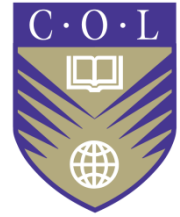


Gender Profile: Malaysia



General

Total male population under 15 (2014) (CIA, 2015): 4,456,033
Total female population under 15 (2014) (CIA, 2015): 4,206,727

Total male population over 15 (2014) (CIA, 2015): 10,799,379
Total female population over 15 (2014) (CIA, 2015): 10,611,214

Health

Maternal mortality rate per 100,000 live births (2010) (CIA, 2015): 29
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births (2014) (CIA, 2015): 13.69

Under-five mortality rate for males per 1,000 live births (2012) (United Nations Gender Statistics, 2015): 9.3

Under-five mortality rate for females per 1,000 live births (2012) (United Nations Gender Statistics, 2015): 7.6

Births attended by a skilled health professional (2010) (WHO, 2014b): 98.6%

Prevalence of HIV among males aged 15–49 (World Economic Forum, 2013): 0.7%
Prevalence of HIV among females aged 15–49 (World Economic Forum, 2013): 0.1%

Life expectancy for men (2012) (WHO, 2014a): 72
Life expectancy for women (2012) (WHO, 2014a): 76

Education

Male youth literacy rate, ages 15–24 (2010) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 98.36%
Female youth literacy rate, ages 15–24 (2010) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 98.46%

Male adult literacy rate, ages 15+ (2010) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 95.43%
Female adult literacy rate, ages 15+ (2010) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 90.75%

Male adjusted net enrolment rate in primary education (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 98.45%

Female adjusted net enrolment rate in primary education as % (2012) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 68.48%

Male gross enrolment ratio in secondary education (2011) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 68.24%

Female gross enrolment ratio in secondary education (2011) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 66.10 %

Male gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education (2011) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 32.70%

Female gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education (2011) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 39.08%

Graduates from tertiary education who are female (2011) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 58.4%

Students in engineering, construction and manufacturing tertiary education programs who are female (2011) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 34.4%

Teachers in primary education who are female (2011) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 69.3%

Teachers in secondary education who are female (2004) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 62.5%

Teachers in tertiary education who are female (2011) (UNESCO Institute of Statistics, 2015): 52.9%

Economic Activity

Males over 15 who are active in the labour force (United Nations Statistical Commission, 2010): 64%

Females over 15 who are active in the labour force (United Nations Statistical Commission, 2010): 46%

Men who have an account in a formal financial institution (World Economic Forum, 2013): 69%

Women who have an account in a formal financial institution (World Economic Forum, 2013): 63%

Decision-Making

Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament (World Bank, 2014): 10%

Human Rights

Girls married before 15: NA

Females married between 15 and 19 (World Economic Forum, 2013): 5%

Women subjected to physical/sexual violence by an intimate partner during their lifetime: NA

Women subjected to physical/sexual violence by an intimate partner or a non-partner during their lifetime: NA

* * *

Gender Gaps

Health

- Abortion is illegal in Malaysia, except to preserve the life or physical/mental health of the pregnant woman. It must be performed by a registered medical practitioner.
- Government of Malaysia statistics show that teen pregnancy has been increasing in recent years. According to the Ministry of Health's Teen Pregnancy Statistics Manual, there were 18,652 and 18,847 teen pregnancies in 2011 and 2012, respectively—about 51 teen pregnancies each day (BFM, 2014). To provide context: in 2010, the closest available data, there were approximately 2.7 million females in Malaysia aged 10 to 19 (Department of Statistics, 2011, p. 6). Although this translates to a relatively low rate of teenage pregnancy, it is considered a significant problem in Malaysia, and teen mothers are faced with limited prospects legally and financially: marrying the father (if he is willing); abortion (which may be carried out illegally if she does not meet the legal criteria); or going to a maternity home for unwed mothers (Saim, Dufåker, Eriksson, & Ghazinour, 2013).

Education

- Despite the 3:2 women to men ratio in tertiary education enrolment, women remain “very underrepresented in . . . in managerial and executive positions (United Nations Country Team Malaysia & Economic Planning Unit, 2011, p. ix).
- In 2007, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia’s Vice Chancellor, Professor Datuk Dr Sharifah Hapsah Syed Hassan Shahabuddin, noted a “lack of attention to details [on some college and university campuses] which could discourage a young women from enrolling in higher education. . . . unfriendly hostel facilities and lack of security in campuses sometimes ruin a young girl’s interest to attain a higher education. Women who overcome these barriers in college or university discover later that similar obstacles are present in the work place” (UNICEF, 2007).

Economic

- The country’s 2010 Millennium Development Goals reported that “women’s participation in the labour force has stagnated over the past 25 years at 45–50 per cent. In 2007, women also earned 28 per cent less than men, little changed from 1997” (United Nations Country Team Malaysia & Economic Planning Unit, 2011, p. viii).
- The same report also noted that “urban households headed by women have a much higher probability of being poor than those headed by men” (p. viii).

Decision-Making

- There is no quota system in Malaysia to ensure women parliamentary seats.
- UNICEF (n.d.) indicates that “[a]ccording to statistics from the Mid-term review of the 8th Malaysia Plan, the proportion of women who are legislators, senior officials and managers has increased from 5 per cent in 2000 to 5.3 per cent in 2002.”

Human Rights

- Marital rape is not criminalised in Malaysia.
- A 2013 questionnaire-based study of 3,427 women in Malaysia aged 18 to 50, from both rural (40.9%) and urban (59.1%) areas found that 5% had experienced physical violence, 7.8% emotional violence, and 1.7% sexual violence (Shuib et al., 2013, p. 482–483).
- Human trafficking remains a serious issue in Malaysia, with the large majority of trafficking victims being female. According to the 2011 U.S. Department of State Trafficking in Persons report, the “overwhelming majority” of these in Malaysia are documented (2 million) and undocumented (1.9 million) foreign workers who migrate to become domestic servants or to work in hotels and restaurants; women and girls frequently are trafficked for the sex trade as well (U.S. Department of State, 2011, p. 243). Although human trafficking is illegal in Malaysia, the acquittal rate for alleged traffickers is reportedly 68% (Academy for Educational Development, 2006).

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