

Chapter 4. SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

4.1 IMPROVEMENT IN SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

School attendance rate, as described in the definition, is the number of persons who are currently attending school at a given age per 100 persons at the corresponding school-age. Owing to the free primary and secondary education system was established by the law, the school attendance rate has shown a marked rise, particularly at younger generations during 1998-2008 (Table 4.1). The school attendance rate at aged 6-9 rose from 43.4% in 1998 to 69.7% in 2008. The school attendance rate at aged 6-9 for males rose from 43.8% to 69.1%, and that for females rose from 42.9% to 70.3% during the same period. As stated previously, the official age for entry into grade 1 is 6 years old, however the proportion of attending at 6 years old is less than half (43% in the whole country, 54% in urban area, 41% in rural area).

Table 4.1 Population Aged 6 and over by Attendance to School/ Educational Institution Status, Sex and Age Group, 1998 and 2008

Age Group	Population				Population Attending School				Percent Attending (%)		
	Both Sexes	Males	Females	Sex Ratio	Both Sexes	Males	Females	Sex Ratio	Both Sexes	Males	Females
1998											
6 +	9,589,041	4,570,421	5,018,620	91	2,488,235	1,375,617	1,112,618	124	25.9	30.1	22.2
6-9	1,390,997	710,281	680,716	104	603,267	311,452	291,815	107	43.4	43.8	42.9
10-14	1,658,196	851,139	807,057	105	1,215,687	647,227	568,460	114	73.3	76.0	70.4
15-19	1,344,258	664,184	680,074	98	545,642	341,665	203,977	168	40.6	51.4	30.0
20-24	745,687	354,100	391,587	90	61,935	40,996	20,939	196	8.3	11.6	5.3
25 +	4,449,903	1,990,717	2,459,186	81	61,704	34,277	27,427	125	1.4	1.7	1.1
2008											
6 +	11,729,902	4,570,421	5,018,620	91	3,390,690	1,807,372	1,583,318	114	28.9	39.5	31.5
6-9	1,177,507	603,046	574,461	105	820,603	417,001	403,602	103	69.7	69.1	70.3
10-14	1,670,505	859,412	811,093	106	1,463,360	753,236	710,124	106	87.6	87.6	87.6
15-19	1,619,290	834,416	784,874	106	839,344	471,244	368,100	128	51.8	56.5	46.9
20-24	1,369,202	669,343	699,859	96	196,737	123,931	72,806	170	14.4	18.5	10.4
25 +	5,893,398	2,697,489	3,195,909	84	70,646	41,960	28,686	146	1.2	1.6	0.9

The school attendance rates for females improved remarkably. As a result, the difference of the attendance rates between males and females at younger generations decreased. However, the difference in school attendance rates at aged 15 and over between males and females is still not small. The sex ratio of attending population aged 15 and over surpass the sex ratio of population at same age which implying that more males than females attend the institution of secondary and above. The relatively low enrolment and high dropouts among females has caused their lower attendance rate than the counterparts.

4.2 COMPARISON IN SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AMONG ASEAN COUNTRIES

Table 4.2 indicates the level of school attendance in ASEAN countries. Cambodia has the third lowest attendance rates among ASEAN countries, next to Laos and Indonesia (Figure 4.1). The attendance rates for females among ASEAN countries are lower than those for males, except for the Philippines and Thailand. Compared with other countries, the gender gap of the level of school attendance in Cambodia is the second greatest, next to Laos.

Table 4.2 School Attendance Rate by Sex and Age Group in ASEAN Countries, Latest Year

