



## ENCYCLOPEDIA OF WOMEN AND ISLAMIC CULTURES

### Data Sheet: Women & Literacy Rates: Arab Gulf States

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- ❖ Women in Qatar have a 93% literacy rate, higher than the literacy rate of men in Oman, Saudi Arabia, and Syria. <http://www.cnn.com/2012/06/01/world/meast/middle-east-women-education> 7/19/2013
- ❖ In the United Arab Emirates 90% of women are literate. [www.uae-embassy.org/uae/women-in-the-uae](http://www.uae-embassy.org/uae/women-in-the-uae) 8/20/2013
- ❖ 97% of Saudi Arabian women (ages 15-24) are literate. This is higher than that of men in the surrounding Gulf States of Oman, Kuwait and Syria. Saudi Arabian women have a higher literacy rate than their Israeli and Chinese counterparts.<sup>1</sup> [http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/saudi-arabia\\_statistics.html](http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/saudi-arabia_statistics.html) 8/20/2013
- ❖ In Yemen the ministry of Education and the World Bank funded a Literacy through Poetry Project. Based on the educational philosophy of Paolo Freire it the project focuses on learner generated content. The movement seeks to empower women in their reading and writing capabilities. The Literacy through Poetry Project affirms the poetic traditions of the region and empowers Yemeni women in an increasingly literate world.  
<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/MENAEXT/EXTMNAREGTOPGE/0,,contentMDK:20617770~pagePK:34004173~piPK:34003707~theSitePK:493333,00.html> 8/20/13
- ❖ In Oman in 2008 female literacy rate was 81%.<sup>2</sup> In 1999 the number of women enrolled in literacy classes was much higher than their male counterparts.  
<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0014/001411/141188eo.pdf> 8/20/13
- ❖ Launched in Bahrain in 2000 The Mother-Child Home Education Programme (MOCEP), an “intergeneration educational empowerment programme for parents,” the program is a good resource for mothers and pre-school children. MOCEP provides pre-school and educational opportunities for lower-income Bahrainis. MOCEP encourages functional literacy skills among mother. This helps mothers prepare their own children for primary school. <http://www.unesco.org/uii/litbase/?menu=12&programme=65> 8/20/13
- ❖ Like the other Arab Gulf states a high percentage of Kuwaiti women are literate. In 2008 the CIA fact book indicated that 91.8% of women in Kuwait were literate, which surpasses women in Hong Kong.  
<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ku.html> 8/20/2013

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/fields/2103.html>

<sup>2</sup> <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/socind/>