



Press Release

Central Agency for Public Mobilization And Statistics

On the Occasion of the International Literacy Day 21% illiteracy rate in Arab world 2018

Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) issued on 8 / 9 / 2019 a press release on the occasion of the International Literacy Day which is held annually on September 8, which was approved by the General Conference of UNESCO at the 14th session in 1965. Literacy is a matter of human dignity and respect for human rights, a tool to enhance personal capacity and a means to achieve social and human development. It is celebrated this year under the slogan "Literacy and Skills Development".

The state is concerned with the issue of illiteracy, where 2019 was considered the year of education in Egypt because of importance of education and building Egyptian citizen

Therefore, we should pay attention to the issue of illiteracy as part of education system. Therefore, all elements of Egyptian society (youth, universities, parties, civil society institutions and ministries) must be involved in developing and implementing a comprehensive plan to eradicate illiteracy as one of the most important targets in Egypt's Vision 2030 for sustainable development.

The most important illiteracy indicators are as follows:

27.1% illiteracy rate (for individuals 15 years and over) in the Arab countries, compared to 16% in the world

❖ Illiteracy rates during the period 1996-2017:

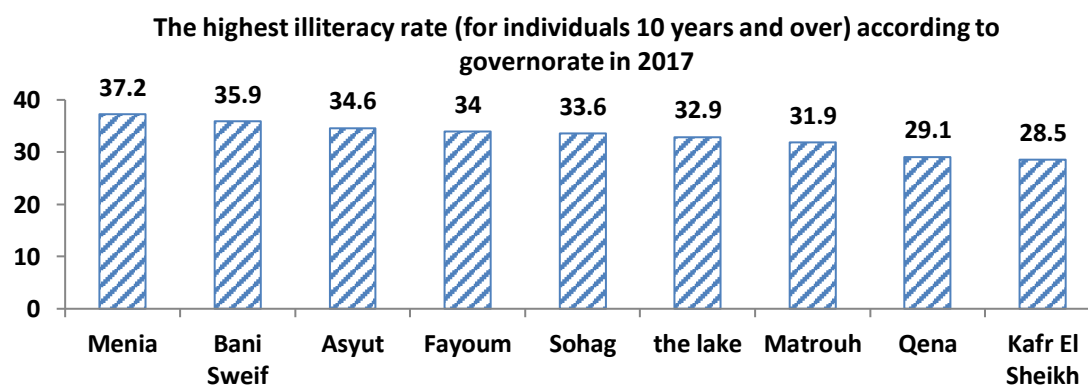
25.8% Illiteracy rate (for individuals 10 years and over) according to the 2017 census

- The number of illiterate individuals (10 years and over) decreased from 17.6 million in 1996 to 17.0 million in 2006, and then it increased to 18.4 million in 2017.
- Most of illiterate individuals in 1996 & 2006 censuses were females representing 62% of total illiterate individuals and it decreased to 57.8% in 2017.

- The illiteracy rate decreased from 39.4% in 1996 to 29.7% in 2006 and to 25.8% in 2017.
- The 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.
- The rate of illiteracy among youth (15-24 years) is lower than the elderly (60 years and above), as it reached 6.9% for youth compared to 63.4% for the elderly, which gives a positive indication of the trend towards a decrease in this rate in the future.

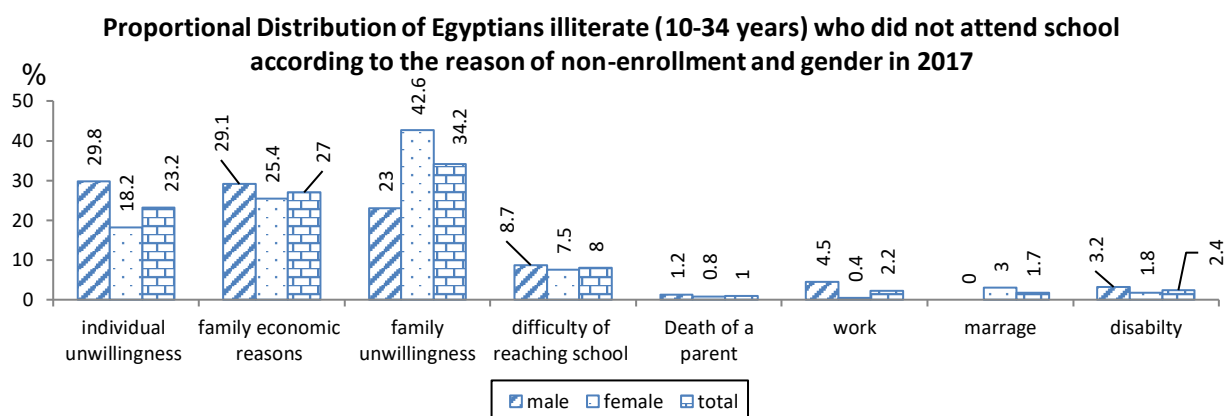
❖ **Illiteracy rates according to governorates in 2017 :**

