

Are we going in the direction of achieving gender parity at all levels of education?

« Achieve gender parity in primary and secondary education by 2005 by giving girls equal access without restriction to good basic education with the same opportunities for success » is one of the objectives inspired by the results of regional conferences for UNESCO's « Education for all » programme. It was also in the Millennium Development Goals and in the MSSD.

According to UNESCO, school age girls represent 57% of the children not attending school. In 2006, the parity index between girls and boys in primary school is higher or equal to 100 in 47 countries. This index is inferior or equal to 0.97 in 63 countries. In the developing countries, the parity index in primary and secondary school is about 94 in 2006.

Since 1990, the situation of girls' education in the Mediterranean countries has improved significantly: in 2006, the parity index for the gross combined enrolment rate is higher than 97 % in 15 countries.

The gross combined enrolment rate is over 97% in 10 countries but efforts are still needed for secondary education because the gross enrolment rate at this level is over 97% in only 8 countries. In 10 countries the rate stands at less than 90%, and if the combined rate is taken into account, in 4 countries. The enrolment rate in primary education is over 93% in all of the Mediterranean countries.

Definition

This indicator is the parity index between girls and boys for the gross enrolment rate (primary, secondary and combined) as defined by UNESCO. It refers to the number of girls enrolled in primary school and in secondary school in both state and private schools compared to the number of boys.

The gross enrolment rate is the ratio of the number of pupils receiving schooling at a given level of education, whatever their age, compared to the population with the official age group for this level of education and expressed as a percentage.

Precautions / Notes

This indicator is not an accurate measurement of girls' access to school because the improvements to the report could reflect an increase in the number of girls receiving schooling or a decrease in the number of boys.

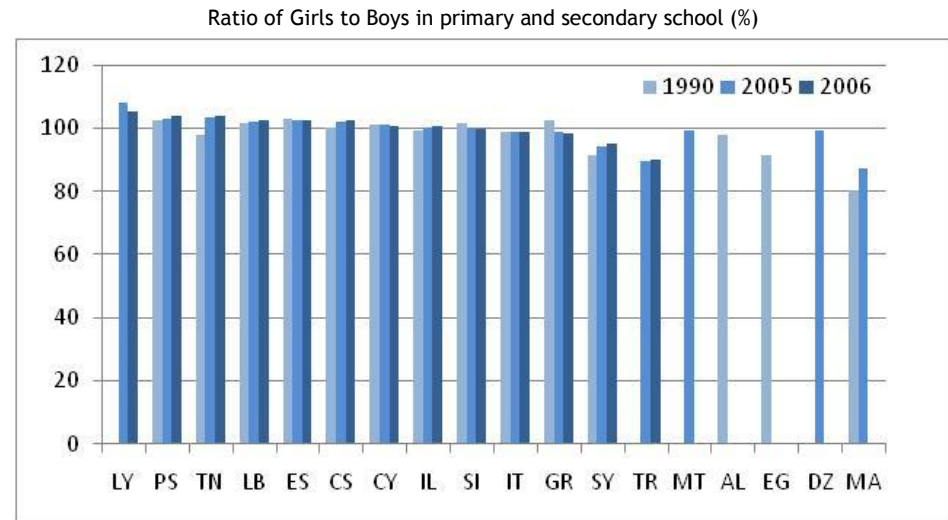
The gross enrolment rate could be over 100 % because of late admission or because of the necessity to repeat a school year.

Sources / References

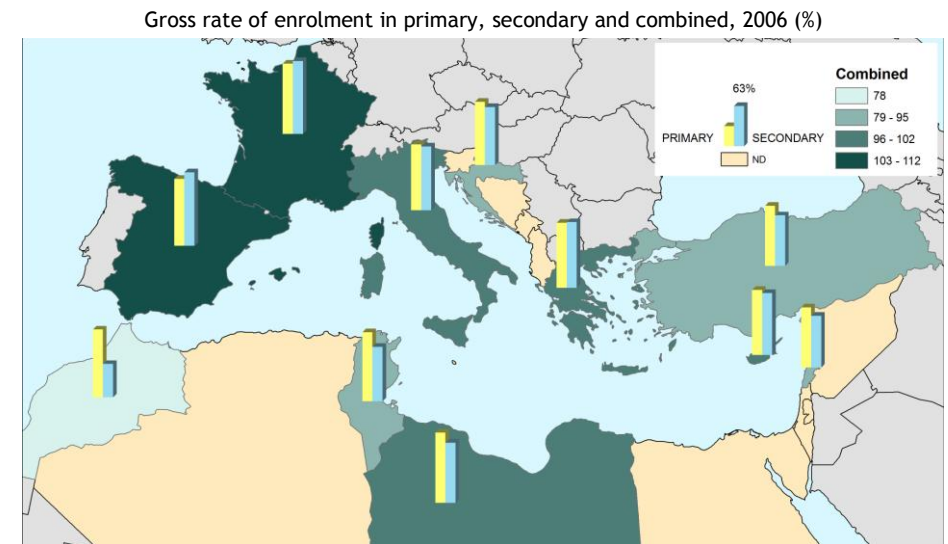
UNESCO, Statistics Institute.

United Nations Statistical Division, The Millennium Indicators Database.

33. Girl/Boy ratio enrolment in primary and secondary school



Source : UNESCO



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