PREFACE

Iran a country with an area of 16,45,00 Sq.K.F. and a population over thirty five million is a vast plateau that forms the bridge of communication between Asia and Europe. The neighbouring countries are Russia in the north, Afghanistan and Pakistan on the east, Iraq, Turkey and the Persian Gulf in the South. Although Iran has been the scene for one of the oldest civilisations, as a result of geographical position become the victims of constant attacks and was over run on several occasions by barbaric aliens leading to disaster and set backs during the medieval period.

At the time of writing this thesis, country was ruled by a monarch who had been conspicuously over enthusiastic to bring about a socio-economic revolution in the country by introducing a set of reforms calling it the "The Revolution of the Shah and the People" or "The white Revolution in 1963." Under these reforms young boys and girls conscripted for compulsory military service were given an intensive short term training for teaching and then sent to different parts of the country to teach. This literacy drive by the young cadets who taught parents and children under the same roof led to the
general awaking of the people, particularly villagers who were highly impressed by the soldier-teachers. The villagers provided and built innumerable new schools and almost all the school age children took up to learning. The result proved to be alarming and brought about the greatest educational crisis of the world in Iran because the demand for higher education went up to the extent that the number of participants in the university entrance test rose from a hundred thousand in 1875 to three hundred thousand in 1876. Universities could accept only 20 to 30% of these participants. So reforms in one section of education brought about a great disjunction into the next one. Some of those students who were denied admission in the universities would seek their education abroad. With the result that today we have over a hundred thousand Iranian students in different parts of the world and the number keeps increasing day by day. Of late there is a great influx of the Iranian students into Indian Universities.

So far there has been no research about this particular aspect of educational crisis in Iran and the problems and prospects of the Iranian students studying abroad.
I have taken up this research work because after having had my total education in India joined the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of Iran as a personal relation officer for counselling and placement of Iranian students all over the world. So I sent about five hundred Iranian students to India in the very first year of my service in 1971. Then I was commissioned by the Iranian Government to make a spot study of the problems and prospective of the Iranian students in India in 1974. Again I was invited by the British Council to visit the educational institutions in England and study the prospects and problems of Iranian students in 1974. Being a sociologist, a student advisor, a part-time teacher at Tehran university and my constant report with Iranian students inside as well as outside the country gave me a deep insight into the problems faced by them.

This research work will try to point out the results of the literacy drive by the literacy corps, problems of higher education in Iran, why and how the Iranian students pursue their higher education abroad and a country-wise comment about the problems and opportunities of these students.

A detail study about the problems and prospects of Iranian
students in India is expected to serve as a guide book for the large number of American, Canadian, European, Middle Easterners and other foreign students who are mainly attracted towards the most fruitful medical education in India. It will also enlighten the Indian authorities who are concerned with foreign students in one way or the other. Finally a set of suggestions has been attempted to make the stay and study of foreign students in India, more fruitful, productive and comfortable. Suggestions will also cover ways and means to sort out the problems of higher education and manpower crisis in Iran.

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