



**unesco**

Institute for Statistics

**SDG 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all**

**METADATA**

**Target 4.6 By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy**

**4.6.3 Participation rate of illiterate youth/adults in literacy programmes**

**Definition**

Number of youth (aged 15-24 years) and adults (aged 15 years and older) participating in literacy programmes expressed as a percentage of the illiterate population of the same age.

**Purpose**

To show the level of participation of illiterate youth and adults in literacy programmes.

**Calculation method**

Percentage of the number of illiterate persons in the relevant age group participating in literacy programmes out of the illiterate population of the same age.

$$PRLP_a^t = \frac{PartLit_a^t}{IllitPop_a^t}$$

where:

$PRLP_a^t$  = participation rate of the population of age group **a** in literacy programmes in year **t**.

$PartLit_a^t$  = participants in literacy programmes of age group **a** in year **t**.

$IllitPop_a^t$  = illiterate population of age group **a** in year **t**.

**a** = 15-24 years (youth) or 15 years and older (adults).

**Interpretation**

A high rate denotes a high degree of coverage of the illiterate population by the programmes designed to reach that specific group. The theoretical maximum value is 100%.

Increasing trends can be considered as reflecting improved coverage by the literacy programmes of their target population.

**Type of data source**

Administrative data, household surveys, and population censuses.

**Disaggregation**

By age, sex, location, and income (depending on the data source) and others as available.

**Data required**

Number of participants in the relevant age group in literacy programmes; illiterate population estimates for the same age groups.

**Data sources**

Administrative or household data on participation in literacy programmes for the age groups defined, combined with illiterate population estimates for the same age groups.

The Technical Cooperation Group on the Indicators for SDG 4 - Education 2030 (TCG) has recommended a set of survey questions to collect data for SDG indicators 4.3.1, 4.3.3 and 4.6.3 (see <http://tcg.uis.unesco.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2019/01/TCG5-REF-4-indicator-4.3.1.pdf>).

**Quality assurance**

The indicator for each age group should be based on consistent and comprehensive data on illiterate populations participating in literacy programmes in the country, whether these programmes are formal or non-formal.

**Limitations and comments**

Practices for identifying illiterates from administrative sources, household surveys, actual census enumerations or population estimates may vary, hence, the indicator values must be analysed with caution and together with other indicators reflecting the literacy situation of the population.

The theoretical maximum value of 100% is under the assumption that literate population will not enrol or attend literacy programmes.

The degree of coverage of the illiterate population measured by this indicator might be underestimated because of the exclusion of illiterate population, especially youth illiterates, that have decided to attend primary education programmes instead of specifically-designed literacy programmes.

When numerator and denominator are taken from household surveys, special attention should be given to the estimations' standard errors mainly in countries with very high levels of literacy where the sample sizes and design might not be appropriate for producing the

indicator. When numerator and denominator are taken from different data sources (e.g. administrative data, household surveys, or population estimates), there will be possibilities of inconsistencies.