laborer should be 18. This will be identified by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs.
- Some cases regarding the freedom of establishing communities and also mass consultation:

In the implementation of Article 26 of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Constitution and in order to preserve the legal rights and benefits of the laborers and also improve the economic situation of employees and employers, the employees working under the *Labor Law* can establish a Labor unity. Also the salaries of both men and women should be equal and without any discrimination.

Provisions of services for urban and rural women

In the Islamic Republic of Iran, there have been many efforts to reduce unemployment in the society. There have also been activities

to pay loans, organizing technical and professional trainings and services. One of these activities, which is specially for women, is a project called Hazrate Zeynab and is implemented with the cooperation of Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation and Bank of Agriculture. According to this project, a loan will be given to those rural women headed households in the fields of agriculture and handicrafts.

Now we will consider the social and economic indicators of women according to the Beijing Platform for Action.

Female inheritance of moveable property

Reforming Article 946 of the Civil Law Act 1928 provided wedlock couples of all property inheritance and wife take the child to an eighth pair of movable property while an eighth the price of immovable property, including inheritance take the field and Lords. The reform of Article 48 This law if the price refused to pay the right woman can take the same property. Before this law, women inherited land could not match him. The law in favor of the women makes women in addition to tangible property of the wife as property of lands and immovable property, men take the inheritance.

Activity Rate

Strategic goals of the Beijing Platform for Action (V2), Equal facilities for women to sources, employment, markets and trade

The activity levels which is arrived at through the ratio of the employed against the unemployed in the ten year population is an indicator which is linked to the population growth and volume; in such way that the more the number of students and housewives increases or decreases in changes in population levels, this level also changes.

With the noticeable increase in the education levels of women, their activities levels increased and men's decreased in the years 1996 to 2004 The rate for women increased about 9 percent in 1996 to about 12 percent in the years 2001 and 16.7 percent in 2009 has reached. However despite this increase and increased education of women; Not

more than 83 percent of the women population of the country ten years and more are economically inactive. Activity level of about 69 percent of men in 2006 to 64 percent in 2009 has been reduced. (Iran Statistics Center, General Population and Housing Census 2006 employment and unemployment plan and design work force).

Employment and unemployment Rate

The rate of employment and unemployment is calculated according to the ratio of employed and unemployed population to the active population. In 2001, since the population was growing fast, then in the decade of 60 the number of those looking for a job increased comparing to the number of jobs. This caused a decrease in the rate of employment. In 2004, with the efforts of the government, the employment status became better and reached 90 percent. In other words, the rate of unemployment was 9 percent in 1996, 15 percent in 2006 and 9 percent in 2009. This ratio has been different among men and women. The ratio of unemployment among women has been 1.5 to 2 times more than the rate among men. In 1996, the rate of employment among women has been 13 percent, in 2001 about 20 percent and in 2009 , 14 percent. The rate of unemployment has been high among youth. In 2009, the rate of unemployment among young people of 20 to 24 years of age has been 27 percent. Out of this number 20 percent has been for men and 31 percent for women. The ratio of unemployment for female youth has been two times more compared to the men.

One of the reasons is that men are usually the heads of families and are looking for jobs more than women. Second reason is that women have less job varieties and according to the *Labor Law* they can not do hard and heavy tasks. The third reason is that some women tend to stay at home after their marriage and take care of the family tasks. The is the reason that the rate of unemployment is 2 times more than the rate among men. During the last years, the level of education has increased among women and more women are looking for job and this is another reason for their high unemployment rate.

Average working hours

Employed women work fewer hours than employed men. The average of working hours has increased in 2007 compared to 1997. In 2007, about 36 percent of women work less than 26 hours per week. 48 percent of women work between 26 to 49 hours per week and 16 percent work 50 hours a week. These figures are 15, 39 and 46 hours for men.

Working Age

The working age is higher in 2004 compared to year 1997. The working age for men is lower than women. In 1997, about 30 percent of women started their jobs before the working age. In 2004, this figure has reached to 22 percent. This figure is 25 and 21 percent for men. In 2004, about 74.5 percent of men and 58 percent of women entered the job positions at the age of 15 to 24.

Family and Social Status of Working Women

Most women work in general sectors or for other members of the family. In 1997 only 0.7 percent of women were employers and only one individual was paid with a salary. In 2007, this rate reached 4.1 percent. The ratio of employers for men has been 2 times more compared to women.

In 1997, more than 32 percent of women, worked for family members without being paid. This number has increased in 2007 and has reached to 11 percent. This ratio has been only 2 percent for men.

Also women who were employed in governmental and public sectors were 33 percent in 1997 and this figure reached 37 percent in 2007.

Inactive Population

The inactive population consists mostly of students and housewives. Most women are housewives and most men are students.

In 1996, about 48 percent of inactive population consisted students. In 2006, this figure reached 37 percent because of decrease in population growth. This situation shows that the increase in the level of education among women decreased the number of female students in the society. In 1996 to 2006, the ratio of male students decreased from 77 percent to 64 percent (13 percent decrease). This decrease has been less than

one percent among girls. In 2006, about 26 percent of inactive women were students. This number is 64 among men. The high number of inactive women shows the small number of student girls meanwhile the number of girl students is a little bit less than the male students. In 1996, 62 percent of inactive women were housewives. This number reached 67 percent in 2006. In 2006, only 18 percent of men had income without having a job and were retired. This figure has been only 4 percent among women.

Women's Conditions as Head of Household

F.3 PROVIDE BUSINESS SERVICES, TRAINING AND ACCESS TO MARKETS, INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY, PARTICULARLY TO LOWINCOME WOMEN

Tables 8 and 9 show the number of family members and the situation of head of families (men and women). The number of families who are women headed is very little. In order words, 86 percent of women headed families had less than 5 family members. According to the table 8, most women headed families had only one member. In 1997 and 2006, 35 and 36 percent of women lived alone and this figure has been 2 percent only among men.

According to Table 9 female employment rate for women households, is also low. In the years 1996 and 2006 and about 12 households, 14 percent of women were employed than among the men of 82 and 81 percent respectively were obtained. In 2006 about 31 percent of households, women were housewives, 48 percent of the women head to work without the income pension, a pensioner or have shares. Income than women head 48 percent with no more than 4 times the income of men without work supervisor is.

Government's Actions

- 1 - Allocation of 0.25% of the active funds of the province to women's issues
- 2 - Increasing gender sensitivity among governmental organizations in the fields of research and evaluation systems
- 3 - Efforts of Support Fund of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs to implement vocational trainings for women.

- 4 - Enhancing self-employment
- 5 - Increasing number of funds to develop women's employment (Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs)
- 6 - Focus of various governmental sections (Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Cooperatives, and Ministry of Agricultural Jihad) on center for women for entrepreneurship
- 7 - Enhancing and developing women's cooperatives or supporting cooperatives with more than 70 percent female members
- 8- Enhancing rural women's associations (Ministry of Agricultural Jihad)
- 9 - Empowerment of women as head of family and allocating banking facilities and job opportunities to them
- 10 - Implementing insurance programs for women

Women's NGO Activities

According to the report of 220 women NGOs from all provinces, 162 activities have been undertaken in the field of women and economy. Most of the activities have been capacity building for women and less has been done for communication and networking.

General list of activities:

- Holding conferences and seminars to advocate entrepreneurship and women's role in economy.
- Holding training courses and empowerment for women to develop entrepreneurship and income generation.
- Meetings with authorities regarding women's employment policies.
- Exhibitions and bazaars to sell women's productions.
- Research and studies
- Printing materials and publications.
- Preparing scientific articles.
- Creating workshops submitting various empowerment and self employment and entrepreneurship proposals for women to governmental in international organizations.
- Creating systems of microcredit for women in different levels.
- Creating small income generation workshops for women.
- Implementing income generation plans in various cities for unemployed and deprived women, women as head of family,

rural women, graduates of technical fields and disadvantaged families.

- Financial support to working women.
- Establishment of libraries

There is a meaningful and appropriate link between capacity building and using these capacities for service delivery in women's NGOs but in the field of developing resources still traditional methods such as small bazaars are being used which are unable to compete with formal market. Also there is a significant weakness in communication, which can be observed in orthodox activities and lobbying with the government.

Women's NGOs have not considered the role of private sector and objective communication with them while advocating social responsibilities among commercial organizations has been one of the main responsibilities of the NGOs. This has led to a significant weakness in defending and supporting rights of women to eliminate discriminative approaches of the employers.

Activities undertaken by women NGOs shows that they have mainly used capacity building and service rendering patterns of the government for its income generation programs and considering the existing capacities and needs of people they should be more innovative considering the Beijing Platform for Action document for millennium development.

Women's NGOs measures in the process of empowerment rely on settling practical needs whereas they should focus on strategic vocational needs. These gaps, on one hand, are due to the increasing expectations of educated women and its increasing number and on the other hand results from growing population and lack of vocational opportunities.

In the field of small businesses and their ability to compete with bigger market, NGOs should focus on their internal capacities especially at the level of pre and post allocation of credits.

Fourth National Development Plans

Fourth Development Plan of the country:

- Training courses during services according to the kind of occupation of the staff to promote level of efficiency and

vocational skills (specially for women), through short term trainings (chapter 6, Article 54).

- Provisions for special insurance systems (as support activities) for supporting women as heads of families and individuals with no bread winner giving priority to orphan children (chapter 8, section g Article 96).
- Provisions for empowerment of self sufficient women or women headed households in collaboration with other relevant organizations and NGOs and obtaining the approval in the board of ministers during the first six months of the first year of the plan (chapter 8, section y, Article 97).
- Fundamental right to work (freedom of associations, defending civil organizations over working relations, right to organization and group negotiation, prohibiting discrimination in employment and vocations, observing minimum age of work, prohibition of child labor, observing minimum wage in accordance with minimum standards of life (chapter 8, section a, Article 101).
- Expanding social supports (social services), unemployment insurance, creating opportunities of development and reinforcing compensation mechanisms, social support to those involved in informal work market, rehabilitation of disabled individuals, equality of opportunities for women and men and empowerment of women through access to employment opportunities) (chapter 8, section g, Article 101).
- Empowerment of youth, women, educated people and those seeking employment to build social understanding to form and direct activities toward cooperative units (chapter 8, section a, Article 102).
- CNWN Activities
- Providing proposals and legal reform plans aiming to review and amend civil laws and offering comments and mechanisms in this regard such as insurance for housewives and direct plan of fair equivalent remuneration for women whose husbands are deceased.
- Training and participatory workshop on microcredits parallel to the Summit of the

- Organization of Islamic Countries with the presence of Mrs. Anan, Secretary General's wife.
- Plan and measures for creating assistant funds for NGOs.

Challenges and Constraints

- Expectations increase among educated women and beside other factors it causes increased unemployment of women which is almost double of the amount for men
- Ratio of inactive women who are mostly housewives is very high.
- Allocating micro credits and grants for self-employment of women has not been efficient in mitigating women's unemployment since men use these facilities more than women.
- In 2006 about 26 percent of women, disabled students and about 65 percent were housewives.
- The ratio of women in 2009 was only 17 percent of women 10 years and includes more than the economic future for women is very low age at the time.
- About 11 percent of women who are employed in 2006 for other household members work without wages that are not people with pension entitlement. This ratio of about 32 percent of the rural women were obtained.

Recommendation to the Government

- Though government has put its efforts on implementing social and economic justice especially to facilitate women's employment, more strategic focus is needed in the field of women's control over resources.
- Classing housekeeping as a profession and provision of insurance and retirement to housewives and facilitation for the difficulty of the job and history become meaningful
- Promoting credit and grant allocation and traditional saving systems for women.
- Prohibiting those regional or international commercial agreements affecting women's traditional or modern economic activities.

- Promoting laborer and entrepreneurship women in policy making and economic and financial structures.
- Sustainable support to women in technical fields, management and funds.
- Promoting evaluation and monitoring mechanisms in all areas: over provincial funds of implementing organizations for women's issues, facilitating measures, capacity building, and methods of developing women's employment.
- Promoting objective collaboration regarding income generation for women with private sector and unions.
- Reinforcing economic and income generation empowerment programs for rural women through facilitating access to production resources, land, funds, capital, right to property, development programs and cooperative structures and control over them.
- Gender sensitive guarantees in implementing the *Labor Law* to eliminate discriminatory approaches of employers.
- Supporting reforms and short comings of the *Labor Law* to ensure support of all laborer women: including safety measures, right to association and access to judiciary bodies.
- Concentrating on mitigating unemployment of women between 15 to 24 years of age and increasing women's opportunities in income generation occupations in agriculture.
- Supporting and allocating special facilities to commercial organizations, NGOs, cooperatives, funds and other groups assisting women who have programs supporting women involved in entrepreneurship of women at urban and rural levels.
- Reinforcing commercial networks of women.

First nongovernmental national development plan

Method:

- Encouragement of housewives to take out special insurances and spread of the insurance culture

Measures:

- Identification of housewives that are not insured
- Collecting data on poor women

Method:

- Building modalities on entrepreneur women and promotion of the culture and spirit of women's entrepreneurship

Measures:

- Measures to create women entrepreneurs associations
- Efforts to amend mass media programmes to promote public's belief in women

Method:

- Help to review laws and regulations particularly the civil code and employment relations towards the preservation of women's rights

Measures:

- Review of laws and regulations
- Efforts to change the approach of development programmes with regards to women by promoting it among decision makers

Method:

- Support for investors in agriculture and rural resources and farm produce industries with an emphasis on the participation of rural women and drawing them to non-agricultural jobs.

Measures:

- Commercialization of homemade products
- Increased presence and share of homemade products in the market
- Collection of data by NGOs
- Social support of working women in the unofficial work market
- Solid communication with national media and specialist media for the introduction of women entrepreneurs

Method:

- Insurance protection of women particularly protection of vulnerable women

Measures:

- Expansion of timely services to women threatened by social violence

- Increase of social insurance coverage with a special attention to rural and nomadic individuals who are not covered by any insurance

Method:

- Help to implement income generating programmes for women

Measures:

- Assistance in using the Mehr Housing Facilities for needy women
- Facilitation of the creation of women's cooperatives
- Moving quick result projects facilitation for women entrepreneurs
- Promotion of the use of IT for women
- Strengthening the presence of women in publication of notions through the press and the internet
- Commercialisation of women's domestic services
- Strengthening marketing for women's homemade services and products
- Interaction with domestic institutions to increase women's access to financial resources and points
- Recognition of women's job creating opportunities with the participation and cooperation of support organizations and bodies.

Recommendation to Women's NGOs

- Reinforcing service delivery of NGOs as intermediate organizations to provide financial needs and needs of other micro credit organizations of women especially in pre- and post-funding sectors and creating financial and innovative investment including traditional investment systems.
- Developing collaboration of NGOs and private sector especially on reinforcing
- Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) with gender perspective.
- Creating data bases and distribution of data regarding entrepreneurship of women in traditional and non-traditional

economic activities and facilitating networking and information exchange.

- Adopting approaches and capacities in accordance with modern technology and experience in the process of resource mobilization and creating competitive markets.
- Special attention to service delivery including technical support, consultancy, training and rehabilitation for women to enter economy market.
- Legal support and defense of working women, women's economic agencies, especially women working in unofficial sectors and also equal access of women to production resources and focusing on employment right of women in advocacy and communication activities.
- Consulting Government officials to legislate and reinforce laws against sexual and
- Other kinds of harassment in working environments.

Conclusion

Iranian women consist half of the total population of the country but their participation rate is only 10 to 17 percent. In other words more than 17 percent of women's population is active economically and they are housewives or inactive students.

Division of works among men and women is losing face due to growing economic problems but in more traditional areas it still can be seen and the activity rate of women is one sixth of men and unemployment rate among them is double of men.

Unemployment rate of the country for the moment is more than 10 percent. High unemployment rate makes men more active for employment to be able to marry and have families. Many employers prefer not to recruit women because men enjoy fewer facilities than men, such as maternity leave. On the other hand, women leave work at the time of marriage and having children or economic crisis, while there is employment legal support for women and both men and women are allowed to choose the job they like if it is not against Islamic rules, public interest and rights. Of course implementation of dangerous, hard and harmful jobs is prohibited for women.

The other point is that women, with a low activity rate, are working for other members of their family in public sectors and services such as training and health and they are less involved in management because they prefer to choose jobs that they can be also with their families. In 2006, 4 of women were managers compared to 8 of men and at least one of the way paying wages and salaries. Also in this year, 37 percent of women compared to 23 percent of men were in public sector and active in corporative.

Year 2006, about 11 percent of women working for other household members work without pay. This ratio is for men only 2 percent. Of course there are the women having economic activities in agriculture and animal husbandry are considered as a homemaker, although the economy play an important role.

In general it can be stated that low recognized employment of women decreases their power of involvement in political, social, and economic participation. Increase in level of education of women in the recent years, we hope that in the future women's role and status will improve qualitatively and quantitatively in social participation and by presence in power and decision making will improve their status and become more involved in development of the country.

Tables and Graphs

Table 1. Activity Rate Sex in Iran

	Male and female	Male	Female
1996	35.3	60.8	9.1
2001	37.2	62.1	11.9
2004	38.2	63.5	11.8
2006	40.9	68.8	12.2
2009	40.5	63.9	16.7

Table 2. Employment and unemployment rate by gender

	Employment rate			Unemployment rate		
	male and female	male	female	male and female	male	female
1996	90.6	91.3	85.6	9.1	9.7	14.4
2001	85.8	86.8	80.1	14.2	13.2	19.9
2004	89.6	90.8	82.9	10.4	9.2	17.1
2006	85.3	87.1	74.5	14.7	12.9	25.5
2009	90.6	91.3	85.6	9.4	8.7	14.4

Table 3. Distribution of employment population of 10 years and over by working hours in a week and sex 2007

Working hours in a week		Male and female	Male	Female
	Percent	100	100	100
Less than 14 hours		6.2	5.9	7.1
14-19		4.8	2.8	10.7
20-25		9.4	6.5	18.1
26-31		6.7	4.8	12.6
32-37		9.0	7.1	14.7
38-43		5.8	5.8	5.9
44-49		19.2	20.8	14.7
50 hours and more		38.8	46.4	16.2

Table 4. Distribution of employment population of 10 years of age and over By sex and age of starting to work (1997-2004)

age of starting to work		1997			2004		
		Male and female	Male	Female	Male and female	Male	Female
Total	Number	112683	96962	15719	137021	117748	19272
	Percent	100	100	100	100	100	100
Less than 10		1.7	1.6	2.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
10-11		7.4	7.0	9.4	6.0	5.8	7.1
12-14		16.5	16.2	18.1	16.2	16.5	14.7
15-19		44.2	44.7	30.3	54.1	58.6	26.7
20-24		23.5	23.1	25.8	18.1	15.9	31.5
25-29		4.4	3.9	7.7	4.0	2.7	12.1
30 and more		1.5	1.0	5.1	1.4	0.4	7.9
Unmentioned		0.6	0.5	1.1	0.1	0.1	0.1

Source : Statistical Center of Iran

Table 5: Distribution of employed population of 10 years of age and over By working hours in a week and by gender (1997-2004)

		1997			2004		
Working hours in a week		Male and female	Male	Female	Male and female	Male	Female
Total	Number	112683	96962	15719	137021	117748	19272
	Percent	100	100	100	100	100	100
Less than 8 hours	0.4	0.3	1.0	0.1	0.1	0.3	
8-12 hours	1.5	1.1	3.9	0.6	0.4	1.7	
15-21 hours	3.5	2.6	8.8	1.8	1.1	6.0	
22-28 hours	6.2	4.3	18.2	4.4	2.7	15.0	
29-35 hours	6.9	5.7	14.1	5.5	3.9	15.4	
36-42 hours	13.3	12.7	17.0	10.7	9.3	18.7	
43-49 hours	24.3	25.6	15.8	23.2	23.9	18.8	
50-56 hours	15.3	16.1	10.3	17.6	18.7	10.2	
57-63 hours	10.5	11.4	4.7	16.9	18.5	7.2	
64-70 hours	9.2	10.0	3.9	10.9	12.0	4.2	
71 hours and more	8.3	9.4	2.0	8.4	9.4	2.4	
Unmentioned	0.7	0.7	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	

Source : Statistical Center of Iran

Table 6. Percent of employment population of 10 years of age and over By employment status (1997-2006)