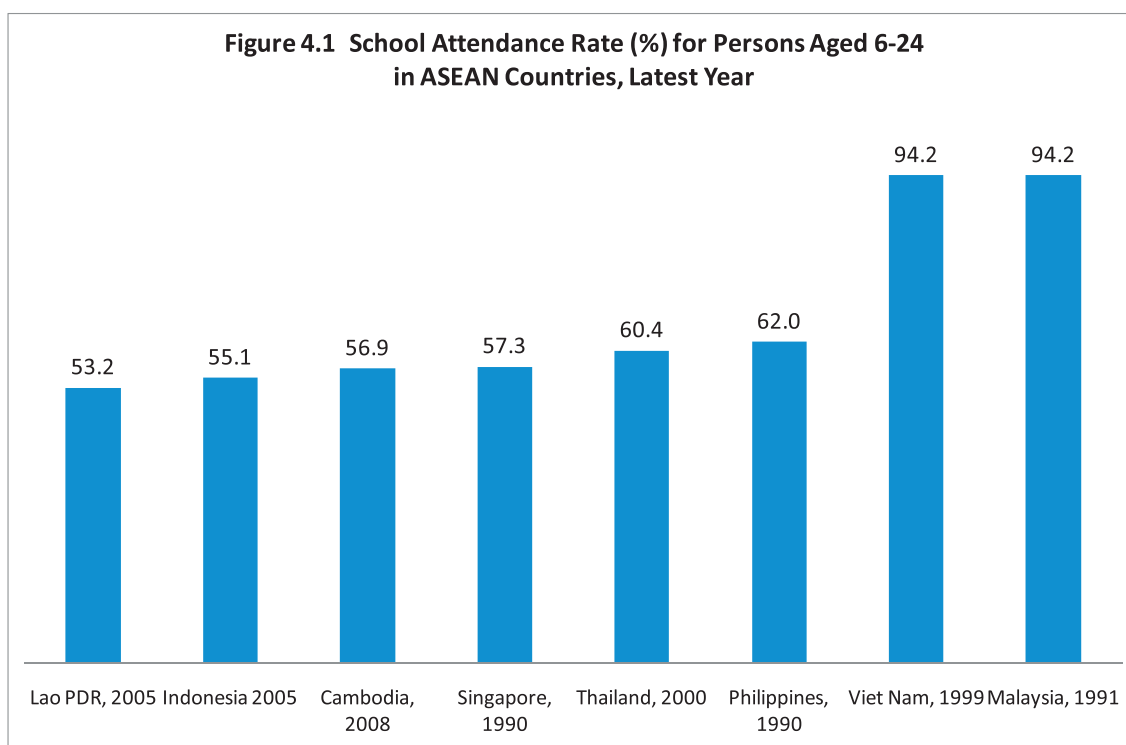
	(%)							
Year	Cambodia 2008	Indonesia 2005	Lao PDR 2005	Malaysia 1991	Philippines 1990	Singapore 1990	Thailand 2000	Viet Nam 1999
Both Sexes								
6-24	56.9	55.1	53.2	94.2	62.0	57.3	60.4	94.2
6-9	69.7	79.9	66.6	90.2	76.4	-	78.7	89.0
10-14	87.6	87.2	81.2	97.6	87.1	98.7	92.4	96.6
15-19	51.8	51.5	41.5	95.9	58.1	65.9	57.8	95.6
20-24	14.4	10.1	10.8	92.7	21.9	13.7	17.7	94.6
Males								
6-24	59.5	55.8	57.7	94.3	61.9	56.9	59.4	94.5
6-9	69.1	79.3	67.1	90.2	75.3	-	78.5	89.2
10-14	87.6	87.0	85.0	97.7	86.2	98.8	91.8	96.9
15-19	56.5	52.0	49.8	96.0	57.5	64.6	54.8	95.9
20-24	18.5	10.7	14.8	93.1	22.9	13.1	16.9	94.9
Females								
6-24	54.2	54.4	48.6	94.1	62.1	57.7	61.4	94.0
6-9	70.3	80.5	66.1	90.2	77.5	-	78.8	88.8
10-14	87.6	87.5	77.2	97.6	88.1	98.5	93.1	96.4
15-19	46.9	50.9	33.3	95.8	58.7	67.4	60.9	95.3
20-24	10.4	9.6	6.9	92.3	20.9	14.4	18.5	94.4

Note: Age groups '15-19' and '20-24' are '15-18' and '19-24' for Indonesia. Age groups '6-24' and '6-9' are '7-24' and '7-9' for the Philippines.

Age groups '10-14' are '6-24' for Singapore, '6-24' and '20-24' are '6-29' and '20-29' for Vietnam, respectively.

Source: United Nations Statistics Division <http://unstats.un.org/> (for Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Vietnam and Thailand).

General Population census of Cambodia, 2008, Results from the Population Census 2005, Lao PDR. Results of the 2005 Intercensal Population Survey, Indonesia.



4.3 SCHOOL ATTENDANCE BY AGE AND SEX

Figures 4.2 and 4.3 indicate the school attendance rates by single year of age and sex as of 1998 and 2008. It is found that the school attendance rate in 2008 is higher at all ages of 6-24 than those in 1998. The attendance rate improved significantly at younger persons aged 7-10 during 1998-2008. By sex, the attendance rate for females at all ages 6-24 were lower than those for males in 1998, however, those for females at ages 6-13 is higher or equal to those for males in 2008. This shows the remarkable improvement of the status of school attendance for females at younger generation. The attendance rate for females at ages 15-24 was much lower than those for males both for 1998 and 2008 (Figure 4.4). This might be affected by the attitude of parents to daughter's education and therefore many girls tend to drop out of schools too early to acquire necessary literacy skills.

Figure 4.2
School Attendance Rate (%)
for Persons Aged 6 -24
by Single Year of Age , 1998 and 2008

