Women status in Islamic Republic of Iran

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Introduction
with purposeful and discriminating stance of international community to the extent that beside standing against military attacks they have to tolerate economic sanctions and problems caused by cultural and political invasion, especially regarding women affairs, frequently imposed on Iran by the so-called developed countries.

An obvious example of such animosities during these years is several human right resolutions against I.R.IRAN which after 30 years has become a battle of attrition with the hegemony of west.

In fact such reactions are caused by different factors:
- Rebirth of religion and the creation of new concepts in global political terminology
- Alteration in political, economic and cultural equation in the region because of the start of Islamic revolution
- New and different inclinations in the people of the world due to damage caused by unfair global management.

Despite all international pressure, I.R.IRAN has always been bound to be an effective member of the international community in order to promote the value and status of the women of the world and as well believes that for achieving a lasting global peace and justice, mere equality of men and women from the view point of considering them similar in growth indices, not only will not solve women' problem but in the long run the benefit of their work is exploited by capitalist systems for mass production of goods.

Regarding overcoming these abnormalities, instead of highlighting the gender differences which will start a losing battle for both sides, we can adopt constructive measures toward considering social and individual similarities in relationship between men and women.

Today, due to the dominance of segregation point of view in women's affair, after a decade it seems that the Beijing "platform for action" document is not achieving its goal
the reason is that the twelve areas of concern in women's affair, which is standard, is not comprehensive enough for two main reasons:

On one hand, every country, based on its own circumstances, is involved in several different issues.

On the other hand, appearance of some new concerns such as "human trafficking", "family crisis", "military occupation", "governmental terrorism", and etc. which all have contributed to the loss of global security and peace and are greater threats to the societies than women's affair caused the document to be overlooked.

So it seems that the twelve areas of concern should be reviewed and assessed, first where they originate from among different races and cultures and second the efficiency of "platform for action" in countries it is performed.

I.R.IRAN in an attempt to overcome the current shortcomings in women's affairs, instead of considering superficial facts regarding men and women's equality, it suggests gender equilibrium which can lead to the creation of a lasting peace and justice and concentrates on finding the main causes of such abnormalities.

Parallel to improvements made in women's affair in the last three decades in IRAN, creating a comprehensive pattern in women's affair has been at the top of the agenda. Therefore, a document based on the most general human needs common in all societies and overlooked in international women documents, has been prepared to create a lasting development and a widespread peace.

I.R.IRAN with a strong belief in women having an appropriate status in society has started compilation of the doctrine of women's rights and responsibilities in the Islamic Republic of IRAN by emphasizing on three principles: justice, trust, and protection emanating from religion and culture of the country.

This charter is looking at women's affairs beyond the anti-discrimination convention of
women and is more efficient; therefore, joining the convention due to its shortcomings is not logical for IRAN.

The present report as well as highlighting the developments of Iranian women until 2007, is considering the causes of abnormalities and challenges in political, cultural and economic areas regarding women in order for other nations to reach a consensus in women's affair according to their differences in nation, ethnic and race.

We hope that the united nation consider this issue high on the agenda in order for us to have a world of justice, trust and security with unity among men and women of the world.

Zohreh Tabibzadeh
Consultant to the President of I.R. IRAN
Head of the center for women and family affairs
Women and poverty
1. the abolition of all forms of undesirable discrimination and the provision of equitable opportunities for all, in both the material and intellectual spheres; (Article 3-section 9)

2. 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 3-section 12)

3. 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 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. (Article 29)

4. The economy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, with its objectives of achieving the economic independence of the society, uprooting poverty and deprivation, and fulfilling human needs in the process of development while preserving human liberty. (Article 43)

Having the right to enjoy:

- Social security and economic facilities (clause 108 section 3)
- Governmental support in case of poverty, divorce and disability (clause 97 section 3)
- Paving the ground for creating self-sufficiency and rehabilitation facilities (clause 97 section 3)
- Social justice regardless of gender issues (clause 6 section 1)
- Facilities within families regardless of gender discrimination (clause 18 section 2)
**Our world and poverty of women**

Despite the global community's programs and policies regarding the elimination of poverty, we are witnessing a larger gap between class differences in the world. The main reasons lie in structures, legal and civil plans and direction of development in world economy.

Organizations such as world Trade Center and the World Bank are practicing different legal and practical strategies like offering loans, supporting early-return investments and facilitating import and export in so-called developing countries with the goal of changing the equation of wealth and capital in favor of developed countries.

Such measures will not only weaken the economy of those countries taking out bank loan but will also make them susceptible to more severe poverty since they have to return 13 dollar interest for each dollar.

**IRAN and poverty**

Regarding the elimination of poverty in IRAN there are some facts to consider:

- Poverty in IRAN and countries with similar situations where, it has been find rich natural and human resources and such countries' looking forward to having political, cultural and economic independence, is more likely caused by measures adopted by bullying power in the world such as imposing economic sanctions which will inflict heavy losses on the nation including women. Example of such losses are as follows:

  - Reduction of the chance of participating in political, cultural and economic events in the world
  - Imposing military expenses on the nation due to possible threats against country's independence
  - Inaccessibility to information and international interactions in agriculture and other
areas of service

- Unemployment due to hidden hands avoiding direct access to international market and selling of domestic products.
- Limitation in having access to raw materials in production and therefore purchasing such materials for much greater sums.
- Increasing the expenses of credit purchases (food, sanitary and scientific products).

In fact, who in the international community claims responsibility for the consequences of such decisions which are direct pressure on the people and the economy of that country and will result in poverty, insecurity and injustice?

- I.R.IRAN's approach toward the issue of poverty is not only based on economic aspect but it also includes political and cultural aspects which are inseparable part of the campaign and these factors are interrelated.
- Countries based on their social, cultural and political situation have varying interactions and status in the world and therefore have varying issues to deal with regarding poverty, so mere elimination of poverty economically regardless of cultural aspect can cause problems in people's lives and shall be considered in international documents.
- The ethnic and historical background of Iranian people have created a sense of devotion into public culture and therefore extended into governmental affairs. Such devotions have led to an interaction between governmental organizations (agriculture and housing and urban development ministries) and non-governmental organizations (charity and humanitarian committees) that can contribute to the elimination of poverty in economic and cultural areas.
- The tendency of economic poverty toward women can not be assumed in Iran since according to Islamic republic of Iran's law women are under the protection.
of their husbands for their basic needs, also because of equality in women and men salary we are not experiencing problems regarding women poverty, except for a small minority who due to illness, disability and their husbands’ martyrdom (Iran - Iraq war) and assassination (by anti-governmental forces) has lost their bread winners but are supported by insurance and other executive organizations such as BONYAD SHAHID. The majority of women are supported by their husbands for their basic needs including accommodation, food, health and clothing. The ratio of women as the responsible of the family to total number of families in Iran is 9.4% which of course this percentage can not be extended to the whole society as poverty because of the differences in class and income. Imam Khomeini EMDAD COMMITTEE supports over 53%, welfare organization supports 3% and BONYAD SHAHID supports 13% of women who are direct responsible of the family affairs. Taking into consideration, only 3.19% of women as the responsible of family are not supported. Also 67% of women as the responsible of family are medically insured by Imam Khomeini the EMDAD COMMITTEE and this organization has paid 71259 billion Rials to domestic help seekers and foreign refugees. Social supports including insurance services for women have increased by 78% in the last ten years.

**MEASURES**

Ministries, economical and social organizations dealing directly with women affairs are: ministry of cooperatives, welfare and social security, agriculture, housing and urban development and Imam Khomeini EMDAD Committee, welfare organization and women and family affair center, all of which are contributing to provide self-sufficiency in financial affairs, to increase literacy level, to provide housing and basic living standards, in women’s affairs.
The Islamic republic of Iran's government is also active regarding women's affair in these areas:

- Supporting women in responsible for family via passing empowering and supporting laws
- Increasing their payments, offering bank loans with more facilities compared to others, allocating accommodation, land and educational facilities
- Offering self-employment courses and supporting early-return investments
- Empowering rural women by providing easier access to water resources, land, capital, facilities and credits
- Developing and supporting rural women in self employment by the help of non-governmental organization and educational programs under the control of cooperatives
- Creating credit organizations and providing education in agriculture, industries and services

**Future programs**

I.R.IRAN based on the constitution law and Iranians belief in sacrifice and devotion, is trying to boost women's role in investment and cooperative-based careers in both traditional and modern arenas and therefore eliminate the poverty due to economic sanctions which are undermining the foundation of families.

Also determining career priorities based on women's social and cultural situation especially in agriculture, which is more potential than other service careers, is on government's agenda.

**Recommendations**

- Reconsidering the concept of poverty in the international community and adopting
new measures toward finding the causes of political, cultural and economical poverty concerning women

- Establishment of a reserve fund by the organization of the Islamic conference from the gross national product of the countries rich in natural resources

- Establishment of a bank for creating job opportunities with the collaboration of Islamic and Asian-African countries and non-aligned movement countries for investment in women’s issues.

- Adopting legal approaches by decision-making organizations in the world regarding economy and security for dealing with the dangers and threats of economic sanctions in a fair way

- Considering legal charges in international crimes for countries supporting human trafficking and its income

- Allocating a percentage of the national export income for investing in agricultural, industrial and service occupations in which women are producers

- Legal forbiddance of neo-slavery and prostitution universally which can damage the characteristic of women and also establishment of an international fund for supporting vulnerable women
Islamic Republic of Iran Constitution

1. 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. (Article 30)

2. Free education and physical training for everyone at all levels, and the facilitation and expansion on higher education; (Article 3-section 3)

The charter of rights and responsibilities of women in the Islamic republic of Iran

- having the right to educate for all women and developing the facilities for their education (clause 76, section3)

- possibility of continuing education to the highest levels(clause 77, section3)

- having the right to acquire skills and professional trainings to the highest levels(clause 78, section 3)

Our world and education

From a broad perspective, development of education is a comprehensive and consistent process whose objective is to perfect individuals and their cultures. So determining the direction of attitudes, increasing peoples' thinking capacity, insight, efficiency and knowledge are all dependent upon the progress of educational programs in the world. Although international organizations believe that increasing the level of education in the world will result in the elimination of most abnormalities such as racism, superstition, bullying and poverty, but statistics shows an increase in abnormalities and their tendency to affect national and international areas than individual areas and while supposedly some efforts have been made to reach world consensus in having a lasting peace, bullying powers are imposing their one-sided attitudes on the people of
world causing distraction and disunity. So human beings are facing an organized crisis and terror which are becoming more complicated everyday. Meanwhile educational programs fail to serve its purpose which is developing economic market and facilitating the recognition and use of technology for all people and as a result people are dealing with a lot of discoveries distracting them and depriving them of their creativity.

