



Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/1982/3/Add.25
25 April 1983
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

First regular session of 1983

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Reports submitted in accordance with Council resolution 1988 (LX)
by States parties to the Covenant concerning rights covered by
articles 13-15

LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA*

EDUCATION IN THE SOCIALIST PEOPLE'S LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA

The period following the outbreak of the great victorious revolution has been characterized by a large number of achievements in the various areas of education, with the goal of creating the human cadres necessary to advance the wheel of construction and transformation. During the period 1970-1982, the education sector underwent large-scale development, which is summarized below.

A. Kindergartens

This type of education hardly existed before the outbreak of the great victorious revolution, except for some private schools. After the outbreak of the revolution, increased attention was accorded to kindergartens, with the goal of preparing children for entrance to the primary level. In the academic year 1972/73, there were approximately 22 kindergartens, comprising 77 classes. The number of children enrolled in these kindergartens was 2,398. Of these 1,344 were boys and 1,054 girls. The number of kindergarten teachers during the above-mentioned year was 96. In the academic year 1981/82, the number of children enrolled in kindergartens was 10,600. Of these, 5,500, or 51.9 per cent, were

* The present document contains additions to the report of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya concerning rights covered by articles 13 and 14 of the Covenant (E/1982/3/Add.6).

boys and 5,100, or 48.1 per cent, girls. During the same year, kindergarten teachers numbered 569; there were 269 classes.

B. Primary education

In 1970, the number of pupils enrolled in primary education represented approximately 16.2 per cent of the total population. This proportion increased to 19.8 per cent by 1982. The increase in the number of pupils at the primary level was thus approximately 393,500, comprising 163,600 boys and 229,900 girls. The increase which took place between the two years mentioned represents an average annual rate of increase of 6.8 per cent over the period 1970-1982. It should be noted that female interest in education was great, so that the average annual rate of increase in the number of girls enrolled in primary education during this period was 9.8 per cent, as against a low average annual rate of 4.8 per cent for boys.

With regard to proportional distribution, the available figures show that, in 1970, approximately 84.9 per cent of all students at all educational levels were enrolled in primary education and that this proportion fell to 66.8 per cent by the academic year 1981/82. The number of girls enrolled in primary education increased from 34 per cent in 1969/70 to approximately 47.4 per cent in 1981/82, so that the proportion of boys enrolled fell from 66 to 52.6 per cent of the total number of pupils enrolled in primary education between the two years mentioned. The number of teachers employed in primary education was 39,214 in the academic year 1981/82, as against 12,137 in the academic year 1969/70, an increase of approximately 27,077, representing an average annual rate of increase of 103 per cent. In the academic year 1969/70, the number of teachers at the primary level represented 74.3 per cent of all teachers at all educational levels, and this proportion fell to approximately 58 per cent by the academic year 1981/82.

Between the two years mentioned, the number of classes at the primary level increased from 10,746 to 27,527, an increase of approximately 16,781. Similarly, the number of classes at the primary level represented 70.5 per cent of the total number of classes at all levels of education in 1981/82, as against 86 per cent in the academic year 1969/70.

Class size at the primary level was reduced from 30.2 pupils in the academic year 1969/70 to approximately 26.1 pupils in the academic year 1981/82.

C. Preparatory education

The number of pupils enrolled in preparatory education as a proportion of the total population increased from 1.9 per cent in 1970 to approximately 6.3 per cent in 1982, thus demonstrating the growing interest in this type of education during this period. Between the two years mentioned, the increase registered in the number of pupils at this level was 191,100, comprising 102,800 boys, or 53.8 per cent, and approximately 88,300 girls, or 46.2 per cent. The average annual increase in the total number of pupils at the preparatory level was approximately 24 per cent; the average annual rate of increase for girls was 25 per cent and for boys 12.8 per cent.

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With regard to preparatory education and proportional distribution, the available data show that, during 1970, 10 per cent of all pupils at all levels of education were enrolled in this kind of education, and that this proportion increased to 21.3 per cent by 1982.

In 1969/70, the number of girls represented approximately 17 per cent of the total number of pupils enrolled in preparatory education. This proportion increased considerably, to 41.3 per cent, by the academic year 1981/82, and, conversely, the proportion of boys enrolled fell from 83 per cent in the academic year 1969/70 to approximately 58.7 per cent in the academic year 1981/82.

