



PRESS RELEASE

For every 10 Filipinos, 9 have Basic Literacy, while 7 have Functional Literacy

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The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) has conducted the 2024 Functional Literacy, Education, and Mass Media Survey (FLEMMS), which aims to gather data as bases in determining the state of literacy in the country.

The 2024 FLEMMS adopts a revised operational definition and methodology for measuring basic and functional literacy as approved by the PSA Board through Resolution No. 13, Series of 2024.

Basic literacy is defined as the ability of a person to read and write a simple message in any language or dialect with understanding, and to compute or perform basic mathematical operations.

Functional literacy is the ability of a person to read, write, compute and comprehend. In addition to the basic literacy skills, functional literacy includes higher level of comprehension skills, such as integrating two or more pieces of information and making inferences based on the given information.

Basic literacy rate is computed for individuals 5 years old and over, while functional literacy rate is computed for individuals 10 to 64 years old.

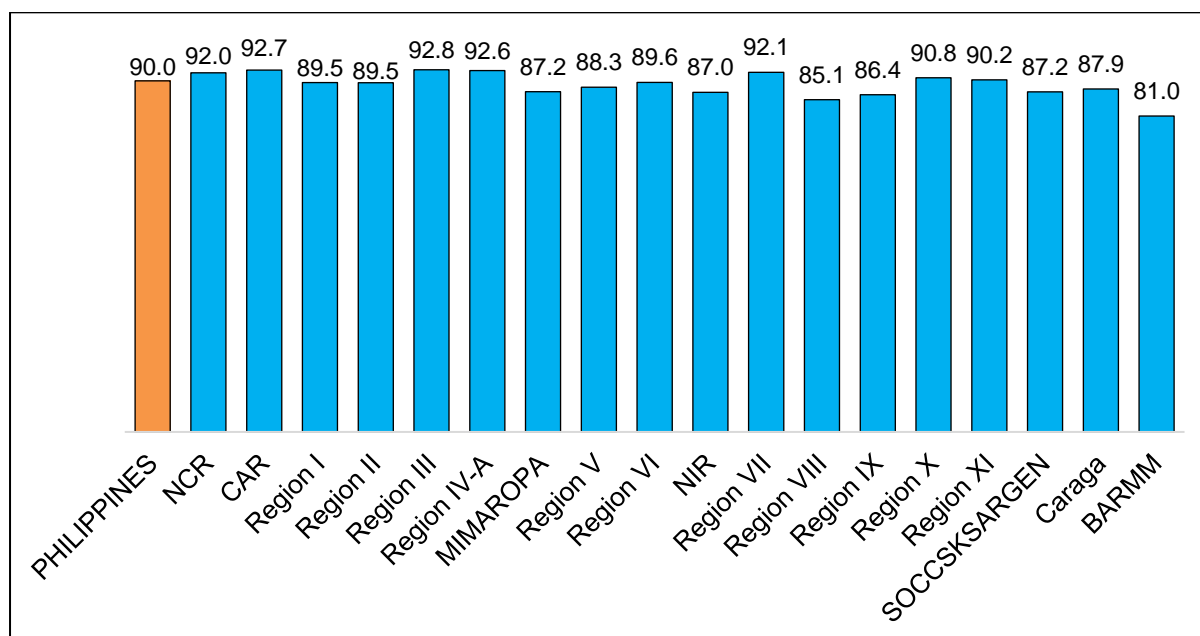
1. Basic literacy rate is highest in Central Luzon

The 2024 FLEMMS results revealed that 90.0 percent or 9 out of 10 Filipinos aged 5 years and over had basic literacy. This translates to approximately 93.07 million individuals aged 5 years and over who can read, write, and compute out of the estimated 103.46 million individuals in the same age group.