While nowadays educational systems offer comfort in societies with powerful government, countries with rich natural resources are under the influence of technologically mastered powers and accept the least possible profit. So as long as education and educational systems are not fairly based on mental, behavioral and spiritual needs of people, education is a mere transmission of information.

**Iran, women and education**

After the Islamic revolution in 1979 the first priority of the government was to eliminate illiteracy and make free education for public. So literacy Movement Institute was established for this purpose by means of a national call.

Along with increase in literacy rate of people living in villages and towns, ministries such as education, health, treatment and medical education and science, research and technology have been paving the ground for public free education; as a result the outcome was impressive.

The rate of literacy growth among different provinces in Iran even in provinces whose language is not Farsi or whose religion is other than the religion of the majority of people, we are not witnessing discrimination between genders or in their race or ethnic regarding education.

- Rate of literacy growth in above 6 -year- old population of Iranians from 1355 to 1385 (1977-2007) for men is 50.66% and for women is 126.3%
- In the year 1385(2007) the rate of literacy growth in above 6-year-old population of Iranians for men is 88.74% and for women is 80.34%.

- In the year 1385(2007) literacy rate among young women aging 15 to 24 years old had a dramatic rise, which means in the year 1365(1987) the literacy growth rate was 65.52% for women and 84.85% for men while in the year 1385(2007) the rate for women reached 96.13% versus 96.13% for men.

- The distribution of genders in primary schools in the year 1385(2007) was 51.64% male and 46.65% female, while from 1355(1977) to 1385(2007) we had an increase of 21.27% to 48.35% for females.

- The distribution of genders in junior high schools in the year 1385(2007) was 53.34% male and 46.65% female, while from 1355(1977) to 1385(2007) we had an increase of 25.36% to 46.65% for females.

- The distribution of genders in high schools in the year 1385(2007) was 51.15% male and 48.84% female, while from 1355(1977) to 1385(2007) we had an increase of 34.32% to 48.84% for females.

- The distribution of genders in private universities and higher education organizations in the year 1385(2007) was 48.87% male and 51.12% female, while from 1355(1977) to 1385(2007) we had an increase of 31.77% to 51.12% for females. The educational expenses in Iran for public education to the highest level which is Ph.D according to the constitution law is free and allocating the budget for this purpose is regardless of gender distribution. This makes it easy to develop talents in every gender, race and religion.

It is worth to mention that we should consider the difference in the rate of literacy growth among men and women based on the decline of the number of primary and junior high school students and the ratio of birth of men to women which is 104 to 100. For the fulfillment of the 5-year development programs of the country, providing
- IRIB (Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting)

Some of their activities are as follows:
- Increasing the level of public education and the availability of education for women in deprived areas
- Developing vocational majors and qualifications based on the available opportunities
- Developing skilled training and disseminating self-employment attitude among young women considering regional and local cultures
- Training women who are deprived of education for their future career
- Reviewing and modifying rules and regulations for increasing legal support of specialized women in different levels of society and in accordance with Islamic laws
- Amending rules concerning women working as teachers and instructors to the Ministry of Education
- Empowering the principals of schools which are located in deprived areas and villages
- Training female instructors for the purpose of developing vocational education
- Supporting and developing classes for basic literacy among prisoners by the organization of prisons
- Finding educational requirements of women responsible for the family
- Programming on removing the obstacles to educational developments including geographic, economic, ethnic and linguistic factors
- Making changes in educational programming from being a consuming programs to be objective

Future programs

Based on the fact that the gap between women and men regarding all levels of
education has narrowed, we hope that, if the conditions are stable, the literacy rate of young generation will reach 100% in the year 1388(2009), also it will be expected that parallel to the development of public education other aspects of education are taken into consideration according to cultural diversity.

**Recommendation**

- Outlining educational programs based on ethics and moral values
- Coordinating educational programs in Islamic countries based on their requirements and creating general secretariat in the organization of Islamic conference
- Investment in research for creating approaches to make balance in the number of women in the market and increase specialized women workforce to avoid their accepting irrelevant an inappropriate jobs.
Women and health
**Islamic Republic of Iran Constitution**

1-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. (Article 29)

2-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. (Article 29)

**The charter of women's rights and responsibilities in I.R.IRAN**

- Having the right to participate in policy-making, law making, management and supervision of health and treatment especially for women(clause 29, section 3)

- Having the right to enjoy health services for preventing diseases and treatment of physical and mental disorders of women

- Having the right to enjoy a decent life and protect their body against any illness or accident(clause 1, section 1)

- Having the right to enjoy physical and mental well being in individual, family and social life based on different specifications and characteristic of women's lives(clause 47, section 2)

**Our world and women's health**

One of the strategic objectives of international documents which is highlighted along with capitalist economy in the world was making it easier for women to enjoy health care services and developing those services for decreasing death rate and therefore increasing life expectancy. But world is facing another discrepancy in this area to; that
is if in fact efforts are being made to develop women's health in the world, why decision making organizations in international community consider their own government's benefit when adopting measures for this purpose? Among these decisions the economic sanctions, have been caused poverty in societies and resulting in poor health or military attacks that can threaten public health; however, In fact regarding women's health there are some other factors involved including:

- Providing health and sanitation services can only be assured via an impartial international programming and investment regardless of gender, ethnic, poverty, wealth and power and as long as discrimination, oppression and injustice are dominating international communities' decisions, national and regional programs fail to support and provide appropriate health programs to fight diseases. Such diseases are caused by contaminated water, malnutrition and etc. and the reason is that the dominating international policies are meant for increasing power, wealth and information. So countries that stand against the dominating powers and their exploitation of the human and natural resources (land, oil, mines) are experiencing carnage, genocide, malnutrition and not having access to strategic drugs due to economic sanctions, like what the world is witnessing in Iraq, Afghanistan and Palestine.

- In line with developing the capital-based economic system in which variety of consumption plays an important role, it is necessary that all human powers are involved. As a result there is no balance between increase in consumption and health, so today diseases like cancer, obesity and diabetes are imposed on communities and become an epidemic, a witness to that is the UN reports on excessive consumption.

- Emphasizing on sexual health and fertility of women in so-called developed countries is because of disorder and confusion in sexual relationships which is referred to as "sexual freedom" and can cause genetic and venereal diseases and early pregnancy. So
in countries where religion and morality play a more important role in people's life we are facing less of such problems and as a result investment and programming in issues such as adding sexual education to school's curriculum seems inappropriate since it can only provoke sexual relationships. The conclusion we can come to is that the same health programs cannot be practiced in countries with various cultures.

**Iran and women's health**

Iran as one of the oldest civilizations, consider health and sanitation a cultural, historical and religious approach during its existence toward development, also because of the high status of motherhood, taking proper care of women has always been a concern for their husbands. So after the Islamic revolution all the efforts have been made for the improvement of health condition among women and children for the future of next generations. Today executive policies of Iran in this regard have been praised by WHO and other countries; however, during 30 years after the Islamic revolution Iran has suffered heavy losses for its independence and the problems of economic sanctions and eight years of war against Iraq in which all the oppressors of the world were fighting Iran and we were facing insecurity and occupation in our common border with Iraq and Afghanistan. But after recovering from the aftermath of war, with long run programming and national will, Iran has developed impressively in health especially regarding women taking into consideration the following statistics:

- Life expectancy in the year 1385(2007) was 69.7 years among men and 74.5 years among women, from 1355(1977) to 1385(2007) the rate of increase in life expectancy among men was 32.61% and among women was 32.5%

- In the year 1385(2007) the rate of having access to drinking water was 93% and sanitary sewage system was 84%
- Delivery under the supervision of specialized doctors has reached 95%
- Death rate among infants is 21 out of 1000
- Death rate of mothers due to delivery disorders is 37 out of 100,000
- The rate of having access to physicians is 105 for 1000 people which according to increasing numbers of educating females in medicine
  - during 1375(1997) to 1385(2007) having access to female doctors has increased by 150%
- About 90% of kids up to the age of 1, 80% up to the age of 1.5 and 40% up to the age of 2 years old have been breastfed

**Measures**

Increasing the availability of medical care and services for women during their life via:

- Developing health care in medical centers especially regarding fertility health
- Optimizing nutrition among women
- Supporting women's fertility health project
- Developing sports programs via increasing women's sports budget by 5 times in the year 1385(2007) comparing to the year 1375(1997)
  - Increasing life expectancy among women in comparing with men
  - Bill of supporting mothers during breastfeeding ratified in 1374(1996)
  - Establishing premarital consulting centers
  - Considering work health in work laws in I.R. Iran including forbiddance of working for women during night shift, forbiddance of assigning heavy works to women during pregnancy, necessity of changing women's work during pregnancy without any decrease in their salary
  - Increasing the number of village and city medical centers
• Increasing the culture of breastfeeding among women labors by allocating more time off work after delivery
• Increasing women’s health level by:
  - assigning health agents to deprived suburban areas to provide people with free medical services since 1370(1992)
  - increasing fertility health cares such as monitoring breast and uterus cancer, establishing over 22 IVF units for treatment of infertility and genetic consultation
Public vaccination
  - education on AIDS and addiction
  - establishing centers for research in stem cells and allocating budget to research on women diseases
  - Adoption of special plans for elderly people’s health
  - Optimizing the mineral nutrition of Teenagers and pregnant women

Future programs

Since the biggest threat to health is posed by poverty and violence and the fact that Iran is strategically important in the region, it has developed long-term programs to boost the economy which is closely connected with health and sanitation and also reinforce security in the region due to the existence of occupying forces in common borders with Iran in order to stand against such threats. Also due to economic sanctions, development of sanitation and medical industries regarding pharmacology and medical instruments is high on the agenda; as a result Iran has great achievements such as producing drugs for boosting immune system against diseases such as AIDS and etc.
Violence against women
Islamic Republic of Iran Constitution

1. The dignity, life, property, rights, residence, and occupation of the individual are inviolate, except in cases sanctioned by law. (Article 22)

2. Create a favorable environment for the growth of women’s personality and the restoration of her rights, both the material and intellectual; (Article 21-section 1)

The charter of women’s rights and responsibilities in I.R.IRAN

- Immunity of women from material and spiritual losses considering other’s right (clause 11, section 1)

- The right of getting divorced on the condition that according to documents provided by the female party and observance of the divorce laws in the court, it is determined that disagreement between them is continued (clause 40, section 2)

- Immunity from verbal and physical abuse and the responsibility of having respectful behavior in relation with others in social relationships (clause 61, section 2)

Our world and violence against women

Today despite having passed the hegemony era, we are witnessing a modern kind of hegemony in social, cultural and political areas whose violence is becoming a challenge everywhere in the world. Concerning women, this issue is even more complicated:

- Violence against women in different societies is closely connected with political, cultural and social tendencies, so based on various political, cultural and social stances and customs of every society, violence is defined differently and therefore we can not realize and measure violence and its intensity with the same approach

- Today violence is not rooted in domestic phenomena anymore, but because of the attempt made by superpowers to consolidate politics, cultures and national and
international economy and create common interests, it should be viewed from a wider perspective. Pressures of wars, armed violence and poverty caused by armed conflicts and insecurities which dominate crisis-stricken areas can result in social violence and mental disorders among societies in which women are more vulnerable.

