

EDUCATION



ACCESS TO EDUCATION Education does more than equip a woman to be an informed mother: It enables her to better meet her needs and the needs of all who depend on her. Education has consistently been linked to real and lasting improvements in women's lives. Generally, more educated women have better health, living conditions, and life opportunities than their less educated counterparts.

Yet, in half of the countries surveyed, at least one out of three women ages 15 to 49 has no education at all.

Women living in Latin America and the Caribbean have the highest probability of being educated. The exception is Guatemala, where more than one-third of women are uneducated.

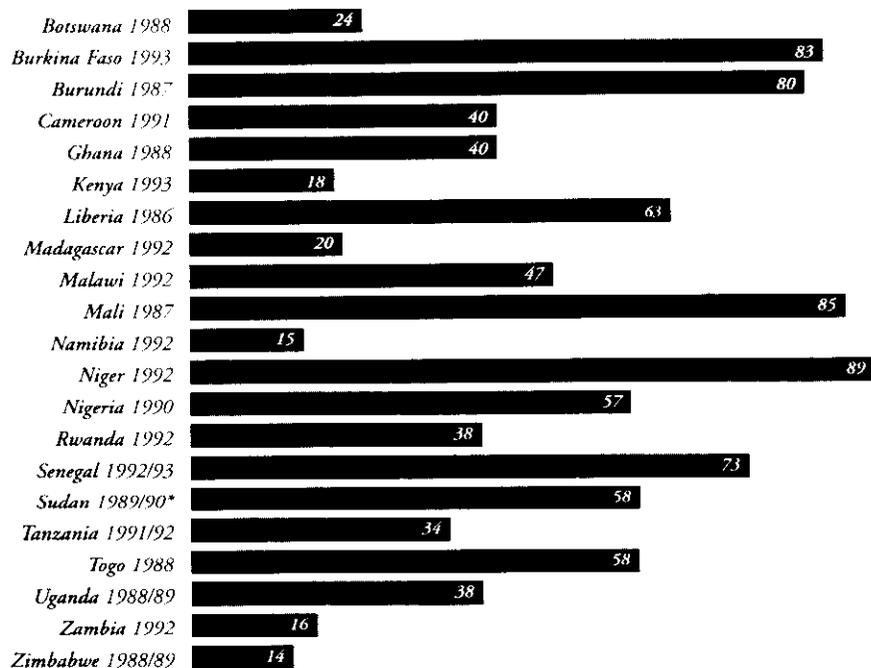
Many women in sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, and the Near East have never attended school. In 13 countries in these regions, more than half of the women surveyed have no education at all. Approximately four out of five reproductive age women in Burkina Faso, Burundi, Mali, Niger, Pakistan, and Yemen have never attended school.



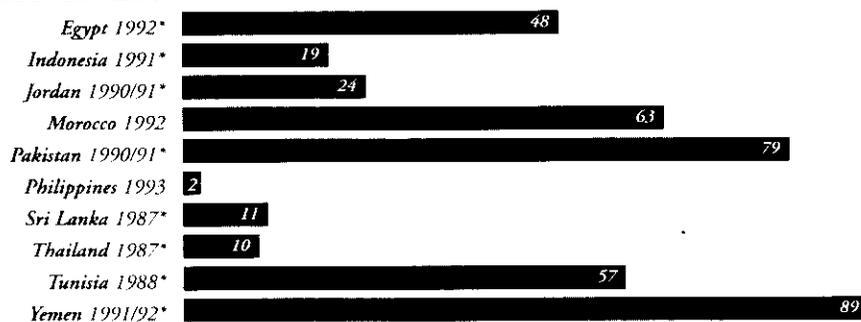
EDUCATIONAL STATUS

Percentage of women 15 to 49 with no education

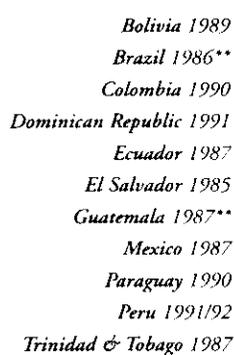
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA



