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Entrepreneurship status in Iran

Iranian Stable Family Association (NGO)

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Abstract:

- 1- This report has been prepared on the basis of the experience obtained by tens of entrepreneurship training course held by Iranian Stable Family Association. This association believes that unfortunately trainings commensurate with special target groups are not planned and implemented with regard to necessity and importance of entrepreneurship in order to develop and advance Islamic Republic of Iran country.
- 2- We also believe that in spite of scattered trainings which are held regarding entrepreneurship issues , these trainings are mostly inefficient due to lack of educational texts and correct training methods leading to disappointment and frustration of the participants with attendance in these courses.
- 3- For improvement of entrepreneurship status and achieving desirable condition, this association has presented some suggestions for enacting new laws, changing educational system and manner of approvals execution to different organs and organizations.

Introduction

- 4- Iranian Stable Family Association has started its activity voluntarily since 2000 as a nongovernmental, nonpolitical and nonprofit institute and has received activity license from Ministry of the Interior of Islamic Republic of Iran. This association emphasizing on ethical, religious and national values takes actions regarding life skills and entrepreneurship skills with use of new training, informing and consulting methods by aiming at preserving status of the family and promoting sociocultural awareness level in order to achieve a stable and principled society.
- 5- This institute has taken action regarding holding different courses under titles of life skills, entrepreneurship skills and business commissioning. our experience indicates that many cultural and economic problems of the families result from lack of necessary awareness

and information regarding life skills and entrepreneurship skills among family members especially among mothers resulting in training of the children lacking these awareness and abilities. Therefore, we believe that we should train those who are proficient in life and entrepreneurship skills and training of these skills should start with childhood ages.

Problems statement:

- 6- Living rights in comfort and welfare with job and occupational security is one of the essential rights of the human being while in our country; unemployment and poverty have caused irreparable economic and social damages to our society like other countries. Unemployment especially among the young has had negative effects so that the experts announce that one of the reasons for crime among the young is unemployment and poverty.
- 7- While ecology of our country is based on 3 public-private and cooperative sections , unfortunately , most of the young believe that the government should create employment for them , therefore, they pay less attention to other economic sections and most of those are seeking for job in governmental departments and organizations . On the other hand, most of oil or tax incomes considered by the country are spent for salary and wage of the government staff instead of urban development in the country. While successful experience of many countries indicates that this problem can be easily solved by the entrepreneurs.
- 8- In many developed and developing countries, this theory has been proved that entrepreneurship is engine of economic development. This reality has led many thinkers of the society to have special look at role of the entrepreneurs. Today, necessity and importance of entrepreneurship is to such extent that its ignorance can prevent the country from development and progress. It seems that entrepreneurs training and promotion of entrepreneurship culture in different areas are the most important step for achieving entrepreneurship. Therefore, in curricula, creation of motivation and training those inclined to train the new entrepreneurs and direct along with presentation of necessary skills are very necessary for increasing their success.
- 9- Studies show that characteristics of entrepreneurs are acquired not hereditary. Therefore, three important goals in entrepreneurship training can include stimulation of motives and

training of skills characteristics and is of special importance since childhood. Although recently in Iran, very effective steps have been taken in promotion of training and supporting the entrepreneurship and entrepreneurs, it seems that with regard to importance of the subject, the performed actions have not been effective and useful. While the governmental and private organizations are responsible for paying attention to training, supporting and promoting entrepreneurship and entrepreneurs. The important fact in training field from universities level to public trainings of the citizens is that these trainings have not been designed natively and on the basis of need of those interested in participation and with aim of specialized training of the entrepreneurs. Unprincipled and unspecialized trainings are done regardless of target group on the predetermined basis and without regard to study on needs of the addressees leading mostly to confusion, disappointment and frustration of the participants in training courses. Therefore, one can say that training issue has not been dealt with by the expert and with scientific –applied supervision. While correct and principled training can be regarded as one of the essential rights of the human rights. It seems that rights of the trainees regarding entrepreneurship have been violated.

