



Human Right Developments in Iran

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The Human Rights Development of Iran Newsletter, stresses on the promotion of human rights through monitoring positive actions and developments that have occurred with regards to human rights and raising the awareness of the audience in this regard. This newsletter, compiles measures taken for the promotion and realisation of human rights for the transparency of the real human rights situation in Iran through benefiting from correct information and credible documents.

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1- Women's Rights

1-1 A 12 Percent Growth in the Appointment of Women Managers in the Rouhani's government

According to released official reports, the appointment of women to all levels has increased from 12.7 percent in 2017 to 22.6 percent in 2020. According to these 8,488 women managers have been added to managerial positions: 1 percent at the highest level, 15 percent in middle-management positions and 84 percent at basic level.

The number of women managers has increased from 11,109 in 2017 to 19,597 in 2020, which shows a total of 76.4 percent growth in women appointed to management in the last three years. The percentage of women managers at the highest level has increased from 1.6 percent in 2017

to 7.8 percent in 2020. In the middle management level from 8.1 to 14.3 and basic from 14.5 to 25.4 percent.

The number of women managers in provincial governments has increased from 8.3 percent in 2017 to 15.9 in 2020 which has risen from 292 to 554 and shows 89.7 percent growth in the appointment of women managers in provincial governments, governorates and districts in the last three years. It must be noted that 16 women have been appointed at high levels as deputy governors.

1-2 Support Programme for the Release of Women Prisoners

A project by Tehran Municipality and the Presidency's Women and Family Affairs Deputy has been placed in their working agenda for support for the release of women convicted of non-serious crimes who do not have the finances to pay for their crimes. It is expected that by the end of this programme for almost 200 women inmates to be released.

1-3 More than 60 Percent of the MoE Staff Are Women

The Iranian society has given an important share of its future to women and this field continues to grow and

develop; because the belief is that women have more effective roles in the strengthening of teachings and are influential in society. According to official figures, more than 60 percent of teachers in schools and Ministry of Education (MoE) staff are women.

To this aim there are agreements signed between the Education and Training Department and other institutions such as Women and Family Affairs Deputy. One of the education policies in the Corona pandemic is to prevent students from dropping out of school. In this regard, joint cooperation has been established with 9 organizations to prevent the causes of dropout. Also, various programmes for the empowerment of girl schoolchildren to get further social roles have also been put in working agenda.



2- Right to Education

2-1 Distribution of 1 Million E-Education Packs Among Schoolchildren in Need

Through the launching of support for children in the last two years by *Ehsan* Foundation 400,000 education packs were prepared and distributed among vulnerable schoolchildren, which this year the number has risen to 1 million and each pack is worth more than 1.5 million Rials. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's packs are different from last year's ones and since deprived regions and villages do not have access to suitable educational institutions, parts of these packs are considered for educational contents.

Also, through these packs schoolchildren's talent findings take place, because until now, the talents of schoolchildren in deprived regions and villages have not been discovered properly, and popular and movement groups have become active to take action and so that once talents are identified, for children's capacities be utilized in *Ehsan* Foundation centers.

Educational support, presentation of educational aid contents, benefiting from virtual reality technology are some of the characteristics of this year's education packs which the subject of COVID-19 prevention is highlighted through these packs, and also a number of hygiene items are included in the packs.

2-2 Education of more than 7.5 Million Girl Schoolchildren in the Country

The presence levels of women in education and training has been very strong, to an extent that more than 900,000 of civil servants in the field are women. This has resulted in suitable conditions be available for the education and training of girl schoolchildren. Currently according to official reports more than 7.5 million girls are attending schools. Four educational, economic, political and social indexes are the main programmes of the activities of the Education and Training Department for girls.

The Education and Training Department is going to select 30 schools next month and teach girls social skills. There

is also a plan to increase education coverage for girls and this plan has been stressed especially for 5 deprived provinces of the country more than before.

Also towards the realization of “the Fundamental Reform Document of Education”, education of citizen’s rights to girls is placed in the working agenda of the Education and Training Department. Last year 3,000 girl schoolchildren across the country participated in economic education.