ASIA/NEAR EAST



LATIN AMERICA/CARIBBEAN



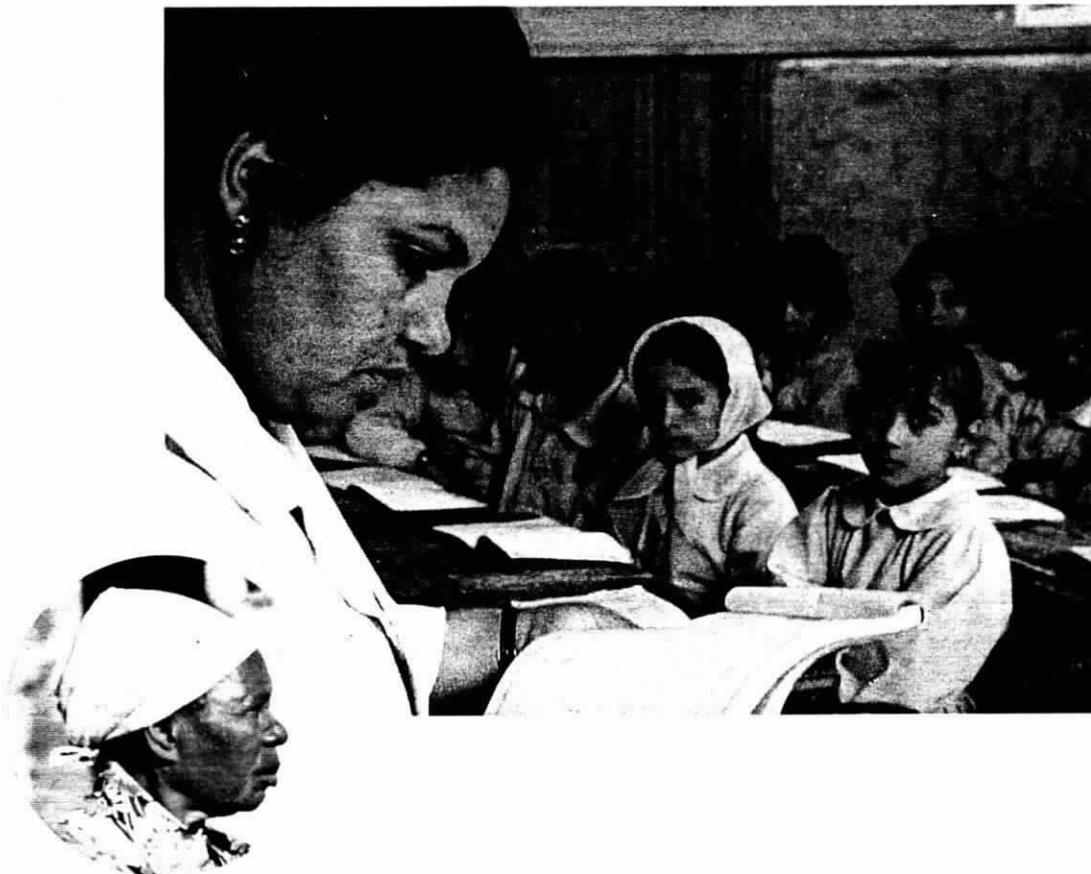
* Ever-married women
 ** Women 15 to 44

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EDUCATION AMONG YOUNGER AND OLDER WOMEN *Women's access to education has been increasing over time: In all countries surveyed, younger women are more likely to have some education than older women.*

