



ENCYCLOPEDIA OF WOMEN AND ISLAMIC CULTURES

Literacy in South Asia

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EWIC Staff: Datasheet

- ❖ The literacy rate for females in South Asia from ages 15-24 was 73.3% in 2010. The female adult literacy rate, ages 15 and above, was 50.27% in 2010.¹
- ❖ Completion rate for primary education for women rose from 59.4% in 2000 to 86.6% in 2010.²
- ❖ Literacy for youth, defined as ages 15-24, is 61.5% for females in Pakistan.³ Overall female literacy was 40.3% in 2009. School life expectancy for females is 7 years.⁴
- ❖ In Pakistan, 2.1% of the GDP was spent towards education in 2012.⁴
- ❖ Youth literacy in India for females is 74.4%.⁵ Overall female literacy was 50.8%, in 2006. School life expectancy for females is 11 years.⁶
- ❖ In India, 3.2% of the GDP was spent towards education in 2011.⁶
- ❖ The youth literacy for females in Bangladesh is 80.4% and is higher than the youth literacy for males, which is 77.1%.⁷
- ❖ Female youth literacy in Sri Lanka is 98.6%, almost the same as that of male youth which is 0.9% higher.⁸
- ❖ Public spending on education in South Asia averages 4.1% of the GDP. A large share of this total spending goes towards teacher's salaries.⁹
- ❖ An estimate of 26 million children from lower class backgrounds remain out of school in South Asia. An estimated 10% of these children have disabilities.⁹

¹(February 5, 2015) <http://www.indexmundi.com/facts/south-asia/literacy-rate>

²(February 5, 2015) <http://www.tradingeconomics.com/south-asia/literacy-rate-youth-female-percent-of-females-ages-15-24-wb-data.html>

³(February 5, 2015) http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/pakistan_pakistan_statistics.html

⁴(February 5, 2015) <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/pk.html>

⁵(February 5, 2015) http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/india_statistics.html

⁶(February 5, 2015) <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/in.html>

⁷(February 5, 2015) http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/bangladesh_bangladesh_statistics.html

⁸(February 5, 2015) http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/sri_lanka_statistics.html

⁹(February 5, 2015)

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/SOUTHASIAEXT/0,,contentMDK:21487829~pagePK:146736~piPK:146830~theSitePK:223547,00.html>