- The manifestation of violence against women is during wars and political unrest in crisis-stricken areas. Carnage, sexual abuse in which women are the sole victims and different harms done to women define violence caused with the agreement of U.N and by countries believing in human right. American soldiers’ sexual abuse in Iraq, Vietnam, Japan, Philippine and etc. is an example of such violence and according to latest statistics, out of every 4 victims, 3 of them are women and children.

- Women trafficking and sexual abuse in western countries is legitimized via creating job titles such as prostitution which makes women more vulnerable to social and physical threats. So legalization of prostitution is synonymous with human trafficking for sexual markets, most of such women are sent to Europe and America from Asia, Africa and eastern Europe under their assumption of finding jobs but ending in prostitution. This phenomenon makes 7 billion dollars annually for this ominous business.

- Violence against women and its elimination requires deep understanding of various types of violence and international will to change policies in favor of peace building and security. In such atmosphere it is possible to deal with the issue of violence and try to eliminate it.

**Iran and violence against women**

Based on the strategy for providing security and justice for women in Iran, the issue of violence is considered widely and thoroughly and also because of Islamic culture and
training influencing society's behavior, we are not facing serious problems in this regard, however, violence has been imposed on Iranian women due to different domestic and non-domestic reasons some of which are as follows:

- International violence which has affected Iranian women includes actions that cause mental disorder and physical damage via cultural humiliation and political threats and economic limitations. Imposing economic sanctions and its consequences such as poverty can cause stress and tension among people which can ultimately create violence. On the other hand, capitalist system imposes consumption patterns and creates pseudo needs in the society which increases greed and craving for variety in developing countries that can create violence if not fully met.

- Damages and losses due to regional violence years after the Islamic revolution and during the imposed Iraq war against Iran (1980-1988) and its consequences for our women and children such as refuge, martyrdom of their loved ones and injuries of bombardment of residential areas. After passing wartime, Iran has witnessed warmongering of international oppressors in its common borders with Iraq and Afghanistan and Persian Gulf neighboring countries which has resulted in migration of Iraqi and Afghani people to Iran. This has created inconsistencies in cultural texture of villages in Iran which demands hard work to be re-adjusted and although great numbers of migrants have been organized by the help of NGOs and other legal foundations, economic and cultural pressures have created both insecurity as well as occupying job opportunities of Iranians.

- Statistics shows that harms done by family violence on women and children domestically are not comparable to those of international and regional ones, even though, government is adopting all preventative measures to reduce such violence. In this regard, the main causes of violence in large scales in the society are:
poverty (cultural and financial), social abnormalities, insecurities due to forming of corrupt organizations mostly spreading addiction all of which are used against Iran by world oppressors and Iran's government is trying to eradicate such causes of violence.

- Violence against women has never been an abstract issue and will never be, so one-sided consideration of this issue can not resolve any problems regarding violence.

In I.R.IRAN it is intended that based on the status of women in family and society, violence against women can be reduced dramatically. In order to achieve this goal, Iran's government is not considering family affairs only in exceptional occasions such as divorce or violence as in many countries, but is trying to consider families as public sections of the society for which we must have long-term programming regarding development of families' culture and organization emphasizing on women issues mostly.

So in Iran we are witnessing not as much violence in public and work places as in other countries and the reason is that in Iran public and individual manner and behavior is highly valued by Islam. Iran's policies are also based on the formation of a community who believes in Islamic, national and revolutionary ethics and who has the right to enjoy social and judiciary security and whose government is responsible to provide such an atmosphere regardless of genders.

**Measures**

Adopting preventative measures toward the issue of violence against women are among major principles in cultural and political sections of the country.

Ministries and organizations that are directly dealing with this issue are: ministry of justice, social security, agriculture, industries and mines, education, science, research and technology, health, treatment and medical education, organization of Islamic advertisement. The center for women and family affairs, which are all trying to support women.
establishing safe houses and health houses which are active in 20 centers in 19 provinces of Iran and their main area of activity is to reunite such women with their families and send them back to normal life via social works and psychological and health consultation.

**Future programs**

I.R. Iran along with compilation of the charter of women's rights and responsibilities and bill of supporting families intend to eradicate violence against women with thorough political and cultural programming. Also Iran is trying to redefine the concepts of women security and liberty by cultural, religious and moral potentials in order to end violence and disagreements in families and racial discrimination against women all over the world.

**Recommendations**

- International will in order to stand against one sided oppression of world military and economic powers and end wars and political and military intervention in different countries
- Changing global policies in order to prevent wars and conflicts and their consequences, also preventing economic sanctions and their direct pressure and consequence for people's life especially women and children
- Legal approaches and measures to prevent two-sided consideration of violence and breaching human rights in international organizations. Today brutal wars and armed conflicts of Israel against people living in Gaza strip and south of Lebanon which cause devastation of houses in which women and children are living are not considered violence and UN seems indifferent toward this issue and only some countries because of
having small domestic violence are objected instead

- Investment in considering and comparing safety, security and satisfaction of women from their social and individual status in industrialized countries and countries in which spiritual values are less considered.
- Changing pre-determined criteria by western countries for standard human behavior and manner violating from which is equal to violating human right, so defining new criteria based on various religions and cultures must be considered by international communities.
Women and armed conflicts
Islamic Republic of Iran Constitution

In order to safeguarding the national interests and preserving the Islamic Revolution, the territorial integrity and national sovereignty, a Supreme Council for National Security presided over by the President shall be constituted to fulfill the following responsibilities:

1. Determining the defense and national security policies within the framework of general policies determined by the Leader.
2. Coordination of activities in the areas relating to politics, intelligence, social, cultural and economic fields in regard to general defense and security policies.
3. Exploitation of materialistic and intellectual resources of the country for facing the internal and external threats. (Article 176- Supreme Council for National Security)

The charter of women's rights and responsibilities in I.R.IRAN

- Having the right to preserve physical well being and prevent physical abuse during wartime, captivity and military occupation by any necessary support(clause 126 section 3)
- Having the right and responsibility to defend their religion, country, life and other women(clause 124 section 3)
- Having the right to participate and provide fair world peace(clause 125 section 3)

World and the effect of armed conflict on women

It has been years since human right subjects are the basis of executive policy making of UN, but parallel to this fact, concepts such as occupation, war, assassination, and violence have been created and millions of people have been harmed in 20th an 21st century consequently. Therefore the question rises that considering reinforcement
of civil structures and international supervisions, why are we witnessing increasing violence in the world?

If in fact international communities are moving toward the fulfillment of a better life for human beings why UN is not moving in the same direction and certain groups' interest is the basis of its policy making?

So before we consider losses due to war in Middle East and its effect on Iran, we shall consider some points:

- UN has not been dealing with the issue of armed conflict fundamentally and therefore its activities are based on repairing the damage of war and armed conflicts. Making camps for refugees of war in Palestine, Darfur and Afghanistan or distribution of food and medicine to people inflicted by chemical bombardment or cluster bombs or supporting women harmed and abused during wartime are all examples of such approach, while fighting occupying movements or governmental terrorism are not among the priorities of this organization and this attitude is accepted by the international community.

- Not being equipped with mechanisms of controlling power, wealth and information of so-called developed countries has left UN surrendering to certain countries' will and dominance in the world by the right of veto in UN despite its democratic tendencies and approaches as far as development of political, cultural and economic power of developed countries is equal to insecurity of less developed countries, in other words, development of industrialized countries is only possible through insecurity and instability of less developed countries. Lack of international punishment is the reason for human right breaching countries to be serving as watchdogs during wartime by international organizations. Even today discrimination and inconsistency between decisions made by UN and its subsequent organizations internationally exist more than
ever whose witness is Iran's nuclear case which from one side IAEA votes for Iran's peaceful nuclear energy programs but UN despite technical consideration of IAEA passes resolutions against Iran

- Considering the approaches of UN toward reaching peace by means of gender equality, reveals that this issue has been dealt with superficially, for instance clauses 15 and 16 of special session document of general assembly of UN which has emphasized on non-violent resolution of conflicts, while violence against women has not been dealt with in a uniform manner but it is decided based on political and economic interests. So the question remains unanswered that if gender equality is problem solving, why women do not have the right to veto in UN?

**Iran and armed conflicts**

Iran is among those countries that within the last 30 years and after the Islamic revolution in 1979 with over 98% of people supporting it, has been the target of terrorist attack, war, armed conflicts and their consequences in its common borders. In fact foreign movements play the key role in this regard; terrorist attacks on Iran's leaders as well as common people individually or in public even in holy places by terrorist groups are an example of such attempts which are supported by western countries. Another example is imposed Iraq war against Iran with countries having the right to veto were the suppliers of armament and information. Also military movements in Persian Gulf and Iran's common border with Afghanistan and provoking different ethnic groups inside Iran are other examples of such conspiracies in recent decades. Damage and harms due to such conflicts in Iran does not include only martyrs, injured and captives but other irreparable harms have been done on their relatives (mothers, daughters and spouses) during wartime. In fact women are deliberately targeted for sexual abuse as well as being affected by peripheral damage of war (field mines, chemical contamination and consequences of economic
sanctions including food, medicine, medical instruments and etc. such insecurities are not limited to military areas and armed conflicts, attacking Iran's passenger airplane by Vincennes in Persian Gulf show that if the international community has failed to fulfill gender equality individually and publicly in the world, it has been successful in making gender equality in killing innocent people!

