



RHODE ISLAND COLLEGE

M.Ed. In TESL Program Country Informational Reports

Produced by Graduate Students in the M.Ed. In TESL Program
In the Feinstein School of Education and Human Development

Country: Iran
Author: Joseph M. Souza

Program Contact Person: Nancy Cloud (ncloud@ric.edu)

Iran Information Report



Joseph M. Souza

TESL 539

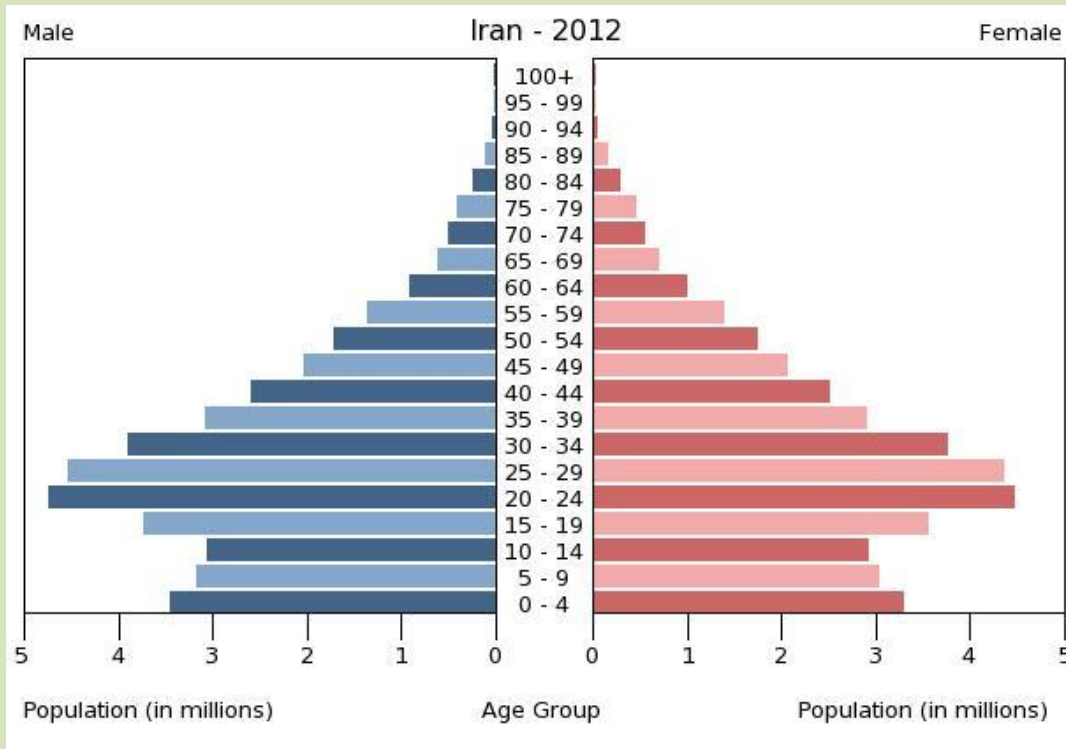
Spring 2013

Location of Iran

- Middle Eastern country located between Iraq and Pakistan
- With an area of 1,648,195 sq. km, it is slightly smaller than Alaska
- Bordered by the Gulf of Oman, Persian Gulf, and Caspian Sea
- Its location is a vital maritime pathway for crude oil transportation



Iranian People



- **Population:** 78, 868, 711 (July 2012 est.)
- **Official Language:** Persian
- **Religion:** 98% Muslim
- **Literacy Rate:** Those aged 15 and older who can read and write
 - Male 83.5%
 - Female 70.4%
- **Poverty/Unemployment**
 - In 2007, an estimated 18.7% of population was living below the poverty line
 - According to data from the Iranian Government, Iran has an unemployment rate of 15.5% (2012)

Political Information

- In 1979, an Islamic Republic was established, resulting in laws and schools becoming “Islamicized,” and with that, a banning of Western influences
- Iran is currently a full-fledged theocracy
 - A theocracy is a form of government in which a deity is officially recognized as the civil Ruler
- According to the International Federation for Human Rights, Iran has an extremely discriminatory system and structure of government that excludes people on grounds of their religion and ethnicity
- Iran holds some 10% of the world’s oil reserves and the second-largest reserves of natural gas
- The current Iranian [national anthem](#) was adopted in 1990, replacing the anthem used during the time of Ayatollah Khomeini