		1997			2006		
employment status		Male and female	Male	Female	Male and female	Male	Female
	Percent	100	100	100	100	100	100
Employer		3.8	4.3	0.7	7.5	8.0	4.1
Own account worker		37.7	40.0	24.0	36.0	38.2	21.9
Wage & salary earner		23.7	25.8	10.2	26.8	27.5	22.5
Unpaid family worker		8.1	4.1	32.2	3.3	2.1	11.2
Wage & salary earner in public & cooperative sector		26.7	25.8	32.9	24.5	22.5	37.3

Table 7. Percentage of not economically active population ,Iran(1996-2006)

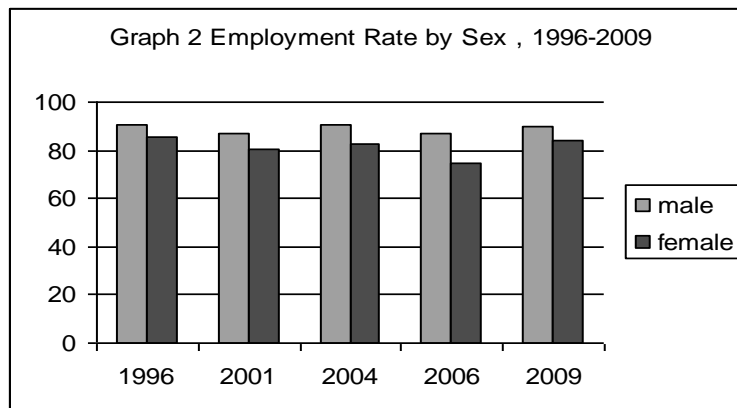
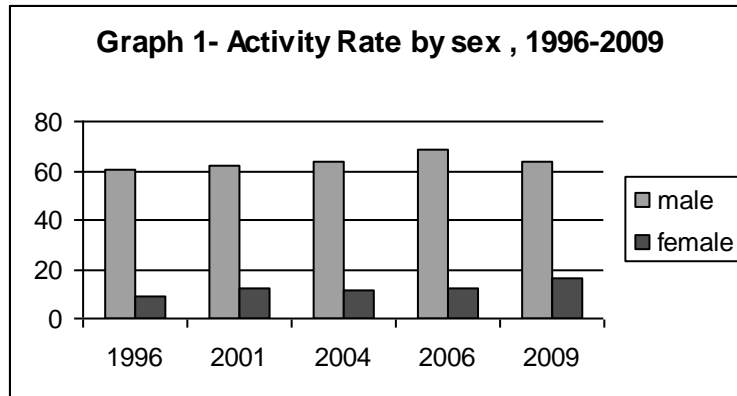
Activity status		Income recipient	Homemaker	Student	Total	Other
1996	Male and female	4.7	42.8	47.6	100	4.9
	male	11.9	1.2	77.2	100	9.7
	female	1.4	61.9	34.1	100	2.6
2006	Male and female	8.4	45.2	36.9	100	9.5
	male	18.3	0.6	64.5	100	16.6
	female	4.4	63.1	25.8	100	6.7

Table 8- Normal resident households according to sex and number of years members of households, 1997 and 2006

		1997			2006		
Number of family members		Male and female	Male	Female	Male and female	Male	Female
	Percent	100	100	100	100	100	100
1 person		4.0	1.6	35.2	5.2	2.0	36.0
2 person		11.8	11.4	18.8	15.3	14.7	20.9
3 person		15.2	15.4	15.2	22.9	23.4	17.7
4 person		17.9	18.6	10.8	24.4	25.7	11.8
5 person		15.7	16.4	8.8	15.3	16.1	6.9
6 person		12.9	13.6	5.1	8.4	8.9	3.5
7 person		9.6	10.3	3.2	4.3	4.6	1.7
8 person and more		12.8	13.8	2.7	4.3	4.5	1.5

Table 9-Households living normal times, gender and activity status of household head In the years 2004 and 2006

		2004			2006		
Activity status		Male and female	Male	Female	Male and female	Male	Female
	Percent	100	100	100	100	100	100
Employed		76.8	81.9	12.1	74.9	81.3	14.1
Unemployed		5.3	5.6	0.8	3.1	3.4	0.6
Student		1.0	1.0	1.4	0.5	0.4	1.1
Home maker		3.4	0.2	43.7	3.0	0.1	31.0
In come recipient		11.0	8.9	37.2	14.9	11.4	48.3
Other		2.5	2.3	4.8	3.5	3.3	5.0



CHAPTER SEVEN

Women in Power and Decision-Making

Values of the supervisory Topic

To that of Islam is politics and politics in the lives of the world is major legislation is that political rights of women in Islamic thought is the perch. Holy Quran in several verses related to women and politics. What in the field of international politics and how policy areas within the country. Moments of the first Islamic political movements such homage and fealty Vice Aqaba, women were responsible for an important role in movements of political Islam, women's presence as serious, is clear and evident. Symbolizes the Quran, a woman unitary and free flying against the sovereignty and empire of force and axle stands and think of health and human values and to defend Lebanon, such a woman as a model for the Quran and women were a man is. "and Allah sets forth an example to those who believe the wife of firon when she said: my lord! build for me a house with thee in the garden and deliver me from firon and his doing, and deliver me from the unjust people" (At-Tahrim sura, 11)

for all believers of God, on humanity as a model of law and undermines example is the wife of Pharaoh. Where the threat of force against people captured in his will to resist and stand in the way their lives because their higher purpose will sacrifice. The political strength of such women in Islam can be enjoyed. "o prophet! when believing women come to you giving you a pledge that they will not associate aught with Allah, and will not steal, and will not commit fornication, and will not kill their children, and will not bring a calumny which they have forged of themselves, and will not disobey you in what is good, accept their pledge, and ask forgiveness for them from Allah; surely Allah is forgiving, merciful" (Al-Mumtahina sura, 12) in this verse not only women's right to interfere in political affairs but also the ability to tell them different tasks and create various intellectual and practical skills and provides social expression.

Imam Khomeini:

- Women have the right to interfere in politics; this is their duty
- Just as men have the right to vote, so do women.
- Women must be shoulder to shoulder with men in social and political activities, of course the preservation of Islamic laws in women's political participation and social presence is necessary
- Islam promotes women's status to a point where she can regain her human status from society, and she gets out of being a commodity or object, and in proportion to this type of development she can get responsibilities in the structure of Islamic rule

Ayatollah Khamenei:

- We believe women in any healthy human society can and must find the opportunity to within their share try and compete in scientific and social, and management in this world. Therefore, there is no distinction between men and women. The aim of the creation of each human being is the same objective as the creation of mankind.

Introduction**Background**

As hidden powers of societies, throughout history women have made undeniable impacts on political and social tides of the surroundings of their lives.

The history of Iran like other countries with ancient civilisations, is full of indirect impacts of women in politics and decision makings. This is while the power-mongering of men has prevented women from having direct presence in decision makings.

During the last hundred years, the Iranian public has witnessed two public revolutions, one the Constitution movements and the other is the Islamic Revolution.

The presence and participation of women in forming these two great movements has been so active that the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution has considered it due to the efforts of women.

Although the leaders of the country are willing to have women in power and there have also been developed movements to consider the participation of women in decision makings and governmental organization, but there are still some obstacles in their presence. Women are very willing to participate in decision makings in governmental delegations, being deputies, counselor of the Ministers, Director Generals and Governors.

The Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Article 3

8. The participation of the entire people in determining their political, economic, social, and cultural destiny;

6. The elimination of all forms of despotism and autocracy and all attempts to monopolize power;

Article 6

In the Islamic Republic of Iran, the affairs of the country must be administered on the basis of public opinion expressed by the means of elections, including the election of the President, the representatives of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, and the members of councils, or by means of referenda in matters specified in other articles of this Constitution.

Perspective

Twenty years perspective of the country:

To enjoy advanced science; ability to produce science and technology reliant on the higher share of human resources and social investment in national production.

Charter of Women's Rights and Responsibilities

116. Right to participate and be elected in parliamentary elections and elections of different councils and to partake in governmental planning and occupy high-rank managerial positions with the observance of regulations

B. Women's Rights and Responsibilities in the International Politics

119. Right and responsibility of active and effective participation in the Islamic, regional, and international societies in particular in the field of women's issues with the observance of legal standards;

Current situation and Achievements

G.1 TAKE MEASURES TO ENSURE WOMEN'S EQUAL ACCESS AND FULL PARTICIPATION IN POWER STRUCTURES AND DECISIONMAKING Women in Parliament

In the Islamic Republic of Iran, almost all parties do their efforts to have some female candidates during the election but still the number of women is very little.

During the last 8 rounds of the Islamic Parliament, only in the 5th Parliament the number of women has been high. There were 14 candidates out of a total of 270. This was 6.5 percent of the total number of candidates. In the 6th and 7th Parliament, the total number of candidates was 290 out of which there were only 13 and 12 female candidates. This shows a percentage of 4.4 and 1.4 percent of the total number of candidates (*Women in Iran in the trend of development* – Women's life Research and improvement institute – page 90.)

In the latest election of the Parliament, about 800 women throughout the country were volunteers to become candidates and enter the Parliament. This number had an increase of 25 percent compared to the elections before. Increase in the number of female volunteers to enter the Parliament and the decrease in the number of those accepted shows that if the communities were more, then the chances of women would have become high.

In the first round of cities and villages Islamic Council Elections, 7252 women throughout the country were ready to become members of these Councils. Out of this number 2.2% of them were the volunteers of the Council. About 784 women became the members of the Councils out of which 300 were in cities and 484 were in villages. This number is 7.0 percent of the total number of the members of the Councils.

Women's NGOs have had an increase during the last decade. The number of women's NGOs was 76 in 1997, 248 in the beginning of 2001 and 2002 and 480 in 2004. (These NGOs are active in charity,

cultural, social and specialized affairs (*Women in Iran in development trend*, page 88.).

Non-governmental organizations

Number of females working for government has increased during the last decade. In 1991 this number was 633,000 which was 30 percent of the total employees of the government. In 1997 the number increased but the portion of female employees decreased. In 2003, a new policy was created to balance the number of female and male governmental employees. With this policy, the number of men decreased but the number of women increased considerably. This increase upgraded the portion of female employees in government up to 31 percent. In 1996, out of the total number of employees throughout the country, 2.2 percent were lawmakers, High-ranking authorities and Managers. Out of this number only 3.0 percent were females and 9.1 percent were males. In other words, out of the total number of Managers and High Ranking authorities, 87 percent were male and 13 percent were women. In 2000, these numbers remained the same but in 2004, the portion of female Managers and High Ranking authorities increased whereas in 2004, out of the total employees, 4.2 percent were lawmakers, high- ranking authorities and Managers. This figure was 1.2 percent among men and 4.2 were women. At the same time, out of the total number of lawmakers and high-ranking authorities and managers, 85 percent were male and 15 percent were female. The portion of female managers and high- ranking employees had an increase of 2 percent.

Women in high levels of management

According to a study, the number of women in governmental management positions in 1999 was 3029 that was 2.5 percent of the total number of managers and supervisors of the organization. Deputies of the organizations and Director Managers with $\frac{1}{4}$ percent were the least numbers and Head of Organization or Deputy of organization with 2.6 and 8.6 was the biggest number among managers.

Another statistics, which had been derived from the Iran Management Information Bank in Governmental Management Training shows, that

most women were active in low Management positions. It means that 75 percent of the employed women in management positions were Head of a Group or organization or the Deputy of a Group. Only 8.0 percent was active in the positions such as Deputy to Minister, Governor, and only 3 percent were at the level of being a Directing Manager or an equal position.

The Coordination Department for Women's NGOs was established in 1993 and is now acting as a connecting point between the government and the women's NGOs.

The major policies being observed by this department are as follows:

- 1 - Increase in the quantity of number of women's NGOs throughout the country
- 2 - Increase in the quality of women's NGOs
- 3 - Identifying abilities, strong points and talents existing in NGOs and asking for their cooperation in solving the problems and obstacles created for women.

Participation of NGOs in Decision-Makings

Along with the social and cultural development programs, the Islamic Republic of Iran mainly intends to eradicate centralization, decrease the dominance of government, give tasks to the public and strengthen the NGOs. According to paragraph D of article 158 of the third development program, the Center for Women's Participation is obliged to use the services of women in financial, legal, consultative, training and sport fields and also to give priority to women living in undeveloped or underdeveloped areas and also to create the proper field to establish NGOs.

It should also report to the executive bodies or the government for any cases needing approval so that these points can be implemented through affiliated organization.

Projects and Bills Recommended by Women

Those projects and bills suggested mostly by the Women Commission of the Islamic Parliament are about promoting the decision making and increasing power and some of them have already been approved by the Islamic Parliament. Some of them are as follows:

- Membership of women in councils and unions

- Law for exchange of venue during judgment task. According to this law the married women who have judicial position can find a job in the permanent address of their husbands.
- Omitting the condition of being married for female university students who are willing to be dispatched abroad.

Government's Actions

- 1 - Presence of two women in the Cabinet and appointment of one woman as the Deputy to the President and Head of the Department of Environment
- 2 - Appointment of women as Advisors to the President in women affairs, politics and press, counselor to the governor throughout the country, appointment of 4 women as the Deputies to Ministers, appointment of women as the head of District, Deputy to the Governor and Director General of 4 positions in the Centers of Provinces, appointment of counselor to the Head of Province in women affairs and also Secretary of Women and Youth Committee
- 3 - Active participation of women in established committees (almost 25 committees)
- 4 - 53.8 percent growth in the number of candidate women in the latest election of the Islamic Parliament
- 5 - 87 percent growth in the number of women being members of Islamic Councils in cities and villages
- 6 - Implementing and supporting the research projects regarding the development of political participation of women
- 7 - Presenting and following up the project to upgrade the situation of management for women and sending it to the government delegation
- 8 - Compiling the political indicators and also gathering gender-sensitive statistics
- 9 - Holding capacity building training for managers and also practical skills of women in order to participate at international forums
- 10 - Establishing Women commission in the Parliament and changing it to the Faction of Women in the 6th round of Parliament
- 11 - Creating field for women being candidates of the High Council in Provinces and Consultative Committees of the Government
- 12 - Preparation of political profiles for women in provinces in order to do programming for promotion of their political participation.

Women's NGOs Activities

98 activities are being done by some women's NGOs focused on the membership of women in decision making procedures at local level. Acquiring representation in order to increase the credit of their activities to make their own NGO more effective

- Creating institutions, networks and working groups for lobbying, dialogue and negotiation with governmental sectors
- Efforts to register more national days in order to create atmosphere for more effectiveness
- Holding seminars with participation of decision makers or participation in the seminars held in governmental sectors
- Participating or holding training courses with the presence of directors to influence on senior directors of the country
- Creating connection with governmental institutions for more impact through meetings with the authorities.
- Membership in commissions and governmental organization especially at local level
- Signing agreements with governmental organizations
- Candidacy of some active women in civil society and NGOs for some governmental positions in small cities and appointment of individuals for these positions
- Presenting articles in governmental seminar
- Management in supervising some of the governmental projects through a women's NGO
- Implementing of projects
- Management for supervising some governmental project by women's NGO
- Women's NGOs have had more participation in decision-making procedures and have been more active in this field.

Most communication and lobbying activities are dedicated to the participation in decision- making procedure meanwhile in service giving field; the least portion has been given to this section.

Successfulness of these organizations in participating in decision-making procedures is due to their high sense of responsibility, and also their attention to women governmental institutions through consultation with NGOs in decision making procedures.

One of the other reasons is that since the beginning of the Revolution, the gap between the governmental decision makers and those active in non-governmental activities has been very little and even many women have entered the management position through NGOs and have non-governmental background.

Long background of many active women in civil society of the country, relies in their beliefs in social participation and also the policy of the Revolution and their interference with the realities of the society.

This has caused them to be more expert and advanced than the new generation of women who are managers and high-ranking decision-makers in women affairs. This is the reason that the base of many successful projects for women in governmental level has been due to the creativity of NGOs.

Although Women's NGOs do not have the necessary facilities to reach their mass goals and they lack information dissemination and access to information sources and this is the reason that their active output is very little. One of the main reasons for this is the lack of an organizational mechanism in creating continuous relationship with lawmakers of the Parliament and members of urban and rural Councils.

Also the non-visibility of borders between political activities from social activities causes them to prevent participation in affairs such as election or preventing practical criticism on the implementing method of communities regarding their actions in participation of women in politics.

CNWN Activities

- Dispatch of Representatives from NGOs to regional and international meetings
- Holding common joint technical meetings with organizations involved in women
- Designing and acting towards getting consultative positions with policy making, programming and Executive organizations of the country

- Request for the consultative position and also presence of women's NGOs as supervisors in the social discussions from the Organization of Islamic Conference.
- Designing and acting towards national charter of women's NGOS in the Islamic Republic of Iran
- Designing and acting towards creating a non-governmental system organization in the Islamic Republic of Iran, with the signature of 50 members of parliament.
- Dispatching of representatives to participate in important international conferences
- Creation of the basis for democratic faction in the Islamic Parliament with the signatures of 89 members
- Efforts to form a democratic faction in the Islamic Parliament
- Efforts to setup up an NGOs General Department within the Interior Ministry
- Drafting of a recommended law for the country's NGOs and 14 year follow up in tis regard is being reviewed by the Parliamentary Social Commission
- Increasing the number of members of the network from 70 organizations to 200.

Fourth National Development Plan

- Developing the multi-lateral participation of all Iranians on the basis of equal rights for citizens in decision making system, decision making and executive management of the country
- Accurate determination of the status of women in the development of the country from the maternal social development and the raising of self-believing and responsible children aspects
- The rights and responsibilities of women in participation and efforts to provide and strengthen just peace.
- Women's rights in participation in policy setting, management, implement and supervision of women related health programmes
- Support for the freedom of association and formation of civil institutions on work relations, equality of pay between men and women for equal valued work done

- Bringing closer the links between women and youths with government officials and decision makers.

Challenges and Constraints

- Existence of non-identified standards in specifying the rate of capability among women and men for management positions
- Necessity of clear accountability of selected Members and Directors regarding their commitments towards women
- Weakness of facilities in communities in order to strengthen the political participation of women
- The motto of only men in lobbying and formal political decision makings
- Lack of sensitivities among mass media to facilitate the management of women and also to describe their abilities
- Denying the ability and capacity of many experienced and expert women. Because the existing government has four year programmes in which only some of the abilities and capacities of women in managerial level are being used as national stable sources and credits.
- Methods of using women in consultation level that has wrong religions base.
- Lack of self-confidence and self-belief among most women to have managerial and sensitive positions
- Low number of candidate women in the elections of both Parliament or Islamic Councils of cities and villages
- Very low number of women in managerial and decision making levels
- Lack of special facilities and possibilities for women to balance the working life with family life

Recommendation to Government

- Creating a fair view to select male and female managers considering their capabilities, since women are trying harder to have equal positions due to some religious beliefs.

- Increasing sensitivity among governmental authorities to balance gender issues and guaranteeing fair access of women to decision making structures
- Creating mechanism in the structure of the government in order to supervise and evaluate the progress of women analysis and distributing the quality and quantity results regarding men and women in Ministries.
- Taking actions in election systems in order to encourage political communities to consider women at the same level as men
- Reviewing the different effect of election systems on the political participation of women in different levels and studying the above systems for revision or balancing
- Encouraging women to interfere with different levels of decision making
- Nurturing the ability to lead and also creating self confidence and sense of social participation among disabled women, tribal minorities and refugees
- Promoting the participation of women and men in jobs and also the responsibility of parents to upgrade the participation of women in routing life and also to parallelism the working life with the family life. This can be done with the help of religious leaders and also local councils in small cities and villages

First nongovernmental national development plan

Method:

- The rule of gender justice, in promoting workers to decision making levels.