2-3 Stop in the Rise in the Use of Drugs among High School Students

With the launching of the “Life Actors Plan” , positive actions and steps have been taken towards the prevention of addiction among high school students by the Iran Drug Control Headquarters with the cooperation of the Islamic Culture and Guidance Ministry, the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting and also the Ministry of Education.

To-date 12,000 schools have been included in this programme and are benefiting from various prevention and treatment services. According to drawn up plans until March next year another 8,000 schools will join this programme.

Due to the geographic location of Iran to Afghanistan, Iran is burdened with heavy costs each year in the fight against drugs distribution, control and treatment of addicts. Since March this year till mid-September the

police across the nation discovered 536 tons of drugs compared to the previous year having an increase of 39 percent. Also, during this period, more than 167,000 smugglers and distributors and users have been arrested which is a 29 percent increase compared to the previous year.

It must be said that more than 12,000 tons of drugs have been discovered around education environments (schools etc.) by the police.



3- Right to Health

3-1 Free Medical Checkups for 40thousand people in 7 Provinces

In the last two weeks in Kermanshah, Khuzistan, West Azerbaijan, Kurdistan and Ilam provinces at least 40,000 people have received medical checkups. The Free Medical Checkup and Treatment Programme for Vulnerable Groups in other provinces that include Hormozgan, Sistan and Baluchistan are also in the working agenda which will be undertaken in the next few weeks.

In view of the current situation and observation of all hygiene protocols, the country's medical community will provide necessary hygiene and treatment services to

vulnerable groups of society. Around 180,000 members of the medical community are in charge of providing services across the country.

Gradually and in later stages, as well as urgent medical services, other services that include dental, ophthalmic, pediatrician, and surgery will be provided by mobile medical teams. While these teams will be sent for training in ICU and hospital departments in various provinces, so that if we are confronted with a big wave of COVID-19, more forces are made available to hospitals.

3-2 Designing of the “Intervention in Earthquake” Programme for Tehran

According to official reports and in view of the imminent threats of earthquakes, there are one-hundred container relief bases in the country which are set up pending on conditions, but in regions where necessary land is provided for their construction, with public capacity these bases will be turned into buildings and their necessary tools and equipment will be provided.

Currently there are 520 relief bases in the country which provide services under the auspices of the Red Crescent. These bases provide services during natural and unnatural disasters. For example, according to the International Federation of the Red Cross, last year’s floods in Iran were the worst natural disasters in the last 100 years of the country in magnitude and impact. Half of the country

from the north-west to south-east was affected by flooding, and these bases played a key role in providing aid to the victims.

Also the Red Crescent at one point gave shelter to almost 400,000 people. According to Fact report in this disaster, the types of services that the Red Crescent provided shook the core of the services that the Red Crescent provides in the world.

3-3 Insurance Coverage for 28 Million Villagers

Currently around 28 million people living in towns with population below 20,000 are receiving rural insurance and a lower percentage receives Social Security Insurance. Overall it can be said that health insurance services for villagers is in full. In villages there are around 4,112 health insurance services which have 7,000 general practitioners, and 2,000 dentists who provide services and family doctors carry out 60 million visits a year. Also, active midwives in these centers provide 15 million services annually and dentists also provide 5 million dental services annually.

All medicines and lab services are provided in these centers and the family doctor's visit fee for the villagers is 5,000 Rials and if these individuals require specialists' services according to the coverage they are referred to

more specialist hospitals. Fortunately, we have one family doctor per 4,500 villagers.

Currently 21 million villagers of the country get free insurance and some also are covered by Social Security and other insurances. It must be said that in the event rural patients require emergency services by paying just a portion of treatment cost (Franchise) which is 5 to 20 percent, can receive emergency hospital care.

3-4 Presentation of Psychological Services to the Families of Children who Lost Battles against Cancer in “MAHAK”

Towards the end of summer last year, the *Soog* Clinic was launched with the aim of providing psychological and care services to families who unfortunately lost their children to cancer. Since the launch of the clinic provides free psychological services to hurt families so they reach a normal life.

The social careers of MAHAK contact the family of the child five months after his or her death and assess the situation. In the event of getting signs of grieving disorders in the lives of the family members, especially the main career of the deceased child, or the brother and sister are referred to the psychologist for intervention in treatment and then explain the services of *Soog* Clinic. If inclined the family will receive free psychological and social care services in this center.

