



What does data tell us about the education situations around the world?

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Contents

Introduction

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This section is to compare the literacy rate for adult and youth globally, regionally and in different age groups.

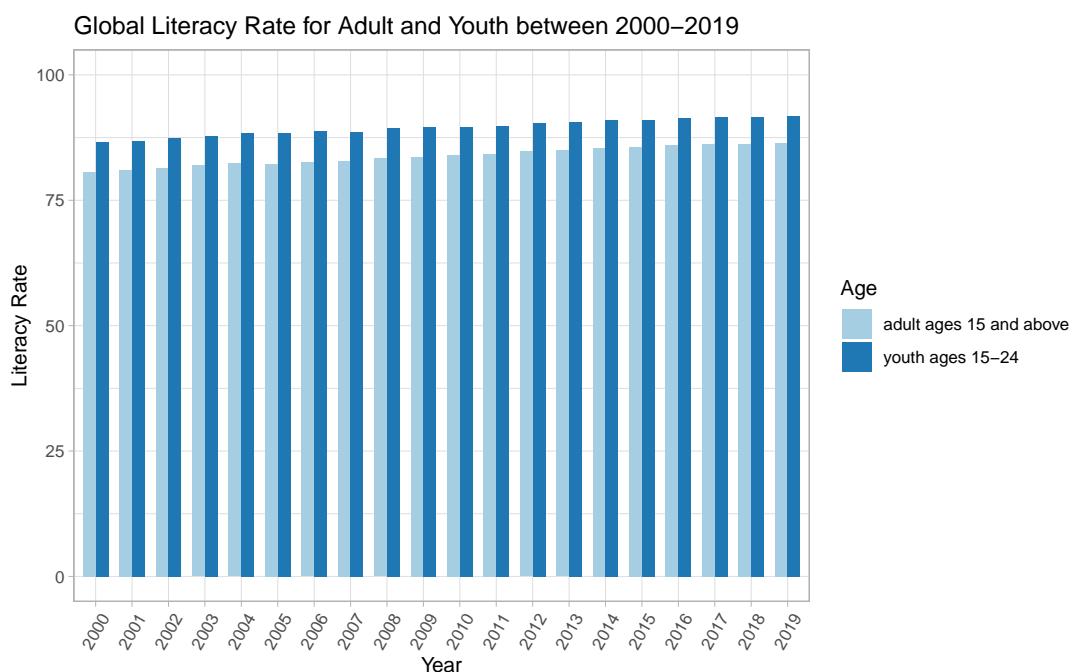


Figure 1: Global Literacy Rate for Adult and Youth between 2000-2019

Figure 1 shows that although the literacy rate for adult aged 15 and above is lower than the literacy rate for youth aged 15-24 in each year, both rates are showing a slow and steady increase over the years. The improvements in the expansion of basic education and the reduction of education inequalities have contributed to an increase in the global literacy rate, over the last 65 years it increased by 4% every 5 years ([owidliteracy](#)).

