

Teaching is one of most stressful professions in the world

Teachers' social status has a significant impact on the educational system's progress, a new study reveals.

The head of the Educational Psychology Association of Iran highlighted the significance of teachers' social status, stating, "A direct relationship exists between the position and status of teachers and the advancement of a country's educational system." Fariborz Dortaj noted that over 95 countries worldwide celebrate "Teacher's Day" and use this occasion to address teachers' rights and social dignity. He explained that countries with advanced education systems prioritize higher salaries and benefits for teachers compared to other professions, recognizing their crucial role in shaping successful citizens, according to ISNA.

Dortaj then argued that attracting highly skilled individuals to the teaching profession is unlikely if teachers rank low in terms of salary and status. In advanced education systems, teaching is considered one of the most stressful jobs globally, with psychologists ranking it among the top three

most stressful professions. Despite this, teachers in some countries still receive low incomes. Dortaj cited a study showing a strong positive correlation between teachers' salaries and improved education quality in countries with high educational standards.

He mentioned China, Greece, Turkey, South Korea, and Finland as examples of countries with top-tier education systems and high social status for teachers. He emphasized the direct relationship between teachers' status and dignity and the advancement of a country's educational system.

"In terms of social standing, teachers in China are comparable to doctors, while in France, Portugal, and Turkey, they are akin to nurses. In the United States, teachers share a similar status with librarians, and in Japan, with municipal managers," Dortaj said.

The university professor further stressed the importance of prioritizing



● POURIA TORABI/IRNA

education in the country and increasing the Ministry of Education's budget. He argued that larger departments or ministries

with broader service scopes should receive a more significant share of budget allocation and resources. However, he

noted that, in practice, education often receives a smaller budget compared to other organizations relative to its size.

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Iran ranks 17th in production of plants, flowers

The 19th edition of the Tehran International Flower and Plant Exhibition kicked off on Saturday morning at Goftogu Park, with the presence of the mayor of Tehran and city administration officials. The exhibition aims to promote the culture of flower breeding and friendship among citizens, and more than 250 domestic and foreign producers are participating in the event, ISNA reported.

Ali Mohammad Mokhtari, CEO of Tehran Parks and

Green Spaces Organization, emphasized the importance of flowers and plants in improving the quality of life and creating job opportunities.

He highlighted the need for special measures to strengthen export conditions and gain a position in global markets. Mokhtari also mentioned the increase in green spaces in Tehran, with 2,368 parks and over 46,000 hectares of green space in the city. The official noted that the per capita consumption

of flowers in the world is about 100 branches on average, but Iran is far from this per capita. He added that flowers and plants can be a source of hope for humans in today's world, and Iran is currently ranked 17th in the production of flowers and plants but only 110th in exports.

Mokhtari called for government support to help strengthen the industry and contribute to the country's production and employment by raising

foreign currency.

Mokhtari also highlighted the opportunities in Iran's climate, with over 8,000 varieties of plant species due to the existence of four seasons in the country. However, he noted weaknesses in packaging and transportation that have weakened export conditions in the field of flowers and plants.

In terms of Tehran's green spaces, Mokhtari said that before the revolution, there were only 75 parks and nearly 2,900 hectares

of green space in the city. Since then, the number of parks has increased to 2,368 parks and the number of green spaces has increased to over 46,000 hectares.

Last year, 1,500 hectares were added to the green space belt of Tehran city, and about 2,000 hectares of fruitful trees will be added this year.

Mokhtari concluded by expressing hope for growth in national production, especially in the field of flowers and plants.



● MARZIEH MOUSAVI/IRNA



Climate activists pile up 650k cigarette butts in Portugal

Climate activists in Portugal collected some 650,000 cigarette butts and piled them up in the heart of Portugal's capital Lisbon in an effort to raise awareness about this often-overlooked form of pollution.

"The main problem with cigarette butts is that they are not biodegradable - they contain a form of plastic and, even worse, a lot of toxins, heavy metals and chemicals," explains Andreas Noe, the German activist behind the initiative, according to Euronews.

According to the World Health Organization, 4.5 trillion cigarette ends are thrown away each year worldwide.

Noe has stockpiled the cigarette butts at Lisbon's famous Praça do Comércio. He explains that the 650,000 butts are just one week of collection.



"The main problem with the butts, it's not biodegradable. So basically it contains a form of plastic and even worse, a lot of toxins and heavy metals and chemicals. With any rain all those toxins are getting flushed out the cigarette butts and getting straight on the street, from the sinks, into for example here right, we are next to the Tagus river and it goes all straight into the ocean."



● AFP