



Press Release

Central Agency for Public Mobilization And Statistics

On the Occasion of International Literacy Day

17.2% Illiteracy rate for individuals (less than 45 years old) in Egypt

Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) issued on 8/9/2022 a press release on the occasion of International Literacy Day which is held annually on September 8. It was adopted by UNESCO Conference at the 14th session in 1965, aiming to remind international community of the importance of eradicating illiteracy at the level of individuals and societies, intensify efforts to increase the ability of individuals in societies to read and write, and celebrate it annually, this year's 2022 slogan comes ("Transforming Literacy Learning Spaces").

The issue of illiteracy eradication is one of the important issues that Egypt seeks to eradicate, and it has been included in Egypt's Vision 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals (the fourth goal), which stipulates "ensuring quality, equitable and inclusive education for all".

- The Most Important Illiteracy Indicators are as Follows:

I- Illiteracy status in the world's countries, in 2022:

**17% is the world's illiteracy rate,
Chad and Guinea are the highest among countries**

- UNESCO data indicated that about 17% of the world's adult population (15 years and over) still cannot read and write, about 781 million people worldwide cannot read and write, in South Asia, Western Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa, of all illiterate in the world, Data indicate that 36% for males, 64% for females worldwide.
- Chad and Guinea witnessed the highest illiteracy rate in the world, which reached about 77.7% and 69.6% respectively for individuals of (15 years old and over) of total population.

21% is illiteracy rate in Arab Countries

- 21% of illiteracy rate in Arab world, where one out of every five (15 years and over) suffers from illiteracy.
- Somalia and Mauritania come as the highest Arab countries in illiteracy rate (15 years and over), which reached 62.2 and 48%, respectively.
- There are some Arab countries where illiteracy rate does not exceed 10% (Qatar, Palestine, Jordan, Bahrain, and Kuwait).

II-Illiteracy Rate in Egypt

17.9% of the illiteracy rate among individuals in 2021

- Egypt ranks seventh in the Arab countries, 23 in Africa and 32 globally in illiteracy rates.
- 25.8% of illiteracy rate in Egypt, for individuals (10 years old and over) reaching 18.4 million illiterate, in 2017 census, a decrease of 3.9% compared to 29.7% in 2006 census.
- Illiteracy rate (10 years old and over) reached 17.9% in 2021, according to 2021 Labor Force Survey data.
- Most of illiterates are elderly, (60 years old and over) recorded the highest rate among the illiterates at 63.4%, while illiteracy rate for individuals (less than 45 years old) at 17.2%, and illiteracy rate among young people between the ages of (15-35 years) decreased to 16.1% among illiterate, while more younger age groups recorded (less than 20 years old) 6.6% as the lowest percentage of illiterate people in 2017 census.
- Illiteracy rate for males reached 21.2%, compared to 30.8% for females in 2017, a decrease of 1.2% for males, 6.5% for females compared to 2006 census.
- The highest illiteracy rates in Egypt are in Upper Egypt governorates, and Minya governorate take the lead as the highest governorate in Egypt in terms of illiteracy, which reached 37.2%; while rates were the lowest in border governorates, Red Sea governorate had the lowest illiteracy rate at 12% in 2017 census.

Egypt's Most Important Efforts Made To Eradicate Illiteracy:

- The state has drawn up a strategic plan to declare (Egypt free of illiteracy by 2030), and intensified its efforts in areas with a high population density, as part of a decent life initiative, where work has been done to integrate literacy classes.
- Egypt has been award to UNESCO in 2021, among Six best countries: (Cote d'Ivoire - India - Guatemala - Mexico - South Africa - Egypt) that applied literacy programs.
- During Covid-19 pandemic, General Authority for Adult Education established an electronic platform for remote adult education, using some different technological applications and making them available to learners, in addition to organizing an online literacy classes for rural areas in the Republic governorates.

Data sources:

- CAPMAS, Indicators of Population, Housing and Establishments General Census, 2017.
- CAPMAS, Labor Force Survey, 2021.
- General Authority for Literacy and Adult Education.
- Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (UNESCO).
- World Bank databases.

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