Basic literacy rates varied across regions with Central Luzon (Region III) having the highest basic literacy rate at 92.8 percent, while the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) recorded the lowest at 81.0 percent. (Figure 1 and Table 1)



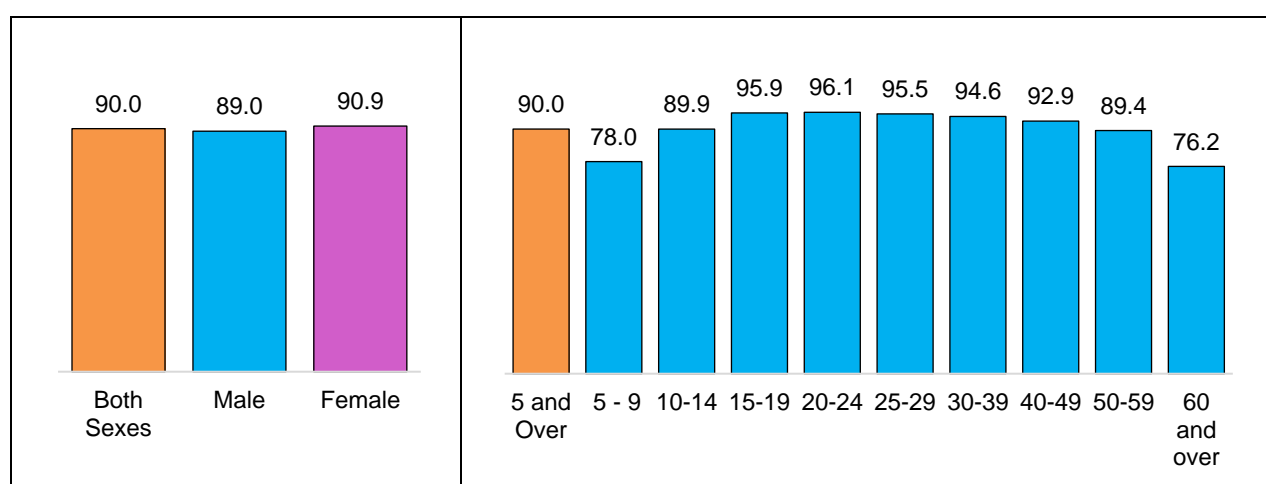
Figure 1. Basic Literacy Rate of Filipinos 5 Years Old and Over by Region, Philippines: 2024 (in percent)



Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, 2024 Functional Literacy, Education and Mass Media Survey

In terms of sex, basic literacy rate was higher for females at 90.9 percent compared to males at 89.0 percent. By age group, individuals 20 to 24 years old had the highest basic literacy rate at 96.1 percent. On the other hand, Filipinos 60 years old and over reported the lowest at 76.2 percent. (Figure 2 and Table 1)

Figure 2. Basic Literacy Rate of Filipinos 5 Years Old and Over by Sex and Age Group, Philippines: 2024 (in percent)

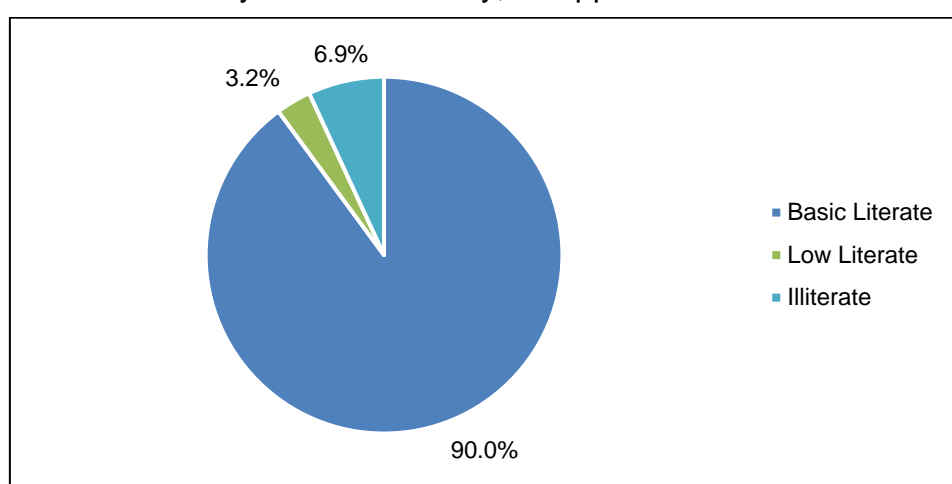


Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, 2024 Functional Literacy, Education and Mass Media Survey