**Statistics of martyrs, veterans and captives**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Female martyrs</th>
<th>Female veterans</th>
<th>Set free after captivity prison of war</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6402</td>
<td>6785</td>
<td>150</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Statistics related to female martyrs and veterans/accident**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Female martyrs</th>
<th>Set free after captivity</th>
<th>Disabled females</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Holy defense(war)</td>
<td>429</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>291</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bombardment(war)</td>
<td>5723</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6327</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assassination</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Statistics related to all relatives of martyrs and veterans**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>martyrs</th>
<th>disabled</th>
<th>Set free after captivity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mother</td>
<td>144,663</td>
<td>44,357</td>
<td>8,034</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spouse</td>
<td>61,052</td>
<td>313,155</td>
<td>41,076</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daughter</td>
<td>73,536</td>
<td>375,252</td>
<td>43,772</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>279,251</td>
<td>732,764</td>
<td>92,882</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Islamic republic of Iran as well as suffering heavy losses after the Iraq's imposed war, has been facing the consequences of war in its common borders with Iraq and Afghanistan (US attacks) and in Persian Gulf (Iraq's attack to Kuwait) which has resulted in migration and taking refuge of a large population (around 1,200,000 women) from those countries to Iran. In fact Iran has been the first country in accepting refugees in the world for years. Of course, based on difficult situation in Iran after 8 years of war against Iraq, this issue has increased the pressure on Iran.

**Measures**

Some of the measures adopted in this regard by Iran through certain organizations such as national Security Council, ministry of interior affairs, foundation of martyrs and veterans, Basij, women and family affairs center, ministry of cooperatives and organization of social security are as follows:

- Recovering spiritual damage of victims, women and children after the Iraq's imposed war against Iran and also female refugees and migrants from Afghanistan, Iraq and Arabic women in Persian Gulf neighboring countries via the following:
  - health, training and social security programs
  - establishment of organizations such as foundation of martyrs and veterans for social and individual needs of victims
  - filing claims for the compensation of disability, death and harms against the producers of armaments especially chemical ones
  - reinforcing NGOs for the protection of victims of violence of wars and its consequences
- compensating spiritual loss of women and children affected by war and also Iraqi and Afghan women via:
- official and non official educational programs
- establishment and supporting scientific and cultural associations
- Allocating certain number of entries to universities for compensating the backwardness caused by war...
- promoting the social status of families of victims of war
- Compensating physical damage of women and children affected by war via increasing social security and medical centers and the following:
  - enactment of children and adolescents supporting law by the parliament
  - financial supports including provision of housing, schools and cooperatives
  - facilitating marriage for migrants and compensating losses due to their reduction of population and race
  - facilitating employment of female migrants and medical facilities and holding family planning programs
  - facilitating legal support for migrants' marriage to Iranians and their children

**Future programs**
Islamic republic of Iran as well as trying to reinforce its defense programs against foreign threats wishes to support international war victims especially women and children and also try to reinforce and increase global peace by means of political measures based on international and regional common interests

**Recommendations**
- Redefining the concepts of violence, defense and occupation internationally and finding the causes of war of attrition in the Middle East which has endangered the stability and security of the region
- Trying to restore morality in international laws
- Establishing legal foundations as a medium to develop fair and just attitudes internationally via the organization of Islamic conference
Women and economy
**Islamic Republic of Iran Constitution**

- Every individual has the right to choose a job which he/she wishes and is not in contradiction with Islamic rules and other's rights, Government shall according to societies demand for work, provide individuals with equal working opportunities. (Article 28)

**The charter of women's rights and responsibilities in the Islamic republic of Iran**

- having the right to enjoy work and salaries during marriage time (clause 28, section 2)
- having the right to enjoy equality in work benefits in equal working condition (clause 104, section 3)
- having the right to own one's properties and asset observing the legal and religious limitations (clause 29, section 3)
- having the right to be employed after reaching legal working age and freedom of choosing desirable careers and using her own capital, observing Islamic rules in earning money and using it (clause 101, section 3)
- having the right to receive regular payments from one's husband for housework's if needed and demanded and supporting the necessity and influence of women's works at home on family's economy and national income (clause 98)

**Our world and women economy**

Today, subject, objective and phases of development are all based on economic development for their existence, so what has been emphasized in Beijing's platform of action that is women's access to economic resources and equality in employment is considered the most superficial relation between women and economy in this regard. In other words, general economic development consists of different factors the most
important of which is long term policy making of society's economic direction and if such directions and tendencies are in favor of raising capital and using natural and human resources then men and women instead of playing roles in the equation of economic growth will be subordinates. Therefore, not only individual's attitudes and behavior in the society are based on policy making directions and tendencies but they also determine economic-based approach in taking political and cultural stances of societies. But of course today several related consequences are threatening human communities:

- In capital-based economy, social difference is the major factor in economic equations, therefore having equal access to economic resources in this system is not possible and people's income and capital raise determine their social status, so competitive atmosphere for men and women exists only in each limited social class.

- Variety and greed either in consumption or in individual and social form is the major factor in developing economic capitalism for production, so there is a direct relationship among consumption, production cycle, concepts, tools and social structures. According to human development report of the United Nation, basic education of all people around the world is 6 billion dollars while in the United States of America only 8 billion dollars is spent annually on cosmetic products. Also the cost of installation of drinking water and related facilities for the global community is around 9 billion dollars while in Europe 11 billion dollars is annually spent on buying ice cream.

In such a world increase of women work force can only lead to a competition for filling more job opportunities and capitalist system's more benefit and consequently women's having equal job opportunities will turn into a mere deceiving slogan in the long run. We have witnessed in the last decades in the international community that women's work force is considered as being second in priority. That means massive groups of
women agree to accept lower level job opportunities and lower salaries in order to have jobs. Therefore equality in employment is only possible in some service works or unimportant jobs which is another oppression imposed on women.

Making changes in global economy's basic principles and having political, cultural and economic justice seem to be the only solution to this issue because systems that accept discrimination within them do not have the power to create equality even in the smallest issues.

**Iran and women economy**

During the years following the Islamic revolution Iran has gone through lots of economic hardships due to eight years of imposed war against Iraq and economic sanctions and unprecedented immigration of Afghani and Iraqi people to Iran because of war in the region, therefore regarding economy, our governments have tried to build and reinforce production infrastructures in the entire country and despite international economic and political pressures has progressed a lot, which means increasing working opportunities for men and women.

Economic independence and ownership are considered as basic rights of women in Islamic republic of Iran according to our religious and historical background, so attempts have been made to reinforce economic facilities for women in two major fields:

- Increasing women economic power in individual and family level including supporting rules regarding "MAHRIYEH" and other basic requirements of women provided by their husbands

- Supporting women participation in economic affairs via passing work laws including forbiddance of women working in hazardous and hard conditions according to clause 75 of work laws of I.R.Iran, laws against firing pregnant women, 185 days off work
after delivery with full salaries, considering days off work because of delivery as one's service record, considering breast-feeding time for 1 hour each day for two years after delivery, forbiddance of compulsory works and children works, freedom of forming and gatherings of related work unions, increasing loan giving in agriculture and handcraft to women with advantages over men for women running the family.

Based on what has been done in this regard, women economic developments according to statistics are as follows:

- Increase in the rate of women economic activities from 12.93% in the year 1355(1976) to 15% in the year 1385(2006)
- Women employment rate in agriculture during the years 1355 to 1385 has increased by 35.05% which according to men employment rate in this field has had a dramatic raise, for instance in some specialty fields such as agricultural engineering women have 39% of the job opportunities.
- Rate of women employment in industry section in the year 1385 was 33.05%
- Rate of women employment in the year 1385 was 41.1% which during the years 1355 to 1385 had a 32.93% growth
- Growth rate of employment of women in governmental positions during the years 1365(1987) to 1385(2006) was 77.5%
- Allocating facilities to village cooperatives for women from 1384(2005) to 1385(2006) was 2.5 times more than previous years and the number of credit institutes between 1383(2004) to 1385(2006) had a 22.7% growth
- Growth rate of establishment of women cooperatives between 1376(1995) to 1385(2006) was 958.7%, of course the number of female members of such cooperatives has had a lot of fluctuation in the last ten years which might be due to lack of experience and not supporting modern mobilization in production and technology based on market demand.
• The percentage of women working in major occupations as specialists and technicians in the year 1385(2005) in rural regions was 30% and in city regions was 44.08%.

**Measures**

Ministries and economic organizations working regarding enabling women and their participation in economic affairs are as follows:

• Ministry of economic affairs and finance
• Ministry of cooperatives
• Ministry of social security
• The center for women and family affairs
• Ministry of science, research and technology
• Ministry of education
• Ministry of industries and mines
• Ministry of agriculture

All of whom have contributed to create women independence, ownership and employment, and have paved the ground for using women potentials in production and increase national production.

Some of their major activities are as follows:

• Investment in regard to increasing women efficiency level in production, distribution and consumption
• Programming for resolving and eliminating problems occurred due to economic sanctions and restraining factors in women economic activities
• Developing social securities including unemployment insurances, taking measures to compensate for those working unofficially, creating more job opportunities and
increasing women education and specialty level

- Supporting more job opportunities regarding women rural cooperatives via establishing micro credit organizations
- Reinforcing unions and rural cooperatives in order to financially support women villagers via facilitating their access to production resources, land, capital and rights of ownership
- Implementing house wives insurance plan
- Reinforcing women self employment via allocating facilities and supporting vocational trainings
- Allocating provincial credits of executive organizations to women affairs
- Reinforcing women commercial and trade network via developing IT
- Establishing uniform and income-generating formations in order to cover funds and credit centers' activities
- Tendering appropriate approaches in line with the establishment of production institutes
- Updating the information of women assemblies by sending new rules and regulations for them
- Stopping illegal and middle man activities via cooperatives and by requiring employers to submit and announce their job vacancies to employment centers
- Reinforcing job-seeking network via developing information systems required for the applicants, employers, investors and etc. and also having sample annual statistics on workforce and employment interaction
- Developing vocational on job training and education in order to promote the quantity and quality of employment

Although according to estimations, women work force will relatively grow by the year
1390(2011), managing and directing this trend especially regarding developing early profit economic organizations has been under government's spotlight from different perspectives:

First, on the way to achieving desirable economic conditions, society's workforce structure has changed a lot hoping to increase its efficiency and by developing such economic organizations regarding women employment, society's development is going to be based on human workforce.

Second, the major objective of early profit organizations is to prevent different roles of women to intervene, because women often have different roles such as being a mother, a spouse and social roles simultaneously, so women self employment and facilitating their current working condition can prevent their roles from intervention and help them have economic advantages and have a chance to gain experience in leadership and management.