Measures:

- Introduction of women to labour law and job creation
- Introduction of women to the civil code

Method:

- Active participation in decision makings and decision settings to adopt and support implementation

- Pursuing the strengthening of the presence of women judges and lawyers in courts
- Efforts to let women in decision setting and making centres
- Links with members of parliament

Recommendation to Women's NGOs

- Supervising the access of women to higher levels of decision making and introducing eligible women to have governmental positions
- Requesting governmental sectors regarding the presence of NGOs Representatives in delegations being dispatched to international conferences and inter-sectoral decision making and consultative delegations
- Creating and establishing the unity of women through information dissemination, training and sensitizing activities in order to upgrade the sense of mass participation in decision makings
- Creating accountability responsibility among governmental authorities towards their actions regarding women
- Creating capacity building courses in order to create leadership and social participation among women and girls
- Encouraging men to participate in related activities
- Developing life skills regarding participation of all family members in family activities

Conclusion

The women in our country have had sensitive positions in the last decade. They have been Deputy to the President, Deputy to the Minister and Commander, The members of the Parliament. Despite these successes, they have less portions comparing to the men whereas they are exactly half of the population in this country.

Upgrading their education level compared to those of men has been the cause for their success and their entry in decision making positions. They have also been able to get official appointments. These successes have been due to their capabilities.

On the other hand, the actions of the government in the field of women participation in decision makings are still behind from the perspective of 20 years of the fourth program of the country.

Therefore, upgrading the portion of women in decision making and power needs not only a revision in governmental procedures through the fourth development program and the legal charter but also a national movement to reduce the obstacles caused by the strength of men. The increase in the portion of women in this field especially during the last decade has been based on the indicators mentioned in the Beijing Platform for Action.

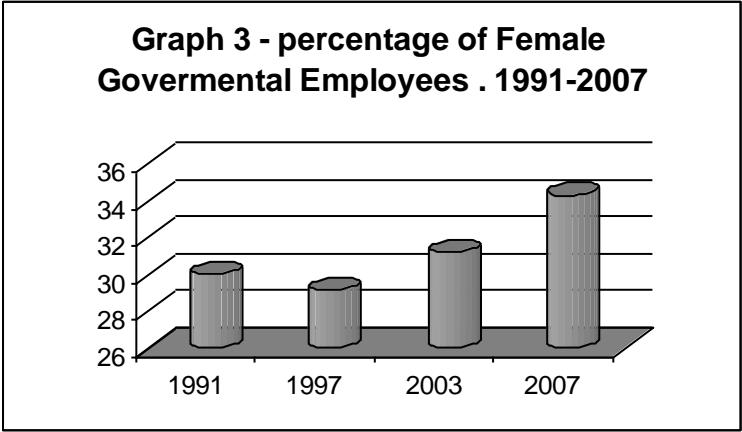
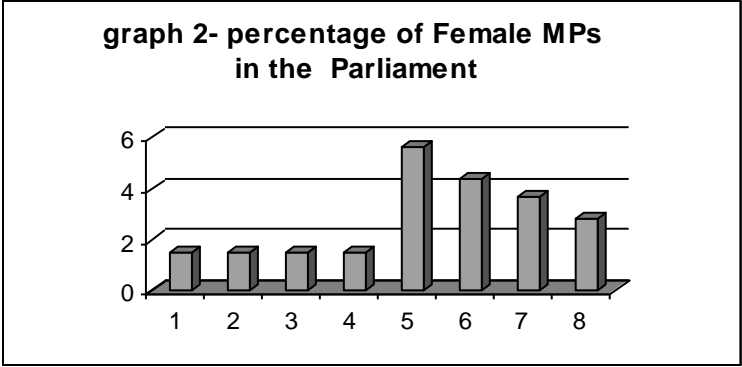
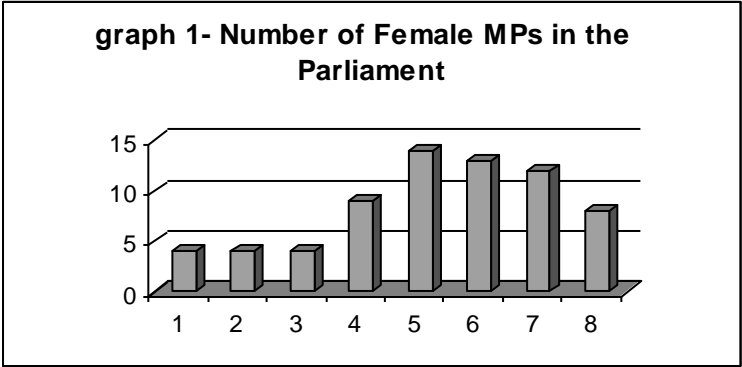
Table 1: Number and Percentage of Female MPs in the Parliament

	No. of woman	Percentage of Woman
1 st Parliament	4	1.5
2 nd Parliament	4	1.5
3 rd Parliament	4	1.5
4 th Parliament	9	1.5
5 th Parliament	14	5.6
6 th Parliament	13	4.4
7 th Parliament	12	3.7
8 th Parliament	8	2.8

Source 8th: SCI ,Annual Statistics of Iran , page

Table 2: Governmental Employees by gender 1991-2008

Year	Male and Female	Male	Female	Percentage of women
1991	2112811	1479674	633137	30.0
1997	2360320	1671899	688441	29.2
2003	2285685	1573465	712220	31.2
2007	2294759	1507656	787102	34.3



CHAPTER EIGHT

Institutional Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women

Values of the supervisory Topic

One of the mechanisms of the Islamic Republic legislative system is that the methods for collaboration and coordination with the poor and popular classes of society and the system provides such institutions as Nazr, ways of the apportioning of sadaghat, charity, atonement, and to order these services from the National procurement organization community problems, people need to be. Therefore, the Quran abundance is seen in the prayers, to spend and matter and give Zakat Dion is financial. For example, stated: “and those in whose wealth there is a fixed portion” and “for him who begs and for him who is denied (good)” (Al-Maarij sura, 24 and 25) pointed out that every human is compulsory, the ability to work with national religious brothers and sisters as this is the institutional support to all people are particularly disadvantaged groups.

Imam Khomeini:

- All men and women must be familiar with social and political issues and monitor, both the parliament and the government, and give their opinions

Ayatollah Khamenei:

- Today we must see what women need today towards the satisfactory governance of Islam, and what legal tools they need, what thoughts and ponderings must take place, what guidance they should receive, what guidance centers must be established. These things must be facilitated for them. We must see what laws are needed to ensure they enjoy their social and human right. What organizations must be set up to take charge of some of this task. You must review these, and then recommend different organs such as the parliament or the Cultural Revolution High Council to legislate laws.

Introduction

Background

The political system of Iran before revolution has not been able to attract women's participation in public participation and governmental mechanisms and only a limited number of women connected to the king's family were recruited in governmental structures. Consequently, only elite and intellectual women were recruited in the governmental structure and improving women's life was limited to this stage.

After Islamic Revolution in Iran and extensive public participation of women from all social spectrums - that were marginalized before- in political changes; promotion of social capitals, women were able to enter decision-making.

Electing a scientist woman in the Expert Assembly of the Constitution and presence of women in the Parliament, powerful political parties and guardian forces; were the first rays of women's participation in decision-making and planning.

After the imposed war and entering the reconstruction period; women's organizations were formed and gender sensitive approaches were adopted.

Since the beginning of 90s, women's mechanisms were established by the efforts of women involved in governmental organizations and university. The first national supreme organization formed after the Islamic Revolution, was Women's Department of Presidency Office and has offices in all ministries as consultant to the minister. This mechanism gradually expanded and by a change in name became the Center for Women and Families in 1997 to do programming and supervise gender budgets in the third , forth and fifth national development plan at governmental levels.

The Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Article 21

The government must ensure the rights of women in all respects, in conformity with Islamic criteria,

1. create a favorable environment for the growth of woman's personality and the restoration of her rights, both the material and intellectual

Perspective:**The 20-year Perspective of the country:**

A society enjoying health, welfare, food security, social security, equal opportunities, proper distribution of income, strong family structure, far from poverty, corruption, discrimination and benefiting an appropriate environment.

Note: Reinforcing national organizations for women's development is a necessity for realization of such perspective.

Charter of Women's Rights and Responsibilities

67. Right to exchange creative cultural information and communications at the national and international levels

66. Women's right to establish and manage cultural-arts centers and organizations in order to train responsible women and women specialists to improve their cultural activities

70. Right to partake in policymaking, legislation, execution and supervision relating to cultural affairs, particularly, women's issues

Current Situation and Achievements**Create or Strengthen National Mechanisms for Advancement of Women*****H.1 CREATE OR STRENGTHEN NATIONAL MACHINERIES AND OTHER GOVERNMENTAL BODIES***

Three main indicators for realization of this goal are as follows:

- 1 - Presence of a national system for gender mainstreaming
- 2 - Presence of focal points within the governmental structure
- 3 - Gender-sensitive training for governmental authorities and staff

In assessing the first indicator, presence of two important institutions in government, the Presidential Center for Women and Families and Social and Cultural Council of Women, a sub-group to the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution, presence of a Bureau to Support Women and Children's Rights in the Judiciary structure and Women's Faction in the Parliament show that the existence of mechanisms in three branches of the country. Evaluating activities of the Center for Women's Participation and the Social and Cultural Council of Women shows that these two can be the most fundamental mechanisms for

women's development in the country, since according to the Beijing statement, these organizations should have clear and defined responsibilities and power and the main factors are: sufficient resources, power and competence to influence policies and reviewing laws. This organization should analyze policies and strategies and has the responsibility of supporting, communicating, coordinating and monitoring the implementation process.

Center for Women and Families

The Center for Women's Participation, previously named as Department of Women's Affairs of Presidency Office was promoted to the Center for Women and Families in 1997 and started its activities holding a defined agenda for increasing women's participation at various arenas of high rank decision making and reporting to senior authorities (such as Supreme Leader, President and Islamic Parliament). Advisor to the President is the head of the Center though is not holding a minister title but she can be continually present in meetings.

Center for Women and Families had a special attention to the NGOs, a trend that started years before during the formation of the Department of Women's Affairs. Quantitative growth can be observed among women's NGOs but there are not enough proves to say that this growth is due to implementation of Article 158 of Third and forth Development Plan or other social factors have also been involved and influenced the growth of these organizations. Also, continuation of gender mainstreaming was reinforced in the process of programming the fifth Development Plan of the government; consequently more was allocated to improve women's status in the country. Presence of these Articles in the Fourth Plan caused to sustainable implementation and follow up of gender programs.

Membership of the Center for Women and Families in Supreme Councils of Employment, Youth, Vocational and Technical Training, Social Commission and also Cultural Commission of the Government resulted to the fact that women's issues are taken into account in high rank decision making and supreme levels of the country. Membership of the Center for Women and Families in these councils is to increase the consideration of the gender perspective in programs.

Social and Cultural Council of Women

Social and Cultural Council of Women in the frame of the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution as one of its sub-group councils stated its activities in 1987 following the objective of policy-making and conducting research over cultural and social issues of women including representatives of three major authorities, governmental organizations and institutions. The main activity of the Social and Cultural Council of Women is establishing information and statistic center of women in 2000 and preparing mandate of rights and women's responsibilities in the Islamic Republic of Iran. This council has conducted researches at different levels such as Assessment of Women's Psychological and Physical Health, Assessment of Women Graduates Occupation Conditions and its relevance to their education, Assessing level of participation and responsibilities of family members and ways of reinforcing it.

Welfare

State Welfare Organization is the most important institutions of government support through public funding to help the disabled and disadvantaged children and orphans or poor women head of households, or women, orphans and poor head will help. The organization and job creation and support of women's households, are some of the important tasks of this organization.

Labor Law Considering the importance of Islam for women and working women are allowed in the Islamic Republic of Iran has been trying, so regulations will be developed while considering the physical and psychological characteristics of the participation of women in social and economic tasks of education can are their families. Actions such as women's exemption from military service, maternity leave for 6 months, 2 hours for working women to breast 2 years after the birth of the child, the legal ban on hard labour.

Gender Focal Points in Governmental Structures

In 1991, in most of the Ministries, an advisor to the minister for women's affairs was appointed and organizations were established focusing on women's issues. Also, in the structure of State Management and Planning Organization, working groups of women

and youth has been formed. These focal points have been established in the structure of governor general's office at provincial level. According to the agenda, all women commissions in all governor general's offices were formed in 1990 and gradually these commissions were also formed in governor's office and women's cultural and social organizations were later established in 1992 to 1994 in different countries. Later, for more coordination, in 1995, a department was formed in the Ministry of Interior named as the Bureau of Women's Affairs with fourteen official posts. During the next years up to 2000, the commissions handed over their activities to women and youth work groups. Now, office of women's affairs is active in all provinces having a defined agenda. Meanwhile, women's socio-cultural centers are in the process of becoming independent and in the planning and development council of each province, a women and youth's work group is active in planning process of the province. In other words, inclusion of these focal points in governmental structures has paved the way for priorities of women's issues to be included in local planning.

Gender Sensitive Training for Governmental Managers

The third indicator is gender sensitive training to governmental authorities. In this regard, office of women's affairs in collaboration with NGOs and some training organization has started training activities since 1993 in many ministries. Meanwhile, the Center for Women's Participation in collaboration of UNFPA has started a five-year plan for holding gender sensitive training for government authorities in five different areas of the country.

Institutional Activities of the Parliament and the State Expediency Council

Institutional activities are of great importance in Islamic Parliament Council. During the fifth Islamic Parliament Council, commissions of women, family and youth were formed. In sixth and seventh it changed to women's fraction to submit proposals regarding women's issues. Especial committee for women and youth was established at 1997 in the State Expediency Council, which has influenced the changes in legislating processes in the county, to prepare and give

comments over general policies of the government and act as a counselor to solve women and youths' problems.

Women's economic rights

The wages legally no difference between men and women there and pay men and women are equal in exchange for similar work. The only difference is that the right child for men, because according to civil law men are responsible for household livelihoods. Women in households, have the right to get paid for their children.

Mainstreaming Gender Perspectives

H.2 INTEGRATE GENDER PERSPECTIVES IN LEGISLATION, PUBLIC POLICIES, PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

The following are two main results of the activities of the Center for Women's Participation during these years:

Continuation of gender mainstreaming in development plans- it is worth mentioning that the development plans of Iran are five-year plans and the Fourth Five-Year Development Plan will start in March 2005. Gender perspective was included in Article 158 of Third Development Plan that started at 2000 and continued till 2005. The important point is that women entered the framework of fundamental mechanisms in development planning procedures. Although, gender perspective emerged just as an Article in development plans, considering the budget mechanisms and implementation system it gained great importance. This article promoted the budget for women's social and cultural participation (gender budgeting) and the Center for Women's Participation reached an agreement with the State Management and Planning Organization, it was allocated to relevant organization and this center monitored the costs. The main indicator in this practice is filling the gap of access for women to implementing organization's facilities and also the possibility of utilizing women's capacities to emphasize on skills learning, proper programs for free time, increasing occupation opportunities, expanding legal and judicial counseling services and empowerment of women NGOs. Although a national, practical and subtle evaluation of the activities during the five years of third plan and preparing a report was difficult but there should be gender indications, output and final impact evaluation and stability of the projects considering the objectives and

indicators of the third development plan of the country. We can refer to center of documentation and information of the Social and Cultural Council of Women (there is a web site), women's information center related to women's participation center, annual reports of the Ministry of Education regarding education status of girls and status of women working in Ministries and information site of women's affairs office of the Ministry of Interior as examples.

Gender Disaggregated Data

H.3 GENERATE AND DISSEMINATE GENDER-DISAGGREGATED DATA AND INFORMATION FOR PLANNING AND EVALUATION

Planning and programming on women's issues is not only dependant on presence of fundamental mechanisms or gender sensitive people who are able to do gender analysis in governmental structures. Since, existence of gender sensitive and segregated statistics and data and its continuous distribution is one of the main bases of mainstreaming gender programs. Moreover, formation of programming organizations for women on one hand and formation of women's research centers in universities, gender segregated data has become a necessity. The main source of information and statistic distribution of the country is "Iran Statistical Center" that is involved in provisions to prepare sex segregated statistics and conducting research in indicating gender sensitive indicators. International organization like UNPFA is cooperating with government on a project to gather, distribute and using gender sensitive and sex segregated data.

Also, organizations involved and dealing with women's issues such as the Social and Cultural Council of Women, the Center for Women's Participation and women's departments in ministries have had innovations in gathering sex segregated and gender sensitive data especially in preparing qualitative statistics that has brought achievements upon follow ups of women's issues in higher ranks. In this regard the budget of the center increased and the number of employees and experts had a quantitative growth.

Government's Actions

1 - Formation of the Bureau for Women's Affair which later on changed to the Center for Women's and Families is a policy making

organization in the governments so that the director of the center is both a counselor to the president regarding women's issues and is continually present in government board meetings and is also a member of some of the supreme councils of planning.

2 - Increasing activities of the Social and Cultural Council of Women as a policy making organization in the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution and especially approval of legal mandate and responsibilities of women and also approval of policies of establishment, reinforcement and promotion of family in Islamic structure.

3 - Approval of third economic, social and cultural development plan of the country and its special focus on empowerment programs for NGOs which increased the number of women NGOs.

4 - Continuation of applying gender mainstreaming in provisions of five year plans of the country (especially third and fourth plans of the country).

5 - Allocation of a 35% budget for the budget of provinces for women's affairs

6 - Formation of Women's Department since 1991 in the Ministry of Interior and women's commissions at provincial level and in most ministries, formation of different women organizations in the Parliament (women commission and then women's fraction), formation of women and youth work groups in planning and development councils of provinces, women and youths' committee in state expediency council.

7 - Formation of gender network in four provinces and one region due to the common project of UNFPA and the Center for Women's Participation containing members of governmental and non-governmental organizations to promote the capabilities of its members in utilizing gender perspective and attitudes in planning.

8 - Reduced hours of work of employed women with children in state machines full rights agenda and the Cabinet of Women's Affairs and Family Center also attempted Codification In his regard the proposed bill is. With the approval of this bill due to concerns of working women employed outside the home is Rising.

9 - Law reform to promote and support nutrition of mothers during lactation.

- 10 - Premature retirement bill households, women
- 11 - Increase employment facilities for child care staff have a child.
- 12 - The employer's insurance contribution exemption householder.
- 13 - Document learn development of women and family affairs.

Women's NGOs Activities

Process of NGO participation in reinforcing the fundamental mechanisms according to the report containing activities of 230 women NGOs, focuses on capacity building to institutionalize its organization. Also, target group of most of the services have been rural women and disadvantaged and vulnerable levels of the society.

- Setting up of networks and design of the NGOs systems organization that is made up of their elected representatives
- Holding conferences to stabilize NGOs in the Third and Fourth Development Plan of the country
- Holding training workshops for empowerment of women for their active participation in civil society
- Research association for assessing the role of NGOs in delivering services to earthquake stricken city of Bam
- Formation and establishment of women and youth NGOs in different cities to expand the dimension of the activities at local level and stabilize the organizations
- Creating networks among organizations to increase communication and exchange of experience
- Running the NGO empowerment centres for capacity building of NGOs
- Acquiring consultative status from the United Nations and membership in international federations. Currently 11 NGO have Consultative status from the Economic and Social Council of the UN
- Establishing branches in the provinces and expanding activities at local levels
- Establishing Rural Women cooperatives
- Establishing special counseling centers for women
- Creating training centers for orphan girls in deprived and rural areas

- Providing space for NGOs to help them to continue their activities
- Membership of NGOs in provincial work groups
- Meeting directors of provinces to introduce capable women for managerial posts

Fundamental mechanisms for women's development are one of the main issues and commitments of the government. But NGOs play a crucial role in the fundamental process to facilitate planning, implementation and decentralized monitoring of gender mainstreaming processes. Practice and implementation of this responsibility needs gender focus in planning the projects for service delivery and other projects.

Also, it is necessary to train the staff members of women NGOs regarding gender issues and also on the issue of NGOs entry to the process of gender mainstreaming.

Focus of most of the women NGOs on reinforcing inter organization capacities and lack of coverage of target groups in the process of gender mainstreaming shows that most of these NGOs didn't have active, determinant and influential over the government and other governmental organizations and they are mostly beneficiaries of this process. While only a small portion of women NGOs have a long history of activity to improve women's status and are the main consolors of the government and have actively participated in providing training, gender literature, monitoring of gender programs, research and evaluating government's activities.

However, the number of women NGOs holding and consultant status is not enough to be able to influence the international process. It is necessary for women organizations active at national level to gain such status in the socio-economic council of the United Nations.

