

Emergency organization to be boosted

Social Desk

With the cooperation of the government and parliament, Iran's National Medical Emergency Organization plans to meet the needs of pre-hospital emergencies in both land and air fields.

The head of the organization has announced their intention to purchase 500 ambulances and 18 new helicopters, ISNA reported.

During the closing ceremony of the 9th Olympiad of Emergency Personnel, Jafar Mi'adfar announced that the event was of excellent quality. The competition was intense, with a close margin between the winners and participants.

He highlighted the good emergency situation in Mashhad and Razavi Khorasan Province but pointed out the main problem of having 3,500 worn-out ambulances in the country. He called for special attention to the country's emergency organization, as its forces are the first responders who provide assistance to the sick and injured at all hours. He also emphasized the need for special attention to air emergency supply and requested authorities to address this issue before approving the next year's budget.

Regarding the country's air emergency helicopters, Mi'adfar stated that there are currently 52 in operation, but according to standards, 70 should be active. Therefore, they require an additional 18 helicopters.

He also revealed plans to strengthen the fleet of emergency motor ambulances in major cities. They aim to graduate 400 female emergency technicians by the end of the year and assign them to urban bases, particularly in religious cities like Mashhad, to provide aid to sick and injured women.

- License Holder: Managing Director
- Editor-in-chief
- Int'l & National Desk
- Economy Desk
- Sports Desk
- Iranica Desk
- Arts & Culture Desk
- Social Desk
- Language Editor

Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA)
Ali Kakadezfuli
Mostafa Shirmohammadi
Javad Mohammad Ali, Zohreh Qanadi,
Ebrahim Beheshti, Amir Mollae Mozaffari
Reza Abesh Ahmadlou, Sadeq Dehqan
Amirhadi Arsalanpour
Leila Imeni
Hamideh Hosseini
Ali Amiri
Ali Mehran

Address: #22, Hosseini-Rad Alley, South of Shahid Motahari St., Vali-e Asr Ave., Tehran, Iran
● Editorial Dept. Tel: +98 21 88913453
● Editorial Dept. Fax: +98 21 88930684
● ICPI Publisher: +98 21 88548892, 5
● Advertising Dept. Tel: +98 21 88500617
& Email: irandaily@iranagahiha.com
www.irandaily.ir
newspaper.irandaily.ir
irandaily@icpi.ir
Iran Cultural & Press Institute

Iran Daily



irandaily.ir | newspaper.irandaily.ir | IranDailyWeb

Vol. 7443 ● Saturday, Nov. 25, 2023 ● Price 40,000 Rials ● 8 Pages

A young man with a big heart set on saving addicts



By Mahdiyeh Qazvinian
Staff writer

Homelessness is not just a problem limited to Iran; it has become a global issue. Furthermore, it is not restricted to a specific group such as addicts, criminals, or alcoholics. Sometimes, individuals find themselves sleeping on the streets due to reasons like financial bankruptcy or women facing circumstances like divorce and lack of housing. However, the highest incidence of homelessness is observed among drug addicts. In response to this, individuals of significant stature, both men and women, have established institutions that play a crucial role in reintegrating these individuals into society. Saeed

Maleki, born in 1988 in the southern

part of Tehran, is one such individual. As a coach at a bodybuilding club, Maleki's altruistic nature has guided him towards helping addicts find salvation.

His story begins in 2020 when, after several years of wandering in Turkey and Georgia, he returned to Iran and reunited with his old friend Mohsen Eftekharian, who operates a detox camp near Tehran.

Saeed says, "At Mohsen's suggestion, recognizing my spirit, we began assisting homeless addicts. Despite our financial limitations, we embarked on this path. I used to be afraid to enter the camp, and even if an addict got into my car before, I would be scared. But now, I fearlessly roam the streets, searching for the homeless, and with determination, I approach them and personally escort them to the camp. Although I have faced numerous threats, I have

persisted." One of his primary goals was to create an environment where these individuals could find employment after overcoming addiction, maintain their sobriety, and actively participate in work and society, just like any other member.

"The selfless support of people has been instrumental in my mission, from the sandwich vendor who messaged me, stating their need for workers, to various production workshops. I aspire to continue my work on an international scale, and as long as I am alive, I will remain committed to this path."

Covering the Costs

Eftekharian and I cover the expenses through advertising on our Instagram page and the support of people who see us and contribute. For each 21-day treatment cycle for an addict, we allocate a minimum of \$120 for food and approximately \$420 for dental expenses. Volunteer doctors and psychologists collaborate with us, and fortunately, they do not charge us. Additionally, the country's State Welfare Organization sends psychologists to the camp on a weekly basis and provides individual sessions with patients daily.

The Young and the Rescued

Negar, a 34-year-old woman who has been residing in the women's addiction treatment camp for 5 months, shares her story.



