

Lao Social Indicator Survey (LSIS)

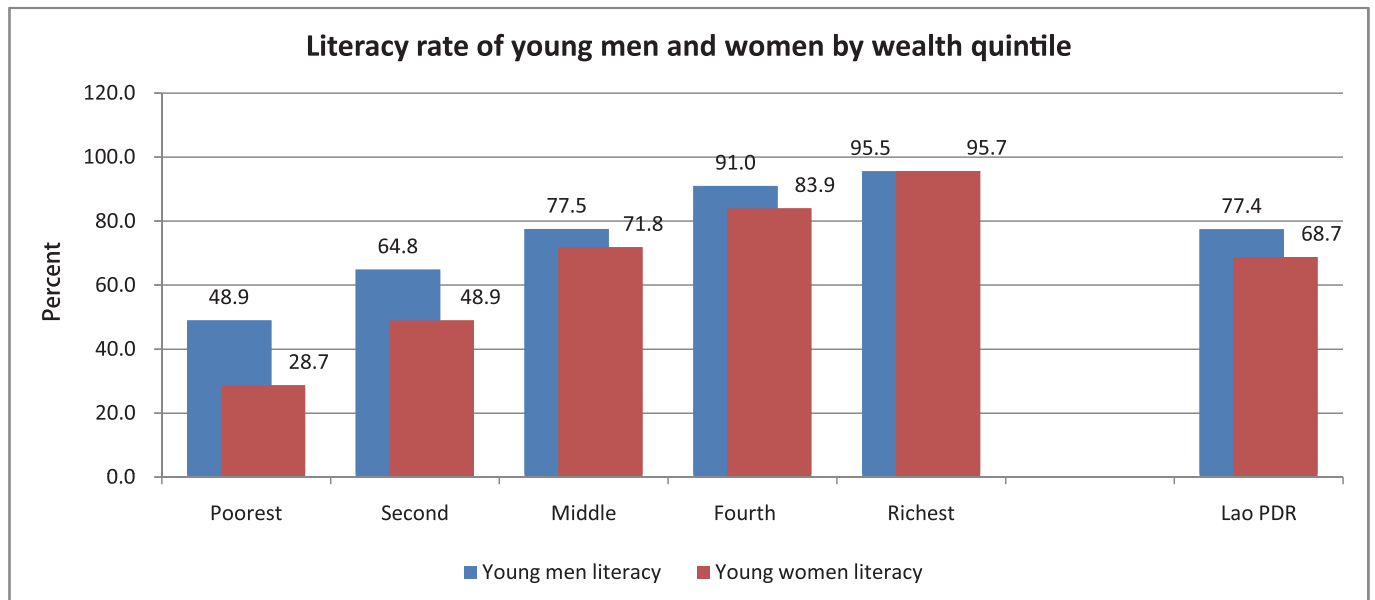
Education

Literacy among young women and men age 15 to 24 is still low

One of the World Fit for Children goals is to assure adult literacy. Adult literacy is also a Millennium Development Goal (MDG) indicator relating to both men and women.

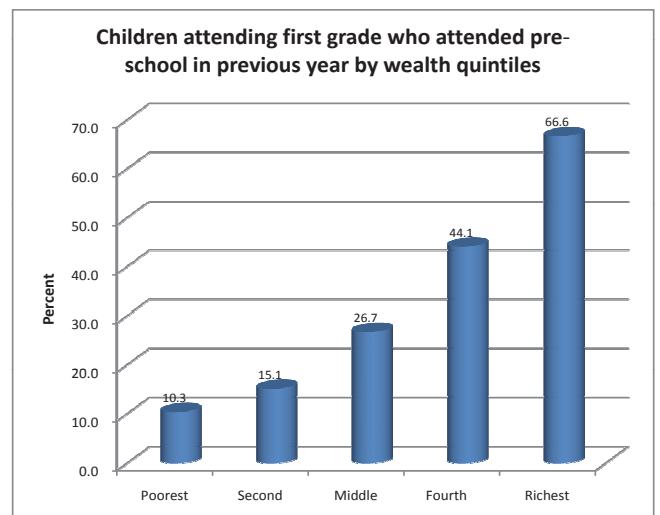
In Lao PDR, 69 per cent of young women and 77 per cent of young men are literate. The literacy rate and associated gender disparity are positively correlated

with socio-economic status. Literacy ranges from 29 per cent of women and 49 per cent of men from the poorest quintile, to 96 per cent of both women and men from the richest quintile. Some 82 per cent of women and 84 per cent of men from Lao-Tai headed households are literate, compared with only 30 per cent of women and 43 per cent of men from Chinese-Tibetan headed households.