Education in Iran

- General education is free and parents are obliged to enroll their children at 5 years of age
- The Ministry of Education of Iran controls curriculum, administration and educational planning
- Gender segregation in schools was gradually introduced in Iran starting after the Islamic Revolution in 1979
- Education is considered a top priority in the development plans of the country



Teachers



- Educators are professionally trained for 2 years at Teacher Training Centers
- A National entrance exam is required
- There are seven Teacher Training Centers in Iran
- Girls typically have female teachers, while boys are taught by men

Schools and Curriculum

- The language of instruction is Farsi
- Religious instruction is required
- Students go to school for 10 months of the year, from September to June (about 200 days)
- Though gender segregation exists, there is a general parity in success rates between males and females
- Students in Primary schools learn about hygiene, basic math and science, reading and study skills

| Age | Level | Duration | US Equivalent |
|-------|-----------------|----------|---------------|
| 5-6 | Pre-Primary | 1 year | Kindergarten |
| 6-11 | Primary | 5 years | Elementary |
| 11-14 | Lower-Secondary | 3 years | Middle School |
| 14-17 | Upper-Secondary | 3 years | High School |

Mobile Libraries



- Mobile libraries drive across Iran to bring books to more than 4,000 children in different schools



- Because many schools are in remote areas or do not have the money for such things as libraries, resourcefulness is necessary

Education Reform

Goals of 2012

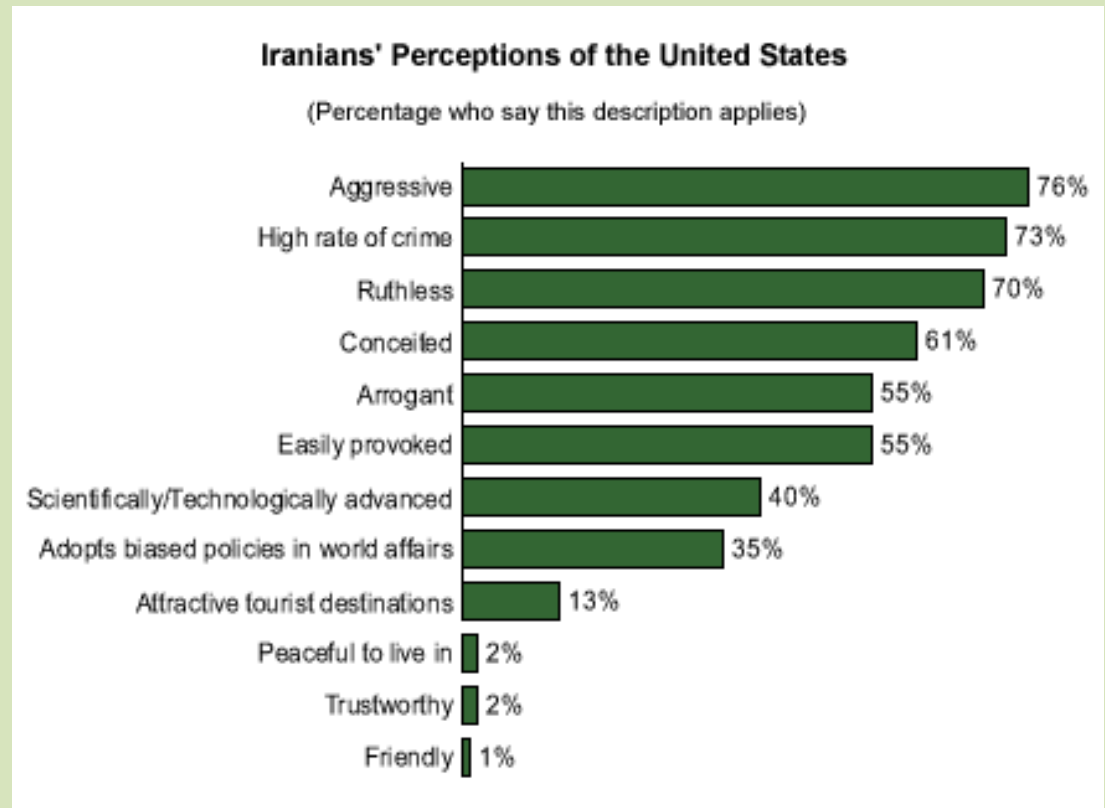
- Make education more global in terms of knowledge
- Nurture children who believe in the one God
- Provide a socially just education system
- Increase the role of the family in the education system
- Increase the efficiency of the education system
- Achieve the highest standard of education in the region



