



Press Release

Central Agency for Public Mobilization And Statistics

On the Occasion of the International Literacy Day

3.9% decreased the illiteracy rate in Egypt during 2006 and 2017

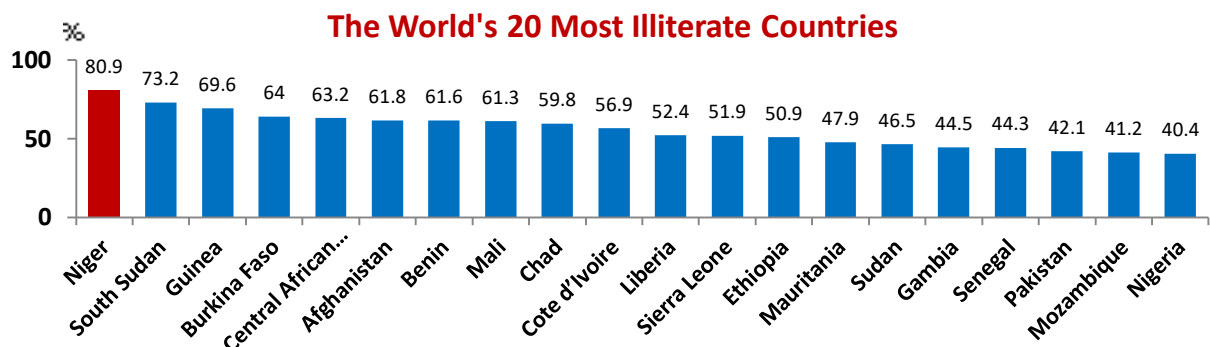
Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) issued on 8/9 /2020 a press release on the occasion of the International Literacy Day which is held annually on September 8. It was approved by the General Conference of UNESCO at the 14th session in 1965. To celebrate it annually to raise awareness of the importance of literacy as a subject related to human dignity and respect for human rights, as a tool to enhance personal capabilities and a means to achieve social and human development.

The issue of literacy is one of the issues that concern the international community in general, and it is of utmost importance in Egypt to eliminate it, and it has been included in sustainable development goals, as well as within Egypt's vision 2030, The statement has been prepared to deal with the image and form of illiteracy in the world, as well as the form of illiteracy in Arab countries and illiteracy brief in Egypt.

• The most important illiteracy indicators are as follows:

I- Illiteracy status in the world countries, in 2020:

- 13.7% is global illiteracy rate for all persons (15 years and over).
- Most of illiterate people live in South and West Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa out of all illiterate adults in the world, and nearly two-thirds of them are female.



- 18 of the world's 20 most illiterate countries are from Africa, As a result of their lacks of educational resources or tools needed to improve their lives.
- 80.9% is the highest illiteracy rate in the world in Niger in 2019. □

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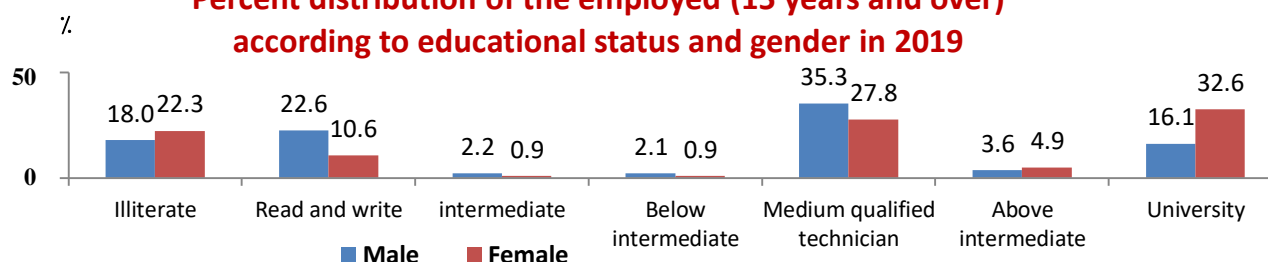
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II-The illiteracy status in Egypt during the period (2017-2019)

25.8% Illiteracy rate (for individuals 10 years and over)

- Illiteracy rate decreased from 39.4% in 1996 to 29.7% in 2006 and to 25.8% according to 2017 population census, according to the data of the Public Authority for Adult Education, the illiteracy rate decreased to reached 24.6% in July 2019. -2-
- 18.4 million illiterates' people in Egypt, at a rate of 25.8% in 2017 census.
- Illiteracy rate for males reached 21.1% compared to 30.8% for females in 2017.
- Rural illiteracy rate reached 32.2% compared to 17.7% in urban areas in 2017.
- Illiteracy rates among youth (15-24 years) is lower than elderly (60 years and above), reaching 6.9% for youth compared to 63.4% for elderly in 2017.
- Minya governorate recorded the highest illiteracy rate, at 37.2%
- Red Sea Governorate recorded the lowest rates of illiteracy, at 12%
- 5.69% of the total degree to the absolute, in general the percentage is slightly higher for males than for females.
- 3% of illiterate users of both computers and Internet.
- The lowest unemployment rate for illiterates, reaching 2.2%, while the highest unemployment rates are among those with a university degree or more reaching 16.7%, due to the fact that illiterates accept the minimum number of jobs regardless of skill level (manual and craft work) in contrast to those with High qualifications, according to 2019 labor force research data.
- Percentage of illiterate workers increased (22.3%) compared to illiterate male workers (18.0%) in 2019.
- Change rates (positive) in wages during the last five years tended to decrease with increase in the educational level of the employed. At the total level, Average daily wage change rate for illiterate workers reached 50.8%, compared to 26.4% for those holding university and postgraduate qualifications, which reflects the higher relatedemand of workers for Loweducational levels comparedtohigh educational levels.

**Percent distribution of the employed (15 years and over)
according to educational status and gender in 2019**



Data sources

- CAPMAS, General Census of Population, Housing and Establishments 2017.
- Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics, Manpower Research, 2019.
- General Authority for Literacy and Adult Education.
- Statistics of the Arab Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (UNESCO).