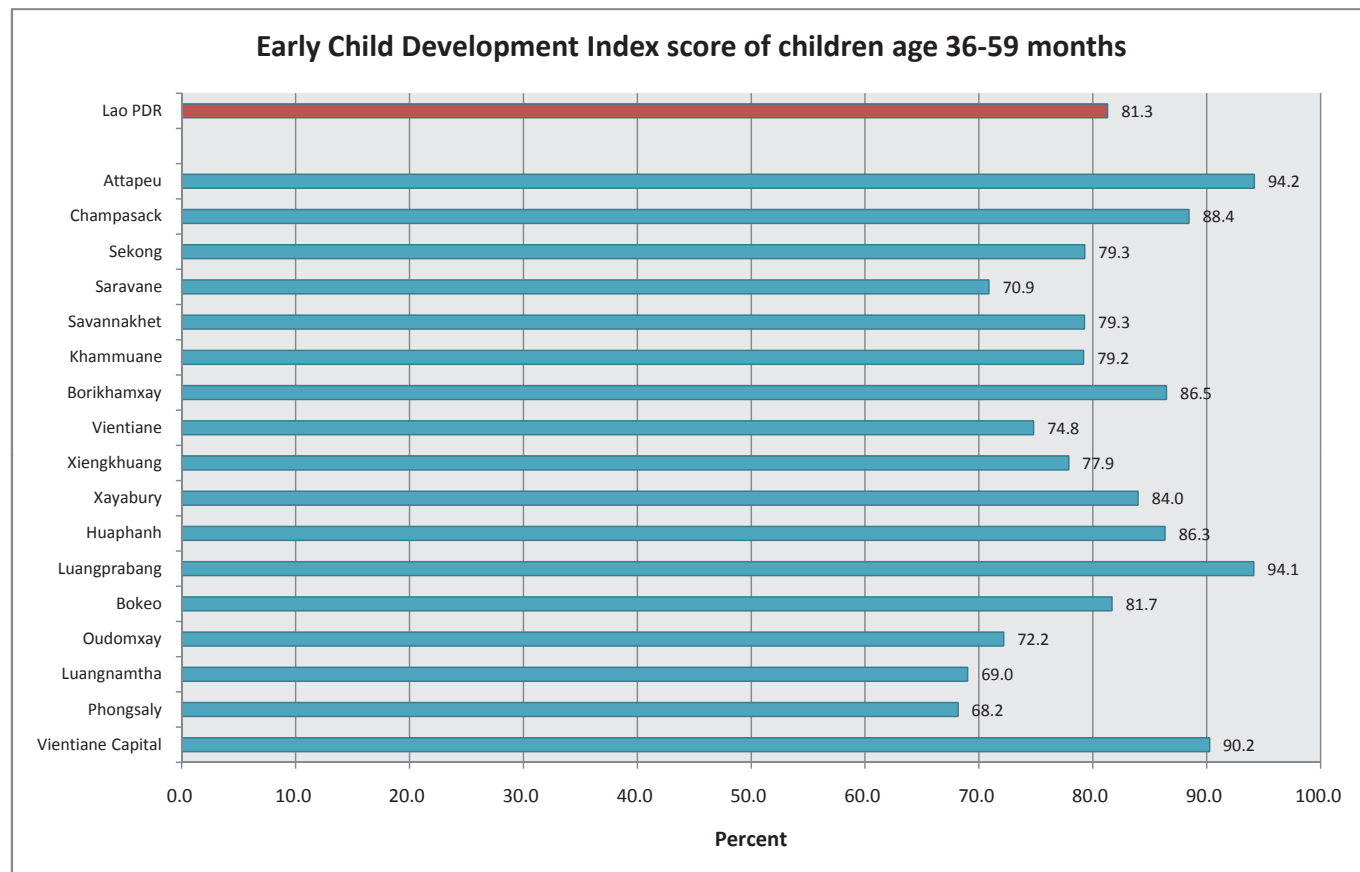
Few young children attend pre-primary education with considerable disparity

Attendance in pre-school education prepares children to start primary education at an appropriate age. Only 24 per cent of Lao children attending the first grade of primary school attended any form of pre-school the previous year. Some 23 per cent of boys and 25 per cent of girls attend pre-school. Significantly more children in urban areas attended pre-school (51 per cent), compared with 20 per cent of children living in rural areas. Socio-economic status is highly correlated with school readiness – only 10 per cent of children from the poorest households attend pre-school, compared to 67 per cent from the richest households. Sixty-four per cent of children of educated mothers attend pre-school, compared with only 13 per cent of children with uneducated mothers.



The Early Childhood Development Index is calculated as the percentage of children who are developmentally on-track in at least three of the four domains of child development: literacy-numeracy, physical, social-emotional, and learning. Eighty-one per cent of Lao children age 36 to 59 months are developmentally on-track. Analysis shows that most children are on-track

in three out of the four learning domains (physical, social-emotional, and learning), but only 20 per cent of children age 3 and 4 years are developmentally on-track in literacy-numeracy. However, half of children who are attending pre-school are on-track in the literacy-numeracy domain, compared to only 10 per cent of children not attending pre-school.



