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Investigating the Role of Leadership and Command of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Countering COVID -19

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Background and Aim: Simultaneously with the outbreak of Coronavirus in Iran, the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran have taken extensive and effective actions to control the disease and manage the consequences of this epidemic. The purpose of this study is to identify and categorize the dimensions of management and leadership of the armed forces in order to identify lesser-known actions and efforts. The results of this study can be used as a practical and extensible framework for epidemiological management efficiency in Iran and other armed forces in the world.

Methods: The present qualitative study was performed by document analysis method. First, by reviewing electronic sources, all available documents and articles related to the leadership and management of COVID -19 disease were identified. All related multimedia files, including audio, text and video, in the period of March 2020 to January 2022 by searching the Internet and referring to Websites and databases were searched and collected with keywords based on the above criteria. The selection of documents was purposeful and taking into account the four criteria of JUPP. After multi-stage screening, 75 documents were finally selected and analyzed after coding.

Findings: The response and actions of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and other major countries involved, as well as the dimensions of effective management and leadership to counter the Coronavirus pandemic were identified and recorded in 22 fields.

Conclusions: The Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, considering the use of extensive capacities in the field of management and leadership, based on the experiences of the time of Iran - Iraq war, principles of organizational management and military leadership, and especially modeling and obeying the orders of the Supreme Command Such as: strategy adoption, flexibility of hierarchy, planning and coordination, communication, freedom of action, trust, innovation in times of crisis, training and

empowerment, necessity of patience, religious and human motivations, team work, ... and also using medical and hospital facilities, it has been able to respond appropriately to the needs of patients caused by the corona epidemic and to contribute significantly to the health and treatment system of the country. These measures include: establishing a convalescent home, establishment of fixed and mobile hospitals, producing masks and disinfectants, screening plans, outpatient centers, traffic restrictions, designing a corona diagnostic test kit, establishing public vaccination centers, telephone counseling services, etc.

Keywords: COVID -19, Management, Leadership, Armed Forces