



ENCYCLOPEDIA OF WOMEN AND ISLAMIC CULTURES

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EWIC STAFF REPORT: WOMEN AND EDUCATION: INDONESIA AND MALAYSIA

Indonesia

A. University Education

Higher education in Indonesia has seen great growth in the past four decades. As of 2009 Indonesia was home to 2,975 institutions capable of granting graduate degrees. Some 4.2 million students are enrolled in these institutions of higher learning.
<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0014/001465/146541e.pdf>

Women in Indonesia have achieved almost universal literacy. However, older women are less likely to be literate than the younger generations. This illiteracy is a vestige of Dutch colonialism which only ended in 1957. However, since the end of Dutch colonial rule the gender parity in education has been steadily increasing. In primary education gender discrepancies have essentially been erased. While in secondary schools girls are marginally more likely to be enrolled than their male counterparts. Parker, Lyn. "Education: National Curricula: Indonesia." Encyclopedia of Women & Islamic Cultures. General Editor Suad Joseph. Brill Online, 2013. Reference. University of California UC Davis CDL. 06 June 2013 brill.com

In Malaysia the numbers of women enrolled in tertiary education have been steadily on the rise over the past four decades. Women's increasing presence in tertiary education has been commensurate with the growing and changing university systems in Malaysia. By 2000 the percent of Malaysian women enrolled in higher education had reached 51.3%. This represents a remarkable increase given that in 1959 only 10.7 % of Malaysian undergraduates were women in 1959.

<http://www.undp.org.my/uploads/ProgressOfMalaysianWomen.pdf>

Malaysian women outnumber men in higher education in masters programs. Men however still have an edge when it comes to doctorate degrees. Women at the university level in Malaysia focus on arts, the sciences and technology while men appear to be gravitating more toward technical and vocational training. http://www.unicef.org/malaysia/gift_6069.html

The overall high number of students in Malaysia pursuing university degrees has translated into more women holding jobs in the work place. The World Bank speculates that, "Malaysia could experience a 23% increase in output per capita as a result of more women holding jobs and becoming entrepreneurs." <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2012/11/29/mem-nov-2012-unlocking-womens-potential-keyfindings>

B. Primary and Secondary School Education

Primary school attendance in South Asia is at 81%. In the Middle East and North Africa it is at 83%.

Gender gaps in primary school attendance have almost closed in East Asia and the Pacific.

http://www.unicef.org/media/media_45452.html

In Indonesia as of 2002 both genders are equally represented at the primary school level. Consequently literacy rates in Indonesia are quite high and do not reveal a gender gap.

http://www.unicef.org/indonesia/girls_education_fact_sheet_final_ENG_1_.pdf

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