- 10- Our Studies and practical experiences show that the trainees have been indifferent to the issue and understanding its necessity and importance and complain about their wastes time disappointedly due to lack of attention to training. Limited numbers of the active participants which studies and refers to the reference books due to their interest is left due to lack of attention of the custodians and those holding the training courses and lose their valuable ideas which are not considered correctly. It seems that the addresses have no motivation for entrepreneurship and the only solution for this poverty and unemployment i.e. entrepreneurship is forgotten easily.
- 11- Objective experiences of this association and its exchange with other authorities of training in the country including universities and governmental and nongovernmental organizations holding entrepreneurship raining courses indicate our worry. Legal documents have been included in attachment of the report.

Review of laws

12- In the fourth plan of development in accordance with Articles 21 and 48, entrepreneurship has been emphasized and executive bylaws such as paragraph 3 of Employment Supreme Council approval dated 16 Apr. 2007 or draft laws supporting entrepreneurs, Entrepreneurship Development Plan bylaw (Entrepreneurship Development Plan in universities) and enactment of the 19th session of City Council (2003) have been executed.

Weaknesses, barriers, opportunities and advances:

13- Entrepreneurship training policies in Iran need to be reviewed in spite of all effective steps which should be emphasized expressly in approvals and laws supporting entrepreneurs and executive bylaws. Lack of educational content commensurate with different target groups is one of the other defects of entrepreneurship trainings. Special curricula for the children have not been considered so far while it is better to design and implement entrepreneurship trainings from childhood so that specialized entrepreneurs necessary for the future can be trained by training the entrepreneur children. Lack of sufficient scientific applied supervision is also one of the other essential problems in entrepreneurship. It is necessary that entrepreneurship and business skills training be considered specially.

14- Female Entrepreneurs training and design of their special content have not been sufficiently considered. While cultural and native facts should be considered for training the female entrepreneurs.

15- For separation of rural and urban trainings, necessary expertise has not been applied. It can lead to essential changes in solving economic and social problems in Iran in spite of potentials of different classes in Iran especially among the children and young and women and suitable investment for actualization of their talents through applied trainings. At present, we have entrepreneurs who have started to work and correct training of this group can help them make progress.

Suggestions and strategies:

16- **This association presents the following suggestions for improving status quo in Iran regarding subject of entrepreneurship:**

- * Special attention and use of abilities of nongovernmental organizations for promoting and training entrepreneurship in underprivileged regions of the country
- * Emphasis on supervision of the government with approval of the related laws and bylaws relating to training especially emphasis on Ministry of Education and Ministry of Sciences
- * correct training with use of system methodology as tools based on thought and prediction with regard to status quo and policies and conditions prevailing in educational system optimization and removal of weakness of educational system with use of learning process optimization tools
- * special attention to children training with use of educational updated techniques such as use of the story, poetry and performing arts for the children by aiming at training the entrepreneurs in the fields of thought, creativity and team work
- * Establishment of national thinking center of entrepreneurship for utilization of collective wisdom of entrepreneurship experts and exchanging ideas in international level in order to prepare educational content commensurate with target groups
- * providing the opportunity for scientific and applied training of the special groups as women, the young and the old
- * Fundamental change in educational system of the country and fundamental changes in texts , training method and use of leisure time by aiming at acquisition of entrepreneurship skills.
- * Development of technical and vocational trainings and reinforcement and integration for execution of educational policies
- * Educational planning with regard to needs of labor market and private section
- * Creation of entrepreneurship indices by executive and educational foundations
- * design of the curricula in primary school, guidance school , high school and university levels with regard to return on investment assessment model in entrepreneurship training
- * Separation of entrepreneurship training into urban and rural trainings
- * paying attention to training of the groups with special conditions such as socially damaged, handicapped and prisoners