"One night in a western neighborhood of Tehran, while wrapping myself in a makeshift blanket to ward off the cold, I collapsed in a corner of the street, on the brink of death. Suddenly, in the depths of despair, I saw a young man standing above me; he offered assistance and brought me to the women's addiction treatment camp in the neighborhood. It has been 5 months since I became clean, and I even earn a living within the camp. I have no desire to leave this place."

"I was disconnected from my family for four years and had become homeless. The day Saeed took me from the outskirts of Tehran to the camp, I expressed my wish to see my family again. On the day I achieved sobriety, he surprised me. That day, I held my son in my arms," remembers Khalil, who has successfully over-

come addiction. With Saeed's help, Khalil strives to rescue addicts and prevent them from being consumed by this abyss.

"I can never forget Ahmad. I encountered him near the camp office, and when he saw me, he burst into tears. I embraced him and promised to help. Although he escaped from the camp numerous times, I managed to bring him back. Today, he is 26 years old, employed at a company, and on the verge of marriage," Maleki shares.

"I believe one of the main reasons young people are drawn to drugs is the absence of family bonds. During adolescence, I felt inferior to everyone and wished to mature quickly. I thought smoking would make me appear older," Ahmad says.

"An addict is not lowly; they are victims of their own ignorance."

Climate change-induced 'anxiety' on the rise

According to data gathered by Google, online search queries related to "climate anxiety" have risen. Studies also suggest that women are more affected by climate anxiety than men.

The rise of wildfires, floods, and droughts around the world are just some highly visible signs of climate change. However, what is reported less is the impact of climate change on human minds, BBC reported.

Climate anxiety, defined as feelings of distress about the impacts of climate change, has been reported globally, particularly among children and young people. Data from Google Trends shows a dramatic increase in search queries related to "climate anxiety". In the first 10 months of 2023, search queries in English around "climate anxiety" were 27 times higher than the same period in 2017.

The Google Trends data combines search queries for "climate anxiety" and "eco-anxiety," terms that are often used interchangeably but have slightly different meanings. Climate anxiety specifically

refers to anxiety associated with awareness of climate change, while eco-anxiety is a more general anxiety associated with threats to environmental health, including pollution and loss of biodiversity. Google Trends does not simply measure the total volume of searches but looks at a sample of searches to identify trends worldwide. It uses a measure called "search interest" to examine the relative popularity of search queries over time.

Over the past five years, Nordic countries have had the biggest share of global search queries related to climate anxiety. Finland, Sweden, Denmark, and Norway accounted for over 40 percent of search queries related to "climate anxiety". Google adjusts its data to account for differences in overall search volume, allowing for comparisons between countries of various population sizes. As a result, smaller countries may top the ranking instead of more populated ones.

Countries in the Global South, such as Chile, the Philippines, and South Africa, represented smaller

shares of search queries. Countries with low search volumes have been excluded from the analysis.

Google has also noted a global increase in search queries about the future of the planet, as well as queries about the environment, in the last 12 months. People are not only seeking understanding but also wanting to take action. For example, "how to solve climate change" was one of the trending queries about climate change worldwide in the last two years. Although Google did not release data on the gender of people searching for queries related to "climate anxiety," research indicates that women are more predisposed to climate anxiety than men. Findings from a 2023 study published in the academic journal Sustainability showed that female respondents around the world reported greater levels of concern and negative emotions about climate change. Male respondents, on the other hand, were more optimistic and expressed greater faith in government. The study, based on an online

survey of 10,000 people aged 16 to 25 across 10 countries, was not the only one to highlight this gender difference. Analysis of more than 44,000 respondents from the European Social Survey in 2019 also concluded that women registered greater concern about climate change than men.

Professor Susan Clayton, co-author of the Sustainability study, offers possible explanations for this gender disparity. She suggests that women may be more open to discussing emotions, leading them to consistently report higher levels of concern. Additionally, some women may worry more about climate change because they are at greater risk than men of experiencing real-life impacts. Physiological vulnerability, such as the impact of high temperatures and air pollution during pregnancy, can make it more difficult for women to escape extreme climate conditions.

Furthermore, research suggests that women are more likely than men to die in climate change-related disasters. For instance, a study examining cyclones in Ban-

ladesh between 1983 and 2009 found that women had an increased mortality risk compared to the general adult population. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) states that human contributions have likely intensified some cyclones.

Gender-based inequalities play a role in limiting women's access to information following a climate change event, particularly in poorer countries. They may have fewer opportunities to travel to a place of safety and may prioritize the

safety of others over themselves due to caring responsibilities. Indirect and longer-term impacts of climate change can also have detrimental effects on the well-being of women and girls.

In 2022, the IPCC reported on the mental health impacts of climate change for the first time. This year's COP28 in Dubai will also feature several discussions about mental health. Just as the physical impacts of climate change are on the rise, so too is the attention paid to its impacts on the mind.



Cyclone Sidr in Bangladesh in 2007 caused thousands deaths and left millions homeless, particularly affecting women and children. ● GETTY IMAGES