Third, one of the historical mistakes in world economy which has imposed on women is decision making regarding the roles they "want" and "can" accept, the most important role of such organizations is to leave it to women to choose their jobs, in this way forming such organizations and cooperatives can help compensate for this problem.

**Future programming**

Islamic republic of Iran's approach toward developing women participation in country's economy is based on justice and equilibrium and all future programs are based on eliminating discrimination in different social levels, therefore our country's programming is to recruit women in production economy based on their efficiency and new ideas and since our economic programming priorities are to prevent undesirable consequences of economic limitations imposed on our country and preserve our
economic independence, it is necessary to activate all human resources especially women in this regard in order for economic development to be in its actual path.

**Recommendations**

- Changes in the mechanism of international loan giving since its return conditions impose a lot of pressure on weak countries' economy and decrease their development ranking
- Considering legal approaches internationally to control economic oppression which has irreparable consequences for women and children
- Forming commercial-economic network and work generating bank of Islamic women in order to be familiarize with regions economic potentials and exchanging information and identifying new financial, commercial markets of the region.
Women in power and decision making
Islamic Republic of Iran Constitution

1. The elimination of all forms of despotism and autocracy and all attempts to monopolize power; (Article 3-section 6)

2. The participation of the entire people in determining their political, economic, social, and cultural destiny. (Article 3-section 8)

3. All civil, penal financial, economic, administrative, cultural, military, political, and other laws and regulations must be based on Islamic criteria. This principle applies absolutely and generally to all articles of the Constitution as well as to all other laws and regulations, and the fuqaha' of the Guardian Council are judges in this matter. (Article 4)

The charter of women's rights and responsibilities in the Islamic republic of Iran

- Responsibility of active and effective presence in Islamic, regional and international assemblies, observing national interests and legal principles (clause 118 section 4)

- Having the right to participate in policy and decision making of educational and scientific management and being actively present in cultural and scientific assemblies domestically and internationally (clause 82 section 2)

- Having the right and responsibility of being informed and participate in changing and revising major rules and regulations of the country in order to protect and reinforce Islamic system (clause 112, section 4)

Our world and women in power and decision making

Today world's attitude shows a crisis in different political, cultural and economic issues and undoubtedly one of the challenges in this regard is women and the way governments support them.

In fact from decades ago, women have been the criteria of measuring justice and
development of governments, however due to not recognizing the high value and status of women, only some amendments have been made regarding their issues and if different perspectives would be taken into consideration, we might be able to realize and consider unpleasant mental, behavioral and social problems. In that case concepts such as development, equality and etc. need major revisions.

Among the factors involved in today world's development is the gender empowerment measures which shows the availability of political, parliamentary, technical and specialty careers for women. In this regard some facts should be taken into consideration:

According to UN reports on human development, pressures due to existing gaps between richness and poverty still affect women and children directly. These cause the most world's abnormalities.

- The three richest people in the world have a wealth equal to (or more than) gross national product of all under-developed countries with population of more than 600 million people
- 20% of the rich portion of the population of the "first world" earns money 96 times more than 20% of the third world countries population
- International communities and developed countries use "considering women situation based on gender empowerment measures" as a tool to exert pressure and condemn developing countries, although considering various letters of agreements regarding women passed in international communities shows that the result of their prediction in such documents and their subjects which are" areas of women participation" has not come true yet:
  - women only possess 2% of high economic ranks
  - only 15% of cabinet members in the world comprises women
- only 3.5% of secretaries of cabinets comprises women

In general, women situation and condition in all countries is not different from each other regarding gender empowerment measures and even though some countries try to highlight their success regarding women's right, if we consider facilities allocated to women we come to understanding that women have failed to even have their basic rights.

- Nowadays trends in creating "need" in human societies are started by creating motivations in producing "need" such as women in power, afterward based on development of communications "need" is created in different forms and distributed and tools to satisfy those needs are released into the consumption market in economic, cultural and political aspects.

Forming of cultural patterns and even political strategic programming are also parts of this trend.

It is worth to mention that even though people will virtually see the product, in the process of production "motivation" and "thought" are the most important factors in pre-production phase for which research centers and organizations are responsible.

Now if we consider our subject which is political participation of women in international arenas equal to participation in political power for which production, distribution and consumption trend exist, the following arenas from political point of view can be evaluated and mentioned:

- Arena of "being the generator of power" and "thoughts- generating" authority
- Arena of "distribution of power" and "decision making" authority
- Arena of "consumption or using the power" in executive aspect

In fact the most important factor in women participation in international "decision-generating" is having social, organizational, individual and career autonomy. In this case only, it is possible for women to participate in decision-generating, decision-making and
even executing part.

Today due to not realizing women abilities, social and cultural limitations and their appropriate status in political, cultural and economic arenas, their participation has been limited to executive and middle-level management, and such superficial participation of women can not help resolve their condition and situation because such participation does not have a justice-based society in which all people can have opportunities according to their behavioral, spiritual and mental capacities.

It is worth mentioning that women like other groups experience modern skills in some areas of power but they have realized as time passes that social authority and political identity are not actual, so it is necessary to challenge fundamental concepts in area of power:

- Participation of women in some careers is of a high importance to governments. International communities are also trying to present practical instructions for defining political identity in all countries. This trend exists in all countries in the same way regardless of cultural, political and economic differences, but we can claim that women's not having authority is evident. Of course in so-called developed countries women and men somewhat have the power to choose regarding individual and minor issues, but having the authority to determine political inclination and make policies seems impossible since required strategies are determined by international agents in favor of particular groups. It seems that international communities' insisting on increasing the number of women in political and other particular arenas is because they wish to make political and cultural changes and many other social crisis in the world which may change political equations or on the other hand admiring and praising certain groups, certain nations and certain governments all of which can only come true via massive participation of women.
- The rate of growth of women members of city and village councils between 1376(1998) to 1382(2004) is 79.76%

- The rate of growth of women executives in middle levels has risen dramatically. Among all careers, men comprised 0.52% and women comprised 0.11% of executives, law makers and high rank officials in the year 1977, while in the year 1385(2007) this percentage increased by 2.9% for men and 3.36% for women which shows 29.54 times increase in women part.

- 48 women are working as women representatives in ministries and governmental organizations and also 30 women are working as director generals of women affairs centers in different provinces.

According to Islamic republic of Iran's point of view, justice is brought to women when they do not consider themselves equal to men physically and mentally, but consider themselves to be in equilibrium with men regarding their status and have correspondent responsibilities and avoid superficial presence in the society, in this case it is possible for women to participate in power and thought-generating since political issues are then dealt with based on the nature of women which tends to pay particular attention to women and children issues. This means that women presence in organizations such as UN can prevent many abnormalities including wars from happening.

**Measures**

Women participation in all levels of political, social and cultural decision making in the Islamic republic of Iran is of great importance, so all ministries and organizations have an agreement in women's having more active participation in power for two main reasons: the first reason is the increase in the number of graduated women specialists in Iran and using the potentials of this active group in different technical, scientific and
artistic areas, and second reason is that their participation in decision making makes it easier to have legal and social approaches to resolve their career problems in families as well as the society. According to such necessities, women affairs centers have been established in all ministries and other executive organizations after the Islamic revolution with the aim of considering women issues from feminine perspective in different areas in ministries. Some of the measures adopted regarding enabling women to participate in political issues and promoting management of the elite in political power are as follows:

- Appointing specialist women as deputies and consultants to president regarding women affairs and the environment
- Appointing women as governors, governors of a district and deputy of governors
- Women working as members of city and village councils
- Paving the ground for active participation of women in forming parties
- Holding training courses with the aim of developing women's executive capacities and skills to participate in international communities
- Forming women fraction in the parliament
- Paving the ground for candidacy of women in the elections of parliament, supreme city councils and consulting committees to government
- Dispatching women specialists to international seminars and conferences by ministries
- Facilitating the establishment of women NGOs
- Encouraging women decision making in towns and villages consisting of different ethnic groups

Future programming

Despite massive participation of women as voters in Iran which is more than men, their achievements do not show their real power in decision-making and responsibilities as
their real share as the half of the population of the society.

The government of Islamic republic of Iran for increasing the high quality participation of women in decision-making and power as well as improving governmental affairs by means of developing programs and charter of women's rights and responsibilities is trying to overcome all common obstacles to women issues and problems.

**Recommendations**

As every country has a representative in the UN and because of the importance of giving women their entitled rights and miscellaneous consideration of their problems (not simultaneous with public cultural and social issues) women can have representatives as well for the betterment of their condition:

- Based on deprivation and population of every continent, one or two representatives can be appointed (for north America and Europe 1 and for Asia and Africa 2 representatives)
- Criteria of appointing representatives should be based on requirements and domestic problems of the region and the ability of the person to resolve such problems and deprivations
- Selecting a woman as the member of UN Security Council for overcoming insecurity and detriment inflicted on women and children due to issues such as armed conflicts, economic sanctions, international threats and legal inequalities.
- Programming and facilitating the increase of women influence and thought-generating in power
Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women
Islamic Republic of Iran Constitution

The government must ensure the rights of women in all respects, in conformity with Islamic criteria, and accomplish the following goals:

1. Create a favorable environment for the growth of woman's personality and the restoration of her rights, both the material and intellectual; (Article 21-section 1)

The charter of women's rights and responsibilities in the Islamic republic of Iran

- having the right and responsibility of acquiring information and participating in the decision-making and determining the future policies of the country for the purpose of preserving and reinforcing the Islamic system(clause 112, section 4)

- having the right and responsibility of participating in social affairs and supervision in order to lead the society to divinity and preventing it from falling into behavioral immoralities(clause 113, section 4)

- having the right to establish parties and other political formations observing the independence of the country, national unity and actions that are to the best of Islamic system(clause 115, section 4)

- having the right to participate in elections and be elected in parliament and other councils and cooperate in governmental programming and taking high rank managerial positions(clause 116, section 4)

- Having the right to expand communication and exchange constructive political information between Iranian and world women observing national interests and legislation(clause 118, section 4)

World and institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women

One of the measures taken to develop and reinforce women condition in the world
is forming national organizations and considering institutional mechanisms based on domestic needs of each country. Such mechanisms can create a balanced attitude toward men and women in laws, policies and major and minor decisions in national and international scales which will result in a desirable and appropriate status for women in every society.