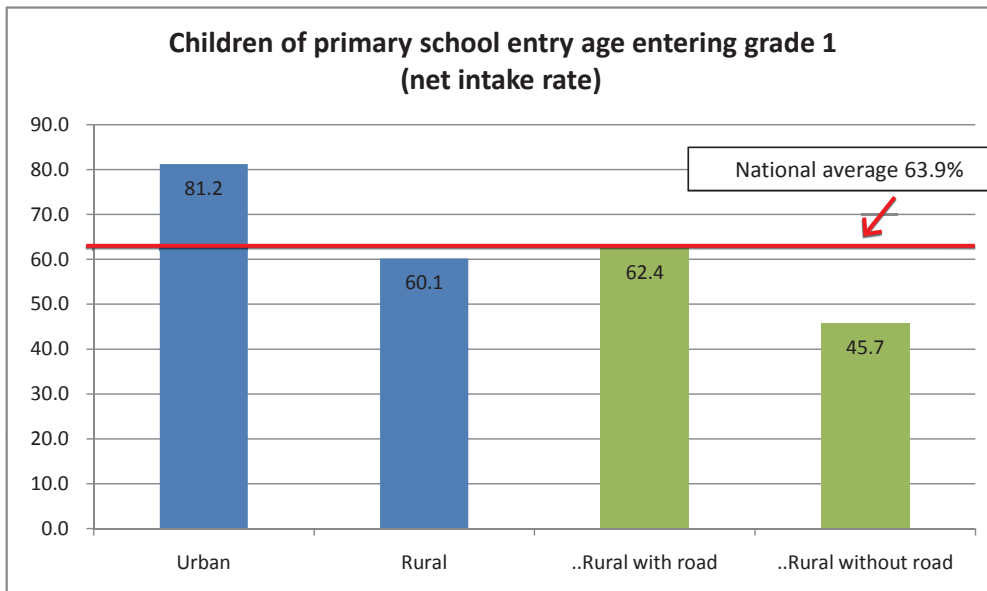
Many children do not start grade 1 at the right age, and only few attain secondary education, particularly those from the poorest families

Primary education

Some 64 per cent of children of the appropriate age enter grade 1. Children's correct age initiation to primary school is higher in urban areas (81 per cent) than in rural areas (60 per cent). Only half of children age 6 with uneducated mothers entering primary grade 1, compared to nearly 90 per cent of children with the highest educated mothers. The proportion of children entering primary school at the appropriate age also rises dramatically by wealth quintile, from 48 per cent of children in the poorest households to 83 per cent of children in the richest. Some 85 per cent of children of primary school age are attending school, although this figure varies from 95 per cent of children in urban areas to 83 per cent of children in rural areas.



© UNICEF Lao PDR / 2012 / Noorani



Secondary education

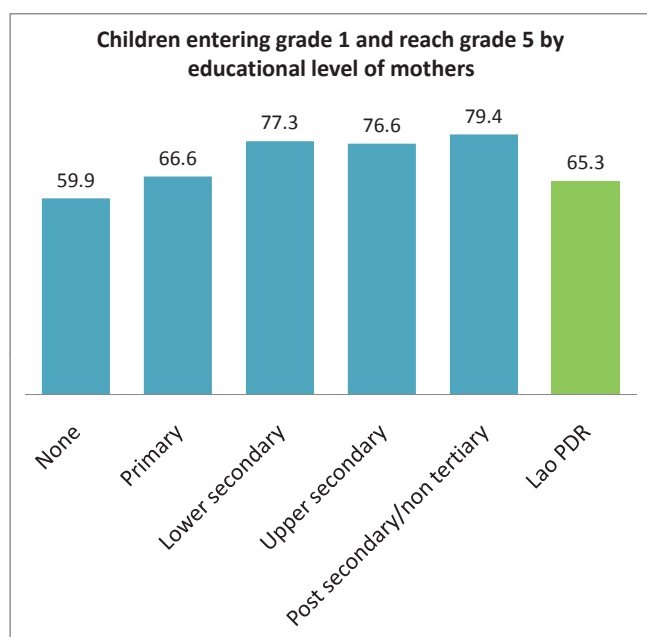
Only 45 per cent of children of secondary school age are attending secondary school. Of the remaining portion, 25 per cent are attending primary school, while 30 per cent are not attending school at all. The percentage of secondary school-age children attending primary school declines steadily with the increasing education of the mother, and 37 per cent of children of uneducated mothers are attending primary school. There is a dramatic decline in the proportion of secondary school-age children attending primary school in correlation to increasing wealth of the household, dropping from 43 per cent of children from the poorest quintile to 6 per cent of children from the richest quintile.

Survival rate

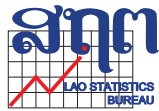
Of all children starting grade 1, 65 per cent will reach the last grade. The survival rate of primary school children is also positively correlated with the educational level of mothers. More than 75 per cent of children of mothers with at least lower secondary school or higher education reach grade five if they started grade one, compared with 60 per cent of children of mothers with no education.

Completion rate

The primary school completion rate is 94 per cent. The rate varies considerably across provinces from of 129 per cent in Luangnamtha (exceeding 100% due to the over and under aged children) down to 59 per cent in Saravane. The completion rate of boys (101 per cent) is higher than girls (88 per cent). Some 91 per cent of children who successfully complete the last grade of primary school go on to attend the first grade of secondary school.



© UNICEF Lao PDR / 2012 / Noorani



GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG
Ministère des Affaires étrangères
Direction de la coopération
au développement



USAID
ສາທາລະນະລາຍ ສະຫະລັດອາເມລິກາ



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