CNWN Activities

The following have been done to promote working capacities of the network:

- Requesting for consultative status and women's organizations presence as observers in social issues to the Organization of the Islamic Countries

- Planning and action to gain consultative status in policy making, programming and implementing organizations of the country
- Purchasing a building for permanent settlement of the secretariat of the network
- Planning and action to establish NGO system organization in the Islamic Republic of Iran
- Planning and measures to prepare the national mandate of women NGOs in the Islamic Republic of Iran
- Quantitative promotion of network members from 70 to 200 women NGOs
- Consulting the Statistical Center of Iran for gathering information and statistics of NGOs quantitative situation in the country which was approved by the statistic supreme council to be implemented every two year and define gender sensitive indicators for two groups of men and women to be included in the census of 2006.
- Networking in the provinces
- Preparation of a comprehensive activities programme for member organizations (first nongovernmental development)
- Cooperation and preparation and drafting of NGOs law and its presentation to the parliament
- Efforts to legislate the necessity of a survey of NGOs every two years by the High Council of Statistics
- Continued activities in drawing programmes for NGOs and women's issues and placing these programmes in the national development plans
- Formation of communications network between Shiraz, Yazd and Kerman (thematic, technical and in accordance with the contents of the Constitution)

Fourth National Development Plan

Part of the Plan that is related to the issue is as follows:

Government is committed to take following actions to reinforce women's role in the society and providing opportunities and expansion of women's participation in the country:

- A. Providing, approving and implementing General Plan of Developing Women's
- Participation including reviewing rules and regulations, especially civil law, promoting women's skills according to their social needs and technology evolutions, identifying and increasing investing bodies in occupational opportunities, attention to the gender composition of work forces, promoting life quality and promoting believes regarding competence of women.
- B. Preparing and submitting bills regarding the issue of stabilizing family life to be approved in competent assemblies.
- C. Provisions and legal measures to eliminate violence against women.
- D. Submitting the bill of establishment and expansion of NGOs, CBOs and women's organization to the Parliament.
- The right to form and run cultural organizations and centres and presence in various stages of decision making related to cultural matters
- Support for women related social and cultural associations and development of information dissemination
- Strengthening of the internal management of the network

Note: all implementing organization are committed to foresee the budget needed to implement their legal duties regarding this article that is related to their legal duties in the annual budget bills and coordinate for further actions with Women's Participation Center.

Challenges and Constraints

- These mechanisms stay in the margins of governmental structure and limited to consultation level and relevant authorities do not have authorizations which makes them inactive to implement decisions regarding women.
- Lack of similar models of gender mainstreaming development in implementing organizations and lack of accordance of some of these gender mainstreaming programs with development conditions and situation of the country.
- Lack of necessary coordination between centres who work on women's issues and the number of decision making facilities

- Lack of gender budget to meet the needs of the provinces especially in deprived provinces.
- Those involved in planning and programming lack gender perspectives in their policies, programs and gender analysis of their outputs.
- Lack of defined and transparent mechanisms to promote gender justice.
- Insufficient use of monitoring capacities in governmental structures regarding gender mainstreaming in the organizations.
- Lack of a specific definition for “gender” in provision, distribution and utilization of statistics and lack of definitions and methods for gathering inputs to assess poverty, health and human rights among women and men including their access to resources and lack of gender analysis in statistic usages.
- Lack of inputs regarding wages especially in agriculture, livelihood agriculture and other production activities out of working market due to lack of identification of women’s economic services and unequal division of wages among men and women.

Recommendation to the Government

- Creating a powerful and unified gender structure like a national organization (such as Commission of gender equality) in the highest governmental rank which will have enough authority to coordinate the programs of three leading powers of the country and have legal support in monitoring the activities of these organizations in gender mainstreaming.
- Allocation of enough resources and power and competence to influence the policies and reviewing laws.
- Capacity of fundamental mechanisms in supporting, communication, coordination and monitoring the implementation process.
- Establishing methods to enable fundamental mechanisms to gather information regarding policies in the first stages and necessity of reviewing these policies continuously.

- Promoting gender perspectives among government implementing authorities on methods of spending gender budgets and necessity of capacity building and their empowerment on policy making, programming and prioritizing methods for women issues.
- Reinforcing monitoring systems over gender budgets and information distribution methodologies to beneficiaries to participate in local gender programming.
- Priorities on women issues have been settled considering the 30228 credits for social and cultural participation and it seems that this has been effective in directing and concentrating credits. It is recommended that instead of focusing on prioritizing, trust local needs and stick to the prioritizing methodologies offered by state management and programming organization.
- Reinforcing constant reporting on efforts to legislature authorities to generalize gender issues.
- Cooperation with Parliamentarians and state expediency council to achieve gender perspective in all laws and policies.
- Achievement and expansion of collaborations with relevant governmental organizations, women's research center, university centers, private sector, media, NGOs especially civil society activists by national organization for women's development.
- Promoting activities focusing on reforming laws including women's status in the family, employment, social services, tax, equal education opportunities by national organization for women's development.
- Reinforcing direct links with national, regional and international delegations.
- Promoting participation of women's study center of the university and governmental and non governmental research centers to test indicators and research methodologies needed to reinforce gender analysis and monitoring and evaluation of gender mainstreaming processes.

- Promotion of active actors in government, private and NGO sectors to work regarding gender justice among men and women.
- Indicating women's services in the process of development including paid and unpaid services in policies and economic programming.
- Try the roles of women in mother and wife to enter a career that is more flexible, so women usually pay a lower download and promote employment ends due to maternity leave and lactation with 2 hours for 2 years for their difficulty with is.

First nongovernmental national development plan

Method:

- Efforts to be influential in developmental and monitoring programmes

Measures:

- Formation of a women's working group in organizations responsible to follow up on women's affairs
- Continued communication with the society with the aim of sociopathology and recognition of women's views and opinions

Method:

- Institutionalisation of people participation and NGOs in women's related matters

Measures:

- Creation and development of NGOs, civil societies and women's associations through the adoption of necessary laws.
- Holding meetings particularly with members of the Islamic Parliament and City and Village Council, Interior Ministry and provincial governorships
- Preparation of the basis for establishment of links between domestic and international NGOs
- Reflection of Iranian NGOs activities to national and international organizations
- Holding joint sittings with international women's NGOs and organizations in consultative status positions

- Follow up on laws and regulations for the facilitation of the basis of participation of the people and NGOs
- Help in the establishment of communication offices with decision setting and making institutions (Beit-e Magham Rahbari, government, Judiciary, members of parliament)
- Expansion of information dissemination programmes towards the introduction of the potentials of women and attractive call for popular participations in this regard.

Method:

- Expansion of continued communication between the members of the Women's Communications Network with each other and all women of society.

Measures:

- Hold meetings and conferences
- Identification of women related organizations
- Holding expertise meetings

Method:

- Help to expand cultural cooperation and exchanges with international organizations active in the field of women

Measures:

- Identification of international women's organizations
- Hold sittings

Method:

- Expansion of women's participation especially with the support of institutions and social women's participation

Measures:

- Conduct joint projects with relevant nongovernmental organizations
- Identification of women at managerial levels and establishment of a women managers network at governmental and nongovernmental levels.

Method:

- Cooperation with national and international organizations active in the field of decision making and setting and the monitoring process on women's issues.

Measures:

- Expansion of women's presence in the decision making process through the women managers' network
- Management methods training
- Encouragement of women to be present in decision making centres
- Compilation of necessary guidelines for the encouragement of women to be present in decision making centres

Method:

- Adoption of encouraging policies and methods to get women to participate in group and organizational activities.

Measures:

- Creation of a thinking room and working groups
- Holding educational courses and workshops
- Holding technical seminars, conferences and sittings
- Expansion of advisory institutions
- Holding bilateral visits with thinkers and academics (experts, scholars, religious figures and leaders) and presentation of consultation to them.

Method:

Improvement of the functions, skills and NGOs managerial potential levels.

Measures:

- Preparation and publication of educational books, brochures and journals
- Strengthening and expansion of internet portals for cyber communications
- Recognition of the internal capacities of NGOs and their members in preparing data banks
- Compilation of necessary guidelines and mechanisms for strengthening of interaction and communication
- Setting up of a data bank of the potentials and capacities of members of NGOs
-

Method:

- Follow up on the drafting of long term programmes for relevant organizations

Measures:

- Amendment of relevant cases in the laws for the elimination of discrimination against women in economic matters
- Cooperation with the parliamentary research centre for the identification of laws that are needed to conduct scientific capacity analysis

Method:

- Continued communication with the society with the aim of pathology and recognition of views and expectations.

Measures:

- Presentation of technical and effective consultation to decision national and international making and setting institutions regarding the social dignity and status of women
- Participation in school students curriculums planning with regards to the real status of women

Method:

- Identification of vacuums in the law with regards to women's employment

Measures:

- Support for fundamental and practical research and studies (particularly students thesis)
- Setting up of legal advisory offices
- Holding seminars, conferences and workshops
- Review of relevant laws
- Help in review of laws and regulations especially civil and work relations ones
- Identification and determination of fundamental labour laws (work relations, equality of wages against same value work, elimination of discrimination in employment and profession, observation of minimum work age, observation of minimum wages in proportion to minimum living)

Method:

- Identification of financial resource

Measures:

- Identification of relevant government departments
- Identification of laws that provide the opportunity for relevant areas associated to the executive bodies can have expenditure

- Interaction with the Plan and Budget Commission and merging the budget during the annual review of the budget.

Recommendation to Women's NGOs

- Increasing involvement of NGOs in fundamental processes to facilitate planning, implementation and decentralized monitoring over gender mainstreaming processes.
- Women's affairs priorities from the credit location 30228 for their social and cultural participation has been foreseen, and it seems that this matter in centralism in the determination of priorities, more trust has been taken place in local needs and the determination of priorities through the National Management and Planning Organization is enough.
- Reinforcing participatory activities to bring gender justice and other issues upon.
- Providing consultation to legislatures to consider gender perspective in the policies and programs.
- Participation in testing indicators and essential methods to reinforce gender analysis in monitoring and evaluating gender mainstreaming.
- Gender assessment of poverty of women, women human rights, women's reproductive health and access to resources.
- Conducting qualitative and quantitative research over women's participation in power and influence in the society such as number of men and women occupying higher posts in decision making in private and public sectors.
- Extensive activity to advocate gender mainstreaming especially gender budgeting in the country.
- Necessity of increasing the number of active researchers in the civil society with gender perspectives to consult the government.

Conclusion

Over the last two decades years, women have been able to enter macro management systems and gradually create institutional mechanisms for gender mainstreaming. Existence of two mechanisms: the Social

and Cultural Council for Women and the Center for Women's Participation created good changes to the benefit of women.

The main indicators that exist to evaluate institutional mechanisms in the country show the achievements in this regard. Now, there is a national system for women's achievement in the country and in both mechanisms efforts have been toward improving women's situation. The last effort of women's socio-cultural council was providing the Charter of Right and Responsibilities of Women in the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Center for Women's and families presented general system of women's participation and general legal system of women and have been involved in planning process of the government through influencing third and fourth national government plan. During the last four years there have been gender focus centers in different areas of the country. All provinces have a consultant to governor's office for women's affairs. The priorities of women's issues is covered by the credit of 30228 for women's social and cultural participation and it seems that this has been effective in directing credits to the benefit of women. Moreover, in different ministries, women's department has created changes in the fields of women's participation especially in agriculture and economy. In a general overview, opportunities have been created gender mainstreaming.

CHAPTER NINE

Women and Human Rights

Values of the supervisory Topic

Naturally the first right, the creator of creation for every human regardless of gender given the right means to be human is real. That human moral and material after he has spent on earth is an existing concept in Islam the right to life, the right material and spiritual life is worthy and respect the right of everyone is necessary. That no one human life had not allowed others attempts. "unless it be for manslaughter or for mischief in the land, it is as though he slew all men" (Al-Maeda sura, 32) Here that the Islamic Human Rights, including their spiritual life is this means that human life must be in addition to physical life, health, prosperity and salvation, he should be fully considered. Here the human spirit to save his life and everyone involved in creating corruption for causing loss to human life is at risk of human suffering. Based on this Quran as Leading the living human life-spiritual and material life possible causes based on the dignity and justice and love and faith is. Resale Rights in Islam, a paper entitled the various aspects of human rights in the collection as "Resale Rights" one of the imams and the successors of the Prophet Muhammad that child has been writing that paper for each moment of human presence on earth, Rights and Responsibilities has appoint. From the perspective of Islam, gender no effect on basic human rights does not. Therefore, comprehensive identity as women is of all human beings and the natural rights of all human and enjoy. But his special position in the development of population and human emotions that support in this area has serious divine legislation.

Call of the Quran is that your sex life to the field of material fact, but your soul is not a vector gender and color and race and geography and nationality, region and Ghana and poverty, can not cause any human superior to another provided. "o you men! surely we have created you of a male and a female, and made you tribes and families that you may know each other; surely the most honorable of you with Allah is the one among you most careful (of his duty); surely Allah is knowing, aware" (Al-Hujrat sura, 13) means an all human beings, we your creation of a man and woman and we have started your forms for different race and tribe, nationality, geography and regional characteristics of the person we most deserve you but respect your valuable human principles. "that I will not waste the work of a worker among you, whether male or female," (Al-E-Imran sura, 195). The

two right woman "equality" and "different" being based on right and center of gravity being different rights between men and women is. Look who seek justice and to create balance between men and women in family and community and this means rising too limited "gender" to limit unlimited "humanity" is.

Imam Khomeini:

- Islam has placed women against men, and has given them equality
- In the Islamic order, women have the same rights as men, the right to education, work and ownership
- They have distorted women's freedom to such an extent that they think Islam has come to force women to stay at home. Why should we be against women working? Why shouldn't women be allowed to work in the government? Why should we be against women traveling? Women are free in all of these just like men. There are no differences between men and women

Ayatollah Khamenei:

Gender – being a man or a woman – is not an issue for Islam, the dignity of mankind is important, mankind's morality is important, the expression of talents is important, the conducting of duties which is specific to each gender is important for which naturally the natures must be recognized. Islam clearly recognizes the nature of men and women. What is important in Islam is balance, meaning the observation of balance of justice among all of mankind, such as between men and women. Equality in rights is important. But in a place it might be that the laws for women and men may differ, just as in some instances the nature of men and women are different. Therefore most of the truths and truths in nature are included in the Islamic texts.

Introduction

Background

Respect to the human dignity and also preserving the human values have been two basic and religious points mentioned in the holy Quran. There is also a rich literature of religion in the history of Islamic sciences. The main proof to this point is the letter of Imam Ali to Malek Ashtar which indicates important points in observing the human rights and the necessity to respect the human dignity.

This is the reason that the issue of human rights has been of great importance in the history and the culture of Iranians. This issue has also created different verbal and legal tendencies among Shiites and has established various theories. Nowadays, most of the sources give special attention to the Islamic Human Rights.

Islam has also given special importance to the women's human rights. The principle of equality among human beings has also been of great importance in Islam. The Holy Quran has considered all the human beings as equal and the only priority is the belief in God. Also one of the historical realities which gives respect to women is the prevention of burying women alive in the pre-Islam era.

Although the great participation of women in the Islamic Revolution has been mentioned many times by the great leader and he has insisted on the necessity of observing the human values of women, but the legal revisions supervising the women's human rights has banned them significantly since 1991 to enter the decision making procedures.

The Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Article 20

All citizens of the country, both men and women, equally enjoy the protection of the law and enjoy all human, political, economic, social, and cultural rights, in conformity with Islamic criteria.

Article 3

7. Ensuring political and social freedoms within the framework of the law;

14. Securing the multifarious rights of all citizens, both women and men, and providing legal protection for all, as well as the equality of all before the law;

Article 19

All people of Iran, whatever the ethnic group or tribe to which they belong, enjoy equal rights; and color, race, language, and the like, do not bestow any privilege

.Article 23

The investigation of individuals' beliefs is forbidden, and no one may be molested or taken to task simply for holding a certain belief.

Article 38

All forms of torture for the purpose of extracting confession or acquiring information are forbidden. Compulsion of individuals to testify, confess, or take an oath is not permissible; and any testimony, confession, or oath obtained under duress is devoid of value and credence. Violation of this article is liable to punishment in accordance with the law

Vision

- Iran is a developed country along with the cultural, social and historical standards relying on Islamic, national and the Revolution values insisting on religious public dominance social justice conditional freedom preserving human rights benefiting the social and judicial security

Charter of Women's Rights and Responsibilities

- The right to freedom of thought and immunity from violation and security in having a belief (First part, article 3)
- The right to have citizenship of Iran for each Iranian woman and giving up citizenship at her request (First part, article 8)
- Freedom of women followers of Islam and official religious minorities in conducting their religious services and duties, and matters of personal property as prescribed by their own customs and laws are within the law (First part, article 9)

Current Conditions and Achievements

The trend of legal changes in the country in order to realize human rights seems to be reconfirmed with the approval of a bill called "citizens' rights" by the Islamic Parliament in May 2004. This bill was first like a circular by Ayatollah Shahroudi, Former Head of Judiciary.

It shows that the trend to strengthen and stabilize the human this trend has greater dimensions and different groups in three branches of the country and also groups outside the structure of the government, have started their efforts to create conditions for the realization of human rights of women. This subject has been strictly emphasized in the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Some of these changes have been mentioned in section of governmental actions. Actions such as establishing family courts and also applying female consulting judges in the review courts in cases such as divorce, that will help women to be more protected. Also the increase in the age of marriage, child custody and also alternative punishments specially stopping the stoning of women are also among actions taken in this respect.

Another important point in the subject of human rights is the existence of institutions which have a great role in the field of human rights of women. These institutions can institutionalize the rights –based approach and promote the human rights of women. On one hand, the Cultural and Social Council of Women has approved the Rights and Responsibilities of Women in the Islamic Republic of Iran in 2004. On the other hand, the Center for Women's and families, as an important institution in women's affairs in the government, has set the Plan of Comprehensive Legal and Judicial System regarding the legal and judicial status of women. Existence of a fraction for women besides the Commission for Women, Family and Youth in the Islamic Parliament can have a good effect on the approval trend of the bills to the benefit of women. Establishing a Bureau for Supporting Women and Children in the

Judiciary and other offices being supervised by the Judiciary and other related institutions have been very effective in realizing the human rights of women. Human rights have been taken among the public and specially women. The Ministry of Education and Training has started courses on human rights, a charter of students rights have been prepared (by students themselves). Nowadays, students at school believe that they have rights. The Training Office of the Judiciary has started training to familiarize citizens with their rights and the Center for Women's Participation has supported the training projects for women's rights. Human Rights training courses are being run at M.A.

and M.S. degrees. Centers for Research and Study on Human Rights have become active in Tehran University and also Mofid University in Qom. The Chair of Human Rights, Peace and Democracy in the Shahid Beheshti University has opened new discussions in human rights literature and specially the expansion of human rights for women in the country. Also the entrance of human rights for women in the programs of United Nations Agencies active in Iran has opened a new era in the country. The United Nations Population Fund has been active with the cooperation of the Center for Women's and families in developing and guaranteeing the rights on health, reproductive and creating a gender network with 1180 men and women active in governmental and non-governmental organizations. They have been able to expand the right in reproductive health throughout the country. Women's NGOs and also the national institutions of the Islamic Human Rights Commission have monitored human rights of women as a priority. Also some professional societies such as the Bar Association and other related organizations have opened new windows to support of human rights of women in the country.

1.2 ENSURE EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION UNDER THE LAW AND IN PRACTICE

The Islamic Parliament has taken certain measures in reforming laws. A total of 41 bills regarding women's rights and issues have been studied in the Islamic Parliament and out of this, 20 bills have been approved as laws. Certain laws that have been adopted whether by the Islamic Parliament or the Expediency Council have been mentioned.

- Regarding courts, certain courts have been dedicated to the courts mentioned in Article 21 of the Constitution (family courts). In such courts, according to the law, the sentences will be given after being consulted by a female judicial consultant.

Regarding getting divorce, according to Article 1133 of the Civil Law, a man could give divorce to his wife upon his will but it was changed as follows: a man can refer to a court and give the request for divorce by observing the conditions set in the law. Meanwhile Article 1130 of the Civil Law has been revised and the cases of "Osr va Haraj" for women have been specified by the Expediency Council.

