

Paying Attention to Social Capital in Iran After Recent Flood

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The recent flood in Iran was an opportunity to assess the actual status of social capital in Iran. Social capital is one of the key elements in shaping the interpersonal relationships of individuals in a society to achieve the highest humanitarian goals to improve the standard of life¹. Flooding happened in 15 provinces out of the 31 provinces of Iran along with extreme rainfall, which reached over 1,000 mm in some areas. Flood involved more than half of the country².

From the early beginning of this tragedy, the nation of Iran rised up to help the victims. Official institutions such as the Red Crescent, the Interior Ministry, the military forces and Police, all came to rescue the victims. But what the world witnessed and had a global reflect in media was the full involvement of a nation to help their Iranian patriots.

Volunteer groups formed in all affected cities and villages. in such chaotic situations with limited logistic aids, it has been seen that a group of people built human dams against the current of flood. Records show that a large number of direct and indirect donations have been delivered to the affected areas. Various medical, engineering and other support groups came in unity to help victims. Even from the areas that were themselves previously affected by earthquakes within last year, great humanitarian aids were sent to flood-affected areas.

In a short term, a large amount of intra- and inter-group relationships was formed and different ethnic groups came for help while spontaneously bonding and bridging social capital was formed. Trusts were founded everywhere and a large amount of cash and non-cash aid was provided to trustees to hand in to flood victims. Also, a large social networking appeared to absorb volunteer participation and collaboration.

These all represent a huge hidden social capital among Iranian people, so when problems arise, they help each other in such a glorious way. They first take care of the neighbours and then of their own.

In conclusion, we may say that the recent floods in Iran showed the magnificence of Iran's social capital to the world.

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