In the last 30 years the MAHAK Charity Institute has tried to not destroy the main function of the family in economic, social and mental crises as a result of children suffering from cancer. Thus, following the death of the child the clinic stresses on the continuation of psychological and social care support for his or her family.

3-5 Cooperation of Iran with WHO in the Fight against COVID-19

Towards controlling the spread of COVID-19, cooperation has been made with WHO. In this regard the WHO has given lab test kits to Iran for 67,500 tests for COVID-19.

These kits were donated by the Robert Gogh Institute in Germany for medical and test purposes to the country.

Part of these kits were transferred to the National Blood Transfusion Organization on the recommendation of the Health Ministry's Epilepsy and Epidemiology working group so that they are used in the assessment of donated plasmas qualities.

Some of these kits were handed over to the Pasteur Institute of Iran and also Infants Infections Research Centre of the Shahid Beheshti Medical Sciences University for research on the safety of sensitive

populations, for research on the spread of COVID-19 among children.

The rest of the kits are being kept in the warehouse of the National Blood Transfusion Organization so that they are distributed according to committee decisions.

Christof Hemelman, the WHO representative in Iran also in this regard reassured that, “epilepsy and epidemiology studies on SARS-COVI-2 (Coronavirus 2019) becomes more significant each day, because it can help in effective medical care measures, better understanding of immunity and vaccine production and finding of better medical treatments.”

He stressed: “The World Health Organization alongside its other partners such as Robert Gogh Institute, will continue its full cooperation with the Health Ministry in this area.”

Representative in the WHO, the head of infectious diseases, Omid Zamani said: “This is the first time that the WHO supports the Iranian Blood Transfusion Organization in responding to COVID-19, of course over the last two decades through refining of blood products and provision of consultation to donors to safeguard the health of donated blood for controlling HIV/AIDS and hepatitis and other blood transmitted diseases, this Organization has been very helpful.

3-6 Conversion of 136 Buses and Minivans for Individuals with Disabilities in Tehran

The Transport Organization for Individuals with Disabilities with a membership of 4,000 individuals with disabilities provides daily transportation for the disabled. This Organization is made up of 74 specialized buses and 62 vans specialized for the disabled.

In this regard 50 billion Rials have been allocated for the purchasing of specialized vehicles for veterans and the disabled and very soon new equipment will be purchased for them. Furthermore, most high-speed line stations have been redesigned for individuals with disabilities. This action and foreseeing of special seats for the disabled have been facilitated in B.R.T. buses, the use of the bus services.

It must be said that the executive director of the Tehran Bus company has announced that more than 4,000 members of transport organization for persons with disability, 3,200 use wheelchairs and 300 walking sticks and Zimmer frames; also 500 of them are blind, and reassured that: “the Janbazan and Disabled Department of the Transport Organization is a unique collective of bus services in the world, which solely provides services to individuals with disabilities.



4- Children's Rights

4-1 COVID-19 Tests for Child Labourers/Distribution of Hygiene Packs among Garbage Scroungers

According to the Welfare, Services and Social Participation Organization of Tehran Municipality, periodic COVID-19 tests for child labourers have been launched at *Parto* centres.

This is towards the implementation of the Social Accountability of Organizations and Economic Agencies by Tehran's Islamic Council and Promotion of Accountability Culture of Tehran Municipality Contractors, with the partnership of the Iranian Navid Hamrazi Harm Reduction Institute.

While stressing on the observation of hygiene protocols in Parto centres, resident specialist medical teams are reviewing the physical conditions of child labourers in Districts 9, 14, 18, 20 and 21, and take COVID-19 tests for them and try to provide these services periodically to vulnerable child labourers.

Towards support for child labourers, especially during the COVID-19 crisis, hygiene preventative measures, the Municipality with the cooperation of NGOs has placed in its working agenda so that in this field the conducting of COVID-19 tests, specialist medical teams visits to the children, distribution of hygiene items (masks, gloves and disinfectants) among garbage scroungers and *Parto* centres. can be highlighted

4-2 Latest on the Implementation of the Infants and Juveniles Protection Act

The Protection of Infants and Juveniles Act was circulated in July 2020 and its guidelines have been drawn up. An Act which with its correct implementation can to an acceptable level while protecting infants and juveniles it can also reduce child abuse levels. According to this Act all departments must review all their internal operation manuals and their executive programmes in accordance to this Act.