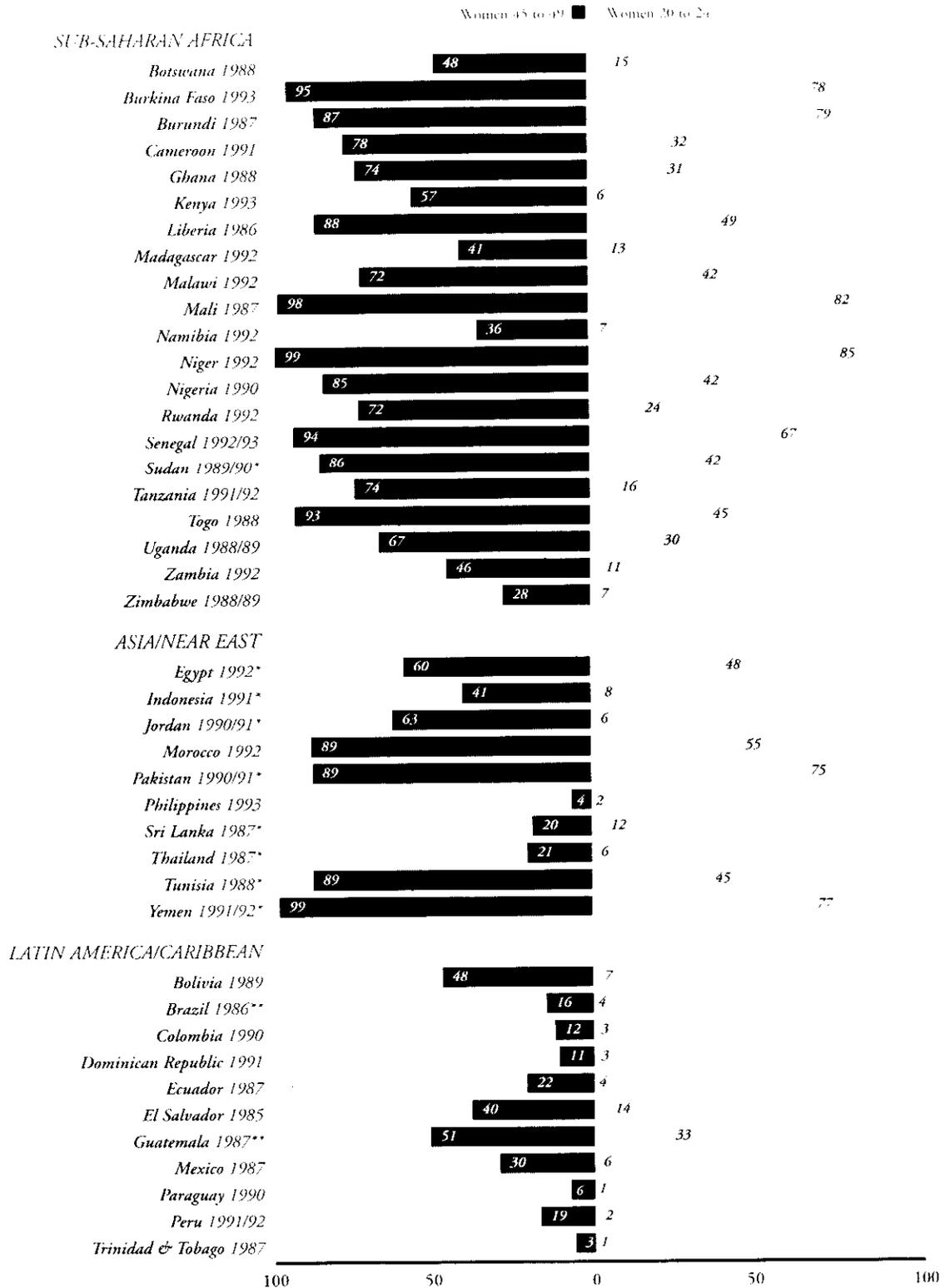
The increase in female education has been striking. In 27 out of 42 countries, the proportion of women ages 20 to 24 with no education is less than half that for women ages 45 to 49. Among the countries surveyed, the most dramatic improvements in female education have been made in Jordan, Kenya, and Tanzania. In Tanzania, for instance, 74 percent of women in the older age group have never been to school, compared to 16 percent of the younger women.

Change, however, has been minimal in a number of countries. In Burkina Faso, Burundi, Mali, Niger, Pakistan, and Yemen, at least 75 percent of women, even among the 20- to 24-year-olds, have never been to school.