- Regarding women's alimony, Article 1107 of civil law has been revised to: the financial rights of a woman includes logical and proper needs of a woman such as accommodation, clothing, food, home appliances and health and treatment expenses and maid on the condition of disability or sickness. Also Article 1110 has been revised so that this salary should be paid to women even after their husbands' death.
- Regarding the age of marriage and growth, Article 1041 of civil law and its remarks has been revised as: the minimum age of marriage for a girl is 13 years and for a boy is 15 years. If the marriage is due to take place before their legal age, then it should be according to the rules and also the supervision of court. Article 1210 of civil law was revised to distinguish the age of growth of the age of maturity for boys and girls. A boy is mature after 15 years of age and a girl is mature after 13 years of age unless it can be proved the opposite.
- Regarding the child custody, Article 1169 of civil law approved by 1935 has been revised: the child custody is given to the mother if he/she is under 7 years of age. After that age it shall be decided by the family court considering the child's benefits.

Regarding the penal punishments, the stone killing has been stopped in 2002 by the order of Head of Judiciary. Also in the contents of Article 638 of Islamic Penal Law approved in 1996, the punishment of lashing has been transformed to prison sentences and cash punishment.

- The revision of Article 3 of the University Law in a way that female students are able to go abroad without considering their status of marriage.

1.3 ACHIEVE LEGAL LITERACY

Iranian women are more educated nowadays and have more opportunities to study. Even in certain fields, they are more advanced than men. The increase in the number of girls attending university compared to the number of boys attending university is a proof. They also know more about their legal rights and this prevents their rights to be neglected. The point that all need to have legal training has been

seriously considered by governmental and non-governmental organizations. The Ministry of Education has taken the first step in this regard, and within the Ministry, the Charter of Students' Rights have been drafted. All the students, no matter boys or girls, know their rights as human beings at school and also after they are graduated. Also the training on the rights of girl students has been implemented in 2002 in five provinces with the cooperation of the Center for Women's Participation.

Since this project has been much successful, it is going to be implemented for all high school female students. There have also been some changes in high school curricula and women's rights are being included. Certain training programmes are being implemented by some governmental sectors. Also training workshops on women's rights are being held by the Center for Women's Participation, the Ministry of Interior, the National Youth Organization, Provinces Governorships, the Islamic Propagation Organization and the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting. But compiling a comprehensive programme for training of all people throughout the country specially for women is very necessary. Such a program can increase the knowledge of women on their rights, and certainly it creates a lasting impact. An obstacle depriving women from their rights is the existence of some traditional attitudes towards women and their roles in the family and society and therefore, such trainings can be very useful not only within the education system but also through the mass media. Nowadays in the country, there are special magazines and journals for women developing women's rights and their experiences. There is also a "women's studies" course in the universities which has been initiated by a women's NGO. Institutions rendering services to women are increasing daily. Meanwhile, NGOs have opened a new era in the promotion of human rights of women especially in cities.

Monitoring mechanisms for realization of human rights of women

Existence of monitoring mechanisms to achieve women's human rights can be effective. Besides policy-making bodies such as Women's and families Center and Women's socio-cultural council, other support organizations such as the Center for Women's

Participation, Bureau of Supporting Women and Children in the Judiciary, the Islamic Human Rights Commission and other similar organizations are responsible to monitor implementation of law to achieve women's human rights. The Islamic Human Rights Commission is active both at legal level and in following up complaints. The Commission has Women and Children's Committee pays special attention to women's rights and visits are being made to women's prisons and have had recommendations to prevent violations of human rights. On the other hand, human rights defenders of the Commission are active in many cities within the country. However, establishment of an integrated body to monitor women's human rights seems essential.

Human rights among religious minorities

Different religious minorities such as Christians, Jews, and Zoroastrians live in Iran and they have their own civil laws and regulations that fit into their religious beliefs. Criminal and civil laws regarding religious minorities sometimes deepen the gender gaps and ignores natural rights of women. Jewish women have their own specific problems since Jewish community is a closed society in Iran. The average age of marriage in the last 15 years in Iranian Jewish society is lower than the present age of marriage in Iran. Low age of marriage not only brings financial burden over the couple but also it can restrict education and individual development opportunities that will automatically bring depression from rapid decision making in marriage or being under pressure for a lifetime. Most of the marriages happen in a traditional way where older people introduce the young couples to one another which restricts social contacts and possibility of choice and forces the couple to accept a mutual life. Religious minorities follow their own laws regarding civil issues such as marriage, divorce, inheritance and will and in many cases Jews are more restricted in issues such as right to divorce. A women cannot apply for divorce even if the husband has ran away. Difficult processes of divorce gives more power to men and make them practice domestic violence. Divorce is a shame among Jewish community in Iran so the possibility of other marriage for men is really limited and for women it is almost impossible and those who

have the opportunity of divorce with all its difficult processes know that in any age they cannot remarry and have family except in cases where parents and children die and they accept the hard procedure of immigration or marrying a non-Jewish person which is most of the times unsuccessful. The situation for Zoroastrian women is different. They usually face problems in recruitment processes in many governmental bodies since the autonomous managers deprive them due to being religious minority. But they representative in the Parliament is actively following up this issue and in many cases there have been orders to eliminate these restrictions.

Zoroastrian Women's Association, as an NGO that has got Consultative Status to United Nations is an active organization in the country that is working to improve Zoroastrian women's status. Civil rights and equal rights of men and women among Assyrian women depends their membership in different churches. Catholic church considers equal rights for men and women and it can be clearly detected at the time of inheritance. According to statistics, illiteracy is very low among Assyrian women but they are facing some traditional and customs problems. The head of the family is the autonomous power to take decisions in the family regarding marriage and employment though it has become less powerful in the recent years and girls marry on their own choice or they work outside of the house but there are still traditional limits.

Regarding Armenian women, the main issue is unemployment. Educated Armenian women apply for immigration due to unemployment and failure in finding a job.

Government's Actions

1. Revision of some civil and penal laws in order to protect the human rights of women (child custody, laws related to the family courts structure, divorce, etc) Increase in the minimum age of girls marriage in law and their rights.
2. Applying female consultants in family courts in order to give special support to women to benefit human rights
- 3 - Stopping the stoning of women and efforts to apply substitute punishments

4 - Establishing a Bureau to support women and children in the Judiciary which will have an important role in giving legal assistance to the vulnerable.

5 - Efforts for increasing access to justice through establishing mechanisms, offering telephone consultation in the training department of Judiciary, creating institutions for follow-ups and rendering legal assistance, meetings of Head of Judiciary with the public and ...

6 - Government and the Parliament review for the ratification of the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

7 - Actions to give legal training by different sectors of the government through organizing training workshops and also training of girls in high schools by the Ministry of Education to familiarize them with their rights.

8 - Allocated a number of existing courts and family courts.

9 - Setting up of human rights studies centres in universities (Tehran, Shahid Beheshti, and Ghom Mofid) and also adding a master's degree course in human rights.

10 - Ratification of citizen's rights law in May 2004

11 - Directive to the judiciary administrators regard the Office of Justice Provincial Women and Children Rights Protection Act of 2004

Women's NGOs Activities

In the field of women's human rights, women's NGOs have implemented 86 activities. Most of their activities have been focusing on capacity building and enabling the individuals to be aware of their rights. Also these organizations have organized seminars and conferences related to women's rights. Some of the activities of these organizations have been focused on the revision of some civil and penal laws.

- Holding seminars, ceremonies, roundtables and national or international days with the goal to have information dissemination on human rights for women
- Holding courses and training workshops on human rights for women various activities for information dissemination and familiarization with rights for women

- Activities in order to support and defend women's human rights
- Rendering legal consultations to vulnerable group of women
- Holding consultative meetings with law makers and governmental implementers and rendering consultations in the fields of women's rights to them
- Holding exhibitions with the subject of human rights for women
- Follow-up activities to change and revise laws related to women
- Provision of legal suggestions and presenting them to the governmental and members of Parliament with the hope to have effect on women's human rights
- Research and suggestions on women's rights
- Publication and distribution of training pamphlets and information dissemination bulletins, publications, brochures to increase awareness among women
- Compiling articles in different fields of women's rights

It seems that the willingness of women's NGOs to have legal activities is less than civil and social activities. The reason is first because of the specialty of legal discussions and secondly the non-encouragement of these activities by the government. Also the weakness of NGOs in rendering social services and focus on social workers is another obstacle in their actions to support women's human rights. Considering the fact that activities in the field of human rights are one of the most challenging fields for NGOs because all NGOs want to stay away from politics and activities in the fields of human rights will take them towards politics. It is necessary for NGOs to be active in research and study fields because it seems that these organizations are at the beginning of their way towards women's rights in the country.

CNWN Activities

- Establishment of a Legal Commission within the structure of the Communication Network to prepare certain draft rules and regulations related to women to present them to the specialized commissions of the Islamic Parliament
- Presenting to the Legal Commission of the Islamic Parliament a proposal to establish family courts
- Presenting the revision of law regarding marriage and remarriage, age of marriage (with the hope to omit the remarks in Article 1041)
- Publishing a statement regarding the women's rights in Afghanistan and also a statement on condemning the killings in Algeria
- Active participation of CNWN's representatives in a workshop in Tehran on regional arrangements of human rights in Asia and Pacific region, also meeting with Ms. Mary Robinson, the United National High Commissioner for Human Rights
- Participation in the seminar on "Planning against child abuse" in 1998 in Tehran and giving speech in this seminar
- Participation in the annual meeting of Human Rights Commission in Geneva
- Holding training workshops to study the ratification of the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Violence Against Women with the cooperation of White Mehr Home, one of the women's NGOs (with the participation of 100 Representatives from NGOs, members of governmental sectors and universities)
- Participation in the conference of sports and human rights in Australia in September 1999
- Holding a training course on human rights for four months for the representatives of NGOs which are the members of the network with the cooperation of the

UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Peace and Democracy of Shahid Beheshti University and with the participation of legal professors of this university. In this course 45 women gained knowledge on main instruments of human rights and human rights institutions at international level. In this training course, main issues of human rights

and Islam as well as an anthropological perspective of human rights was studies.

Fourth National Development Plan

Government is obliged to draft the Charter of Citizens' Rights in order to promote the human rights, create the grounds for individual and social security in the society, educate an active, responsible, satisfied and dedicated generation, disciplined with a spirit of cooperation and social adjustment, loyal to the Revolution and Islamic System and flourishing of Iran, who feels proud to be Iranian. The Charter may be approved by the related authorities and can have the following sections:

- Promotion of a culture of respecting to laws and citizenship regulations provision of freedom and guaranteeing the freedom having the right to elect and to be elected orienting the political and social activities towards the legal procedures and supporting a security guarantee for activities and legal gatherings
- Provision of necessary freedom and security so that the social organizations can grow in the filed of child and women rights perseverance
- Promotion of unifying and respectful concepts to social groups and different ethnic groups in our national culture
- Preserving the private life of individuals
- Promoting a sense of social security among the public and society (Chapter 8 Article 100)
- Provision of legal supports, social consultations to defend personal, family and social rights of the poor, (Chapter 8, Paragraph z, Article 95)
- Compiling and approving the complementary project of strengthening and supporting the women's rights in legal and social, economic aspects and its implementation in related centers (Chapter 8, Paragraph h, Article 98)
- The right to freedom of thought, pen and to hold assemblies by observing the law
- Increase and introduction with the law and self legal duties and introduction of their capacities

- Introduction of women to relevant legislative and legal issues
- Presentation of consultations for women to reduce their turning to the police and legal bodies for assistance.

Challenges and Constraints

- Lack of a national institution and a center to have enough and effective oversight on realization and promotion of human rights of women
- Lack of a comprehensive and multi-lateral training program. Some actions are taken but they are not integrated and has no synergic effect
- Existence of some traditional and old beliefs and a culture which acts as an obstacle on the way of realization of human rights of women
- Existence of some discriminative laws and weakness in the supervision of law implementation
- Lack of support and legal assistance to vulnerable women, tribal and religious minorities
- Non-observance of some women's rights in the family because of certain wrong attitudes towards women and their role in family and society
- Lack of unity among executing agencies and also different interpretation for one law.
- Lack of researches and training in universities on human rights of women
- Lack of information dissemination and also supervision on the method of implementation of laws related to women
- Lack of confidence among other NGOs which are sensitive to human rights of women
- The long procedure of approving a law related to human rights of women (for example, the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women)
- Female members of the Parliament are in minority

Recommendation to Government

- revision of laws and also campaigning against some traditional, tribal and wrong perspectives which is an obstacle towards the realization of human rights of women
- Increasing the access to justice especially for women through increasing the legal clinics, legal consultation centers, legal assistance centers and social working centers, also centers to support prisoners and their families.
- Strengthening the aspect of substitute punishments to decrease individual and social harms caused by the crime and its punishment
- Improving the welfare of women prisoners based on a gender perspective and also improving the assistance given to them
- More supervision on the legal rights of female employees specially women working in - one of the main roots in obstructing realization of human rights of women
- Establishing a national institution to realize and supervise women's rights with the participation of all governmental and non-governmental groups
- Compiling a national program to realize human rights of women
- Institutionalize the training on human rights specially human rights of women in different levels and specially through mass media and through a training program for all the people to become familiar with their rights
- Training of police officers and law administrators and prison guards with the standards of human rights
- Placing the training on women's rights in the books of various levels of the education so that the girls can become familiar with their rights after being graduated from high school

First nongovernmental national development plan

Method:

- Help to create equal opportunities among women

Measures:

- Identification of job opportunities suitable for women

- Follow up on the areas related to women in the Implementation of Overall Policies Law article 44

Method:

- Provision, protection and promotion of citizen's rights

Measures:

- Informing women of citizen's rights
- Education and promotion of human skills and access to information and facilities

Method:

- Provision of consultation services and effective actions on the conceptualization of monitoring process of international organizations, particularly human rights

Measures:

- Interaction with the Judiciary with regards to women's matters
- Expansion of links with high religious leaders
- Holding promotional programmes in the mass media

Recommendation to Women's NGOs

- Expansion of training activities for NGOs with the cooperation of local and regional women groups, capacity building centers, and also applying new training and workshop methods in training of human rights for women. NGOs should not forget that the training for men has equal importance as the training for women
- It is necessary to mention that those women's NGOs who are active in promoting the women's rights should invite judges, lawyers and lawmakers to cooperate with them and also they should be active in networks working on human rights.
- It is recommended that NGOs should consider the gender issue in their programming for development and give special importance to the right for development as an inalienable right within the human rights system.
- Special effort of organizations towards research and training activities specially case and regional studies.

Conclusion

During the last 10 years, due to the realization of the Constitution, the Iranian dynamic society has been a ground for many changes and there have been many development programs in the field of human rights and specially human rights of women. Those changes have had effects on the different aspects of the lives of citizens in our country. The special point is the promotion of a rights-based approach in various issues such as the development trend of the country. Considering the fact that human beings are at the core of any development programs, the rights-based approach has gained more credibility within our society; and it can be found in other fields such as training and vocation, health, welfare, food, accommodation and employment. Emphasis on the fact that comprehensive and sustainable human development has close ties with the realization of all human rights has become a necessary base in making a better future for all Iranians specially women of this country.

Along with this rights-based approach, in the field of foreign policy, and according to the false description of some European and American countries, government of

Iran has showed a reactive position towards the international standards of human rights but it is now changing towards a dialogue environment.

In 2002, Iran came out of the agenda of United Nations Human Rights Commission. The events happening in the region and the trend of dialogue with European Union during the last 3 years has developed deep horizons to study the standard of human rights deeply. Out of the 7 documents of Human Rights, Iran is a state party to four Conventions. While during the last few years, the subject of ratification of the Convention of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and also the Convention Against Torture has been among the top discussions of law making and legal societies in the country.

CHAPTER TEN

Women and the Media

Values of the supervisory Topic

According to Quran media message must be clear and to the diversion and lies is far right in order to show different areas. Based on the Quran ideas blasphemy and lies and hypocrisy and error, said: “and do not mix up the truth with the falsehood, nor hide the truth while you know” (Al-Baqara sura, 42) never cancel the show do not dress right and do not hide the truth while you know what you need. “and a party from among them indeed used to hear the word of Allah, then altered it after they had understood it, and they know (this) (Al-Baqara sura, 75) Quran because such social distortions in the shadow of the collective tools, bought and sold the world religion and in fact counts. From the perspective of Islam, women with vision in the shadow of faith, never cheat of this promotion will not eat while at home, and Pharaoh's wife, he was captured. Women of faith and vision of Islam Quran active agents in the history of humanity to decry deception hands on work and perseverance are the backbone to defend freedom. The main concepts of media in the propaganda word summary is. Thought religious propaganda to deliver a message from the truth and nature. The women look either fact or update message when the message shall share and has played an important role. In the Quran story beautiful female audience when a message is being humbled and innate humility and accepting toward his divine message is displayed when a letter for Prophet Solomon and Queen Sheba invites her to school monotheism he sends this message with are happy to accept. But then other messaging female messengers who are actually looking to the presence of specific religious women and email is propaganda. In this context women veil the divine message is carrying a message that actually wants to take society in its sexual attractiveness is not buried. Women look to the same central role that religion and the key for the home he considered suitable for individual attention and innate divine message is family. Because the family unit is a good constructive community messaging that reform of this family is a large community will also benefit. Based on this large movement in Islam was done by women. And the message of Ashura epoch against tyranny was a female presence as the only truth is the instant messenger. As far as if Hazrat Zeinab (AS) would not do this mission the event message remains limited.

Imam Khomeini:

- They campaigned to deprive you women of the dignity that you have.

Ayatollah Khamenei:

- The western world places the human concept and understanding of women within commercial, political and economic issues.
- Just like other issues, the subject of women has become a tool for profiteers of all human values. In the world and the mass media over consecutive years, those that not for women, not for human dignities, but only in counting their monies, and sadly in the current western civilizations women have become sources of investment and turned into a profit bringing tool, they exploit them, debate about them, they build culture, advertise, they put the minds of men and women in a crossroads, and cause temptation and misleading.
- The oppressors have drawn the world of arts, cinema, poetry, thought and philosophy towards their oppressive interests. They use all opportunities to create patterns, nations are also empty handed and they cannot compete with these patterns. But our hands are full, we (Iranians) have great women.

Introduction**Background**

In the Iranian contemporary history, women have had significant presence in media especially in women's press and also in the translation and writing of books. In fact the first activities of educated women after being teachers, doctors and nurses, have been in the fields of writing.

Respecting female writers in the Iranian-Islamic culture on one hand and the flexibility of cultural media affairs with the responsibilities and/or the social limitations of women on the other hand has facilitated the access of women to the production of written medias.

Since the media has been one of the applications of policy makers in the contemporary history of Iran, therefore women have had many difficulties in having their individual voice in the media. Spreading the culture of the west and destroying or ignoring the human rights of women, under the name of women media and in the group media of the pre-revolution decades, has created the darkest era in the abuse of women in the Iranian media history. Also in the last decade, one of the brightest successes of the history has been the strong presence of women in media, not only in film making industry but also in the media. The main limitation of Iranian media regarding women issue is to prevent their abuse in pornography and also prevent use of women in media trading propagandas. Also the medias have been one of the most important applications in harmonizing the implementation of policies based on sustainable development in the fields of health, education and ...

The Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran

free education and physical training for everyone at all levels, and the facilitation and expansion of higher education (Article 3.3)

Publications and the press have freedom of expression except when it is detrimental to the fundamental principles of Islam or the rights of the public. The details of this exception will be specified by law. (Article 24)

Perspective

Twenty years perspective of the country:

Inspiring, active and effective in the Islamic world though institutionalizing religious democracy, effective development, moral society, innovative and productive minds and society, influencing Islamic and regional unity according to Islamic Trainings and attitudes of Imam Khomeini. Having productive and effective cooperation with the world based on dignity, knowledge and expedient.

Charter of Women's Rights and Responsibilities

The right to pen and expression and assemblies by observation of laws and regulations (part 3, article 114)

Current Situation and Achievements

Status of Women Involved in Media

J.1 INCREASE THE PARTICIPATION AND ACCESS OF WOMEN TO EXPRESSION AND DECISION-MAKING IN AND THROUGH THE MEDIA AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES OF COMMUNICATION

The Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcast is a national television and radio and governmental media and has different television and radio stations. Broadcast has the most audience compared to other types of media and has the largest human resources and personnel.

