

Education in the Islamic Republic of Iran

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Education:

Education is of paramount importance for every human being since his birth. In the Islamic Republic of Iran the Ministry of Education is in charge of educating children and the youth as well as training human force which are of vital importance for the society.

The most recent statistics show that in 2004-2005 around 15 million students enrolled at different grades in the Iranian schools. Out of this number 7412868 students were female and 7893885 were male.

Total Number of Students at Different Levels

Level Number Percentage

Pre-Primary 543422 3.5

Primary 6206718 40.5

Lower Secondary 4371305 28.5

Upper Secondary 3772585 24.6

Pre-University 412727 2.6

Total 15306757 100

Measures taken for the promotion and development of education in Iran:

- Establishment of distance learning
- Execution of the plan for education the young female who could not finish educational courses
- Promotion of education of nomads
- Promotion of public education in rural areas and increasing the number of high schools in these areas.
- Holding pre-primary courses in the areas with two languages.
- Promotion of education of mentally and physically retarded students
- Identifying and attending to especially talented students and facilitating their participation in the World Olympiad competitions in different fields in order to select and educate future scientists.
- Promotion of different sports programs including development of sports and physical education schools and centers.
- Establishment of the Center for Women Affairs with the purpose to follow up educational affairs of the young female and creation of information Web Site www.etwomen.org.
- Paying especial attention to justice-based education and making efforts to create equal opportunities for boys and girls to enjoy educational facilities and equipments.
- Promotion of participation and cooperation in scientific fields at international level including establishment of the secretariat of ISESCO in Tehran, participation in the international peace and understanding training courses, participation in the reconstruction of educational system in Afghanistan, execution of the International plan for training and educating young females as well as participation in international cooperation on teachers and parents relations.

Higher Education:

Higher education in every country is of great significance. Preparing scientific ground to achieve a dynamic economic status relied on knowledge and promoting scientific polars and bridging the scientific gap with developed countries are among the main tasks of higher education system in all countries. The Ministry of Science, Research and Technology of the Islamic Republic of Iran with in the frame work of the said objectives is in charge of the education in the post pre-university courses which include intermediate (associates degree), under graduate post graduate, graduate doctorate and specialized doctorate courses.

Admission to an institute of higher education in Iran requires a certificate of completion/Diploma and a passing grade on the Konkur (university entrance examination). According to the statistics released by the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology in the year of 2004, 2117471 students enrolled in government and private higher education institutions and universities out of which %53.94 were female and %46.06 were male. The following tables reflect the number of

students at different higher education levels.

Total Number of Students at Different Levels

Level Number Percentage

Associates (degree) 589308 %27.6

Under graduate 1389751 %65.6

Post graduate 80377 %3.79

Graduated doctorate 41136 %1.94

Specialized Doctorate 16899 %0.79

Total 2117471 %100

Total Number of Students with Respect

to their Academic Fields

Fields Number Percentage

Liberal Science 1029417 %48.62

Basic Science 231561 %10.93

Animal Husbandry and Agriculture 145293 %6.86

Technical and Engineering 578526 %27.32

Medical 132692 %6.27

Total 2117471 %100

It is to be noted that total number of scientific boards in Iranian universities and higher education institutes is 42404 and number of other training and educating staff (including instructors, associate professors, assistant professors and professors) is 47105.

One of the main achievements and objectives of the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology in the third development plan has been promotion of courses at Doctorate levels in the Iranian universities.

To this end a number of consultations were made with scientific institutions out of the country in order to promote relations and scientific communication at international level.

In this respect some measures were also taken for granting 6 month long sabbaticals out of the country for the Iranian students studying in the Iranian universities. In this respect so far 813 Iranian students have been sent out of the country at doctorate level.

Among other measures taken by the Iranian higher education system are as follows:

- Admitting 300 Iranian athletes in the Iranian universities
- Receiving 37 world medals and 85 international medals in different students sports fields.
- Holding different sports Olympiads with participation of 52 universities which were totally attended by around 100000 students.
- Embarking on scientific and research cooperation between Iranian universities and seminaries and holding different related scientific seminars and conferences.
- Increasing students periodicals by 2400 titles.
- Developing scientific cooperation between Iranian universities and famous International universities.
- Granting scientific board members sabbaticals as well as developing Persian language and literature out of the country.
- Holding joint training and educating courses in the Iranian free trade zones with the participation of well-known universities of the world.
- Expanding scientific and cultural cooperation with famous world and international organizations and institutions.
- Concluding scientific, training and research agreements with many foreign universities and exchanging of students and professors as well as using other scientists' researches and experiences