Imam Ali’s Popular Students Relief Society (IAPRIS) (Society of Students Against Poverty) is an international non-governmental organization which has been following its activities with official record of Ministry of the Interior of Islamic Republic of Iran since 1999. IAPRIS has consultative status from ECOSOC since 2010.

Innovation in the use of national and religious rituals and traditions of the community can be considered as effective opportunities to alleviate social issues.
Introduction
Imam Ali’s Popular Students Relief Society (IAPRSRS) (Society of Students against Poverty) is an international non-governmental organization which has followed its activities with official record of Ministry of the Interior of Islamic Republic of Iran since 1999. After many years of social activities, IAPRSRS succeeded in obtaining consultative status from the economic and social council of the United Nations in 2010, which caused remarkable broadening in the range of international efforts of this organization. In this regard, IAPRSRS NGO has pursued relief programs to enhance the life situation of children and women.

IAPRSRS Activities and Projects
IAPRSRS had implemented various activities to tackle social problems. Its strategy has always been to carry out their social activities, by innovation in the use of national and religious rituals, traditions of the community and their compliance with the needs of the society to lessen social issues. This means that a national and religious ritual which has become a routine in the community can be utilized as a tool in the hands of social workers to alleviate the issues that the society is confronted with. Therefore, IAPRSRS hold some plans on particular days of the year (such as Ramadan, Rajab and Moharram month, Nowruz, Yalda, and so on) to benefit impoverished people of the society and enhance the awareness of the community towards their relief tasks and altruism.
Kuchegardan-e-Ashegh Project
(Food Project)

IAPRS has implemented the project “Kuchegardan-e-Ashegh” since 1999 as its first relief project to supply the nutritional requirements of destitute families during Ramadan month. In 7500 households all around the country were covered by this project. Some objectives of this project mentioned as below:

- Providing the basic necessities for destitute families.
- Promoting the culture of philanthropic activities in the community.
- Make a clear recognition of disadvantaged families living in marginalized neighborhoods of the country.

The Target:

Confrontation with severe malnutrition among deprived children
This project is aligned with the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd goals of sustainable development goals (SDG), the 2030 Agenda.

Teflan-e-Moslem Project

IAPRS have implemented the project “Teflan-e-Moslem” since 2006. It is based on the Iranian Islamic culture. In general, the target groups are children and juvenile exposed to criminal offences and delinquencies. The objective of the project is to help these children, as members of Iranian Islamic society, have access to higher living standards through the provision of proper social services. Principally, this project supports children who have no criminal background but are the victims of their environment abnormalities. For example, under 18 children who accidentally killed another person in an altercation and are about to be executed via death penalty due to the Islamic panel code. In the years of running the project, IAPRS has been succeeded to rescue 25 children under 18 from death penalty. The project follows two objectives: 1) give free legal consultancy to disadvantaged families that their culpable child is in prisons; 2) helps to take forgiveness by the side of victim families via mediation methods by professional social workers.

The Target:

Supporting children in conflict with the law
This project is aligned with the 1st, 16th goal of sustainable development goals (SDG), the 2030 Agenda.
Mothers Heads of families
(Safay-e-Saay Project)
This project concentrates on the problems and difficulties of women and mothers. The ones who despite the existence of tremendous difficulties in their lives, shoulder life responsibilities and deal with the obstacles they confront with. Supporting the women, this project assists them to conquer their difficulties, strengthens their capability of solving problems, and allows them to know and defend their rights. The project focuses on women heads of household with the purpose of thoroughly empowering. This project aims to fulfill the potential opportunities in correspond with Muslim societies to promote the conditions of women heads of household. Muslims who go to Haj every year are invited to take the lead in empowering the life of these families with the assist of the social workers of IAPSR5.

The Target:
Empowering mothers heads of family
This project is aligned with the 1st, 3rd, 5th and 8th goals of sustainable development goals (SDG), the 2030 Agenda.

Educational Program
(The Iranian Homes)
Considering the article 28 of a convention adopted in the United Nations General Assembly on November 1989 (.20 (the Convention on Rights of the Child), the right for all children to have access to education is officially recognized.

Following the idea, IAPSR5 has established 35 relief centers called the Iranian Homes. The centers are pursing these targets:

- Creating fairly equal educational opportunities for all children living in marginalized deprived neighborhoods.
- Preventing school dropout among children due to different kinds of poverty.
- Eliminating the educational obstacles children confront with in socially disadvantaged families such as child labor, addicted children, run away children, and so on.

The Target:
Educational support of deprived children
This program is aligned with the 1st and 4th goal of sustainable development goals (SDG), the 2030 Agenda.
**Haft Sin-e-Barekat Project**

The beginning of the New Year in the Iranian calendar is called “Nowruz”. On Nowruz Iranian people come together around a traditional table arranged of seven symbolic items called “Haft Sin” and celebrate the New Year. This project invites people to participate in a celebration on Nowruz alongside deprived and socially disadvantaged children around a grand Haft Sin table.

**Influencing Fields:**
- Holding new year ceremony besides deprived children
- This program is aligned with the 1st and 16th goal of sustainable development goals (SDG), the 2030 Agenda.

IPASRS has implemented this project since 2010 by celebrating Nowruz in simultaneous ceremonies held in different parts of the country in marginalized vicinities. The main goal of the project is to bring a happiness atmosphere for children using national rituals.

**Yalda Project**

The longest night of the year in the Iranian calendar is called “Yalda”. On Yalda Iranian people come together and celebrate the night. This project invites people to celebrate Yalda night alongside deprived and socially disadvantaged children. IPASRS has implemented this project since 2010 by celebrating Yalda in simultaneous ceremonies held in different parts of the country in marginalized vicinities. The main goal of the project is making children happy using national rituals.

**The Target:**
- Holding Yalda ceremony alongside impoverished families
- This program is aligned with the 1st, 2nd and 16th goal of sustainable development goals (SDG), the 2030 Agenda.
Sham-e-Ayyaran Program

This program is a public declaration of aversion to widespread addiction in the society, especially child addiction, in a peaceful demonstration by students and elites. IAPSR has implemented “Shem-e-Ayyaran” since 2010.

**The Target:**
Combating widespread addiction
This program is aligned with the 3rd and 16th goal of sustainable development goals (SDG), the 2030 Agenda.

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Kaab-e-Kariman Project

This is a program to come the dreams of impoverished children true by the help of students and elites. The program creates good memories in the minds of children with fulfilling their dreams true. Moreover, it brings community involvement in resolving the needs of children. IAPSR has implemented “Kaab-e-Kariman” project since 2009.

**The Target:**
fulfilling dreams of impoverished children
This program is aligned with the 1st, 8th and 16th goal of sustainable development goals (SDG), the 2030 Agenda.