Article 17 of the Protection of Infants and Juveniles Act states that if an individual is aware of child abuse, but does

not report it, he or she has committed a crime and will receive an imprisonment sentence of between 6 months and 2 years, even if this individual sees child abuse clips in cyberspace, such as Instagram, and clicks like can also be an example of this article, in other words the individual is aware and has also approved it.



5 -Introducing Human Rights Activists

5-1 Charity Foundation for Special Diseases

The start and idea of the formation of the Charity Foundation for Special Diseases relates to the Foundation's director's knowledge of lung, thalassemia and hemophilia patients through meeting a number of these patients in 1992. The poor medical treatment situation resulted in him to conduct field studies and make various provincial visits to know more about the problems these patients have across the country. Due to the high spread of special diseases in the country and the high treatment costs, lack of good treatment for them, and the inability of many patients in working and long and steady activities, and the imposition of heavy financial and

mental pressures on the families of patients, resulted for this group to think of launching a Foundation in support of this group of society, to help facilitate assistance to these individuals. Therefore, in view of the importance of the subject and follow ups by the director of the Foundation and a number of individuals interested in the field, the Board of Founders was elected and finally on 7 May 1996 at the same time as the International Day for Thalassemia this Charity Foundation was registered.

The first actions of the Foundation was the study of the patients conditions, pathology of influential factors in the appearance of these diseases, review methods and solutions for ending the poor conditions and improvement of the treatment and living conditions of the patients and also review applicable prevention methods, which to-date has continued in medical treatment, education and promotion fields in prevention, control and reductions of damages caused by the special diseases.

Over the years, the Foundation has expanded coverage of patients and aside from dialysis patients, thalassemia and hemophilia, due to the extent of diseases and heavy treatment costs for cancer, MS, kidney transplant, diabetes and AB patients are also covered by the Foundation.

In over 25 years of its activities, the Foundation continues to try to resolve the problems of patients, especially special patients as much as possible and takes effective steps towards helping these patients.

Goals:

- Drawing the attention of governmental departments and various national organizations towards the problems and medical and social needs of special patients.
- Measures to optimum utilization of existing facilities and credits with regards to special diseases.
- Raise scientific and social awareness of patients and their families and various groups of society towards the quality and quantity of special diseases through the use of advertisement and publication tools.
- Establishment of communication and coordination in existing support, scientific and union associations activities.
- Facilitation of scientific, treatment, social and material amenities and drawing government and public and international support towards achievement of goals.
- Presentation of research, education, diagnosis, treatment and social services towards the Foundation's goals.
- Review and proposal of applicable projects to the country's executive bodies towards the improvement of treatment and social conditions of special patients.

Activities:

- Prevention
- Treatment
- Education

The most important activities conducted to-date:

International arena:

- Membership in ECOSOC
- Membership in the International Thalassemia Federation
- Membership in the International Kidney Federation
- Membership in ISBT

National arena:

- Payment for *Isar* Award for the spread of transplant culture and appreciation of kidney donors (cabinet of ministers' ratification 1996)
- The treatment of thalassemia, hemophilia and dialysis becoming free (cabinet of ministers' ratification 1997)
- Setting up of provincial committees in all provincial governments across the country to study and resolve the issues of special patients in each province and follow ups for the solving of problems (cabinet of ministers' ratification 1997)

- One-person insurance coverage for hemo-dialysis, thalassemia and hemophilia patients through the Medical Services Insurance Organization (cabinet of ministers' ratification 1997)
- Liver transplants becoming free (cabinet of ministers' ratification 2004)
- One-person insurance coverage for cancer, MS and diabetes patients (Islamic Parliament 2007)
- Increase in the number of medical centers that provide services to special patients across the country (with the cooperation of Health Ministry, Medical Sciences University, and charitable individuals which from the launching of the Foundation the number of centers have increased from 127 to 980)

For further information on the Foundation and its activities visit <https://www.cffsd.org>