**Iran and institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women**

Islamic republic of Iran in an attempt to create desirable mechanisms for the advancement of women has made remarkable achievements. Today in almost all organizations and law-making and executive assemblies in the whole country, certain divisions are assigned to pose and consider women issues and problems in their programming. Iran's policies are based on equilibrium instead of gender equality and allocating appropriate status and position to people regardless of their gender.

Women issues entering strategic arenas in 20-year-perspective documents and countries development programs show the effect of such mechanisms to create a special attitude toward women issues to develop their appropriate status.

Here is a quotation from late Imam Khomeini the 1st supreme leader of the Islamic republic of Iran whose words are the basis of development programs of the country: "in political arena of our country there are women who can analyze complicated political issues and are ready to accept executive responsibilities in the system and this trend is increasing.

Therefore the most important priority in creation of suitable Organization for women in Cultural promotion is to empowering women instead of gender equality or gender mainstreaming issues.
### Measures

Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women and women in power and decision-making

The activities of Islamic Republic of Iran in this regard could be summarized in this charter.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategic objectives</th>
<th>Measures</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. promoting women career condition and assuring opportunities for their participation in decision-making arenas</td>
<td>1. appointment of women as consultants and deputy to president regarding women affairs and environment</td>
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<td>2. appointment of women as governors and governors of districts</td>
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<td>3. appointment of women as consultants to ministers and deputies of ministers and director general of organizations working regarding women affairs</td>
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<td>4. supporting city and village councils in selecting women as mayors and other officials</td>
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<td>5. paving the ground for women participation in election arenas by women in charge of provinces’ high councils</td>
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<td>6. paving the ground for active participation of women in determining political elections of the country such as parliament</td>
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<td>7. electing women in Islamic city and village councils</td>
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<td>organization</td>
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<td>1. the center for women and family affairs</td>
<td>Executive power</td>
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<td>2. commission of women, family and youth affairs</td>
<td>Legislative power</td>
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<td>3. sociocultural council of women</td>
<td>Supreme council of cultural revolution</td>
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<td>4. Women affair offices in ministries as director general or consultant to minister</td>
<td>Executive power</td>
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<td>5. Women general governor offices in provinces</td>
<td>Executive power</td>
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<td>6. Women and youth committee</td>
<td>Expediency council</td>
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<td>7. Women research centers</td>
<td>Ministry of science research and technology</td>
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<td>8. Women career service centers</td>
<td>Ministry of labor and social affairs</td>
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<td>9. General office of women affairs in legislative power</td>
<td>Legislative power</td>
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<tr>
<td>10. General office of human rights and women in the ministry of foreign affairs</td>
<td>Ministry of foreign affairs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women affair centers in municipalities in the whole country</td>
<td>Such centers are to develop and promote cultural status of women living in cities throughout the country, also cultural and sports centers such as culture houses have been established many of which are peculiar to women and young girls</td>
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The center for women and family affairs as one of the decision-making centers in long term executive policy making of country is considering women and family high status in its general policies within the constitution law. Its objectives are as follows:

1. Increasing the participation of women in family and society via scientific and expert consideration of the issue and rendering the results to the government, parliament, women socio-cultural councils and other legislative organizations in order to define rules and regulations for adopting long-term policies

2. Changing the attitudes and beliefs toward women in order to have a better recognition of their current situation and visualizing their desirable life style in the family and society

3. Reinforcing the foundation of families as the best way to grow dignified human beings and for morality to survive in the society

4. Introducing Muslim women as a paradigm of liberty and liberty of thoughts and a determining factor in political, social and cultural decision-making and reinforcing managerial roles of women in national and international scales and explaining Islamic
republic of Iran's stance on women position and prestige.

5. Realizing the problems of women in the family, society and workplace and considering revision and enactment of new laws for overcoming such problems.

6. Establishing relationship with governmental and research organizations in other countries for bilateral cooperation

7. Supporting NGOs working regarding women and family affairs

Legislative and executive policies regarding women affairs

• According to developing programs of the country (clause A article 111, fourth program) which have elaborated on concepts and desirable and appropriate status of women in the society and practical ways to achieve them, all executive organizations shall foresee all costs and credits in their budget to perform relevant duties in this regard with the collaboration of women and family affair center.

Compilation of the charter of women's rights and responsibilities in the Islamic republic of Iran has been finished based on Islamic Republic of Iran Constitution, supreme leader's points of view and the following principles and in the hope that it can bring justice and fairness to the community of Muslim women:

• Islamic rules and legal system
• Recognition and having faith in God
• Illustrating the rights and responsibilities of women in individual, social, political, cultural and family affairs
• Constitution law
• Attitudes and view points of the founder of Islamic republic of Iran and our supreme leader
• General policies of the system and 20-year perspective document

This comprehensive charter according to the clauses 1&18 of the responsibilities of
the council of Cultural Revolution is the basis of cultural, social and political policy making and has been ratified in 3 sections, 5 articles and 148 clauses in the session number 546, 21/9/2004, of the supreme council of cultural revolution therefore all related organizations shall consider the principles of the charter in adopting their policies regarding women affairs and use it as the basis of introducing Muslim Iranian women to international communities.

NGOs and women participation in social arenas

In order to facilitate and increase women's active participation in social and political arenas, governments actions is not sufficient only, so in the Islamic republic of Iran
based on people's needs non governmental organizations (NGO) regarding women affairs have been established whose growth show social demand for their existence.

With the government's support from the mid seventies (1990) women NGOs have been expanding increasingly. At this time and to the end of year 1375 (1997) around 55 women NGOs were working while at the beginning of the year 1386 (2008) this number has reached 759 organizations which shows 904% growth (report of socio-cultural council of women).

As the ground has been paved for women's increasing role in the country, it seems necessary to reinforce and optimize these mechanisms to facilitate the ever increasing advancement of Iranian women.

**Future programs**

One of the biggest obstacles in the way of achieving institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women throughout the world is not having an organized and long term approach toward women affairs; this has resulted in having short-term and individual approach toward this issue. So Islamic republic of Iran is trying to change world's attitude and create real and efficient mechanisms toward women affairs and deem it necessary for women to participate in long-term development internationally including electing real women representatives in the UN with VETO right (if this right remains the same for the 5 countries) who can participate in decision-making for this large group from their own perspective.

**Recommendations**

- Creating and facilitating women's participation in decision-generating and decision-making of world's development in organizations such as World Trade Center, United
Nations and etc.

- Defining regional and local standards (in international scale) for considering women condition and advancement
- Considering requirements of every society based on women participation in social arenas
- Having coordination and unanimity in dealing with women affairs among all concerning organizations in order to prevent repetition and waste of energy
Women and human rights
The Islamic Republic of Iran Constitution

1. 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 20)

2. Free education and physical training for everyone at all levels, and the facilitation and expansion of higher education; (Article 3-section 3)

3. No one can be banished from his place of residence, prevented from residing in the place of his choice, or compelled to reside in a given locality, except in cases provided by law. (Article 33)

4. Innocence is to be presumed, and no one is to be held guilty of a charge unless his or her guilt has been established by a competent court. (Article 37)

5. 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 19)

6. 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. (Article 38)

The charter of women's rights and responsibilities in the Islamic republic of Iran

- Having the liberty of thoughts and immunity from having any belief (clause 3, section 1)

- Having the right of being an Iranian citizen for every woman and taking away this right at their request (clause 8, section 1)
• Freedom of women practicing Islam and other countries’ official religions and their freedom to hold religious ceremonies within the framework of law (clause 9, section 1)
• Freedom of Iranian women in using regional and local clothing and covers and practicing their customs if not in contradiction with ethics (clause 10, section 1)
• Immunity of women from financial and spiritual loss considering other’s rights (clause 11, section 1)
• Having the right to enjoy social justice in practicing law regardless of the gender

Our world and women’s rights

In this era one of the most controversial issues in the international community is the human rights. After the disasters of the world war one and two, the human rights declaration was ratified as a global charter to observe human rights. In Beijing conference for emphasizing the importance of this issue, women and human rights were considered as the basis of programming in different countries. But as time passed and war mongering continued and different governments toppled with a lot of bloodshed it was determined that not only documents such as human rights and not observing them do not have any possible sanctions but it will also be easily overlooked by world superpowers and oppressors if it is in contradiction with their interest.

The manifestation of such ignorance is the human rights situation in Iraq, Iran (during Iraq imposed war), Palestine, Afghanistan and Lebanon whose victims are women and children.

The settlers of these lands have long been living under very difficult environmental circumstances and witness superpowers violate human rights and veto the UN resolutions against Israel.

Also recent warmongering in the Persian Gulf has resulted in thousands of innocent
people's death or injury due to the use of chemical weapons (Iran and Iraq war) and homelessness and refuge of millions of others. Even the most basic human rights are violated with some lame excuses and no country can stand against undemocratic Vetoes in the United Nations.

- Human right is in fact supervising socio-cultural, political and economic security and when each one is threatened and endangered other rights are overshadowed. For instance, world is now witnessing social and economic threats from world oppressors and UN support of such political and economic sanctions, so issues such as gender and its perspective which is one the areas of activities of high commissariat of human rights and human rights commission are mere slogans. In today's world first we need to have more practical approaches toward dealing with issues such as racism and religious-fighting in organizations and hegemony systems. How is it possible that countries which were the creator and instructor of human rights in the world be convicted of human rights violation?

So factors that are considered in the international documents as obstacles in the way of fulfillment of human rights such as not having access to law, illiteracy and not observing the women's rights are not considered –even though true–the main reasons for the gap between UN expectancy and fulfillment of those rights for women, in fact the main reasons are view points of capitalist systems in countries for abusing women and military occupation.

- The international communities' two-sided approach toward the issue of human rights has resulted in purposeful violation of human rights in favor of military and economic powers. Iran is also affected by such approaches toward human rights especially regarding women. During the years of Iraq imposed war, Iranian women were experiencing the most severe form of human rights violation; massacre of
innocent women (5723 women were killed in the bombardment of BAATH regime of Iraq), disability and having defected limbs (6785 women), injuries due to chemical bombardment, bearing the hardship of living with their disabled husbands and seeing their pain, insecurity in the region and pressures of economic sanctions are just some examples of dangers threatening the women of our country both physically and spiritually. But unfortunately such blatant violation of human right was never considered by the international communities and leaders of the issue of human rights were the ones who supplied SADDAM HUSSEIN with chemical weapons, espionage and financial support whose historical documentation is available.