The number of teachers employed in preparatory education, represented 15.5 per cent of the total number of teachers at all levels of education in the academic year 1969/70. This proportion increased to approximately 28.6 per cent by the academic year 1981/82. The increase in the number of classes during the interval between the two years mentioned was approximately 6,711, so that class size, which was 31.6 pupils in the academic year 1969/70 was reduced to approximately 29 pupils by the academic year 1981/82.

D. General secondary education

In the academic year 1981/82, the number of pupils enrolled in general secondary education represented approximately 1.6 per cent of the total population of the Jamahiriya, as against 0.5 per cent in 1969/70.

The increase in general secondary education enrolment in the interval between the two years mentioned was approximately 48,000 pupils, comprising 31,000 girls and 17,000 boys. The average annual rate of increase in the number of pupils enrolled in general secondary education was 16.6 per cent, or 14.5 per cent for boys and approximately 24 per cent for girls. This shows the growing interest of girls in general secondary education enrolment during the 13-year period mentioned.

As a result of this upswing in general secondary education, the proportion of students at this level increased from 2.4 per cent in 1969/70 to 5.3 per cent in 1981/82.

In 1969/70, the number of girls enrolled in general secondary education represented 1.2 per cent of all girls at all levels of education, and this proportion increased to approximately 3.8 per cent by the academic year 1981/82. Similarly, the number of boys enrolled in general secondary education as a proportion of all boys enrolled in this type of education rose from 2.9 per cent in the academic year 1969/70 to 6.5 per cent in 1981/82.

The number of teachers employed in general secondary education increased from 882 in the academic year 1969/70 to 4,532 in the academic year 1981/82, at an average annual rate of increase estimated at approximately 14.5 per cent. During the same period, the number of classes in this type of education increased to 1,759 by 1981/82, as against 309 in 1969/70, an average annual rate of increase of 15.6 per cent. With regard to the increase in the number of pupils enrolled in

general secondary education compared with the number of classes, class size in general secondary education increased from 29.5 pupils in the academic year 1969/70 to 32.5 pupils in the academic year 1981/82.

E. Teacher-training institutes

The number of students in teacher-training institutes is now 27,800, an increase of approximately 23,100 over 1970, representing an average annual rate of increase of 15.9 per cent. The increase in the number of female students between 1969/70 and 1981/82 was greater than the increase in the number of male students, so that the average annual rate of increase in the number of female students was 21.3 per cent, as against 11 per cent for male students. In 1969/70, there were 1,700 female students. This number increased appreciably and reached 17,300 by the academic year 1981/82, on account of the effort to meet the teaching requirements of the various stages of pre-university education, to reduce reliance on non-Libyan teachers as soon as possible and also to implement the strategy of extending the compulsory levels of education to girls. The number of students enrolled in teacher-training institutes as a proportion of the total number of students at all levels of education rose from 1.2 per cent in 1969/70 to approximately 2.6 per cent in 1981/82.

F. Technical education

In order to meet the requirements of the various sectors of the national economy with respect to trained national personnel in the various fields, the great victorious revolution has, since its outbreak, accorded attention to technical education. In 1969/70, there were 1,500 students enrolled in technical education in the Jamahiriya. This number increased appreciably and reached 16,900 in the academic year 1981/82, a large increase of 15,400 students, representing an average annual rate of increase of 22.4 per cent over the period mentioned. It should also be noted, in this regard that, in 1969/70, there were no female students enrolled in this type of education, whereas their number totalled 5,300 in the academic year 1981/82, so that the entrance of women to the various fields of education and training was thus achieved.

In 1969/70, 0.4 per cent of all students were enrolled in technical education, and this proportion rose to 1.6 per cent by the academic year 1981/82.

The number of teachers employed in technical education, including teacher-training institutes, was approximately 3,926, an increase of approximately 3,150 over the academic year 1969/70, representing an average annual rate of increase estimated at approximately 14.5 per cent. During the same period, the number of classes in technical education and teacher-training institutes increased from 237 in 1969/70 to approximately 1,568 in 1981/82, an average annual rate of increase of 17 per cent. Owing to the increase in the number of students enrolled in technical education and teacher-training institutes, class size in technical education and training institutes rose from 26.2 students in the academic year 1969/70 to 28.5 students in the academic year 1981/82.

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G. University and higher education

University and higher education was accorded great attention during the period 1970-1982. There was a great increase in the number of students enrolled in the various faculties and higher institutes, and, in addition, this area of education has kept pace with modern technical and technological development and progress, in order to meet the needs of projects for economic and social transformation with regard to qualified productive manpower in the various specializations and fields.