Calendar of statistical basis in 1999, 12,998 people IRIB Islamic Republic of Iran were employed, of which 10,989 men and 1920 women were. Share of women in 1999 about 10 percent in 2007 to 20 percent have increased; increase the number of shares of about 95 percent so that the number of women from 1920 to 3736 people were reached. In 2007 Employees of IRIB 18,903 people, of which about 50 percent of bachelor and associate degree higher and the rest were lower.

According to the research conducted in central Tehran on Working Women's Status by research center of this organization in all periods (1997-1998, 1999-2000, 2000- 2001) total population of men and women working in this organization has been 13941 out of which 2035 were women and 119060 were men that consist accordingly 14.6 and 85.4 % of working power in this organization.

Out of the abovementioned numbers, 70 people have been women consultants and managers and 1157 have been men managers that the ratio of female consultants and managers to the total number of managers is 5.7 % and the ratio to the total statistical population of working women has been ¾ % and the ratio of men managers to the total rate of managers has been 94.2 % and compared to the total working population of men this has been 9.71 %.

Also, number of female film directors acting as programming directors and have effective role in the productions of this organization is 210 person (consisting 10.8 %) from total working women population.

According to another research conducted; comparing the three periods shows that the number of working women has increased in each period compared to the previous one (accordingly 170 and 80 person)

but ratio of working women is not rapidly growing and has a slow pace; so that in the second period there has been only 5 % growth and in the third period this has decreased to only 1 % increase. So, during 5 years, the rate of working women in these two fields of media has only 4 % increase. In all three periods, most of the women have been active in Tehran and the rest in central cities of other provinces. Comparing three periods shows that the ratio of working women to the total population of working women has decreased, although still the majority is with working women in Tehran. During these three periods more women were involved in the programs of this organization in other cities and provinces on the other hand men are more involved in media in other provinces. According to the latest statistics, 49.5 % of men are in Tehran and 50.5 % in other cities working for this organization. In general, in the second period, 60 % of women working in this organization had less than 10 years of working experience. This shows that female working forces are growing younger. The job titles of women in broadcast organization can be divided into four major groups: production, admin-finance, services, technical-engineering. According to the collected information, in each period the number of women involved in admin-finance has been more than other fields (accordingly 39.7 and 39 %). In this field most of the women have been typists, secretary and accountant. Production is of second importance regarding the rate of women involved.

Production Rate for Women in Broadcast Organization

Women are mostly involved in radio. One of the indicators is the number of hours of radio programs produced by women in each of this broadcast fields. Most of the productions by women with 84.7 % have been in radio and only 15.3 % of the programs produced by women have been in television. So production rate of women in radio is more than television.

Almost half of the TV programs produced by women (49 %) have been for Jam-e- Jam station (International) and 51 % in other national stations. In other words, most of production activities of women is organized for this TV station broadcasting for foreign countries. Focus of the programs produced by women is defined and organized. For

example, most of the programs produced by women in stations one and two during the years 2000 and 2001 has been regarding the importance of socio-cultural groups (186 hours), children and adolescents (158 hours), literature and art (123 hours), education and knowledge (118 hours). In other words, women are producing programs in different fields in these two stations, but no activity has been reported regarding political and historical issues (Source: Women's Research Periodical, volume 5). In general, women's presence in managerial and decision-making levels has been an increasing process and the policy of the organization is employing enable managers according to their qualifications.

The highest decision-making authority in broadcast organization is women's department. This department in all branches of this organization has established a branch and has succeeded in creating consultative posts for women in all provinces and cities.

Women in press

After radio and television, women have been mostly involved in printed media and books.

Presence of Iranian women in journalism and in media arena had a significant increase in the last 10 years and doubled. A job that was closed to women two decades ago, now is experiencing women's presence in all fields.

Education and Women in press

At tertiary level of education, journalism is taught by four major tertiary education centers: University of Allameh Tabatabaie, Azad Islamic University, Science and Practical University, and Khabar (*News*) University. Naturally acceptance in communication or journalism in these universities follows the normal process of tertiary education. Alike other education fields, especially sociology, more than 50 % of students in communication and journalism are girls and in the recent years in some fields this has reached 70 %. So each year 150 educated students join work market of journalism.

Free journalism courses in "Center for development and research for media" in 2003 have had 84 students, equally 42 girls and 42 boys, and the acceptance rate between girls and boys, has been 19 to 13.

This is while according to the statistics of this center the number of students in 1993 up to 1998 has been varying from 57 to 67 persons and the number of graduates have been at least 19 persons in 1993 and maximum 30 persons in 1996. During these years, 30 to 40 % of the students have been girls. It is worth mentioning that the number of female graduates reaches 50 to 60 %. In 1997 there was a sudden growth of interest in these fields so that in 1999 the number of students reached 116 persons where the %age of acceptance between girls and boys was equal. These statistics show the growth of publications during these years.

Women's Working Status in press

Although, the presence of professional journalist women can be traced in the abovementioned years in media arena, but unfortunately due to lack of registration of their activities there is no statistics available. According to official statistics, only the Office of Research and Development Department's media press and information affairs Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance in the situation of employed women working in media and published in 1384 about 30,960 active in the field of press and news agencies in the country there Of these, about 8200 people (5 / 26 percent) of women have. Deputy Press also reported the Ministry of Culture of the 1067 Journal is published in Tehran in 1387, managing 99 women magazines regularly, 13 magazines irregularity director and a director in the national newspapers are women. More than 60 percent of employed women in the field and active press and news agencies in Tehran province are working. After the Tehran province, Khorasan Razavi province with the highest and 4 percent of Ilam province, with 4 / 0 percent of employed women and the least active in this field has.

According to the statistics of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, between 1997 up to 2000, out of 1200 journalist cards issued by this department 204 (20 %) belonged to women.

According to the information collected from the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, out of 1970 people holding publication permits 5 % are women. Out of the same number of managers 6.5 % were women. We should also consider that holding printing permit or managerial posts of women are some times in name only. One of the

main supporters of women's union issues is journalists union. This association issues ID cards, insurance cards, pension and other facilities and supports a huge group of male and female journalists. By referring to this center and observing the files in 2003, number of workingwomen in printed media is 21 % of the total population. Number of deputy to the editor by 70 persons, editors of special services to women with 50 persons, and journalist women with 257 persons have a significant growth compared to the previous years. In 2004 the number of female members of this union reached 533 persons (22 %). Although there are contradictions in the statistics presented here with the formal statistics, the %s presented here show the significant growth of female journalist activities from 10 % to 20-22 % meaning that in less than 4-5 years the number of women journalists has doubled.

Classification of Women's Publications

The publications of this period are different but have some common characteristics. Some of them receive financial support from governmental organizations. These publications are published through universities and religious schools; women's departments and institutions in governmental structures.

Some other groups of women's publications are printed by women's intellectual groups; including elites, NGOs and political parties that is a big number and educated levels are interested in these publications. These publications constantly face financial problems and legal restrictions so their publication is not sustainable. The first newspaper for women called "Reyhaneh" was printed in 1996 during the presidency period of Mr. Hashemi Rafsanjani. In 1997 after a period of suspense, this newspaper continued its activity during Mr. Khatami's presidency as a periodical.

The second women's newspaper by the management of Ms. Fayeze Refsanjani was a success in this decade and started its activity in Til 1998 and in spring of 1999 was banned.

There are some other journals addressing family issues and mode and health. These publications are supported by private sector and have ordinary target groups and the %age of printing of these journals is

more than others. These publications are more sustainable compared to other women's publications.

In 2003 the total number of printed media in the country has been 2730 whereas only 23 of them were related to women's issues out of which 11 are specialized publications and the rest are general. Women's issues contain only 0.84% of total issues addressed in the media of the country. It is worth mentioning that women's newsletters printed by NGOs and technical periodical books and journals are not considered in the formal statistics list of the country and its number reaches to 15. Also, in the recent years, women's issues has become a very important subject in media and in many printed newspapers there are special columns allocated to women and it is increasing.

The sole census in the field of press and sites

Affairs Press and Information Department, Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance plans first census of employees, activists and the press areas and sites, places related publications representative offices, sites will run.

The purpose of these census was full data collection and classification of personal characteristics, employment, education activists, the press all create database applications for design and short-term training, management, economic identify needs and barriers to growth is the community news press.

Design of the census field employees, the press and activists before and after the test sites was conducted in 1384. The 9329 field project based press agency was identified and the number "2500 Magazine", "377 domestic and foreign news", "1303 office and press" and "5149 newsstand" were.

Among the provinces, Tehran province with 3,600 units and 555 units with most Gulf and South Khorasan kohgiluyeh Boyer with 40 and 61 were the lowest.

Also available in Office agency the years 1384 and 1385 was only in Tehran.

7733 The field of press and news agency completed about 806 units in the public sector and 10 percent were public.

Publication of 1913, 94 cases were released that day from about 63 to 94 newspapers published in Tehran is disrespecting and newspapers

have not half the provinces. After Tehran, Azerbaijan with 7 newspaper, Gilan and Khuzestan 6 newspaper newspaper Category 4 is next.

In the years 1384 and 1385, 30,960 people in the press area and were active sites, of which 18,446 were in the field of publication (with around 60 percent), 2,719 persons with 8 / 8 percent sites, 3166 people with 2 / 10 percent in offices agencies and the press and broadcast in 6629 with 21 percent field were newsstand.

Census statistics for women working in the press and Agencies

8191 women (with 26.5 percent) in the field and press the sites were active than women in other sectors is significant. About 60 percent of the women are in Tehran. The 18,446 people employed and active people in 6198 with publications 33.6 percent were women.

2719 people from working and active in news agency IRNA and 995 persons with 36.5 percent were women. 3166 people from working and active representation in media player 857 persons with 27.1 percent were women. 6629 people from working and active in 140 patients with newsstand 2.1 percent were women.

More than in the field of women in the press and news sites and news agency were. 8190 women from working and active in the field and press sites, Education 2.5 percent of diploma, diploma and associate degree 53 percent, 36.6 percent license, 7.6 percent of graduate and PhD and 0.3 percent were Seminaries. 8190 women from working and active sites in the field of press and female full-time and 5,896 part-time were more.

Professional Status of Journalist Women

According to forma statistics of the country, employment rate of women is 14 %. Consequently, a job containing 20 % of female work forces is a profession that has been open to them. Presence of 20 % of female journalists in media society of Iran is a considerable number, especially considering the fact that this number has doubled during the last decade.

Iranian female journalists like their counterparts all over the world face similar problems. Low wages compared to men, limited job

opportunities, household pressure and caring children, limits in entering managerial levels are some of these problems (Women and journalism in Iran. Leily Farhadpour).

Women in publishing books

Since 1997 till 2000 the number of women publisher reached to 469 which is almost one seventh of the total number of publishers (3300). Gaining publishing permits didn't mean real management and many female publishers have given the responsibilities to their husband or other partners but the required data is not available.

Female publishers having significant impact of processing books are 30 persons out of which 14 are inactive. Considering the fact that printing industry is a field of information technology and needs macro investments, most of female publishers are cooperating with men. There are also a number of women that don't have publishing permit but due to inheritance or cooperation are managing printing factories.

Status of Women Involved in Preparation of Books

The ratio of printing books in 2002 is 4.7 times more than 1992 representing the development of book printing. This development is double regarding women so that printing books by women is 8.35 times more. On the other hand, the highest number of books published regarding women in 1992 has been on philosophy and topics related to children. In 2002 the highest rate of production regarding women is on the topics related to children and philosophy. In both years religious books have been the highest number in 1992 and 2002. High rate of philosophical books prepared and published by women doesn't mean their lack of interest in skills and knowledge of preparing serious books. The assumption is that for printing religious books is financially supported by governmental universities and religious schools whereas women don't have easy access to them (Book House Institution of Iran).

In every two years the number of female authors and translators has almost doubled in Tehran and other cities; of course this ratio can't be real because most of the books are printed by publishers established in Tehran. The pace of female authors growth has been almost 1.5 time more than translators in general. The ratio of books by female authors

in 2002 has doubled. There is an interest among women to be involved in book publishing.

Women in Websites

After development of global electronic networks at international level during the recent years this network has developed in Iran so that in international information networks, Farsi is the sixth language after English, Japanese, and German. Metaphorical spheres are proper opportunity for those women that don't have access to real spaces of activity. Internet is also a suitable opportunity for media centers and women's research centers in governmental or civil society organizations for information dissemination and soft copy of printed media.

In general, women's internet media can be divided into two groups of sites and web logs where in the field of sites, 22 web sites have been introduced. Of course this number doesn't include Farsi media containing columns for women and sample soft copy journal of women.

In web log arena, which is a proper tribune to express ideas there is a growing interest among female web loggers but due to false names presented, there is no official data about them.

Persian Blog is one of the main service providers for Iranian web logs. 21 topic groups are in Persian Blog, 3936 web logs in general groups, 644 web logs in life groups, 881 web logs in private groups have registered. In general 1 % of weblogs belong to personal issues that unknown number of them are women.

Weblog that are specifically Persian language; between one and 5 million in non-official statistics are that about half of these bloggers are women. Weblog Hosting but important issue that the world contains about 60 percent of staff, but Iran is not the case. One of the significant points in weblogging is the noticeable presence of women particularly in daily discussions. The dominant opinion regarding the bringing of women blogging social constraints refers. Because the structure and manner of expression of many newspapers and media will reflect the sound of men blogging is the way women have given voice to be heard. They blog with their separation from the face to face communication to express their chances would not, subtly

and deliver the best words to talk with their interest in this work express their comments and valuable finds.

Mechanisms to Combat Stereotyped Portrayal of Women in the Media

J.2 PROMOTE A BALANCED AND NON-STEREOTYPED PORTRAYAL OF WOMEN IN THE MEDIA

Religious policies and moral values originating from Iranian customs and traditions is seriously against stereotype portrayal of women in media; so that there are laws to address these cases in media. In this regard, Press Laws of the Islamic Republic of Iran in section one of additional Articles (2000) emphasizes on using individuals in despising, anti religious scenes using women and advertising immoralities is illegal. In the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Supreme Council of Dissemination of Information was established in 1998 for policy-making regarding dissemination of information and directs networks and information centers for coordinated activities and preparing mid-term and long-term programs for institutional and practical researches. The approach of these policies have been to support women and prevent stereotype portrayal of women.

The content of general policies of computer information networks is to preserve human dignity of individuals including women and children in media productions and filtering harmful and immoral networks, especially those involved in pornography and showing violence against women and children.

Image of Women in Radio and Television

There are different projects going on regarding development of research and assessment plans for policy-making regarding television and radio production and rendering equal and non-cliché image of women in broadcasts. Some of the activities are as follows:

1 - Project proposals of establishment of Coordination Committee of Research on Women's Issues and families as a mechanism to coordinate women's and family issues in the organization, taking into consideration the following items: necessity of establishment, objectives, policies, structure, composition of the committee and its

duties. To decide on research strategies on women's issues and family problems and coordinate among research centers.

2 - Establishment of policy-making council for programs and defining the principles and policies of broadcast organizations focusing on women at private, family and social arenas.

3 - Preparation of proposals and implementation of projects to define policies and practical criteria of women's presence in cinema.

4 - Provisions of women's sport policies in broadcast organization.

5 - Creating a data bank of women's socio-cultural status in provinces to be applied in programs.

6 - Supervising practices of female managers of this organization; the results of this research show that female managers are successful in their field of activity.

In scientific-educational activities regarding policy-making the results gathered by Women's Department of Islamic Republic Broadcast Organization is as follows:

1 - Follow up and approval of two education courses regarding women's studies at the first levels of university students for directors and program producers of broadcast organization.

2 - Holding workshops and cultural-educational meetings for program producers regarding different issues related to women and family to correct and change the attitudes and eliminate misunderstandings.

3 - Holding training workshops on women's studies for women in production units (evaluator, director, producer and researcher).

4 - Holding analytical training workshop for evaluators .auditors of Women's Department of Broadcast Organization.

Although, broadcast organization, as an official organization, has put its efforts to respect dignity of women and combat stereotyped portrayal of women; there are still some TV shows portraying women's traditional and passive cliché or advocating violence in action films against women.

Women's news agencies

The first network for women in Iran News In the winter of 1383 while the experimental stage was passed officially opened. The objective of this press named IWNA is dissemination of information to women in Iran and expressing their abilities and problems. Establishment of this

press has been effective in promoting women's participation and focusing on press activities of women to present multidimensional image of women's life.

Other results of the launch:

- Daily News reflect the capabilities of women and the West to the world's problems

Three times the increase of women in news media after the establishment of this database information

- Most Popular Women in database and information source for valid news formal women's centers. This is while other press groups of Iran, including public information dissemination have especial units focusing on women and giving news about different issues regarding women such as Women's Cultural news or economic news.

Government's Actions

- 1 - Implementation of Electronic Government project and allocating special budget for women's empowerment projects in utilizing information and communication technologies.

- 2- Promotion of women's involvement in the Islamic Republic News Agency (291 women out of 353 women working in press and information technology and allocation of 8 % of key posts to women) TV, and Radio (especially consultant posts for women's department in provinces and cities) and other governmental media departments.

- 3 - Creating information centers for women by governmental organizations such as socio-cultural council of women (information center and internet site), women's participation center (library, information center for women and internet site) and the Ministry of Interior (women's site).

- 4 - Training workshops on information and communication technology management for women by different governmental organizations such as the Ministry of Interior, Broadcast organization, media research center and women's participation center and including courses at pre-university level.

- 5 - Establishing an ICT center in villages and using it to promote rural women's jobs.

6 - Ceremonies by the government (sometimes with special emphasis on women) including short film of Baran to support films regarding women's issues and problems.

7 - Completion of media cycle (internet) in different TV stations and starting different sites regarding women and the media

8 - Reinforcing produced programs by female producers or special programs for women and family in the departments of this organization, for foreign audiences and provinces during the last 5 years.

9 - Implementation of training activities to promote workingwomen's cultural level in this organization.

10 - Welfare facilities for women working in this organization including sports, facilities to promote health by creating consultation and medical centers for women, nursery schools and loans for women.

11 - Identification of needs and production of programs to target women and families as one of the main 5 targets of media.

12 - Promotion of qualitative and quantitative presence of female experts in different fields.

14 - Promoting workingwomen's interest in production with 42.84 % compared to men which is 32.43.

Women's NGO Activities

More than three hundred activities have been undertaken by women's NGOs. It seems that information and communication is very important for NGOs and women of the country have been very active in this field.

- Holding technical meetings regarding media activities for women and meeting by the presence of media representatives of the country.
- Conducting training activities especially film-taking to women, news-writing classes and report writing and media training for women.
- Activities of dissemination of information of women's NGOs to families and; those interested in media and through other tools in this field.

- Supporting female researchers and authors and conducting support activities to promote access of women's NGO members to media resources.
- Continuous communication with media and news groups to reflect on the activities.
- Holding book exhibitions
- Research and studies regarding women and media
- Printing periodicals and monthly publications, bulletins, newsletters, brochures, posters and other media tools to promote public awareness regarding women's issues.
- Preparing articles.
- Creating job opportunities for 20 members of association in media groups of provinces.
- Establishing women's library.
- Producing training manuals (translation and preparation) regarding women's issues to raise awareness.
- Production of training and advocacy shows regarding women's issues.
- Production of training and advocacy films regarding women's issues.
- Designing software facilitating media communication in internet.

Special Field of Information and Communication Technology

- Starting technical or information sites in global internet network by women's association at local and national level.
- Production of software through programming groups and production of training CDs.
- Equipping women's associations to computer hardware to facilitate activities and communication with internet.
- Using internet especially emails for communication with other NGOs and beneficiaries in other cities of Iran and foreign NGOs all over the world.
- Creating data bank using information technologies such as empowered women's data bank, local data bank, rural needs data bank, data bank of women's status in the country and NGOs data bank.

- Equipping women's NGOs to computer hardware to facilitate communication with internet network.
- Conducting training activities in the associations or other target groups for women's empowerment.
- Participation in national/regional/international meetings regarding information society (participation in regional global information society –participation in global meeting on information in Geneva- participation in information society workshop information society and local development).
- Encouraging housewife women to use the new technology of IT through information dissemination at local level.
- Providing articles on women's issues and information and communication technologies.
- Providing reports, bulletins, and electronic newsletter for members or public access for awareness raising regarding women's issues.
- Using information technologies for budgeting.
- Creating local communication network focusing on women.
- Equipping schools with computer and creating local network and access to internet.
- Creating metaphoric information technology schools.