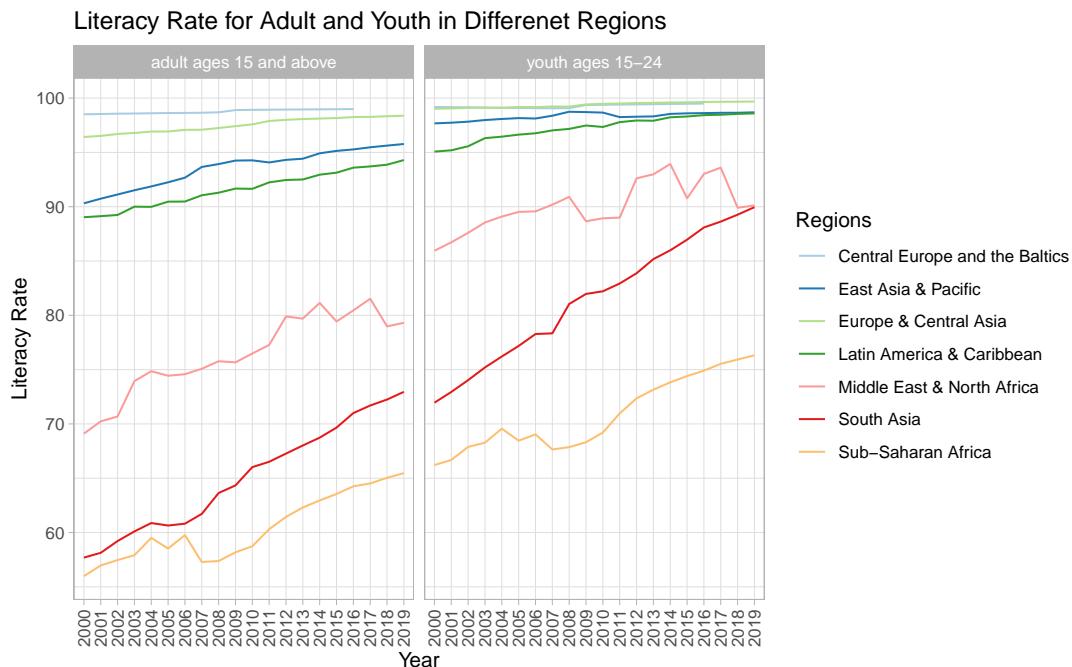


Figure 2: Global Literacy Rate for Adult and Youth between 2000-2019

As the figure 2 shown above, there was a significant increase in the literacy rate for adult aged 15 and above in Middle East & North Africa, South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa also had improved the literacy rate tremendously in the youth age group over the years. Both East Asia & Pacific and Latin America & Caribbean had an 5% increase in literacy rate in the adult group where as the literacy rate increase approximately 4% in the youth group in Latin America & Caribbean and a small increase in the youth group in East Asia & Pacific. Regions like Central Europe and the Baltics and Europe & Central Asia had maintained a high literacy rate in both age groups over the years. Developed countries have better education facilities and system than developing countries, they tend to have higher literacy rate over the years.

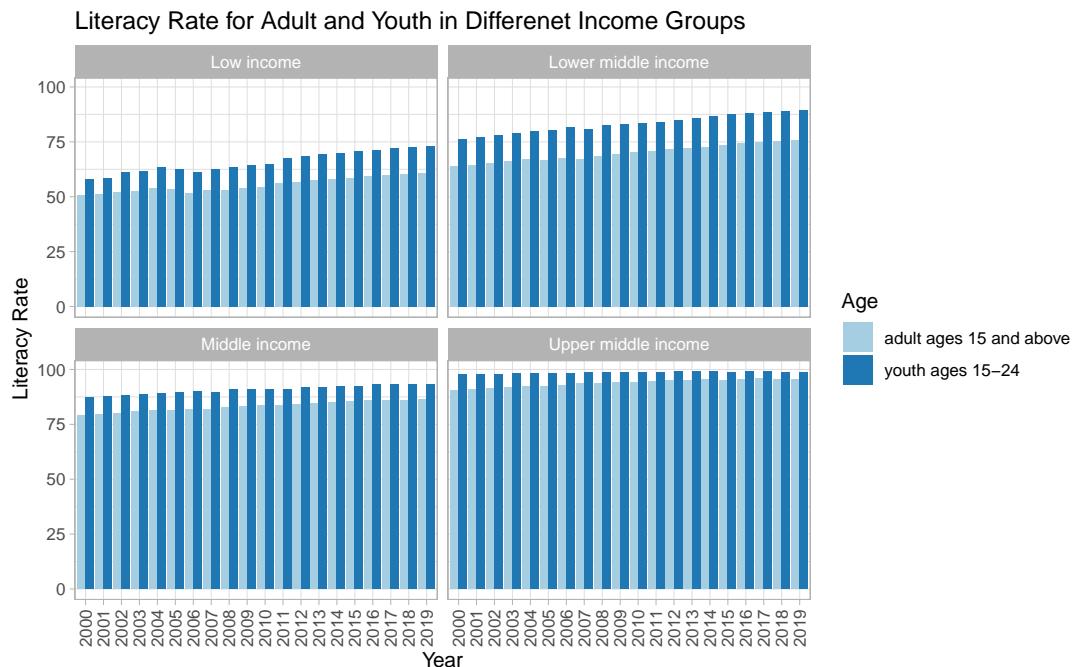


Figure 3: Literacy Rate for Adult and Youth in Differenet Income Groups

Figure 3 demonstrates that both adult and youth groups that have higher income tend to have higher literacy rate and all the income groups are showing an increasing trend in the literacy rate except for the upper middle income group had maintained a very high literacy rate over the years. It's pretty obvious that people have higher income are able to afford better education compare to those people with lower income.

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Conclusion