



THE ASIAN TRIBUNE

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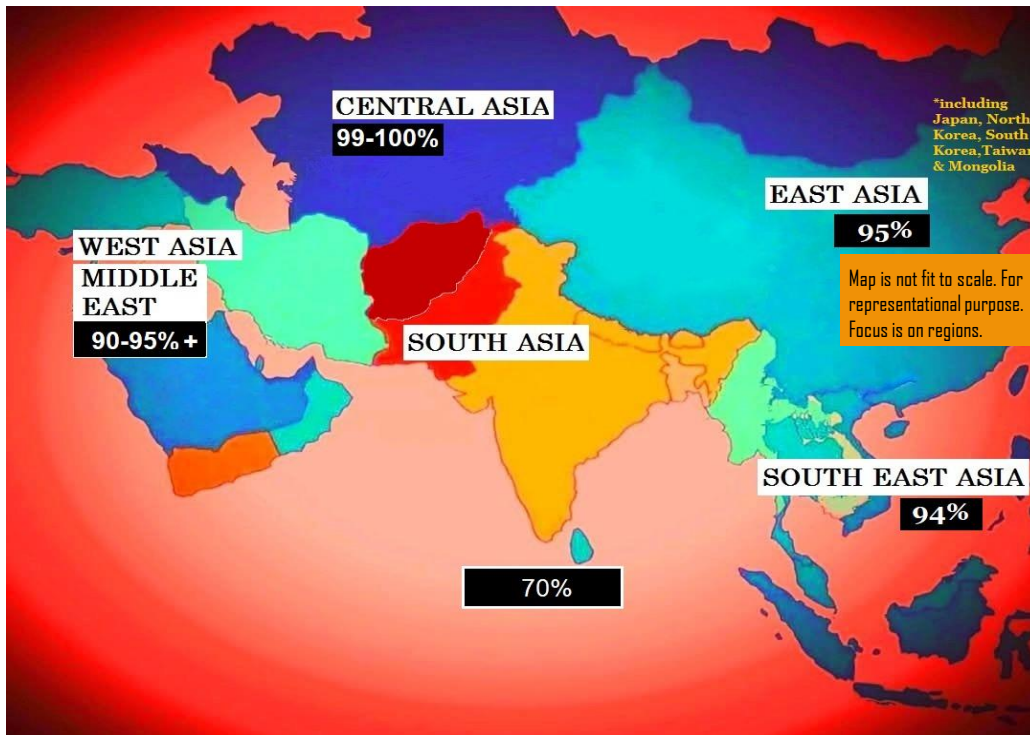
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SATURDAY

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LITERACY RATE: Central Asia ahead in female literacy but South Asian women still lag behind



Countries with high literacy rates for women include:

Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and China. They have above 95% literacy rate for women.

China, Mongolia, United Arab Emirates, Thailand, Turkey, Philippines, some other countries in Middle East, are in the 90%-95% bracket.

Slight variation in estimates are due to internal conflicts, displacement of population and natural calamities that also affect census operations. The figures have been sources from multiple top agencies including World Bank, UNESCO and research organizations. Census data is also awaited in several countries.

Shams Ur Rehman Alavi
www.asiantribune.net

Asia has a population of nearly 4.8 billion that is 60% of entire world populace [8 billion] but illiteracy remains a big challenge for the continent.

On one hand, several Asian countries have approximately 99.5%-99.8% literacy, the region is also home to countries with extremely low literacy among women. In all, around 450 million people are not literate.

In South Asia, literacy is low, especially, among women. In contrast, a few other countries reached nearly cent percent [100%] literacy, and certain others were at 99%, but lot of other countries in Asia have poor literacy level—[30% to 50% above the age of 15, remain illiterate, even in this era].

In East Asia, South Korea had over 98% literacy. Mongolia too had reached this level.

The Arab world i.e. Middle East [also termed West Asia] focused on education and most of these countries did exceptionally well in the first quarter of this century.

Jordan, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates were all in the high literacy bracket. Turkey had long ago gone ahead and joined the list of countries with over 95% literacy for women.

Oman too has similar literacy level. Besides, in East Asia, Taiwan, Japan and China went past the 95% mark in recent years. Almost the same level is seen in South East Asia. Vietnam & Philippines touched 95%. Indonesia had crossed 95% mark & so did Malaysia.

However, the region that still has comparatively less literacy is South Asia. This region accounts for a large part of the world's population—nearly a quarter of eight billion people who live on this planet.