**Iran, women and human rights**

Based on the Islamic republic of Iran's strategy for preserving human rights, justice and trust which has emanated from the Islamic, cultural and Iranian background and anti-discriminating belief, Iran has started long-term programming in social, family and individual levels to emphasize women's rights:

- Women's rights in "social level" which can promote their status in the society for a better development of issues such as employment, political rights, women participation, health and sanitation, general education, insurance and ethnic and religious minorities is one of the most important manifestations of human rights in every society. In the Islamic republic of Iran official religious minorities are at liberty to continue their religious activities and in cases such as divorce, inheritance, will and marriage can follow their own customs. Even though religious minorities are fewer in members in the society, they have their independent member in the parliament and can have direct influence in decision-making of the country. Also their women can form their own unions and have all the citizenship rights as their fellow countrymen.
• Women's rights in "family level" have a bilateral relationship with social and individual rights. Ensuring family rights by the executive organizations in the Islamic republic of Iran is the basis of individual health and prevention of many social maladies and abnormalities. One of such rights which is the women's advantage in Iran comparing to western countries is "Nafagheh" which is the money paid regularly to ones wife during their marriage. According to laws and commitments of marriage, men shall provide accommodation, sanitation and food for his family, so most of the Iranian women's concern in life is promoting and developing educational and cultural aspects of their lives and political issues.

• Women's rights in "individual level" are focused on individual rights and as well as constitution law of the Islamic republic of Iran, civil and judiciary laws and charter of women's rights and responsibilities have emphasized women's rights. The main factors of individual rights consist of immunity of life, properties and reputation, liberty of thoughts and beliefs and having a decent life and a healthy body.

**Measures**

Executive structures responsible to uphold women's rights in the Islamic republic of Iran are as follows:

• The center for women and family affairs
• Socio-cultural center of women
• Ministry of justice
• The general office of women and human rights of the ministry of foreign affairs
• Network of women NGOs
• Women and children office in the judiciary power
Women and the media
Islamic Republic of Iran Constitution

1. The freedom of expression and dissemination of thoughts in the Radio and Television of the Islamic Republic of Iran must be guaranteed in keeping with the Islamic' criteria and the best interests of the country. (Article 175)

2. The inspection of letters and the failure to deliver them, the recording and disclosure of telephone conversations, the disclosure of telegraphic and telex communications, censorship, or the willful failure to transmit them, eavesdropping, and all forms of covert investigation are forbidden, except as provided by law. (Article 25)

The charter of women's rights and responsibilities in the Islamic republic of Iran

- Freedom of speech (clause 114, section 3)

Our world and the media

Today the media is one of the most powerful tools which as well as interacting with the outer world has two main applications.

First, regarding major strategies with the help of consistent and consolidate messages, concepts and subjects forms attitudes and beliefs which can support security and regional policies and impose them on people based on the objectives of countries dominating the media.

Second, in national scale, the media plays an important role in changing society's tendencies, thoughts and behavior.

These days because of the development of multi-media technology it seems possible to use the media in larger scales and national scale, also because of the development of communication infrastructure especially the Internet it seems that occupying one's mind by images and sounds have replaced exchanging useful information for the development
of lifestyles and societies.

In other words, the media has turned into complicated tools with two different applications:

On one hand the virtual area of the media visualizes an ideal community in which people can exchange ideas and thoughts freely, but in fact they are under the influence of beneficiaries of information producers, distributors and consumers. We can find more limitations in digital media than in other media in a way that the free capital market under the control of private sector is not willing by any means to direct power and authority especially regarding the Internet to others.

- Based on this issue world is now facing a media and digital gap especially in developing countries which is putting languages, ethnics and religions in the following dangers:
  - Weakening and changing "real identities" to "virtual identities" which directs world to having single cultures that contradicts the basic principles of human rights that is choosing religion, culture and language.
  - Paving the ground for changing identities can cause loss of national, ethnic and religious trust and valuable customs of different nations and separation of generations and families and can finally lead the world unwillingly toward having single-culture trends
  - Having no control over messages and loads of information you are given and simple and unlimited access to the virtual world have turned people into infatuated consumers which will take the power of thought and choice away from them especially women and children. In fact technology is not serving people, people are serving technology.

**Iran, women and the media**

After the Islamic revolution the media has had dramatic changes especially in the
Islamic republic of Iran as the late leader of Iran considered it as a university and today it is well used to create public culture. Today, Policies and programming of the media including IRIB, the press, networks and the Internet are all based on religious and national values.

Also today the media is responsible to emphasize Iranian and Muslim women's role in its programming and policy-making. The attitude of considering women as tools in the media has almost vanished and a new era of their participation in production and being addressed in the media has started.

* Regarding program making in the world and women participation we should say that either they have marginal and unimportant roles or their participation is based on their sexual appeal, in fact women participation has no cultural or educational purpose in today world media.

After the Islamic revolution and because of using Islamic dress codes in the media especially in visual parts, sexual pleasures, sexual application and trespassing women private boundaries in the media have all been eradicated in productions and instead chastity is the basis of women participation in public. Also after the Islamic revolution and because of certain characteristics of women such as affection and artistic appreciation they have been more successful in communication section than men especially more active in sections related to education, training and family management. Also number of women employees in IRIB in technical, engineering and production parts between the years 1997-2007 had 100% growth while this percentage in education, research and programming was 150%.

**Measures**

Executive organizations responsible to increase women participation in the media both
in their quality and quantity are as follows:

- Ministry of education
- Ministry of science, research and technology
- Ministry of culture and Islamic guidance
- Ministry of communication and IT
- IRIB
- Supreme council of information

Some of their activities are as follows:

- Consideration of ethnic variety in Iran and emphasizing the development and stability of family, reinforcing provincial networks in order to preserve and develop the culture and customs of different regions especially regarding their culture, ethnicities and values
- Paving the ground for an ever increasing participation of women in media decision-making
- Creating job opportunities in radio and television program-making, producing and directing
- Increasing the media productions discussing women affairs especially in international programs (49% of JAM E JAM programs are produced by women)
- Allocating more than half of the higher education capacity to women in majors such as journalism, communication science and program-making
- An 8.35 times growth in women participation in the book market as author, publisher and etc.
- Legal protection of women against using them as tools in the media by the supreme council of information
- Establishment of the first women news agency (IWNA) aiming at informing and expressing women abilities and problems
- Launching e-government and allocating special budget for starting projects regarding enabling women in IT and communication fields
- Establishment of ICT centers in villages for the purpose of supporting careers of women villagers

**Future programming**

Women and the media as well as having threatening potentials can have opportunities for creating peace, security and mutual understanding in national, regional and international scale. So Islamic republic of Iran intends to take full advantage of media opportunities and as well as developing and expanding provincial, regional and beyond television and radio networks, with the collaboration of women, try to reproduce various cultural, religious, ethnic and national concepts.

Also In future programs, proposing new concepts of Islamic guidance regarding the role of Muslim Iranian women in creation of international safeguard, security in national scale and trust in family scale are on the agenda.

**Recommendation**

- Changing the media trend from considering women as mere consumers and a property to be possessed to a subject to be cherished and valued and the heart of compassion and a potential being in dealing with individual, family and social affairs. Women are infinite source of initiatives and constructive elements whose pivotal role is determining for the prosperity human being.
- Investment in producing appropriate software for recognition and preservation of local cultures and values of media addresses and training and informing women as influential factor in changing and affecting the cultural identity of the society.
• Enforcing legal and executive laws to support and reinforce people's cooperation in the virtual world instead of controlling it by policy-makers and certain media corporations and highlighting the importance of human rights, freedom of speech and other aspects in the virtual world.

• Investing in research in discovering the basis and dangers of issues such as diversity of opinions and increasing the mental pressures of creation of a virtual and media world along with the real world.
Women and the environment
Islamic Republic of Iran Constitution

1. 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. (Article 50)

The charter of women's rights and responsibilities in the Islamic republic of Iran
- the right of having a safe environment and the responsibility of protecting it

Our world and the environment

The increasing trend of environmental pollution caused by industrialization regardless of serious international supervision can be considered from different perspectives:

- Damaging the environment including excessive use of natural resources has many negative results. Technological activities which can contaminate limited fresh water, soil and air endanger the health of people especially those living in so-called developing countries which is mostly due to contaminations caused by industrialized countries.

The result of such invasions to the environment is hindering the human community's progress in recent decade which directly impair the anti-poverty campaign. Also world's peace and security will be dependent upon a few corporations and economic organizations interest that control the sources of power, wealth and information. So if people's lifestyles and dominance of so-called developed countries are more than the nature's capacity, the survival of human beings will be jeopardized.

- The programs of organizations responsible for protection of the environment either in regional or international scale and even national scale demand changing the attitudes toward consumption tendencies and political inclinations, because changes that occur
in climate and direct production of city garbage and green house gases are the result of developing capitalist economy and changing the consumption pattern and increasing the consumption for more benefit in different societies. So determining global policies can directly affect governmental policies and informing and training more women and children regarding the protection of the environment can not be efficient enough and can be useful only among individuals and families; therefore for achieving this purpose we should have long term and appropriate measures.

- The most important social and cultural tool for creating environmental discipline is to enforce obligatory laws internationally, while if such laws are applicable to national and regional levels we will fail to control and eradicate environmental problems including industrial pollutants and contamination of open seas whose responsible is industrialized and powerful countries and can threaten the health of large part of the population including women, men and children.

- Efforts of policy-makers internationally play the most important role in this regard, since today the United States of America which is the biggest producer of green house (dangerous) gases consider this fact to the extent that it does not prevent them from growth and development of its capitalist economy. Also powerful countries that are contaminating the environment and use nuclear technology in military products prevent other countries from reaching clean energy via exerting pressure on international organizations such as IAEA and Security Council whose manifestation is international pressure on Iran on the way to reach peaceful nuclear energy which continues to be fulfilled by the support of Iranian nation.

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**Iran and the environment**

Since Islamic republic of Iran's laws are based on Islam's guidance and environment
and nature are regarded as God's property and human beings can only use it in an appropriate way and must not do any harm to it. Therefore, environmental issues are sacred and religious, ethical and spiritual trainings are considered important cultural factors preserving the environment.

In long-term policies of our country in this regard, there are some propositions to be considered in order for women to have more active participation in environmental issues:

- Creating management positions for women in environmental affairs and decision-making in programming as well as organizing and practicing national and international approaches regarding the preservation of the environment.
- Foreseeing the supervisory roles of women, training specialists and encouraging their participation.
- Promoting environmental education and knowledge in universities.
- Developing objective-based and short training courses run by cultural and non-governmental organizations for using "women's individual potentials" as a mother and wife, "women group and work potentials" as farmers, laborer and etc., "women social and organizational potentials" as a decision-generating factor.
- Increasing women's role in creating and forming a national will to having access to clean energies including nuclear energy despite international pressures.