- The governorates of Upper Egypt recorded the highest rates of illiteracy, with 37.2% in Minya, 35.9% in Beni Suef governorate, 34.6% in Assiut, 34% in Fayoum and 33.6% in Sohag. The lowest rate reached 19.1% in Aswan.
- The highest rates of illiteracy in the Lower Egypt reached 32.9% in the governorate of the El Behaira followed by 28.5% in Kafr El-Sheikh governorate, 25.9% in Sharkia governorate and the lowest illiteracy rate in the Lower Egypt reached 20.2% in Damietta Governorate.
- The urban governorate recorded the highest rates of illiteracy which reached 19% in Alexandria governorate, 16.2% in Cairo governorate, 15.3% in Suez governorate, the lowest rate was registered 14.1% in Port Said governorate.
- The Frontier governorates recorded the lowest rates of illiteracy, reaching 12% in the Red Sea Governorate, 16.6% in South Sinai Governorate.



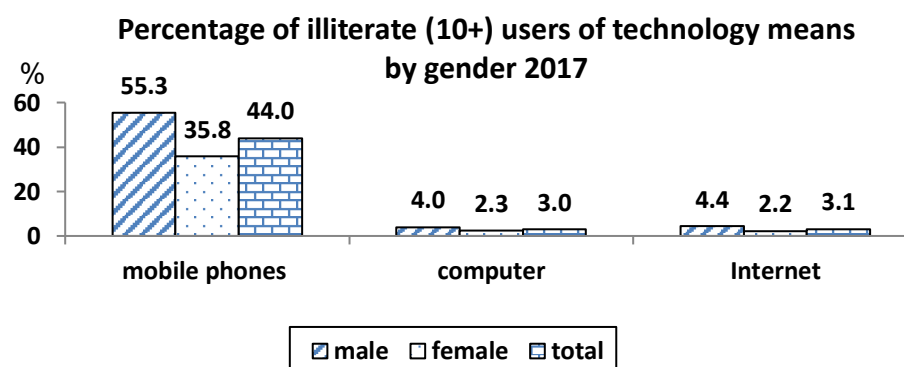
❖ **Educational status of the illiterates:-**

- 5% of the illiterate population in the age group (10-34 years) were enrolled in education and dropped out of it. Most of illiterates (95%) did not attend school.
- There are four main reasons for the illiteracy of illiterates. Respectively, (34.2%) the family unwillingness, (27%) family economic reasons , (23.2%) individual unwillingness and difficulty of reaching school (8%).
- Repeated failure in education is the reason for the drop of about 13.2% of the total dropouts.



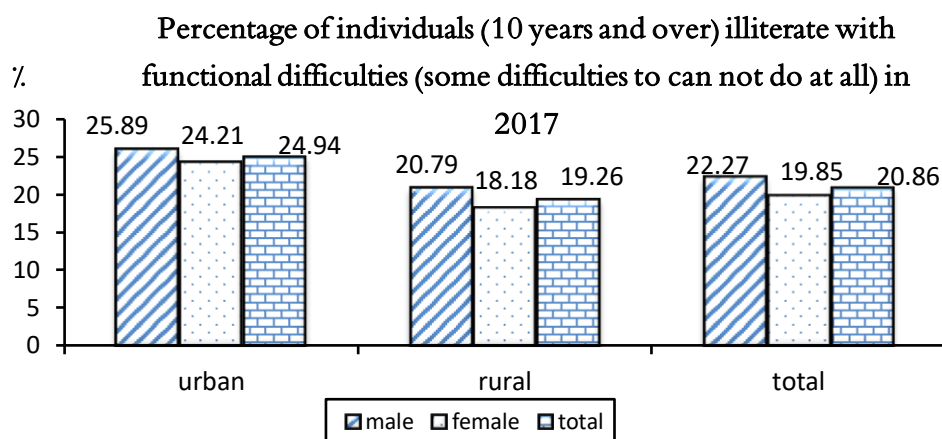
❖ **Use of illiterate people (10+ years) for information technology means:**

- 44% of the illiterate (10 years and over) use mobile phones 55.3% for males and 35.8% for females.
- The percentage of illiterate users of both computers and the Internet reached 3%.



