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EDUCATION SYSTEM IN IRAN

Abstract. *The Iranian education system is centralized, divided into K-12 (school) and higher education levels. The system is overseen by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Science, Research, and Technology. The Iranian population has a high literacy rate, with 97% of the youth being literate. The country has one of the highest student-to-labor ratios in the world. The higher education system includes undergraduate and doctoral levels, and major institutions such as the Universities of Shiraz and Tehran are major centers of scientific research.*

Keywords: *The education system in Iran, education at Shiraz University, activities of the University of Tehran.*

INTRODUCTION

A six-year primary school (Dabestan) starting at age 6. This is followed by a three-year secondary school stage, which lasts from the seventh to the ninth grade. The last three years of upper secondary school are optional, in which students can choose theoretical, vocational or technical areas according to their interests. A unique feature of the Iranian education system is that boys and girls are taught separately until college, and classes are taught by teachers of the respective genders. To enter university, it is necessary to obtain a high school diploma and pass the national entrance exam “Konkur”, similar to the French baccalaureate exam.

Education in Iran is centralized and divided into K-12 education and higher education. Primary and secondary education is overseen by the Ministry of Education, while higher education is overseen by the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology and the Ministry of Health and Medical Education for Medical Sciences. As of 2016,

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about 86% of Iran's adult population is literate. Among young people aged 15 to 24, this figure rises to 97%, regardless of gender. As of 2007, Iran had one of the highest student-to-labor ratios in the world, at 10.2%.

Primary school (Dabestân, dbstân) lasts six years, starting at age 6. Middle school (Dabirestân dawarh âwal dabyrstân), also known as secondary school, includes the three-year Dabirestân from the seventh to the ninth grade. Senior secondary school (Dabirestân), including the last three years, is optional. At this level, a student can study each program with their specialization in theoretical, vocational/technical, or applied fields. Ultimately, students are awarded a high school diploma. The requirement for entry to higher education is to have a secondary education diploma and pass the national university entrance exam, the Iranian university entrance exam (Konkur), which is similar to the French baccalaureate exam.

Universities, institutes of technology, medical schools, and community colleges provide higher education. Higher education is divided into different levels of diplomas: Fogh-e-Diplom or Kardâni is awarded after two years of higher education, Karshenasi (also known as «license») is awarded after four years of higher education (bachelor's degree). Karshenasi-ye Arshad is awarded after another two years of study (master's degree). After that, another exam allows the candidate to continue with a doctoral program (Ph.D.).

Primary school is the first stage of education, lasting 6 years, starting at the age of 6. Junior high school is the first stage of education, which includes the 3-year educational process of primary school, from grades 7 to 9. Senior high school is the optional final three-year graduation year, at which the student can continue his education in specific, humanitarian, technological or creative directions, depending on his goals and interests.

Each of the above educational programs has its own characteristics, and at the end of the system, students receive a high school diploma. Having a high school diploma is the first requirement for admission to prestigious national universities, higher education institutions, as well as to the entrance exams to Iranian universities. This is implemented as an effective, concrete system similar to the French baccalaureate exam.

Iran is a country where girls and boys are educated separately until they enter college. In this state-run education system, girls are taught by only female teachers, while boys are taught by male teachers.

Higher education in Iran. Iran offers a wide range of study options for international students, with over 170 public universities and 700 private institutions. The study system is very similar to the Bologna model and is divided into Kashenasi (bachelor's), Karhenasi-arshad (master's) and doctorate. There are no tuition fees for Iranian citizens at public universities. The exception is Islamic Azad Universities, where tuition fees range from 250 to 2,500 euros. There are differences between subjects, for example, humanities are cheaper than medicine or architecture.

Non-citizens must pay tuition fees, the amount of which depends on the subject of study. However, some subjects are cheaper than others - tuition fees range from 2,000 euros to 6,000 euros per semester. In this case, individual studies are required. In addition, the state offers scholarships for Persian language courses. What are the admission requirements for Iranian universities? To study at an Iranian university, you must pass an entrance exam (Konkour-e Sarasari). This entrance exam is for both public and private institutions. International students must have a good command of Persian, otherwise they will not be able to enroll in undergraduate programs. Some public universities have been offering master's programs in English for several years. This means that knowledge of Persian is not required for these programs.

Shiraz University is a public university located in Shiraz, Fars, Iran, founded in 1946. Shiraz University is among the top three research-oriented schools in the country, according to the Iranian University Rankings based on academic performance. In the first report of the State University Rankings, and among about 70 universities and higher education institutions, Shiraz University is considered a first-rate university. Shiraz University was a pioneer in establishing doctoral programs in Iran. Currently, and after the separation of medical universities from universities under the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology, the university has over 20,000 students, offering 200 undergraduate programs (BA, BSc), 300 graduate programs (MA, MSc), one professional degree program (Doctor of Veterinary Medicine or DVM), and 150 PhD programs. Shiraz University strives to be a pioneer and has broken new ground in Iran by introducing e-learning, fostering international collaboration, and developing new doctoral programs. The decadent Eram Botanical Garden, a magnificent example of a Persian landscape garden dating back to 1372, is owned and operated by the university.

The garden and its beautiful buildings are one of the best tourist attractions in Shiraz. Shiraz University has always been ranked in the top 5 among Iranian universities and is highly respected in Iran. The University of Pennsylvania assisted the Iranian government in making Shiraz University the only institution of higher education based on the American style in the Middle East. Thus, the University of Pennsylvania (Penn) had a great influence in shaping many departments and institutions of the Pahlavi University. Shiraz University has the second largest campus in Iran. As the best university in Iran, Shiraz University is research-oriented, with about 700 faculty members and 19,000 students. The university offers bachelor's degrees, 188 master's degrees, and Ph.D. programs in 80 departments. As a comprehensive and accredited university, Shiraz University is responsible for training qualified faculty for other higher education and research institutions in Iran.

University of Tehran. The University of Tehran is the first university in modern Iranian history after Dar al-Fanun. Dar al-Fanun was founded in 1851 by Mirza Taqi Khan Amir Kabir. At that time, the main subjects in this school were engineering, medicine, pharmacology, infantry, cavalry, and mining. Although Dar al-Fanun did not develop further, it laid the foundation and served as a model for the creation of a future university in Iran in Western styles. Today, the University of Tehran includes the following areas: fine arts, literature and humanities, medicine, pharmacology, science, law and political science, engineering, and the environment. Other faculties, such as social sciences, economics, culture, and Islamic studies, are located outside the university, in nearby streets.

Tehran University of Medical Sciences (TUMS) was founded in 1851 and is the oldest and most prestigious medical university in the world. As one of the best research universities in Iran, Tehran University of Medical Sciences accepts applications from the most qualified students. It also has the largest schools in Iran in medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, rehabilitation, allied health sciences, public health, advanced medical technologies, nutrition and dietetics, nursing and midwifery, as well as a virtual school. More than a hundred specialized research centers, such as medicine, rheumatology, audiology, digestive diseases, skin diseases and leprosy, trauma, hematology and oncology, cardiovascular diseases, endocrinology and metabolism, reproductive health, urology, immunology, asthma and allergy, are under the direct supervision of this university.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it can be said that the Iranian education system combines both traditional values and modern scientific standards. Education in public universities is free for Iranian citizens, which ensures the popularity of education. Shiraz University was the first in the country to introduce doctoral programs and occupies a leading position in research. Tehran University of Medical Sciences is also one of the oldest and most prestigious medical institutions in the world, operating more than a hundred specialized scientific centers. Although knowledge of the Persian language is the main requirement for international students, the presence of English-language programs at the master's level indicates the internationalization of the system.

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