



WOMEN of IRAN

Vice Presidency
of Women and
Family Affairs



Iranian Women: The Untold Stories

Throughout Iran's rich and glorious history, Iranian women have played a pivotal role in the nation's growth and progress, demonstrating remarkable dedication, creativity, and resilience. With active participation across diverse fields—including science, culture, economy, sports, politics, and social affairs—they have not only shaped the course of society but also maintained their indispensable role within the family. Their contributions have paved new pathways toward sustainable development and societal advancement.

Yet, despite their significant achievements and influential presence, their stories remain largely untold, leaving behind many narratives that deserve to be shared and celebrated.

As the leading governmental body for women's affairs, the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran has consistently worked to formulate policies, implement diverse empowerment initiatives, and create opportunities that elevate the status of women. Beyond this, it strives to highlight and promote the capabilities and accomplishments of Iranian women both nationally and on the global stage.

This brief account seeks to offer a glimpse into the remarkable achievements of Iranian women, sharing a part of their journey, perseverance, and impact—stories that deserve recognition and a broader audience.



Policy Support and Strategic Educational Reforms

According to the progressive principles of the Constitution, Iran's educational system guarantees free education up to secondary school and access to higher education for all. Additionally, policy frameworks such as the Charter on Women's Rights and Responsibilities and innovative laws related to women's education have paved the way for reducing the gender gap and creating equal learning opportunities. Leveraging these achievements, Iran has taken firm strides toward educational justice and women's empowerment, presenting a successful model in this domain.

Remarkable Achievements in Girls' Education

The increasing participation of girls in education is one of Iran's most notable educational advancements. The 115% rise in primary school enrollment and the 84% increase in high school participation highlight special attention to girls' education and equal opportunities.



Achieved third place globally in the 2024 International Olympiad competitions, winning 10 gold, 10 silver, and 2 bronze medals, ranking behind China and the United States.

Additionally, the 48% growth rate in female students compared to males reflects a positive societal shift in attitudes toward girls' education and its crucial role in sustainable development. These improvements have not only elevated the country's scientific status but also enabled women's active participation in social, economic, and cultural spheres.

Supporting Talented Female Students & Global Achievements

The National Elites Foundation was established to provide special support for gifted students, offering unique facilities to enhance their capabilities. Of the 62,500 students supported, 15,772 (25%) are girls.

On the international stage, Iran achieved remarkable success in the 2024 International Olympiads, securing third place worldwide across five major competitions with participation from 53 to 110 countries. Iranian students attained:

- 1st place in the International Astronomy and Astrophysics Olympiad,
- 4th place in Biology and Physics,
- 8th place in Chemistry,
- 9th place in Computer Science,
- 18th place in Mathematics.

Women's Role in Education & Future Prospects

Women constitute about 60% of the country's teaching workforce, underscoring their irreplaceable role in educating future generations. These achievements stem from strategic policies and targeted planning aimed at empowering women and increasing their participation in the academic and educational landscape.

*115% growth in primary school enrollment among girls.
84% increase in high school enrollment for female students.*

*48% higher growth rate in female student enrollment compared to male students.
Gender gap in education has been eliminated at both primary and secondary levels.*



25% of talented female students are among those supported by the National Elites Foundation.





97% literacy rate among individuals aged 10 to 49, significantly improving women' s access to education and eradicating illiteracy.



Women comprise approximately 60% of the country' s teaching community, playing a crucial role in shaping the future generations.



Women's Role in Public Life and Decision-Making

Women's participation in public life and decision-making is a fundamental pillar of sustainable development and social progress in any country. As enshrined in the laws of the Islamic Republic of Iran, political participation and access to leadership positions are recognized as a right for women. In recent years, significant strides have been made to enhance women's presence in key governmental and managerial roles based purely on merit and justice, leading to an increase in the percentage of female managers in government agencies from 12% to 30%.

According to the National Administrative Statistics Yearbook, by the end of 2022, the total number of official, contractual, and temporary employees in executive organizations reached 2,246,397 people, of whom 1,247,559 (56%) were men and 998,838 (44%) were women. By the end of 2024, this ratio is projected to shift to 45%



Over 190 women appointed to high-level managerial positions since the establishment of the National Unity Government.





women and 55% men, demonstrating a clear commitment to gender equity in employment within Iran's administrative system.

Further analysis of employment distribution by government branches in 2023 shows that:

45.9% of employed women work in the executive branch.

22.98% in the judiciary.

13.31% in the legislature.

17.81% in institutions outside the three branches of government.

Growth in Women's Leadership Positions

The appointment of women to leadership and decision-making roles has seen significant growth. Between 2020 and 2023, the number of women in managerial positions more than doubled, rising from 19,597 in 2020 to 42,396 in 2023.

Since taking office in summer 2024, the National Unity Government has prioritized women's participation in high-level policymaking.



More than 190 women have been appointed to senior managerial positions, marking historic firsts in the Islamic Republic of Iran's governance. Key appointments include:

- Four women in the 14th Cabinet.

- 14 women leading national institutions under direct presidential orders.

- 13 female deputy ministers.

- 17 women as advisors and assistants to ministers.

- 110 female directors-general.

- 17 female governors and 16 female district governors.

This approach emphasizes inclusivity, ensuring representation from diverse ethnic and social backgrounds. Additionally, with the President's directive to increase women's presence in senior provincial leadership (e.g., governors, district governors), the government aims to appoint 1,885 women to managerial roles across ministries, affiliated organizations, and local administrations by the end of 2024.



Four women in the 14th Cabinet (15% of cabinet members), including the first-ever female spokesperson of the Iranian government and the Minister of Roads and Urban Development.

14 women appointed to lead key institutions under direct orders from the President.

13 female deputy ministers, 17 advisors and assistants to ministers, 110 directors-general, 17 governors, and 16 district governors.

49% female participation in the presidential elections.

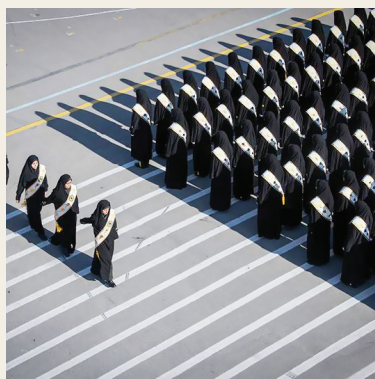
A 45:55 female-to-male ratio in government employment.



14 women serving as members of the Islamic Consultative Assembly.

1,006 female judges and 13 women appointed as deputy prosecutors.

Increase in female managers in government agencies from 12% to 30%.





The Role of Rural and Nomadic Women in Iran

With an estimated population of 11 million, rural and nomadic women are among the most essential contributors to Iran's traditional workforce. Throughout history, they have played a pivotal role in local and national economies, standing alongside their families as pillars of agricultural households and key providers of food security. In addition to their agricultural roles, they are also recognized as local healers due to their traditional knowledge of medicinal plants.

However, climate change, water scarcity, global warming, and consecutive droughts have brought new challenges to their livelihoods. The decline of livestock farming, agriculture, and horticulture, coupled with migration and shifting cultural and economic patterns, has directly impacted their employment opportunities, income, and way of life. In response, the Islamic Republic of Iran has prioritized investment in education, awareness-building, empowerment, and support programs tailored to rural and nomadic women.

