



ENCYCLOPEDIA OF WOMEN AND ISLAMIC CULTURES

Dr. Suad Joseph
General Editor

Distinguished Professor of Anthropology and Women and Gender Studies, University of California, Davis

<http://sjoseph.ucdavis.edu/ewic>

EWIC PUBLIC OUTREACH PROJECT

EWIC thanks the Henry Luce Foundation for its support of this project

EWIC STAFF REPORT: WOMEN AND EDUCATION: THE MIDDLE EAST

Women in the Middle East attending university make up the majority of the overall student population for the region. Two-thirds of the overall university students in the Middle East are women. In Lebanon, women enrolled in universities constitute 54% of the overall student population. The figures for Qatar are similar, 63% of the university student population consists of women, and subsequently women in Qatar have a 93% literacy rate. According to Nawar Al-Hassan Golley, at the University of Sharjah, a smaller number of men in Arab countries pursue graduate degrees than do their female counterparts. Dr. Al-Hassan Golley postulates that this is due to the fact that men are in a greater hurry to find employment and are therefore not as interested in spending the time required to pursue graduate degrees as compared to women.

In Kuwait 64% of women attend university as compared to 36% of men.

In Saudi Arabia 52% of women attend university as compared to 48% of men.

In the United Arab Emirates 60% of women attend university as compared to 40% of men.

In Jordan 51% of women attend university as compared to 49% of men.

In Palestine 56% of women attend university as compared to 44% of men.

In Oman both sexes are equally represented in university attendance.

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

In Egypt women currently fill one-third of the teaching positions in public universities. Female academics in Egypt serve as department heads in a wide range of formerly male dominated disciplines. These disciplines range from engineering, science, and media to political science.

<http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20090205202945745>

The secretary of Higher Council for Universities in Egypt is a woman, Salwa al-Ghareeb.

<http://whoisshe.wmf.org.eg/expert-profile/salwa-abdalla-el-gharib>

In Lebanon the three most popular fields of study for women are fields conventionally dominated by men, these are: business administration (15%), hard sciences (11%) and art and design (10%).

http://www.iwpr.org/publications/pubs/focus-on-lebanon-topic-brief-economic-educational-status/at_download/file

UNESCO has noted that generally women are much more likely to pursue higher education in more economically stable regions. Overall, the research seems to indicate that in wealthy nations the

number of women enrolled in higher education surpasses that of men.

<http://www.uis.unesco.org/Education/Pages/women-higher-education.aspx>

There are higher numbers of Arab women enrolled in graduate science degrees in the Middle East than there are in Western Europe. Arab women also generally have a higher success rate than their male counterparts in the hard sciences. <http://middleeastvoices.voanews.com/2013/04/insight-women-in-the-workforce-in-the-arab-world-48868/>

Primary completion rate, female (% of relevant age group)

“Primary completion rate. Female is the total number of new female entrants in the last grade of primary education, regardless of age, expressed as percentage of the total female population of the theoretical entrance age to the last grade of primary. This indicator is also known as, “gross intake rate to the last grade of primary.” The ratio can exceed 100% due to the over-age and under-age children who enter primary school late/early and/or repeat grades.”

<http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SE.PRM.CMPT.ZS>

Azerbaijan (2011) 92%

Liberia (2011) 60%

Brunei Darussalam (2011) 120%

Morocco (2012) 97%

Djibouti (2011) 45%

Nigeria (2010) 70%

Egypt (2010) 99%

Oman (2011) 108%

Gambia, The (2011) 67%

Pakistan (2011) 59%

Indonesia (2009) 105%

Philippines (2009) 94%

Iran (2011) 106%

Qatar (2011) 96%

Jordan (2008) 101%

Saudi Arabia (2011) 105%

Kazakhstan (2012) 109%

Syria (2011) 106%

Lebanon (2011) 89%

Tajikistan (2011) 102%

Tunisia (2009) 92%

Turkey (2010) 100%

United States (2010) 104%

Uzbekistan (2011) 92%

Palestine (2011) 92%

Yemen (2011) 53%