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Women and 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.¹
- ❖ In the United Arab Emirates 90% of women are literate.²
- ❖ Ninety-seven percent of Saudi Arabian women (ages 15-24) fully are literate which again is higher than that of men in the surrounding Gulf States of Oman and Syria.³
- ❖ In Yemen the ministry of Education and the World Bank funded a Literacy through Poetry Project. Following the Feirean style of learner generated content the movement seeks to empower women not only in their reading and writing ability but to affirm the poetic tradition of the region and while instilling in Yemeni women a sense of belonging in an ever literate world.⁴
- ❖ In Oman in 2008 female literacy rate was 81%; however in 1999 the number of women enrolled in literacy classes was much higher than their male counterparts.⁵
- ❖ Launched in Bahrain in 2000 The Mother-Child Home Education Programme (MOCEP) an “intergeneration educational empowerment programme for parents,” but particularly for mothers and pre-school children focuses on providing pre-school and educational opportunities for lower-income Bahrainis. One of the main tenets of the MOCEP is to encourage and nurture functional literacy skills among mothers, which in turn enables the mothers to prepare their own children for primary school.⁶
- ❖ Like the other Gulf states a high percentage of Kuwaiti women are literate, in 2008 the CIA fact book noted that 91.8% of women in Kuwait were literate.⁷

¹ <http://www.cnn.com/2012/06/01/world/meast/middle-east-women-education>

² www.uae-embassy.org/uae/women-in-the-uae

³ http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/egypt_statistics.html

⁴ <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/MENAEXT/EXTMNAREGTOPGENDER/0,,contentMDK:20617770~pagePK:34004173~piPK:34003707~theSitePK:493333.00.html>

⁵ <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/socind/> , <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0014/001411/141188eo.pdf>

⁶ <http://www.unesco.org/uil/litbase/?menu=12&programme=65>

⁷ <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ku.html>