India's female literacy was nearly 70%. Bangladesh had 72%. Pakistan was far behind at around 52% and needs special efforts, as just over half of the women were literate. War-torn Afghanistan has a long way to go, as it is still among the countries with least literacy among women. Sri Lanka did much better than other countries in this region. After Asia, the second most populous continent is Africa [1.4 billion]. Europe has nearly 0.75 billion populace. North America has 0.58 billion. South America is on the fifth spot with nearly 0.42 billion. Oceania is the least populated. [Map is region based and for representational purpose, not depicting exact boundaries & distances]

REAL ISSUE

Literacy is a key indicator to track the progress of regions, countries and societies. In South Asia, the country that leads in female literacy is Sri Lanka. Literacy has risen in India too, but percent seems less due to the country's huge population. Pakistan and Nepal fall behind the rest. Afghanistan figures at the last.

**Uzbekistan
Kazakhstan
Tajikistan
Japan
Mongolia
South Korea
Philippines
UAE
S Arabia
Turkey
Indonesia
China
Thailand
Iran
Cambodia
India
Bangladesh
Bhutan
Nepal
Pakistan
Afghanistan**



Industrial waste circularity can help reuse 750 Million Tons of industry waste, conserve 450 MT natural resources

Aim is to change the way waste has been managed and go ahead with the plan to reduce over 50 MT carbon dioxide equivalent by the year 2030

The Asian Tribune

www.asiantribune.net

Building a circular economy is not just about managing waste efficiently – it has the potential to lead towards substantial conservation of natural resources as well as reduction in carbon emissions, says a new report on industrial waste circularity.

The report – Good Practices in Industrial Waste Circularity -- has estimated the potential of circularity of different industrial wastes in diverse applications by 2030 and the associated benefits in terms of natural resource conservation, reduction in carbon emissions and cost economics. According to it, there is a potential for utilizing about 750 million tons of wastes in industries viz. steel slag, RDF, fly ash, red mud, biomass, hazardous waste. Circularity can help conserve 450 MT natural resources like coal & gypsum.



Speaking at a National Dialogue based on the by Centre for Science and Environment report on the subject, Sunita Narain said, "Industries contribute over 30 per cent of India's GDP, and are significant consumers of natural resources and generators of waste."

Nivit K Yadav said that the dialogue has been organized to explore how circularity can serve as a tool not only for effective waste management but also for achieving co-benefits for example: de-carbonisation, cleaner air, resource conservation and cost optimization.

The event also highlighted the current state of industrial waste management, showcased the best practices, and outlined a future vision for industrial waste circularity in India. CSE report says that out of 52.5 MT of steel slag estimated to be generated by 2030, about 35.3-41 MT can be used in cement making. Similarly, out of 437 MT of fly ash expected to be generated by 2030, roughly 208-231 MT can be used in the cement sector. Using refuse-derived fuel (RDF) in cement industries and co-firing biomass in thermal power plants can help reduce emissions. The need is to create a strong economic case to drive funding and make circularity viable. A 'push' strategy is ineffective for circularity – we need a 'pull' strategy. Demand must drive the market, ensuring maximum utilization of resources to achieve full circularity. There is urgent need for India to have a vision and mission towards industrial waste circularity".

MUST READ

'1,98,000 minors died in road mishaps in just over a decade'

Children, adolescents dying in crashes on roads, improper helmet use also causing accidental deaths. Factors like bad roads, lack of proper traffic management, are also causing fatal mishaps in India.

The Asian Tribune

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Every day nearly 45 children under 18 years age lose their lives in road crashes in India.

In 2022, 16,443 fatalities were reported in this age group, with actual numbers likely 20 percent higher due to underreporting. Additionally, every year around 5 million children get injured and suffer non-fatal injuries that require hospitalization.

This was revealed in a report on child and adolescent road safety.

The findings reveal that between 2011 and 2022, around 1.98 lakh or 1,98,000 road fatalities occurred among children and adolescents, and nearly 75 percent of those road fatalities occurred in the 14–17 years age group. Furthermore, the number of fatalities of this group more than doubled between 2011 and 2022.

Road traffic injuries are the leading cause of death of children

and adolescents, who account for 10 percent of all road crash fatalities in the country. "Children are vulnerable to severe injuries. "The reasons for rise in crashes and fatalities among children and adolescent are beyond just unsafe roads," said Dr Gururaj G.

"Risk factors include human, vehicle, road related issues, road safety mismanagement and some other factors.

Even though children and adolescents are expected to wear helmets at all two-wheeler travel times, correct helmet use among children and adolescents was only 10–50 percent in urban areas & just 2–5 percent in rural regions.."

The figures are shocking to say the least. UNICEF, NIMHANS have come together, with a view to sensitize citizens and ensure better treatment facilities.