Women's NGOs have been very active in media activities. These activities have been in the field of capacity building and the activities shows the awareness of women's NGOs regarding the importance of media in women's achievements. Also, global meeting of information society in December 2003 in Geneva opened new ways to the future architecture based of information-communication technology. Women's access to information-communication technologies and gender issues and the role of communication in women's achievement were the main issues discussed in civil society and women's groups in this meeting and was reflected in the final document. This meeting was well received in our country by civil society and our women tried to have important role in their NGOs in this meeting.

Still women's NGOs have not used their full capacities in using information technologies and metaphoric spaces to achieve their goals. These organizations should improve their capacities in using communication facilities and consider them as a tool to reinforce their

international relations, advocacy of women's issues in Iran and facilitating internal networking.

In using visual media, NGOs have a long way to go while TV and radio programs production is the best tool for communication, training and advocacy for women in local level and remote areas. Considering the NGO printed media activities; there is a lot to be done by organization who have the mission of audio-visual training and advocacy.

CNWN Activities

- Changing Saba periodical to monthly publication
- Design and creation of a website
- Designing a technical library for NGOs to use
- Presentation of national reports on ongoing activities of member organizations with an emphasis on the role of women in international gatherings and also the presence of an expert in the field
- Efforts to promote the network website

Fourth National Development Plan

Fourth national development plan of the country:

- Revising and amending press and advertising laws, unified press and media legal system (chapter nine, section B, article 116)
- Expansion of national media activities to combat foreign culture adoption, promotion of a healthy public sphere, correct dissemination of information, achieving general policies of fourth national development plan through providing opportunities for reporting the activities of organizations and access of the society to public, vocational, advocacy trainings though the Islamic Republic Broadcast Network (Chapter nine, section B, article 105)
- Supporting legal and real entities who are active in the framework defined by supreme cultural revolution council in developing metaphoric cultural, art and press spheres in computers and internet (chapter nine, section T, article 104)

- Preparation of the basis for the presence of women in the media to present their real image
- Efforts to eliminate superstitions that exist regarding women.

Challenges and Constraints

- Political pressure of countries having information-communication technologies over developing countries such as the Islamic Republic of Iran and creation of digital gaps among these countries which causes to decreased access of women to digital technology of ICT.
- Problems of women's access to information-communication technology in different areas of the country and lack of usage in women's empowerment in different areas.
- Lack of support mechanisms for journalist women who enjoy less vocational advantages compared to men.
- Lack of support to technical press and women's NGOs which are published with a lot of subsidies and can't compete other press in the market.
- Existence of rules and regulations in media industry for women such as printing factories.
- Lack of access of author women to support resources and governmental facilities.
- Advocacy of cliché roles for women in the media which is against role of Muslim women in Iran.
- Advocacy of violence in films and computer games which affects families.
- Limited access of empowered women to sensitive job opportunities in media and little presence at decision-making.
- Lack of presence of women involved in media in formal delegations traveling and preventing empowered women to enter in politically sensitive fields.

Recommendation to the Government

- Reinforcing skills, knowledge and access of women to media technology and providing facilities for empowerment in all related fields.

- Promotion of gender sensitivity among formal personnel of media through women's departments.
- Research and implementation of information, training and communication strategies for balanced portrayal of women and girl's role.
- Supporting researches regarding women's role in media and influence of media over lifestyle.
- Allocation of facilities to women's technical publications to be independent.
- Reinforcing usage of ICT centers by women in remote areas and integrating it with daily life of women.
- Encouraging production of training programs for women to promote knowledge regarding mass media.
- Legislation to combat shows presenting violence against women and children in media.

First nongovernmental national development plan

Method:

- Culturalisation and strengthening of the family institution and guarding its sanctity based on the moral heritage of the Iranian society

Measures:

- Holding family education workshops, towards the establishment of the pivotal status of women in various levels of society for men.
- Promotion of educational programmes
- Preparation of educational films

Method:

- Help to promote general beliefs towards the worthy status of women

Measures:

- Identification of renowned women
- Introduction of renowned women to society
- Modeling on renowned women

Method:

- Efforts to reduce the divorce rate and devise divorce preventive education programmes

Measures:

- Interaction with schools for holding education courses for students
- Informing young girls of the consequences of divorce
- Introduction of women's rights against their husbands and vice versa

Method:

- Continued communication with society with the aim of pathology and recognition of women's views and opinions

Measures:

- Publication and distribution of books, brochures and magazines
- Strengthening and expansion of digital communications network
- Promotion of cyber education
- Help to introduce women to active NGOs

Method:

- Interaction with IRIB and the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance
- Interaction with universities to introduce missions and programmes.

Recommendation to NGOs

- Gaining skills in using information-communication and production of empowering programs through electronic training.
- Supervision of mass media with gender sensitivity to ensure that needs and women's issues are reflected taking into consideration the Islamic dignity of women.
- Reinforcing international and regional communication through media and supporting dialogue among women's of south-south and south-north; reinforcing regional coalitions regarding peace.

- Reinforcing production or distribution of publications regarding women's models, including their experiences in establishing balance in housework as mothers, experts, managers, businesswomen to create behavior models based on roles for young women.
- Encouraging media training and industry for local, traditional productions such as stories, theaters, poems and songs with local languages and according to the culture and using communication methods to disseminate information regarding social and development issues.
- Using information-communication technology and media in other missions and plans of other organizations such as entering local communities, health training and legal awareness and promotion of morality and social investment at local level.
- Promoting production content in mass media regarding women and children's issue to achieve sustainable development; through production of audio-visual or printed productions.

Conclusion

Increasing the sensitivity of media through reflecting the subjects related to women and also upgrading the rapid employment of women in media, daily increasing production of programs especially for women in mass medias such as TV, radio and publications, news agencies, written books, sites and web logs by women, shows a general growth in the presence of women in media as both producers and users.

Legal ban on morality and religious pornography in Iran and preventing the abuse of women and children in this field is one of the most positive values of the Iranian media. But still the existence of wrong traditions in the culture of producing people, is one of the main causes of presenting standard images.

The new steps of women in professional media fields, reliance of financial media sources to private sectors, lack of financial support from the specialized and individual publication of women, non-sustainability of publication and legal gaps are the causes that prevent women in participating in the media. But the growth in the

employment of women in media has been more significant than their employment in other jobs. The rate of employment among women is 14 %, whereas the employment of journalist women is 30 %. The same thing exists in the fields of publication women, writing women and also female producers of sites and web logs. The number is significant in the field of film making and movie directors.

Cheapness of publication industry and other media related products in Iran gives the women a chance to use more but on the whole, the rate of user women is very low compared to the rate of users among men.

Since there is radio and TV coverage in all parts of the country and there is a TV or a radio in each family, but still the usage of ICT is through telephone and this is the reason that the women have less access to internet.

The project insisting on the connection and information technology throughout the whole country and omitting the digital divide among the developed and under developed countries is one of the main obstacles preventing women to have access to information. This issue has also been insisted during the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and is necessary to be considered in the Beijing Platform for Action.

CHAPTER ELEVEN

Women and the Environment

Values of the supervisory Topic

Quran's perspective is environmental protection, while appropriate use of human tasks is important. More important than that is "he brought you into being from the earth, and made you dwell in it," (Hud sura, 61)

the man of the soil should be to protect their environment and try his duty in life inhabit the environment. Of the main tasks of the religious thought one review of one species in nature in order to properly use them to anybody and does not enter. According to the same person who will destroy the environment perspective, is the revelation of arms. "...he runs along in the land that he may cause mischief in it and destroy the tilth and the stock, and Allah does not love mischief-making;" (Al-Baqara sura, 205) values are not those of the place, their efforts on the ground and destroyed agricultural land and the blessing of God this man who does not love corruption.

On the other hand the rich natural resources like water, rain, sun, earth, green plants and nature's beauty and tranquility of the freshness to be human. Even animals and birds and marine animals for human benefit that their care is required. For example, stated: "and he created the cattle for you; you have in them warm clothing and (many) advantages, and of them do you eat" (Al-Nahl sura, 5), "and there is beauty in them for you when you drive them back (to home), and when you send them forth (to pasture)" (Al-Nahl sura, 6) and God created animals for you to skin them for wool and other benefits coverage and use. If the animals in the morning and evening for eating Find out the nature and you get the beauty and freshness of your life. If the Quran vegetable plants and beauty of nature cause mirthfulness man knows. Here's the good relationship with nature, time and peace to women's health and physical health is effective, so they must use the appropriate field of the environment to provide women to build their health and their children will be provided.

Imam Khomeini:

- Iran's farmlands belong to Iran; they are for the good of Iran. Iran's fisheries belong to Iran and are for the good of Iran; Iran's forests belong to Iran; all underground resources belong to Iran; Iranians themselves must extract them, themselves, and use them

Ayatollah Khamenei:

- For us the subject of environment and natural resources is not a luxury and second rate subject, but it's a vital subject. Priorities must be given to these, in our efforts to develop the country

Introduction**Background**

In the culture and tradition of our country, special attention to the environment and nature, as the most basic symptoms of God, is considered as the high characteristics of the humanism. In our holy Quran, one of the characteristics of those who believe in God is attention to the creation of God and the goal based ecosystems. Also the main characteristics of those who do not believe in God is destroying the nature and denying it goal based system.

Preventing waste is one of the main beliefs of Iranians which controls the proper usage of natural resources with the benefit of sustaining the living environment.

The Iranian women especially those living in rural areas and villages, as the users and consumers of natural resources, have had a great role in maintaining the environment. Their methods in recycling garbage, reduction in polluting substances, provision of food and nutrition, upgrading the living style and non-official perseverance of environment, shows their key role in fostering environmental culture and the management of Ecosystem.

The activities and efforts of women in governmental level, civil society and their popularization in public level shows the development of women in sustainable development and maintenance of living environment.

The Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Article 50

The preservation of the environment, in which the present as well as the future generations have a right to flourishing social existence, is regarded as a public duty in the Islamic Republic. Economic and other activities that inevitably involve pollution of the environment or cause irreparable damage to it are therefore forbidden.

Perspective

Twenty years perspective of the country:

- A society with pleasant and appropriate living environment.

Charter of Women's Rights and Responsibilities

13. Right to have the benefits from a sound living environment and responsibility to safeguard it.

Current Situation and Achievements

Involving women actively in environmental decision-making bodies

K.1 INVOLVE WOMEN ACTIVELY IN ENVIRONMENTAL DECISIONMAKING AT ALL LEVELS

The Islamic Republic of Iran believes in promoting women's role in sustainable development and preserving living environment. Accordingly, women's active participation in higher levels of policy making and lowest levels of implementation has been observed so that the Head of the Department of Environment has been a female and women have acted as director general and experts in the Supreme Council of Preserving Environment by chairing of the President and as members of boards at university and implementing centers.

Provision of access for women to information and training

The Islamic Republic of Iran has undertaken considerable actions to build the culture of environment, focusing on women and children. Face to face training of women regarding preserving environment, employing media and programs for children and adolescents and using books at school by the Department of Environment are some of the actions to be mentioned. It is worth mentioning that working on children regarding environment builds the culture and makes it an internal belief that can be very useful in the future life of these children.

Advocacy regarding threats to environment in workplace and home

In this regard, the Department of Environment, besides other cultural activities, has published books and brochures. One of the activities that this organization has undertaken in collaboration with UNFPA, is a book called "*Environmental Knowledge*" written in a very simple and understandable language for all female population and rural women including pictures and statistics. This book is for women and reflects information to preserve environment, which women's attention to these points can be very effective in culture building and promoting knowledge and changing social behaviors.

Participation in decision making and implementation

At grass-root levels and NGO level, 730 NGOs are working regarding environment in the country. 40 of these organizations are under female supervision and 7 are completely female ruled. Focus of these organizations is mostly training and culture (Javaherian Zahra, Saba publication, No.6, pages 4-5). Executive levels over 10 years of presidential Environmental Protection Agency that Vice President had also responsible, is female. Women also expert in various environmental fields significantly increased in recent years so that women working in the Environmental Protection Agency has approximately doubled. (P 128 page report of national sustainable development)

Women's Empowerment Regarding Environment

One of the target groups for empowerment is women and organization for preserving environment has taken measures in cooperation with other NGOs. Holding training workshops for rural women, publication and distribution of books, publications, brochures among rural and nomad women are some activities done by this organization. It is to be mentioned that rural and nomad women are in direct contact with natural resources and preserving living diversity and fighting against contaminants, repelling pests, and erosion of the land can be controlled and directed by rural and nomad women. They represent better understanding of the environment and to preserve jungles and natural resources there should be more activities in collecting fuel and other needs, which are mostly provided from the nature. Rural women can also have a crucial role in preventing waste accumulation and pollution of the environment.

In urban areas, women can play important role in amending behaviors and patterns of water, and energy usage and managing waste disposal and air pollution.

K.3 STRENGTHEN OR ESTABLISH MECHANISMS AT THE NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS TO ASSESS THE IMPACT OF DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES ON WOMEN

Strategies of Sustainable Development

In some countries including Iran, instead of solving environmental problems; prevention strategy has been adopted bearing the objective of sustainable development and the main strategy is mitigation of resource consumption and waste recycling. This plan developed under the title of "Green Government or Green Governance" 10 years ago (www.iranlee.org/lolat_sabz.plf).

Also, decrease of energy and paper usage, which are the main sectors of consumption dependant on sustainable resources and creating a lot of pollution, became center of attention in 2001.

In this regard, mitigating water consumption and renewing pipelines, installation of control devices, water financial auditing, installing new equipments and measures to decrease water usage at kitchen and toilets inside settlements, has led to 50 percent drop of water

consumption and there are some provisions through financial auditing of energy usage to decrease energy usage and the primary estimations show a significant decrease.

Regarding papers, after identifying main paper consumers, first deputy to the president gave orders in decreasing paper consumption and promoting electronic government. The motto of electronic governments in different countries; on-line government, knowledge based society, contract with future, are the strategic frame works in the era of information and environmental empowerment for free and independent communication.

Changing Consumption Patterns

In changing consumption patterns, government has committed itself in implementing programs and the strategies adopted are as follows:

- Rehabilitation of energy consumption through reducing lighting, heating and cooling systems and increasing efficiency of energy equipments.
- Rehabilitation of water consumption through reducing water consumption in different sectors and promoting water consumption systems' efficiency and separating irrigation water from urban water network.
- Rehabilitation of paper consumption and recycle of used papers, utilizing electronic systems and substitute it with paper.
- Recycling of wastes through "Green Purchase" instruction and best use of recycled wastes.
- Rehabilitation of governmental transportation system for transporting staff and improving use of governmental machines through technical screening, continuous fixing and maintenance.

64 models of automobiles are being produced in the country with consideration of environmental standards and the previous production of the country has not been standard. There is also the plan of retiring old cars, which will be 20,000 in 2004, and two million from 2005 till 2008 that will have a considerable impact over the air pollution of big cities.

Combatting Environmental Contaminants

“In 2003, many of governmental and private factories causing environmental pollution, such as Arak Aluminum Factory that didn’t pay attention to the warnings, were suspended and after repairs and solving problems started its activity again”.

Natural Disaster

Regarding natural disasters, earthquake, has been the most destructive one and caused the highest rate of human casualties. Trainings of the Islamic Republic Broadcast Organization have targeted mainly women. Also, the municipality of Tehran has taken steps for preparedness and support coordination in disaster management with active participation of local communities, especially women.

Agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency and City Council

Used to optimize database performance can be public and city councils for the better implementation of Article 50 of the Constitution, that protect the environment is considered a public duty and attract popular participation, coordination and avoid parallel tasks and maintaining national capital and the position of environment and sustainable development in the country and prosperity into consideration common tasks of environmental protection and understanding of Islamic Councils, the following letter is signed.

- Units affiliated with environmental organizations in the Islamic Councils regulatory functions within their respective regulations.
- Drawing the cooperation of Islamic City Councils towards the prevention of pollution and environmental destruction in the country.
- Training workshop for members of Islamic Councils with the aim of explaining the necessity and importance of environmental protection measures through the councils.
- Preparation of education resources and the appropriate application function Islamic Council and a free for them.

- Plan for providing better protection of the environment in such areas as water, air and soil in order to facilitate the process of public policy and legal action through the organization.
- With regard to synchronization and proper action plan MUNICIPAL environmental and rural organizations to increase efficiency and works to prevent them working in parallel and increase joint activities with the aim of environmental protection.
- Attract cooperation and partnership activities of the Council in conformity with the urban and rural management agencies of total environmental protection, especially to prevent any form of environmental destruction and other construction projects.
- Cooperation with the Council of Islamic rural environmental protection agencies in solving rural problems.
- Effective cooperation in four areas of environmental protection (national parks, national natural works, shelters wildlife and protected areas) and to prevent the destruction of national land policies and strategies in mind the organization.
- Cooperation in environmental protection education to urban and rural populations
- Cooperation in order to monitor contamination of the manufacturing plants polluting activities in urban and rural area in accordance with the Article 20 protection and improvement of the environment.
- Working with councils to protect the rights of Money bits four areas to protect the environment a topic of Article 3 protection and improvement of environmental law.

Common action of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Islamic Councils:

- 1 - Joint planning to reduce the use of pesticides in vegetable environmental contamination in villages (subject to Article 61 paragraph B of the Fourth Development).
- 2 - A joint management and disposal of rubbish from the separation stage of technical methods of environmental health.

- 3 - Collaboration and coordination in order to prevent groundwater contamination and non surface (underground) in cities and villages.
- 4 - Working together and planning to reduce losses caused by pollution machines
- 5 - Involved in a joint health and hygiene thoroughfares and public places in urban and rural.
- 6 - Coordination and collaboration in the struggle with sound pollution.
- 7 - Holding joint conferences to review the solution to achieve goals that this agreement.

Government's Actions

- 1 - National movement of preserving environment by the active participation of women
- 2 - Holding various conferences in provinces regarding women's role in environment.
- 3 - Holding training workshops of eco-gene in 1999 with the aim of analyzing the relations of gender and environment.
- 4 - Holding training workshops for rural women regarding rural environment management.
- 5 - Supporting women's NGOs active in the field of environment and creating proper sphere for increasing the number of these organizations.
- 6 - Conducting different programs to promote environmental knowledge of women at different levels to achieve sustainable development.
- 7 - Implementing the plan of promoting environmental knowledge of rural and urban women to reach to sustainable development. This plan has been implemented in 16 provinces and in each province 10 female advocates have been trained.
- 8 - Training rural and urban women in 4 provinces to introduce basic concepts of environment to them.
- 9 - Creating the website of Women and Sustainable Development in cooperation with Network of Women's NGOs.

10 - Participation in two international conferences on Female Ministers and Global Environment.

11 - Publishing and distribution of books and reinforcing training and advocating medias; Training rural women to mitigate pests; Cooperation in eradicating pests;

12 - Under pressure irrigation; Preserving jungles and pastures; Qanat; Preserving jungles from destruction and desert eradication.

13 - The possibility of studying environment at university; till 1997 this field of education was only for men.

14 - Creation of women's database and an inter-organization women's committee to review recommendations and comments on different problems.

Women's NGO Activities

In general, 67 activities have been undertaken by Women's NGOs to preserve environment. Most of these activities have been seminars on different environmental events and trainings.

- Holding meetings on different environmental vents by women's NGOs having the mission of preserving environment.
- Trainings and camping for female members of the organization to introduce women's role in preserving environment.
- Activities to raise awareness in public regarding serious environmental concepts.
- Holding consultative meetings with authorities to influence governmental policies.
- Setting up exhibitions using different events.
- Conducting researches.
- Preparing brochures and training materials and awareness raising.
- Preparing scientific articles using research results regarding the issues of women and environment.
- Formation of associations and committees and membership in bigger networks.
- Designing the tools of an environment friendly school.
- Submitting environmental project proposals to governmental organizations.

- Setting up libraries.
- Implementing projects for preserving environment.

Considering the fact that environmental activities is not limited to women's NGOs and other organizations such as environmental, youth, service-delivery and capacity building organizations are also involved; it is not possible to ignore the crucial role of civil society and summarize it to the activities of women's NGOs.

Most of the activities undertaken by these organizations have been capacity building through workshops and conferences and less has been done on advocacy.

