



Islamic Republic of Iran's Health System: Achievements and Prospective

M Vahid Dastgerdi

Minister, Ministry of Health and Medical Education, Iran

Health is a valuable asset which paves the way for the development of personal capabilities and helps the steady development of the society (1). Promoting health is not only a responsibility but also a right and as mentioned by the Iranian constitution and the intra- and inter-department health documents, the government is responsible to guarantee the provision of high quality care to every Iranian and reduce their personal and social health risks (2).

Islamic Republic of Iran's health system has, during the past three decades since the Islamic revolution, experienced profound developments in its different missions including education, research and health care; this comes while it has also faced several challenges during this time as a result of the population and epidemiologic changes in the country. As a result, in order to achieve the Islamic Republic of Iran's vision in 2025, the country's strategies have been illustrated as the Comprehensive Scientific Health Plan (5) and Health Innovation and Science Development Plan.

The Comprehensive Scientific Health Plan, which is based on the country's Comprehensive Scientific Plan, shows road to education, research and technology excellence (5), whereas the Health Innovation and Science Development Plan provides the knowledge and research application strategies needed to provide different classes of the society with high quality healthcare in a way that evidence-based health policies are formulated in accordance with the country's indigenous conditions and the Islamic-Iranian values.

Nowadays, the influence of social factors such as income, education, job, environment and educa-

tion in the first years of life on health and health equity has been completely realized (1, 6). Hence, high quality care and health equity needs close collaboration between different levels of policy-making, management and supervision, outside the Ministry of Health. And justice in health has been considered as a main policy by policymakers in all their strategies. This issue is so important that the Islamic Republic of Iran's health system for the first time in the country issued a 52-point index of justice in health, which is approved by the Iranian Cabinet. These indices are now a national document used by authorities and policymakers in all decision makings. Also in the composition of the country's fifth economic, social and cultural development plan, in the health section which is a 5-year period in the overall health plans of the country, this issue has been carefully taken into consideration and in many of the drafting stages of this plan representatives from different fields have been present (7).

In order to execute the overall and developmental plans of the system, the vice-chancellor of management and resources has made great efforts to revise the budgeting system and action plans to allocate resources, including human resources, based on regional needs and with maximum efficiency. Skilled and motivated work force is one of the most important necessities in revolutionizing the health system (8). In the Islamic Republic of Iran's health system, work force is not only responsible for providing the society with healthcare but also given the system's unique characteristics in incorporating educational and research services in the healthcare system

(9), achieving scientific excellence and expanding scientific boundaries is only possible by creative and innovative healthcare personnel.

In this regard, medical education division has performed exceptional accomplishments, such as developing medical education land serving document, extending medical universities to all the Iranian provinces, expanding graduate education in medical sciences by 50%, and establishing new disciplines, and increasing the number of scientific hubs to 30.

Research is another important field in our country's health system. In order to accomplish the objectives of the Comprehensive Scientific Health Plan, exceptional achievements have been crowned. Iran has published 20,065 articles last year and 0.44% of its studies are considered as the 1% best articles of the world. The country has also gained the first place in the Middle East regarding science production. As for healthcare, the country has ranked 17 in the world in science production in the field of medicine and 42 for its citations. Iranian medical articles account for 21.63% of the Middle East's scientific production in the field of medicine, and 46% of the citations received by the Iranian articles in general. The country has also achieved the scientific knowledge needed to produce more than 30 high-tech medications etc (11).

Final word, Islamic Republic of Iran's health system is to become an advanced and just system by 2025, which benefits from the most suitable technologies to promote health indices of the Iranian population and by offering new policy-making and healthcare management models will become a role model for the regional countries.

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