

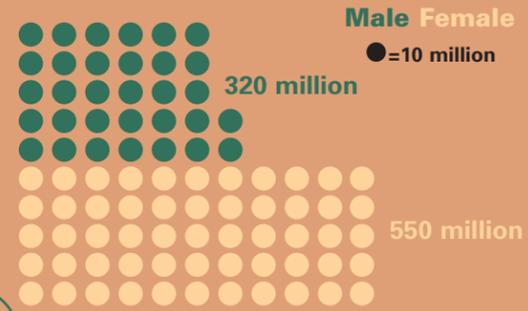
Goal

Reduction of the adult illiteracy rate to at least half its 1990 level, with emphasis on female literacy

» Adult Literacy

NUMBERS REMAIN THE SAME

No change in number of illiterate men and women between 1990 and 2000

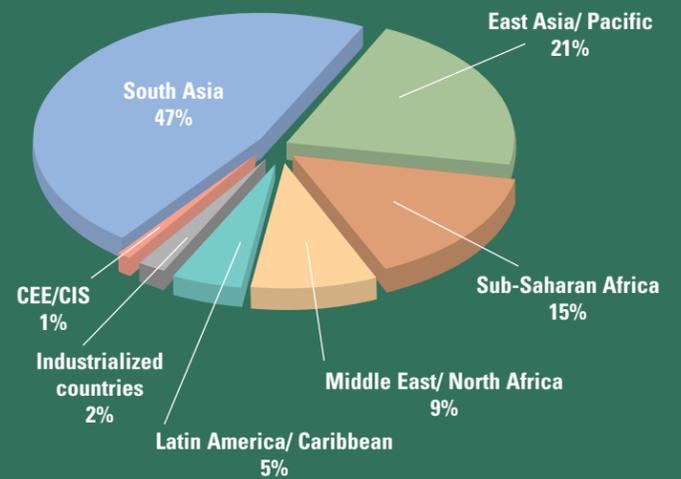


Source: UNESCO, UNICEF 2001.



Half the world's illiterates in South Asia

Percentage of illiterate people 15 years and older, 2000



Source: UNESCO, UNICEF, 2001.

Result

Although the illiteracy rate has decreased over the decade from 25 per cent to 20 per cent, the number of illiterate people has remained the same, in part due to population growth. The rate fell in all regions, with the largest declines in sub-Saharan Africa and East Asia and Pacific.

... but

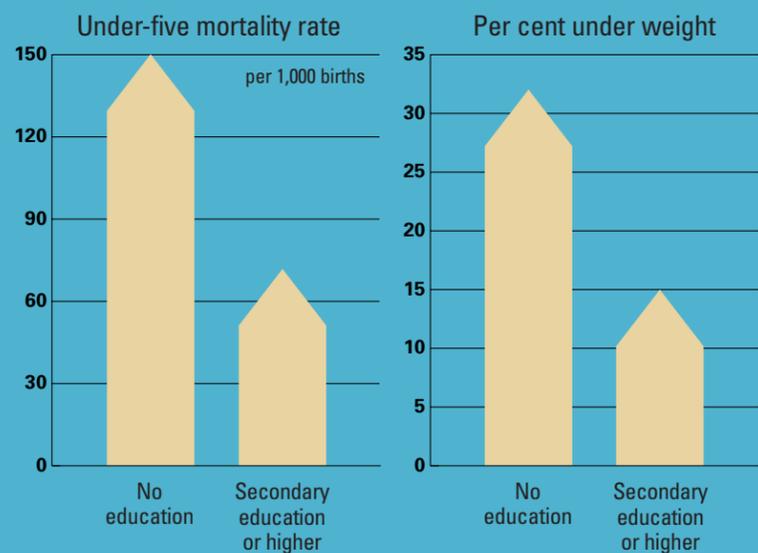
The absolute number of illiterate people has stayed close to 900 million throughout the 1990s, with the majority found in the South Asia and East Asia and Pacific regions. The number of illiterates in South Asia has increased by nearly 40 million, despite a decrease in the rate of illiteracy.

Issue

The simplest measure of literacy is whether a person can read and write – with understanding – a simple statement related to daily life. Nearly 900 million people 15 years and older have not attained this most basic level of education.

Mother's education, child survival and development

Relationship between mother's education and under-five mortality and moderate and severe under weight



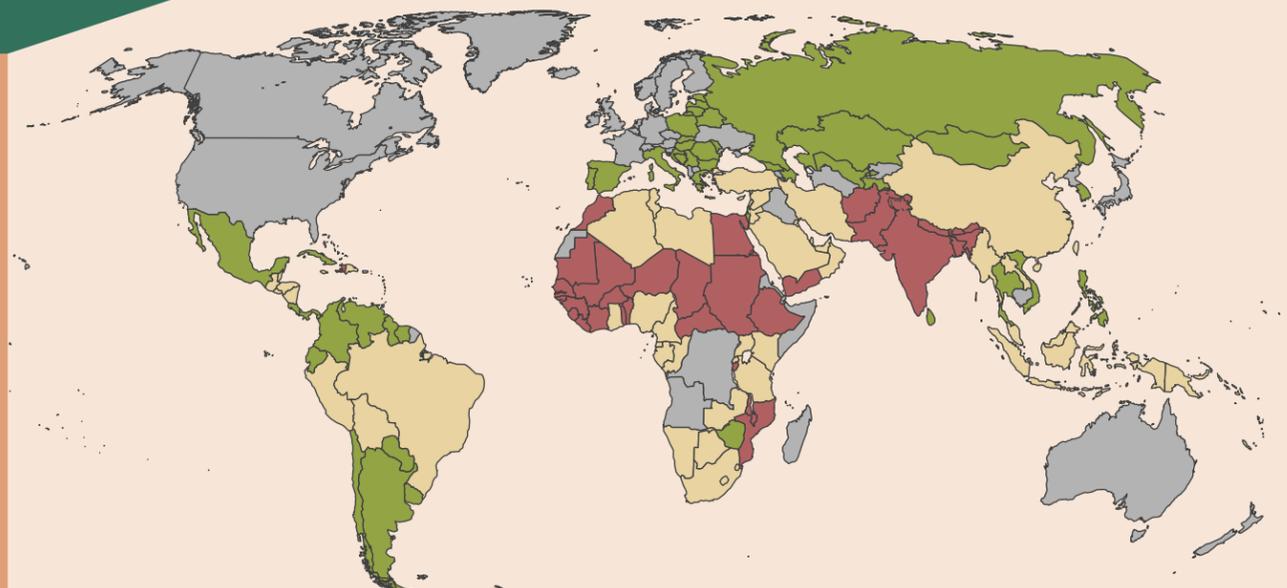
Literacy and education status of mothers are linked to the well-being of children. This chart, summarizing data from over 35 recent household surveys covering most regions of the world, shows that children of mothers with no education are more than twice as likely to die or to be malnourished compared with children of mothers with a secondary or higher-level education.

Source: Most recent data from over 35 Demographic and Health Surveys, 1995-1999.

Literacy, 2000

Percentage of persons, 15 years and older, who can read and write

- 0-59%
- 60-89%
- 90-100%
- No data



Source: UNESCO, UNICEF, 2001.