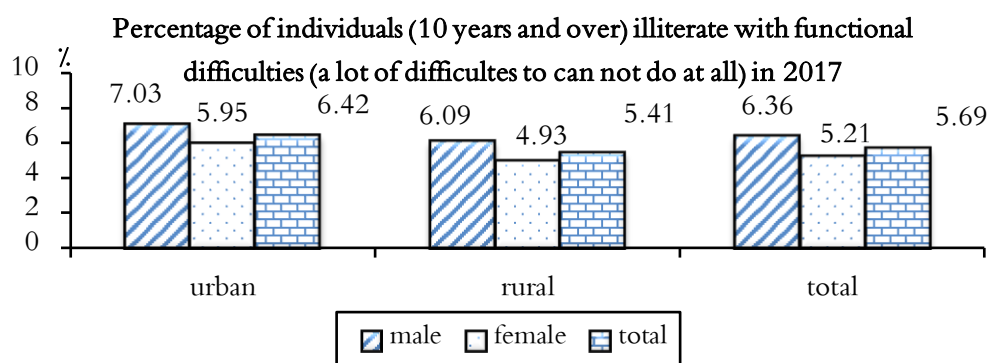
❖ **Disabilities among the illiterate (10 years and over) in 2017:**
From some difficulties to cannot do at all

- 20.86% of the total illiterate have a functional difficulty (disability) from some difficulties to cannot do at all.
- The percentage of males increased slightly to 22.27% compared to 19.85% for females.
- The percentage increased to 24.94% in urban areas. compared to 19.26% in rural areas.



From a lot of difficulties to can not do at all

- 5.69% of the total illiterate have a functional difficulty (disability) from a lot of difficulties to cannot do at all.
- The percentage reached 6.36% for males and 5.21% for females.
- The percentage reached 6.42% in urban compared to 5.41% in rural area.



❖ Achievements of the General Authority for Adult Education for the fiscal year 2017/2018:

Literacy target number reached (2.004.871) students during the fiscal year 2017/2018, and literacy achieved reached (272.517) students by 13.5%. According to the development prespective, the executive objectives of the General Authority were as follows:

1 - Eradicating illiteracy:

raising social awareness of the danger of illiteracy and making sure of the importance of education through using "developmental" media convoys, organizing all educational seminars, visual, readable and audible media, and increasing the continues awareness of illiteracy eradication classes especially females.

Eliminating illiteracy through the following :-

2- Freedom from illiteracy:

- Conclude protocols with all partners (governmental, civil society organizations, parties, international organizations and religious institutions) in accordance with Law 8 of 1991.
- Mobilize the community to eradicate the illiteracy of 2 million students.
- Prepare and qualify all the responsables educational process.
- Conduct field follow-up on the classes (administrative and technical).
- Supervision of examination committees in all governorates.
- Examinations for students.
- Meeting the needs of students to obtain certificates.
- Studying the research needs in accordance with the realities of the field in order to face successive societal changes.
- Follow up the implementation of the plan and assess the role of the partners through periodic reports.

3- Post-literacy stage:

- Monitoring some of the bright models of liberators and issuing books on their own biography to encourage them and motivate others.
- Provide opportunities for liberals to continue their education through the preparatory classes.
- Provide life skills programs commensurate with the nature of the environment of liberators.
- Provide the necessary resources for practicing professional work through the coordination with the partners.
- Continuous communication with liberators through various activities.
- Coordination with the Ministry of Education to remove and overcome obstacles to liberators.
- Coordination with the Ministry of Communications to implement a special application for liberators.

Data sources

- Source: Population censuses 1996, 2006, 2017.
- League of Arab States, Book of Arab States - Numbers of indicators.
- General Authority for Adult Education, Achievements of the Authority 2017/2018.