TRENDS IN EDUCATIONAL STATUS

Percentage of women 45 to 49 and women 20 to 24 with no education



*Ever-married

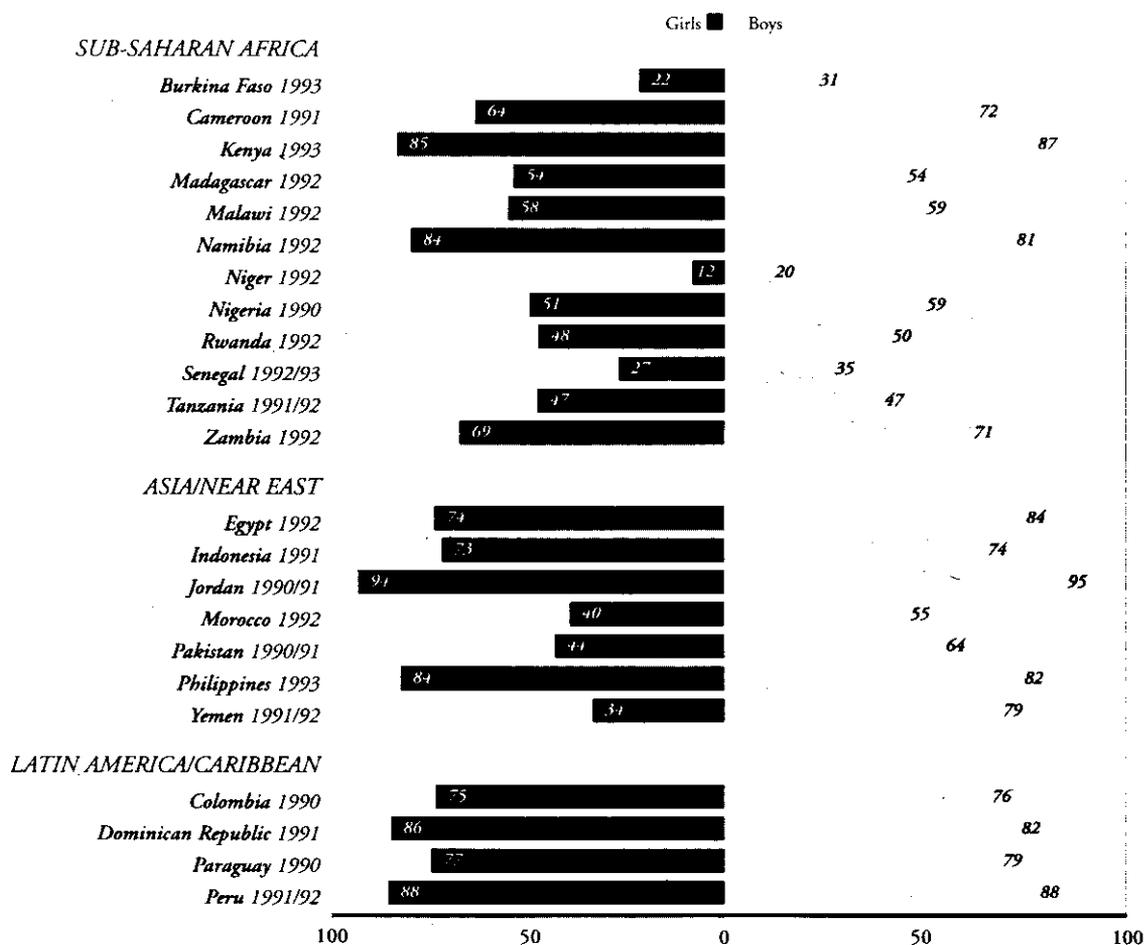
**Women 40 to 44

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT *In the majority of countries surveyed, more than half of girls ages 6 to 15 are enrolled in school.* The notable exceptions are Burkina Faso, Niger, and Senegal, where fewer than 30 percent of girls ages 6 to 15 are enrolled in school.

At the younger ages, girls are nearly as likely as boys to be in school. The difference in enrollment rates between boys and girls is 10 percentage points or more in only four countries: Egypt, Morocco, Pakistan, and Yemen. Yemen has the most marked differences in school attendance, with 79 percent of boys enrolled in school, compared to 34 percent of girls.

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT AMONG CHILDREN

Percentage of children 6 to 15 attending school



SCHOOL ENROLLMENT AMONG YOUNG ADULTS *By the mid-teenage years, fewer girls are in school than boys in nearly every country surveyed in sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, and the Near East.*

From the ages of 16 to 20, the rates of school enrollment fall for both boys and girls, but the decline is much sharper for girls. The much lower enrollment of girls in higher education is consistent with the continued emphasis on domestic roles for girls and women, teenage marriages, and early childbearing.

In Latin America, however, school enrollment at these ages is similar for girls and boys.



SCHOOL ENROLLMENT AMONG YOUNG ADULTS
Percentage of young adults 16 to 20 attending school

