

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF WOMEN AND ISLAMIC CULTURES

Education: Iran

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EWIC Staff: Datasheet

- ❖ K-12 education in Iran is supervised by the Ministry of Education while higher education is supervised by the Ministry of Science and Technology.¹
- ❖ After the 1979 revolution Khomeini students were segregated by sex.²
- ❖ Forty-two percent of the national budget in Iran is directed to education with an emphasis on improving schooling in rural areas.³
- ❖ Elementary education in Iran is mandatory under the Iranian constitution. Education is compulsory through eighth grade.⁴
- ❖ There are an estimated 5,974,000 elementary students and 8,120,000 secondary school students in Iran.⁵ Pre-primary school enrollment for girls in Iran is at 44.7% and at 40.6% for boys. Ninety-eight percent of children who attend primary school complete their programs.⁶
- ❖ Primary school enrollment in Iran is at 106%. This number represents the total number of students enrolled regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the population of official primary education age. The number can exceed 100% as it includes both over-aged and under-aged students because of early or late school entrance and grade repetition.⁷
- ❖ Since 2009, the female to male ratio in primary education has remained at 99%.⁴
- ❖ Secondary school enrollment is at 80% for females and at 82% for males.⁸ The repetition rate in primary education in Iran is lower for girls in grades 1-5 (3.2%) than it is for boys (4%) of the same grade level.⁹
- ❖ Admission to post-secondary institutions is based on a nation-wide entrance exam. Women enrolled in universities in Iran outnumbered their male counterparts by 60%.¹⁰

¹ <http://www.nationsencyclopedia.com/Asia-and-Oceania/Iran-EDUCATION.html>

² <http://www.nationsencyclopedia.com/Asia-and-Oceania/Iran-EDUCATION.html>

³ <http://www.classbase.com/Countries/iran/Education-System>

⁴ <http://www.classbase.com/Countries/iran/Education-System>

⁵ <http://wenr.wes.org/2013/04/wenr-april-2013-an-overview-of-education-in-iran/>

⁶ <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SE.ENR.PRIM.FM.ZS/countries>

⁷ <http://dataworldbank.org/country/iran-islamic-republic>

⁸ http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/iran_statistics.html

⁹ http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/iran_statistics.html

¹⁰ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-19665615>