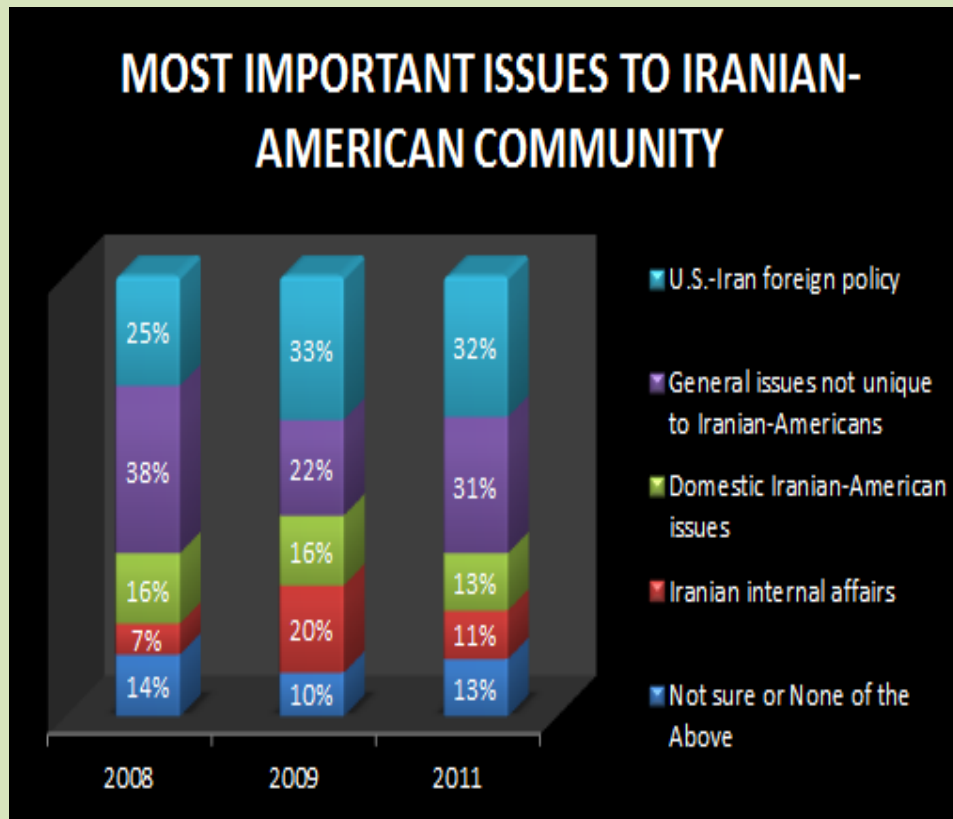
Application of modern technology is developing and schools in larger cities are rapidly introducing computers in the classroom

Iranian Attitudes and Views of the US

- A profoundly negative image of the United States persists in Iran
- Since the revolution, Iran's showdown with the world has pivoted most of all on the United States
- Historically, many of Iran's most tumultuous times have been caused by foreign invasions and this experience has bred deep suspicion and xenophobia
- Tensions between the US and Iran still exist because of suspicions about Iran's long-term nuclear intentions and support for Iraqi and Afghan militias targeting US troops



Iranians in the United States



- More than half of Iranian-Americans live in California
- Over 90% of Iranian-Americans speak a language other than English at home
- Iranian-Americans are amongst the most highly educated groups in the United States

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M.Ed. in TESL Program
Nancy Cloud, Director
Educational Studies Department
Rhode Island College, HBS 206 #5
600 Mt. Pleasant Avenue
Providence, RI 02908
Phone (401) 456-8789
Fax (401) 456-8284
ncloud@ric.edu

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