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## Culture And Education In Iran

UNDOUBTEDLY, the roots of the victory of the Islamic Revolution have been laid in the culture of the Iranian Muslims which is non-other than their religious beliefs. Naturally such a victory was considered as an upper stage in the cultural development of the country, and therefore, there was a need for systematic planning specially in the educational field so as to set the Islamic culture and the ideological values a pivot for uplifting the scientific and technical standards of the educational institutions. In this relation, the politics and the activities of the public-serving Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran have been set on implementing such programmes due to its ideological commitments, and in this brief programme, we will take a glimpse of the activities of the government in this regard in spite of such difficulties as the imposed war and the shortcomings that followed it and which effected the activities of the Ministry of Education, this Ministry was able to build some 109 kindergartens, 12 hundred elementary schools, 50 schools for exceptional children

25 hundred lower secondary schools, 50 industrial and agricultural technical schools, 12 teachers training centres, 100 sport centres and gymnasiums, 4 teachers training colleges, and one institute of technology from 1981 up to 1984.

In that same period, annually some half million pupils were added to the total number under education in them. What is noteworthy is that due to the healthy atmosphere prevailing in the schools, and due to the attraction of the people to the Islamic culture, every year there are some 80 thousand girl students more than the boys. Among other activities of the Ministry of Education, we can mention the construction of schools outside the country, research on the educational systems of the world studying the new systems of education exchanging views with the international organization of UNESCO, and studying the mental and psychological problems of the students by those involved with educational issues.

In the meantime, the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education had an effective role in

uplifting the cultural level and the scientific education of the country. This Ministry, with the continuous cooperation of the Cultural Revolution Headquarters, succeeded in reopening the universities in 1982. After the reopening of the universities up to the present time, three nationwide entrance examinations for the universities took place after which some 80 thousand students entered the universities of the country. The criterion for accepting students through these examinations were the technical needs of the country. At the same time, this Ministry, in view of the development policies of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, focused most of its efforts on expanding higher education in the deprived regions of the country and has so far, built agricultural training colleges in Zabol, Keiman and Bakhtaran and some technical and engineering colleges in Yasuj and Bandar Abbas, and also a medical school in Yazd and Gilaan.

Among the other activities of this ministry we can name the acceptance of students of post-graduate studies, the planning and ratification of bylaws for doctoral programmes, wide research works on different scientific and cultural programmes, attending the conferences and international seminars, and holding research seminars within the country, the publishing of at least 50 scientific and cultural books, maintaining the cultural heritage of the country, like the historical monuments; doing the preliminary works for constructing one of the biggest Islamic museums in the world, doing

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research for surveying and studying historical buildings and ancient collections of our country and tens of other scientific and cultural activities.

The other organization which we would like to talk about is the Ministry of Islamic Guidance. Due to the activities of this ministry, the number of the movie theaters in the country went from 206 to 257 and along with that, the Farabi Movie Foundation was established so as to back up and direct the motion picture activities of the country. With the efforts of this foundation production of motion pictures went up from 6 movies in 1981, to 50 movies in 1984. Among other activities of this ministry we can name the organizing of the Fajr Theater and Movie Festival, directing the public libraries of the country conducting cultural contests for

choosing the best books of the year, participation and active attendance in cultural and propagation spheres in the international book shows the training of cultural specialists for sending to different countries of the world, the printing and publishing of over 171 books in different languages and increasing the number cultural attaches of Iran in other countries from one in 1981, to 11 in 1984. The last organization that we would like to talk about, is the literacy education.

From 29 December 1979 when the literacy education started its work, up to the present time over one million people have been enrolled in the elementary course and some 500 thousands people were able to receive elementary cycle certificates, the total number of classes that were set up was over 60 thousand and these covered over 12 thousand villages.