During the above-mentioned period, the number of students enrolled in university and higher education increased from 4,100 in the academic year 1969/70 to 25,700 in the academic year 1981/82, a large increase of 21,600 students, representing an average annual rate of increase of 16.6 per cent during the two years mentioned.

It should be noted that, in the academic year 1969/70, there were only approximately 400 female students and that their number increased to 6,100 by the academic year 1981/82, an increase of approximately 5,700 female students, representing an average annual rate of increase of approximately 25.5 per cent, as against an average annual rate of 14.9 per cent for male students. Proportional distribution improved in respect of higher and university education, increasing from 1.1 per cent in 1969/70 to approximately 2.4 per cent in 1981/82.

There are three universities in the Jamahiriya: Fatih University, comprising 10 faculties; Qaqr Yunis University, comprising 10 faculties; and, in addition, a technical university at Al-Burayqah, which covers the Jamahiriya's requirements with respect to higher technical institutes.

There are currently five higher institutes: the Higher Petroleum Institute; the Higher Technical Institute; the Higher Electronics Institute; the Higher Institute of Electro-mechanics; and the Higher Institute of Administration and Banking for Girls.

Thus, the education sector is accomplishing more and more, with the goal of training men and women who can build and contribute in various areas of life, and, also, of inaugurating radical changes in the structure and methods of education so as to keep pace with the stage of transformation and ensure utilization of developing technical and technological sciences.

At the various levels of education, the number of students increased from 382,200 in the academic year 1969/70 to approximately 1,074,900 in the academic year 1981/82, a large increase of 692,700 students, representing an average annual rate of increase of 9 per cent between the years mentioned.

It may be seen from these data that the number of students at all levels of education represented 19.1 per cent of the total population in 1970 and that the proportion rose to approximately 29.7 per cent in 1982. This is a high proportion among the States of the world. In addition, it shows the increasing interest of citizens in pursuing the various types of education.

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It should be noted also that the interest shown by women in education was considerable during this period, inasmuch as the number of women enrolled in education increased to approximately 482,300. This amounted to an increase of approximately 361,800 between 1969/70 and 1981/82, representing an average annual rate of increase of 12.3 per cent, as against 7 per cent for male students.

The number of teachers at the various levels of education, with the exception of university and higher education, is estimated for the academic year 1981/82 at approximately 67,600, an increase of approximately 51,266 over 1969/70, representing an average annual rate of increase of approximately 12.6 per cent during the period. During the same period, the increase in the number of classes was approximately 26,542.

Table 1. Number of students enrolled at the various levels of education in the academic years 1969/70 and 1981/82

Level	1969/70			1981/82			Increase	Males	Females	Total	1969/70	1981/82	Proportional distribution (percentage)										
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total																	
Primary education	214.1	110.5	324.6	277.7	340.4	718.1	163.6	229.9	393.5	4.8	9.8	6.8	84.9	66.6									
Preparatory education	31.7	6.5	38.2	134.5	94.8	229.3	102.8	88.4	191.1	12.8	25.0	24.0	10.0	21.3									
General secondary education	7.7	1.4	9.1	18.7	18.4	57.1	31.0	17.0	48.0	14.5	24.0	16.6	2.4	5.3									
Teacher-training institutes	1.0	1.7	4.7	10.5	17.3	27.8	7.5	15.6	23.1	11.0	21.3	15.9	1.2	2.6									
Technical education	1.5	—	1.5	11.6	5.1	16.9	10.1	5.3	15.4	18.6	—	22.4	0.4	1.6									
University and higher education	3.7	0.4	4.1	19.6	6.1	25.7	15.9	5.7	21.6	14.9	25.5	16.6	1.1	2.4									
Total	261.7	120.5	382.2	592.6	482.3	1,074.9	330.9	361.8	692.7	7.0	12.3	9.0	100.0	100.0									

Note: With regard to kindergartens, the number of males was 5,500 and the number of females 5,100 for the academic year 1981/82.

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Table 2. Number of teachers and classes for the years 1969/70
and 1981/82

Level	1969/70		1981/82		Class size	
	Number of teachers	Number of classes	Number of teachers	Number of classes	1969/70	1981/82
Primary education	12 137	10 746	39 214	27 527	30.2	26.1
Preparatory education	2 539	1 210	19 359	7 921	31.6	29.0
General secondary education	882	309	4 532	1 759	29.5	32.5
Technical secondary education a/	776	237	3 926	1 568	26.2	28.5
Total	16 334	12 502	67 600	39 044	-	-

Note: The number of kindergarten teachers was 569 and the number of classes 269.

a/ Including teacher-training institutes.
