



Report from

Iran Association of Social Workers

For dealing with the situation caused by outbreak of COVID-19

Today (20th of March 2020) is Nowruz (The first day of spring in Northern Hampshire which is being celebrated for the last 7,000 years in Western Asia, Central Asia, the Caucasus, the Black Sea Basin, the Balkans, and South Asia, recognized by UN in 2010) and the first day of the New Year in Iran.



Iranians are starting the New Year while all the traditions of this important event in Iran are affected by the outbreak of COVID-19 in the country.

The first case of COVID-19 was officially confirmed in Iran on 18th of February 2020. As of today, there have been 19,644 confirmed cases and 1,433 total deaths occurred because of the virus outbreak.

All the schools and educational centers, most of the bazaars and shopping centers and public centers have been closed. Gatherings including weddings or funerals have been cancelled. People are advised not to go shopping, not to travel, not to meet each other etc which are all parts of the New Year traditions. People are becoming isolated and social workers who have a theme of “promoting human relationships” this year are trying to do their mission.

Some of the activities that Iranian social workers have done so far related to the current situation of corona virus outbreak are as bellow:

- 1- Contacting with the corona virus management committee in some regions of Iran in order to take part in policy making and planning.
- 2- Some social workers got a course of corona virus prevention.
- 3- Doing a research about social effects of corona virus outbreak with participation of 10754 people from all 31 provinces of Iran and publishing its results.
- 4- Monitoring general actions related to the outbreak in order to do advocacy for citizens rights. For example the ministry of health had a plan to take information from home to home and Iran Association of Social Workers was the first organization that announced disagreement and suggested for community social work method and neighborhood based work. Later, more

organizations disagreed with this plan and the ministry of health had to cancel the plan despite its previous announcements.

- 5- Giving phone based services to people via the free hotline (4030) by NGO and GO workers who work from home and by an application. Iran Association of Social Workers introduced 220 social workers for offering this service.
- 6- Doing advocacy for people with special conditions including prisoners, homeless people, street children, people with disabilities, lonely seniors, drug abusers etc by contacting different organizations. Lately 80,000 prisoners have got leaves and a program to support street children have launched.
- 7- Frequent participation in media including 10 TV programs of 5 minutes and a TV program for WSWD 2020 addressing social work point of view to the current situation.





8- Helping to find vulnerable people to corona virus including people with chronic disease in order to provide them more information and services in different supporting organizations including the state welfare organizations and the national charity organization (Komitech Emdad Emam Khomeini).



9- Participation in providing hygiene items including cleaning gels and liquids, masks and gloves for vulnerable people.



10- Corporate social responsibility attraction.

11- Presence of social workers in mobile teams of social emergency services in order to advocate for vulnerable people.



- 12- Establishing relationships with families of people who have the disease and facilitate their communications via phone and video calls.



- 13- Getting to know social resources to support affected people.
- 14- Attracting NGOs participation.
- 15- Participation in relevant policy making meetings in order to make more attention to vulnerable people.
- 16- Having psycho-social support to people especially over phone.
- 17- Giving information to families in order to promote their psychosocial health.
- 18- Facilitating access of people with especial needs to services at their home.
- 19- Planning for documentation of social workers lesson learned in corona virus outbreak.

- 20- Cooperation of all provincial branches of the association with the national crisis management committee.
- 21- Establishing and promoting the campaign of #I_have_good_news to highlight good news during the outbreak.



#فوش_فبر_هستم

#I_Have_Good_News

#انجمن_مددکاران_اجتماعی_ایران



- 22- Making booklets of “Playing with children during COVID-19 outbreak”.
- 23- Translating and publishing WHO mental health and psychosocial considerations during COVID-19 outbreak.

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