\textit{Measures}

Executive organizations directly responsible for women and environmental affairs are as follows:

- Department of environment
- High council of environment protection
- Ministry of industries and mines
- ministry of agriculture
- municipalities

Activities of these organizations are based on women participation in decision-making, training and facilitating access to environmental information and efficient approaches in stable and durable development. Some of their activities are:

- electing a woman as the head of department of environment since its foundation
- electing women as members of high council of environment protection directed by the president
- training female villagers and town residents in target provinces
- publication of books and producing media programs regarding the environment
- holding different conferences in provinces regarding women's role and the environment
- supporting women NGOs active in environmental affairs which comprises 18% of all NGOs
- participating in scientific and specialty conferences and present articles by women specialists on the environment
- hiring women specialists and graduates in nuclear technology projects in order to have access to clean energies
- programming for attracting women graduated from basic science to research centers for producing clean energies

Future programs

According to environmental and cultural diversity of Iranians, women can play an important role in reproduction of concepts regarding the preservation of the environment and natural resources based on their special customs and apply it to their
families and societies. Thus one of the main future programs in this regard is increasing research budget for identifying different ethnic groups with environmental approach and also preparing training software for educational, industrial and agricultural section is on respective organization's agenda.

**Recommendations**

- enforcing international laws for controlling hazardous activities of industrialized countries in this regard
- compilation of international laws in order for every country to have access to modern technologies and clean energies
- legal consideration of women's reports working in governmental and non-governmental organizations to assess environmental damage after armed conflicts, military occupation and wars
- reinforcing women NGOs for implementation of policies and environmental programs in national, regional and international scales as main factors in the continuation of human race
- using ethic and moral variables regarding environmental affairs in order to preserve and utilize natural resources
- developing and expanding special courses regarding preserving the environment, agriculture, geophysics,
  - Preparing educational texts parallel with Training activities for children and families according to their educational level, age and ... The text includes topics such as environment destruction in formal and informal education.
- Revising the International documents and programs for protection of environment, considering government's portion in exploitation & destruction of natural resources
and environment. This would determine the punishment and controlling government’s malfunction in this regard.
**Islamic Republic of Iran Constitution**

1. The protection of mothers, particularly during pregnancy and childbearing, and the protection of children without guardians; (Article 21-section 2)

2. 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. (Article 21-section 5)

**The charter of women’s rights and responsibilities in the Islamic republic of Iran**

- having the right to enjoy appropriate protection by their parents (clause 4, section 2)
- having the right to have accommodation, clothing, healthy nutrition for a healthy body and mind (clause 15, section 2)
- having the right to educate and show their talents and creativity (clause 16, section 2)
- having the right to have their mental and affectionate needs met by their parents and being immune from family violence (clause 17, section 2)

**Our world and the child girl**

Poverty, corruption, racism, illiteracy and other worrying issues exist among the child girl and future women.

- Two million girls aging 5-15 are sold for illegal sexual affairs annually.
- Girls comprise around 60% of children without school.
- 3/4 of war victims are women and children.

If we do not deal with existing crisis radically, the future generations' health and survival will be jeopardized; however, there have been more educations and trainings on pregnancy and sexual issues and eliminating wrong and negative cultural attitudes toward women than other issues. So we should take some points into consideration:

- It seems that girls more than realizing sexual discriminatory attitudes are in need of
realizing the existing relations dominating such discriminatory attitudes in the world; in this case they have deeper understanding of such issues and can adopt more useful and efficient measures to overcome and annihilate harms being done to them due to unfair social relationships.

- The attitude of family and society toward the child girl form their future sexual identity and social status and status and position are formed by the expectations of the society from individuals. This position along with biological changes and differences comprise patterns and behavioral elements that are accepted socially. Such patterns both influence individual's attitude and imagination toward him/herself and determine other's attitudes and expectations toward and from him/her.

What is today dominating so-called developed countries is their success to increase financial profit, so communication patterns in individual, family and social levels are formed on such basis and using work force in favor of capital accumulation will result in people complying with capitalism laws and social laws will be based on social differences and degrading human values among the poor, the rich, the powerful, the weak, proprietor, laborer, men and women.

As a result, family relationships and sexual position of girls are indirectly dependent upon capital growth rate. Education system is also active in this regard and has recommendations on early pregnancy and pre marital sexual relationships unaware of the fact that mental, physical and spiritual consequences of such issues can not be healed just by their knowing them, the only solution to this issue is to eliminate the roots and origins of such contempt and deprivation and to reinforce foundation of families and their relationships, in this case we are able to organize and optimize the real status and position of boys and girls.
Iran and the child girl

A desirable development and improvement in every country happens through considering all requirements of different age groups during their lifetime. So a large investment on this issue and creating pleasant living condition for all children especially girls is one of the main priorities of Islamic republic of Iran.

Among the most important reasons for adopting such approaches is the critical role of girls in raising the future generations and ultimately human development in Iran, also because of Islam's reiteration on physical and spiritual development and well being of children, this issue is of even higher importance.

Since Iran's population is young and around half of this population comprises girls, their situation and living condition demand special programming which is high on government's agenda, also in the last decades improvements on education, health, nutrition and general attitudes toward the child girl in Iran shows a positive and continuous trend in this regard.

Some of the developments achieved from statistics point of view:

• Increase in the availability of official education for children aging 6-10, according to the latest statistics in the year 1385(2006) 97.6% of boys and 95.7% of girls

• Increase in the number of state and private educational centers in cities and villages

• Providing unofficial education through state welfare organization, Emdad committee, ministry of health treatment and medical education, Red Crescent organization and etc. for optimizing girls' living condition (preventing violence, compulsory marriage and etc.)

• Improving girl's social skills via holding training and relevant courses by respective organizations

• Undertaking numerous health and health assessment projects in schools across the country emphasizing on the child girl's health condition by the ministry of health
treatment and medical education

- Increasing the level of knowledge and skills of parents and instructors in dealing with children especially girls in different education levels in schools across the country
- Considering all educational and health statistics continuously (physical and spiritual health) by the ministry of education of Islamic republic of Iran
- Making efforts and revising cultural attitudes in order to prevent the child girl’s working in industrial sectors
- Reinforcing family relationships and promoting children’s rights and due respects in order to prevent any form of violence against them in family educational programs produced in IRIB, women and family affair centers and parents and teachers meetings trainings.

Future programming

Islamic republic of Iran in accordance with the 20-year-perspective development plan in which stable national development depends on the development of human workforce, intends to develop and promote its human workforce condition whose major part consists of adolescents and young adults and with a special attention to this group facilitates advancement mechanisms.

Measures

Executive organizations directly responsible for the child girl and their affairs are as follows:

- Ministry of education
- Islamic Republic of Iran Broad cast (IRIB)
- Ministry of health treatment and medical education
- The center for women and family affairs
• Literacy movement organization
• Ministry of justice

Some of their activities are as follows:
- increasing the availability of education and skill acquisition for creating job opportunities and eradicating discrimination in education system against women in a way that for instance today in Iran the number of girl students is more than boys
- supporting and motivating participation of young girls in non governmental social events
- implementation of "health house" project for girls suffering from social maladies
- programming for starting a healthy nutrition trend among the child girl in schools
- expanding legal and educational consulting centers for dealing with behavioral abnormalities among girls
- making amendment of laws concerning the child girl's lives; custody, increasing minimum marriage age and
- establishing special courts for dealing with juvenile delinquency
- national plan for the development of women sports across the country and programming for their leisure time
- forming students councils and assemblies for teaching decision-making process
- helping disabled girls to have easy access to education and skill acquisition for their full participation in daily life
- increasing educational facilities including educational subsidies and facilitating extra curricular programs for girls and increasing the number of boarding schools in deprived areas
- rectification of social laws supporting girls and confronting different forms of abnormalities in this group
- preventing children murder via enforcing laws against abortion which has limited gender priority to a great extent
- amending the existing work law of the Islamic republic of Iran to include forbiddance of children working

**Future programming**

Based on Islamic republic of Iran's belief in Islam's laws in which no discrimination and oppression is accepted, honoring women and the child girl's rights and values is highly emphasized in our country, this issue has resulted in achievement of goals and dramatic development in health and medical education.

But some of the consequences of economic sanctions and insecurity in our western and eastern borders due to the presence of occupying forces are threatening many families and girls living nearby, therefore government is trying to establish more peace and security at borders and coordinate supporting laws regarding children in different families and social affairs.

Also paving the cultural ground based on religious and national values for changing and improving the attitudes toward the child girl, promoting public health condition especially regarding girls, developing and expanding recreational and sports facilities, revising civil laws for supporting women and enforcing laws to ensure promoting their rights are all on Islamic republic of Iran's government agenda.

**Recommendations**

- Clarification of some international laws regarding the child girls and ending existing discrimination in documents such as CEDAW and CRC including limitation and determining minimum marriage age one side and freedom and motivating sexual
relationships (education on safe sex) one the other hand, while investment and education for reinforcing family foundation as well as having advantages such as increasing health level sanitation can control diseases like HIV and unwanted pregnancies
- considering and highlighting ethic concepts and principles for men and women in order to have a healthy relationships and therefore a healthy society instead of official and non official pre marital education on sexual relationship
- establishment of international courts and imposing legal punishments by the UN for those countries or groups responsible for human crisis with the presence of countries involved in such crisis such as:
  - Children and the child girl’s loss in unfair wars in areas such as Palestine, Lebanon, Iraq, Afghanistan and Bosnia- Herzegovina
  - Inhuman condition caused to children and girls living in deprived areas due to experimenting sanitation, medical and chemical products on them and also preventing countries undertaking such experiments from having access to approved medication under the excuse of economic sanctions.
  - Sexual abuse of the child girls in so-called first world and industrialized countries caused by those involved in this industry.
1. We the people, millennium Report of United Nations, 2001

2. An organization which support martyred relatives

3. An organization which has been instituted by Imam Khomeini (RH) for supporting low-income families

4. "Peoples Mojahedin Organization of Iran" is a military group which have been institute by the rioters and they have been attempt several terror attack against civilians.


6. www.businesswek.com

7. www.globalpolicy.org

8. www.newint.org

9. www.helpsavekids.org

10. www.learningpartnership.org

11. network for good