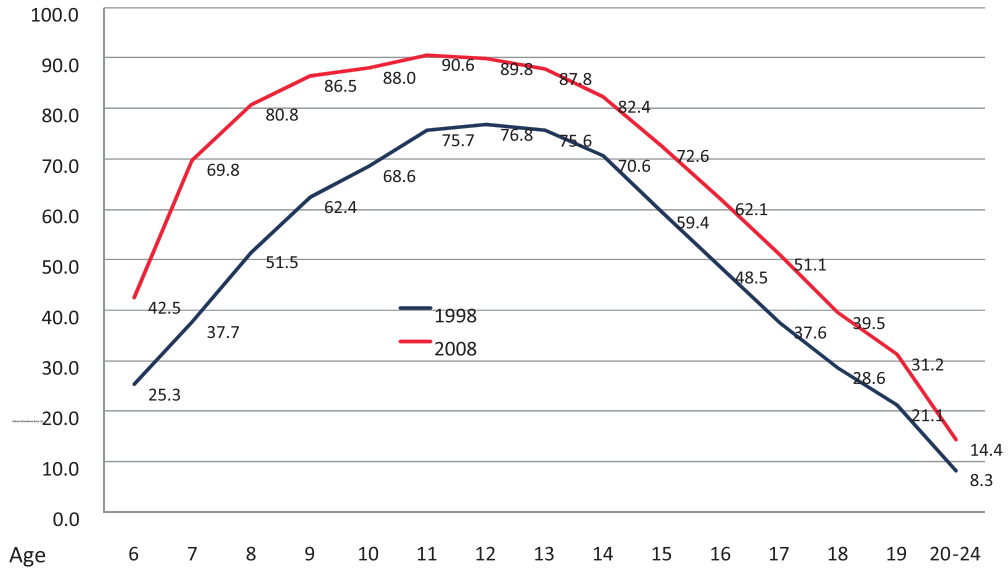
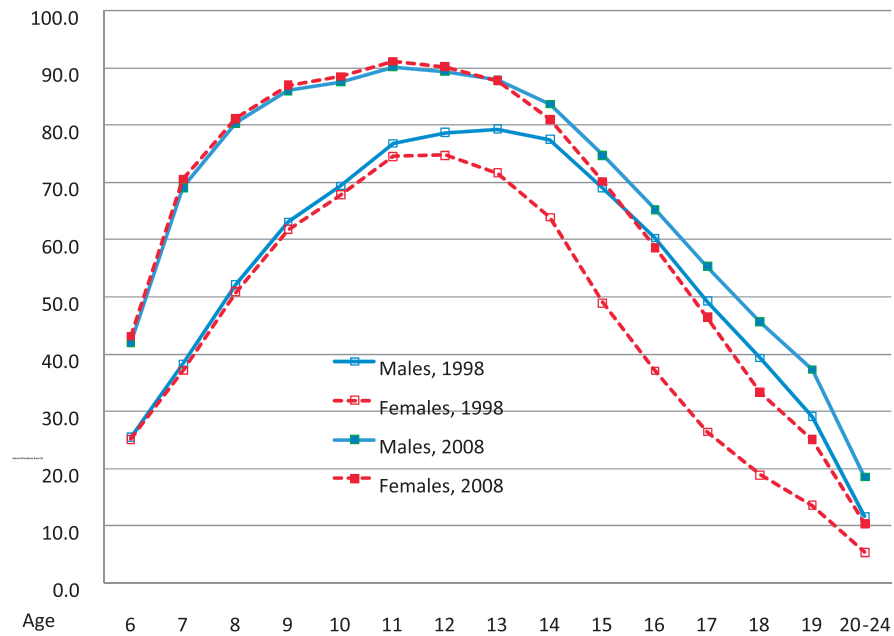


Figure 4.3 **School Attendance Rate (%) for Persons Aged 6 -24 by Sex and Single Year of Age, 1998 and 2008**



4.4 SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AND EMPLOYMENT

Whether persons are full time students or employed students are shown in Table 4.3. Most persons under 15 are full time students, on the other hand, 45 percent of population ages 15-19 are employed students who are working students. The proportion of employed students ages 15-19 is 40% for males, and 49% for females. This means that more female than male may be obliged to work or to drop out of school for various reasons.

Table 4.3 Population Aged 5 to 19 by Full Time Students and Employed Students, by Age Group and Sex, 2008

Sex and Age Group	Total	Full Time Students	Employed Students	Total	Full Time Students	Employed Students
Both Sexes						
5 - 19	4,190,315	3,423,765	766,550	100.0	81.7	18.3
5 - 9	860,546	853,678	6,868	100.0	99.2	0.8
10-14	1,550,466	1,463,360	87,106	100.0	94.4	5.6
15-19	1,511,920	839,344	672,576	100.0	55.5	44.5
Males						
5 - 19	2,187,217	1,823,859	363,358	100.0	83.4	16.6
5 - 9	437,081	433,488	3,593	100.0	99.2	0.8
10-14	796,354	753,236	43,118	100.0	94.6	5.4
15-19	787,891	471,244	316,647	100.0	59.8	40.2
Females						
5 - 19	2,003,098	1,599,906	403,192	100.0	79.9	20.1
5 - 9	423,465	420,190	3,275	100.0	99.2	0.8
10-14	754,112	710,124	43,988	100.0	94.2	5.8
15-19	724,029	368,100	355,929	100.0	50.8	49.2

Note: Total population excludes other persons other than full time students and employed students.

Table 4.4 indicates the school attendance status of employed persons by sex. The employed persons who have never attended decreased the number (from 205,473 to 156,593 persons) and percents (from 33% to 20%) during 1998-2008. The employed persons aged 10-14 who are attending now decreased the proportion from 30% to 8% during this decade, which means full-time students may be increasing. The employed persons aged 10-14 who attended in the past increased the proportion from 39% to 56% during a decade, some of them might have dropped out the school.