To implement environmental programs, entering local community and direct involvement in ecological conditions and women's role in it is a necessity. The basis of this action is phasing out awareness raising stage through advertisement and enter advocacy phase. Also, trainings should not be duplicated and innovative methods should be adopted in skills training taking into consideration the diversity of rural, urban and nomadic target groups.

CNWN Activities

- Establishing an Environment Commission in the existing commissions of the network.
- Publishing statements on the occasion of the Day of Clean Air.
- Holding a participatory-technical meeting regarding women, environment and the Fourth Development Plan in cooperation with the Department of Environment.
- Holding consultative courses on sustainable development regarding Rio statement.
- Allocation of two volumes of *Saba* publication (of the network) to environmental and women issues.
- Holding two technical educational workshops on the subject is underway by the Network, (the environment, fight against addiction and ten year programme)

Fourth National Development Plan

According to Article 64 the Department of Environment is committed to implement

he following:

A: To prepare and gain the approval of environmental code of conduct to achieve the objective of promoting public awareness and sustainable development emphasizing on major groups from the beginning of Fourth Economic, Social and Cultural Development Plan of the Islamic Republic of Iran. All relevant organizations, media and the Islamic Republic Broadcasting Organization are committed to implement training programs without expecting any payment including influential group of women.

B: The right to enjoy a healthy environment

Challenges and Constraints

- Lack of knowledge regarding environment among all women and the whole population.
- Environmental pollution and heavy traffic in macro cities and production of automobiles with high fuel consumption and not standard cars in the country that threatens the life of mothers and children.
- Lack of awareness and preparedness of women to deal with natural disaster and houses with low stability against disasters.
- High energy and water consumption couple of times more than global standards where in other places women and children are deprived from these two gifts.
- Undefined rural and urban consumption models and improper household consumption patterns.

Recommendation to the Government

- Achieving active participation of local communities considering the Islamic culture of Iranian people, especially women, in identifying needs of public services.
- Planning and logistics and fundamental design in cities to maximize the benefit of women from environmental facilities.
- Encouraging social, economic, political, and scientific organizations for a campaign against deterioration of environmental conditions and its impact on women.
- Facilitating access of women involved in agriculture, fishing and husbandry to education, and skills training.

- Marketing and technological ecological services to support and reinforce their roles and expertise in resource management and maintaining ecological variety.
- Evaluating environmental impacts of policies and programs and women's access and usage of natural resources.
- Supporting knowledge and natural-household technologies of women which traditionally exist in rural areas and among nomads such as homeopathy.
- Including knowledge and traditional methods of women regarding usage and management of resources in environmental and advocacy programs.
- Supporting access of women to housing, potable water, and low energy consumption technologies.
- Support and facilities to women involved in production of organic and recycled products.

Recommendation to NGOs

- Communication and exchange of information with technical NGO groups like women, youth and environmental groups to prevent overlap and duplications.
- Emphasizing on environmental advocacy programs through entering local communities and involving local women and beneficiary groups in the activities.
- Supporting and participating in environmental activities which are important for women and providing information to help mobilizing resources toward maintaining and preserving environment.
- Reinforcing advertising, visual, written information distribution systems regarding environmental issues and women's role in preserving it and using environmentally safe products.
- Promoting women's capacities in utilizing better consumption models at home.
- Encouraging women in producing agricultural, food and consumption products according to environmental standards and reinforcing marketing of these products to gain the support

of governmental decision makers and directing capitals toward it.

Conclusion

The main method of the Islamic Republic of Iran in preserving the living environment, is to do prevention on the basis of realizing the sustainable development. The Department of Environment is a supervising organization and the implement of living environment policies is in the responsibilities of affiliated Ministries.

CHAPTER TWELVE

The Girl Child

Values of the supervisory Topic

Thought that the divine religions have been far wrong, superior to a particular gender, nationality and ethnicity specific particular is left. And what the criteria was superior to human values and is good. The same fundamental human rights even in the embryonic stage, has no one has the right to abuse and abortion conflict with the human right to life is complete. Therefore, in support of the divine religions, especially human children, have carefully and fully support the necessary supervision and maintenance provided most have been built. But because of human error to think girl children suffer forms of Islam in this context special emphasis on what the Quran or the Prophet and Imam speak in support abundant expression of the girl is. Based on the same Sura "Tkvyr" oppression, but that the girl in history has been done with the expression "and when a daughter is announced to one of them his face becomes black and he is full of wrath" (Al-Nahl suran, 58) to the question. If another chapter on the expression of ignorance about the female face has when they were told that the owner of the girl's father because of severe discomfort in the wrong culture of the Koran this idea is strongly deprecated. Here the Prophet of Islam (PBUH) than girls had many children and fathers order to love and encourage greater respect to girls is. Prophet (PBUH) several times the other hand to sign her daughter love and respect will kiss and said: If the daughter of God to teach ethical and he needs to sort out God will save him. He also said

كَيْسَ مِثْلًا مَنْ لَمْ يَرْحَمْ صَغِيرَنَا (Mastardak-ol-Vasayel, Vol. 8, p392) is not someone our children about kindness and attention were not. The Imam Sajjad rights in the paper that "the right of children that parents be gentle with them, to teach children than the errors over their length ". That these are his growth. So that when marriage time recommend that the girls be free to select his wife and father or your mother to him not to impose. If the marriage of the Prophet ((F. (R))) with the man justice, Hazrat Ali (AS) will consult with him and said: "The Silence of Fatima (SA) is due to shame, ie agree with is married. Imam Khomeini (Qods pure): Pray, your child is female, for the girl is better than the boys.

Imam Khamenei:

Girls should be in the field that is useful for them and have the interest, to study. Community education needs of girls is still studying the needs of boys. Environmental education course must be healthy, both for boys and for girls. University must be security for the children; What girl or boy. Street should be moral security, both for girls or for boys, what does not. If a girl wants to be a doctor, or to economic activity, or political work into being, or being a journalist, has provided for him. Condition to observe chastity and chastity and untreated men and women argue. Activity in the Islamic society is open for men and women.

Introduction**Background**

Considering the human dignity and rights of girl child and necessity of expressing kindness and more attention to them and warnings of punishment by God in case of violence and killing girl child is clearly stated in Holy Quran. From long ago, special care of girl child has been one of the highest religious and moral values in

Iranian society. Existence of patriarchy and wrong customs have discriminated access of girls and boys to equal opportunities. This discrimination starts from health care, education, and nutrition and reaches to different psychological issues.

However, religious and political leaders have always emphasized on equal access to education and employment and other rights of citizenship among boys and girls and wrong processes and customs in families have always been criticized and there have been people in charge of programming and implementation of projects to eliminate discrimination.

The Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran**Article 21**

2. The protection of mothers, particularly during pregnancy and childbearing, and the protection of children without guardians;

5. The awarding of guardianship of children to worthy mothers, in order to protect the interests of the children, in the absence of a legal guardian

Perspective

Twenty years perspective of the country:

Spirit of cooperation- Unity of people and government The twenty years perspective doesn't directly refer to girl child but it is obvious that girls and boys of today will be future managers and leaders. So, for the twenty years perspective to come true it is essential to pay attention to the needs and demands of girls to make them, active, responsible, generous, believer, satisfied, have working consciousness, organization, spirit of cooperation, social compatibility, committed to the Islamic Revolution, development of Iran and honored to be Iranian, so that they can play their role in the perspective.

Charter of Women's Rights and Responsibilities

14. Right of girls to have suitable guardianship of parents

15. Right of girls to enjoy necessities including house, clothing, sound and sufficient nutrition and health facilities in order to secure their physical and psychological health;

16. Right of girls for education and training and preparing the ground for creativity in terms of talents

Current Situation and Achievements

Girl Children's Rights

L.1: THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST GIRL CHILDREN

In 1993 the Islamic Republic of Iran joined the Convention on the Rights of the Child, with reservation that at any given time the contents of the Convention do not contradict the domestic and Islamic laws of the country

This is while the differences between Iranian laws and the Convention are insignificant, but in the event of conflict, the Iranian laws supersede. In the Islamic Republic of Iran Women's duties and responsibilities Document the subject of girl children has been discussed in six separate articles on various subjects particularly the defense of vulnerable girls and in the first chapter of the second part of rights and responsibilities girls have been fully discussed and the following rights have been ratified:

Article 14: The right of girls to worthy care by their parents.

Article 15: Girls right to maintenance that includes, housing, clothing, healthy and sufficient nutrition, hygiene facilities, all for the provision of their mental and physical health.

Article 16: The right to teach and train girls and creating the basis for the blooming of their talents and creativities.

Article 17: The right for the provision of girls' mental and emotional needs and being treated with care by their parents and their immunity from domestic violence.

Article 18: The right to enjoy family opportunities without discrimination between girls and boys.

Article 19: The right of children who do not have guardians or have bad guardians to be looked after by their relatives or those that are duty bound by observing the interests of the girls and enjoyment of the support and supervision of the government.

Article 20: Responsible to respect the parents and observe their legitimate orders and good behaviour towards other members of the family.

Girl children's inheritance

In the Islamic Republic of Iran, men are usually head and bread winner of the family. in the Islamic legal system, where human rights are the main issue, all conditions are equal for men and women but in other cases according to the roles and physical differences it varies to maintain spiritual and financial health of the family which is holy in Islam.

Age of marriage

According to Article 1041 of civil law which was amended in 2002, minimum age of marriage was defined 13 for girls and 15 for boys. Marriage before this age should be with the consent of the father or by the statement of legitimate court.

According to the mandate and responsibilities considered for women in the Islamic Republic of Iran, women have the right of knowing, choosing their husband according to the criteria and can enjoy the support of their father in marriage. This mandate was prepared by Supreme Socio-cultural council of women and was amended and revised in the Supreme Council of Cultural Revolution. This mandate has been prepared inspired by the general and moderate laws of Islam and the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and recommendations of Imam Khomeini, Supreme leader and the Islamic Declaration of Human Rights.

Gender planning

In Iran the Statistical Center of Iran - that according to law has the responsibility of preparing formal statistics in the country - and in other organizations such as registration organization, the Ministry of Health and Medical Education, all gender segregated statistics provide the opportunity of programming for both boys and girls separately.

NGOs participation

Women's NGOs were 50 in 1996 while in 2004, this number reached to 480 and most of them are active in cultural, social, and union fields. These organizations have the capacity of effective measures in increasing women's participation in political and social issues and preserving their rights in the frame of law of Islamic Republic of Iran. In 1996 women studied periods higher than 33 percent the year 2006 to about 42 percent has been a significant increase in the tendency to study girls show higher levels.. On the other hand, tendency in social fields has considerable decreased among girls. Considering that during the past years, there were more girls attending higher-level education centers, in the future girls will be educationally in better situation. In the Islamic Republic of Iran, illegal abortion and sex preference has

significantly decreased. This will be discussed in details in health section.

In the current situation, women's literacy and education at higher levels not only is not less than men but in many cases women have had more achievements so that attendants of tertiary education at governmental or private institutes are mostly girls. (More details can be found in the section of "Education and Training of Women").

L4 ELIMINATE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST GIRLS IN HEALTH AND NUTRITION

In 1996 about 47 percent of girls in primary education students and in 2006 the figure was at 32 percent. This drop in the rates indicates the increase in women's education levels. In other words, the ratio of individuals that have higher education from primary education has increased. In 1996 about 5 percent of boys in primary education coverage most of the girls that in 2007 the ratio is equal to that indicated a significant increase in government activities to cover higher education and reduce the gap between boys and girls. In secondary school levels due to some children leaving school after primary education, and due to some rural regions not having secondary schools especially for girls, therefore the education coverage is lower.

Ratio of girls to boys in primary was 94 percent in 1996 to the year 2002 has reached 97 percent. This ratio for guidance, respectively, 87 and 89 and 95, respectively, for secondary level and 98 percent is achieved.

Self-education programmes

In 1996 about 15 percent of non-student population and 8 / 1 percent of the population in literacy education centers have education where in 2004 due to the fact that most of the population was studying at formal education centers, this ratio decreased and reached to 6 and 0.6 percent. The number of women who have studied at literacy classes is almost 4 times of those for men, which shows that the possibility of education for men in formal education centers of the Ministry of Education has been more than women.

Health education

The Ministry of Health that covers most of the rural and urban areas of the country is actively advocating reproductive health through face to face advocacy, printing posters and training books to women. Also, a university “Population and family planning” course has been added to the curriculum to advocate the issue. These activities have brought about changes such as increase of average age of marriage from 18 in 1960s to 23.6 in 2004.

Prohibition from working for under 15 year olds

According to the labor law of Islamic Republic of Iran, employing individuals less than 15 years of age is prohibited and those between 15 to 18 recruited to work, should undergo some medical tests before employment to define their abilities and to be given a proper occupation and they should work half an hour less than others. Hard labor, working at night, harmful and dangerous jobs, carrying weights with hand more than the defined amount is prohibited.

Government's Actions

- 1 - Promoting girls' access to education in deprived areas of the country Promotion of education and increasing its internal and external efficiency in all educational levels for girl children
- 2 - Implementing programs to attract girls that are deprived from education or have left school
- 3 - Implementing the National Plan of Development of Women's Sports at country level to fill the spare time of women and girls
- 4 - Establishing “Health Houses” for girls
- 5 - Coverage and organization of centers for street children (project of street children shelters)
- 6 - Dissemination of information among girls regarding reproductive, and sexual health and HIV/AIDS
- 7 - Developing a culture of healthy nutrition among girls (especially at schools)
- 8 - Enhancing consultation centers by employing social workers, lawyers, psychologists, and education consultants

9 - Amending some laws and regulation affecting girl child life, especially on custody issues, and increasing age of marriage and establishing courts for addressing child criminals

10 - Plan of creating special telephone lines for addressing the crisis of child harassment and violence at home and other plans to address violations against girl child (It has been covered in the report on “Violence against Women”).

Women’s NGOs Activities

In general, 64 activities have been done by women’s NGOs to promote girl child status in the country. Although there are many organizations working on issues regarding children and their target groups are girls, their activities have not been discussed in this report. The following activities are those implemented by women’s NGOs.

- Holding conferences and meetings regarding vulnerability of children such as working children and rights of girls
- Holding training workshops for children on different issues such as environment, right of the child, etc
- Offering consultation services to develop a better life for children, especially girl children
- Providing a collection of recommendations to promote realization of rights of the child
- Conducting research on major issues related to the girl child
- Printing bulletins and publications regarding girls’ issues
- Preparing papers and articles on priority issues of the girl child in Iran
- Assisting children in Bam earthquake
- Establishing kindergartens
- Establishing associations to support the Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Entrepreneurship programs for young girls
- Demonstrations on the day of “Clean Air” with the presence of girl children
- Providing support for orphans, especially female orphans
- Providing games involving mental abilities by adopting gender balance

Girl children or young girls have not been merely the target group of women's NGOs, other organizations with other approaches have also targeted girls especially those NGOs supporting children and young people or those involved in sanitation and environment issues. The information gathered from the abovementioned organizations shows that they have mainly focused on the issue of social damages of girls and they have less addressed empowerment. Anyway, lack of proper communication and coordination among these NGOs has caused duplication of some activities while other issues have not been covered.

While environmental organizations are mainly involved in camping for girls to cover environmental concerns; health organizations focus on trainings regarding puberty and women's NGOs are interested in indoor trainings and capacity building. In case the future activities of NGOs focus more on field works and entering local communities and schools and public arenas allocated to girls, most of the plans will get a more realistic dimension and governmental partners will be also interested in assisting NGOs.

CNWN Activities

- Holding gatherings on child abuse using a method of "search for future"
- Creating consultation centers
- Holding training workshops on puberty health for young girls
- Planning and recommending a students' Parliament
- Plan of educating families on their behaviors regarding children

Fourth National Development Plan

- The government should undertake the following actions to ensure equal access to education, enhancement of knowledge, skills and promotion of using human resources, especially girls in qualitative and quantitative development of public educations (introduction of Article 52):
- Providing facilities to eradicate deprivation from education through developing boarding schools in central villages and dormitories

- Remote education and through media and providing nutrition, transportation, health and other needs of students at boarding schools
- Enhancing education centers and also sport centers according to gender and provisions for enhancing pre-school education especially in bilingual areas (Chapter 4, section S, Article 52).
- Providing special insurance (as support activities) for women as the head of household and individuals without families, prioritizing orphans (Chapter 8, section G, Article 96).
 - Provision of security and freedom for growth of social institutes to defend women and children's rights (Chapter 8, section D, Article 100).
 - Freedom of associations and supporting rights of civil organizations in the *Labor Law* (fundamental labor rights).
 - Right of organizations and group meetings
 - Equal wages for equal work for men and women
 - Eliminating discrimination in employment and vocations
 - Observing minimum age of work
 - Prohibiting child labor
 - Observing minimum range of wages (Chapter 8, section A, Article 101).

Challenges and Constraints

- Lack of education facilities at pre-high school and high school levels in some villages leading the girls to quit school
- Lack of facilities to spend spare time for girls
- Lack of sport centers for women and girls
- Lack of employment opportunities for girls
- Girls start work before reaching legal age of labor

Recommendation to the Government

- Increasing the number of boarding schools for girls in remote and deprived areas
- Developing social consultation centers in schools for girls
- Developing sport centers for girls
- Focusing on nutrition and health of those children whose mothers are in prison, especially girls

- Encouraging girls to participate in social, economic, and political activities
- Enhancing their self-reliance and participatory skills
- Promoting trainings and books for adults with an aim of creating sensitivity among them regarding some traditional approaches affecting girls
- Educating parents on the importance of physical and psychological health and welfare of girls including elimination of discrimination against girls, especially in nutrition and marriage
- Providing facilities and services for disabled girls and their families
- Reinforcing and amending laws supporting girls
- Providing access for girls to education, information and media in social, cultural, economic, and political issues and increasing their self-conscious through empowerment
- Educating parents regarding their equal behavior in giving rights to boys and girls and ensuring equal distribution of responsibilities at home.

First nongovernmental national development plan

Method:

- Adoption of policies and solutions to promote the conditions of young girls

Measure:

- Efforts to create educational environments through people's help and donations to further provide education and skills training to increase opportunities for girls in all different levels.
- Establishment of a correct status of girls in the development of the country from the social investment, self-belief and accountability angles.
- Promotion of the mental and physical health of girls to benefit from their capacities
- Defense of girl children's rights and educating their parents and teachers

- Further introduce girls to their rights and legal obligations to get better lives
- Efforts to draw and attract people to identify and help hurt girl children and to conduct research and study on their conditions
- Support girls related cultural and social organizations and expansion of information dissemination
- Identification and introduction of active girls and scientific and cultural figures to raise their cultural levels.
- Bringing young girls closer together with government officials and decision makers to improve their conditions in various arenas
- Support for girl children that have physical and mental scars from national and international conflicts
- Help terminally ill girls and needy students.

Recommendation to Women's NGOs

- Attracting girls to participate in social activities to promote participatory spirit
- Advocating and reinforcing religious and traditional issues regarding human rights of girls among parents, educators and other beneficiaries
- Presence and participation in decision making and programming for girls
- Entering local communities and enhancing services to improve girls' status
- Attention to the fact that in field trainings and capacity building programs, the target group should cover girls and other groups involved with the issue of girls, especially family members
- Monitoring and evaluation of governmental projects on improving girls' status and consultation services to them to amend implementing processes
- Providing skills and vocational trainings for girls to increase opportunity of employment and access to decision making processes in planning programs such as sports and cultural activities

- Enhancing access of disabled girls to education and skills training for their complete cooperation and participation in life.

Conclusion

Respecting human rights and dignity of girl child is a national will in all development policies and programs of the country including health of girl child, training and education, employment ...

Based on this principle in 1993 the Islamic Republic of Iran ratified the Convention on Rights of children by the reservation that those principles in accordance with Islamic rules will be implemented.

In Iran, girls equal to boys have identity and personality and have achieved better than boys in training and education. in marriage they have the right to choice by the help and guidance of father, in health they are more active in rendering services and used health and reproductive services more than men and receive more support.

Although, there has been gender preference to the benefit of boys in rural context with agricultural income, and it might still be there, now families are equally interested in girl child as boys and there is no gender preference especially in urban areas.

Promotion of girls' education level compared to boys in Iran is more than the indicators provided in Beijing documents and MDG. Anyway the main challenge of

Iranian society is proper response to girls' demands who actively support changes in the roles and reactions of the society more than boys.