CHAPTER III

EDUCATION AND ILLITERACY

الفصل الثالث

التعليم والأمية
This chapter addresses education and includes data on student enrolment and teaching staff at various levels, adult and youth illiteracy rates and other related indicators. Definitions of education levels are based on the 1997 version of the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED 97). Data cover public and private education, and exclude students studying abroad. Data for this chapter were obtained from the Institute of Statistics of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to ensure standardization and methodological comparability.

Table III-1 is on illiteracy and literacy. It presents adult illiteracy rates (15+ years) and youth illiteracy rates (15-24 years) by sex for the periods 2000-2005, 2006-2010 and 2011. The table includes the gender parity index (GPI) for literacy during the same time periods. Adult and youth illiteracy have decreased in all ESCWA member countries. Most countries are moving closer to parity in literacy, and several have already achieved equal literacy rates between women and men. In 2011, Jordan recorded the lowest adult illiteracy rate (4.1 per cent), while Yemen recorded the highest (34.7 per cent). Libya, Palestine and Jordan showed the lowest youth illiteracy rate of less than 1 per cent, while Iraq recorded the highest rate of 17.6 per cent. GPI rates for adult and youth illiteracy in Yemen are the lowest in the region at 0.6 and 0.8 per cent, respectively.

Table III-2 is on primary education. It presents data on student enrolment and teaching staff at the primary level, including among females, in addition to gross and net enrolment ratios for the period 2005-2011. While the teaching staff category includes full and part-time teachers, it excludes administrators and librarians who do not perform teaching functions. In 2011, Morocco had the highest gross enrolment ratio, 113 per cent, and Yemen had the lowest ratio, 92 per cent. The net...
The proportion of female students in almost all countries amounted to some 50 per cent. The lowest proportion, recorded by Yemen, increased from approximately 41.6 per cent in 2005 to 44 per cent in 2011.

Table III-3 is on secondary education for the period 2005-2011. It displays data on student enrolment and teaching staff at the secondary level, including the proportion of female students in public and private education. In addition, it includes data on gross and net enrolment ratios, and provides a breakdown for technical/vocational and general programmes. In 2011, Oman recorded the highest gross enrolment ratio, 104 per cent, and in 2009, the Sudan recorded the lowest ratio, 38 per cent. In 2011, Oman recorded the highest net enrolment ratio of 93.7 per cent in secondary education, and in 2009, Egypt recorded the lowest ratio of 68.2 per cent. By contrast, the latest available data for Yemen show a gross enrolment ratio of only 45.6 per cent, and a net enrolment ratio not exceeding 37.4 per cent. Female students in public secondary education amount to nearly half of the student population in all countries except Iraq, the Sudan and Yemen, according to the latest available data. However, female students in private education represent a much smaller population than their male counterparts, except in Lebanon and the United Arab Emirates, where they are equal.

Table III-4 is on tertiary education. It presents data on the gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education by sex for the period 2005-2011. The gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education fluctuated over those years for Egypt, Jordan and Palestine, decreasing for Qatar, and increasing for Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen. In 2011, Lebanon recorded the highest gross enrolment ratio, 57.7 per cent, with women at a higher rate (61.8 per cent) than men (53.6 per cent), while Qatar recorded the lowest ratio, 11.6 per cent, with around 25 per cent more women enrolled than men.
Sources

UNESCO Institute for Statistics database
http://www.uis.unesco.org