2. The proportion of individuals who cannot read and write, or who are illiterate, is highest among those aged 5 to 9 years

Among individuals 5 years old and over, 6.9 percent or about 7 out of 100 individuals cannot read and write or are classified as illiterate. Among regions, BARMM had the highest proportion of individuals aged 5 years and over who cannot read and write at 14.4 percent. The proportion of individuals aged 5 years and over who cannot read and write was higher among males (7.6%) than females (6.1%). By age group, the highest proportion of individuals who cannot read and write was recorded in age group 5 to 9 years at 20.1 percent. (Figure 3 and Table 2)

Figure 3. Percentage of Population 5 Years Old and Over by Level of Literacy, Philippines: 2024



Notes: *Illiterate* - cannot read and write

Low Literate - can read and write only

Basic Literate - can read and write with understanding, and can compute

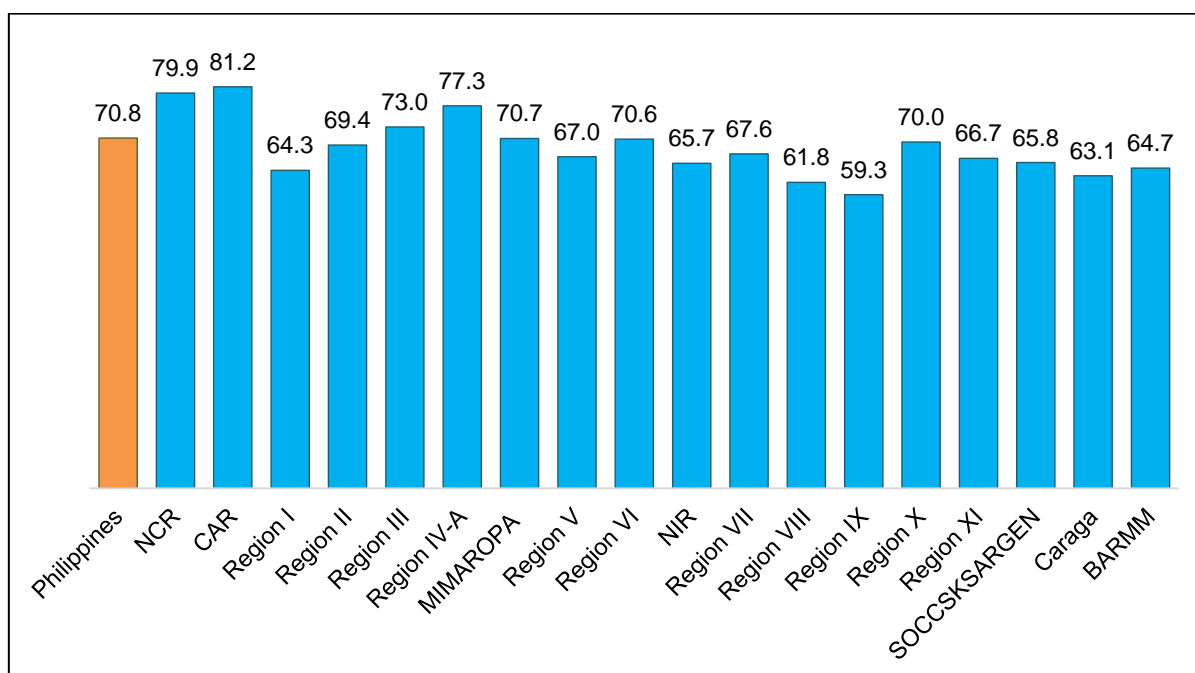
Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, 2024 Functional Literacy, Education and Mass Media Survey

3. Individuals aged 20 to 24 years have the highest functional literacy rate

The functional literacy rate in 2024 was recorded at 70.8 percent or about 7 out of 10 individuals aged 10 to 64 years were functionally literate. This translates to around 60.17 million individuals aged 10 to 64 years who can read, write, compute, and comprehend out of the estimated 85.00 million individuals in the same age group.

The Cordillera Administrative Region recorded the highest functional literacy rate at 81.2 percent, while Region IX (Zamboanga Peninsula) had the lowest at 59.3 percent. (Figure 4 and Table 3)

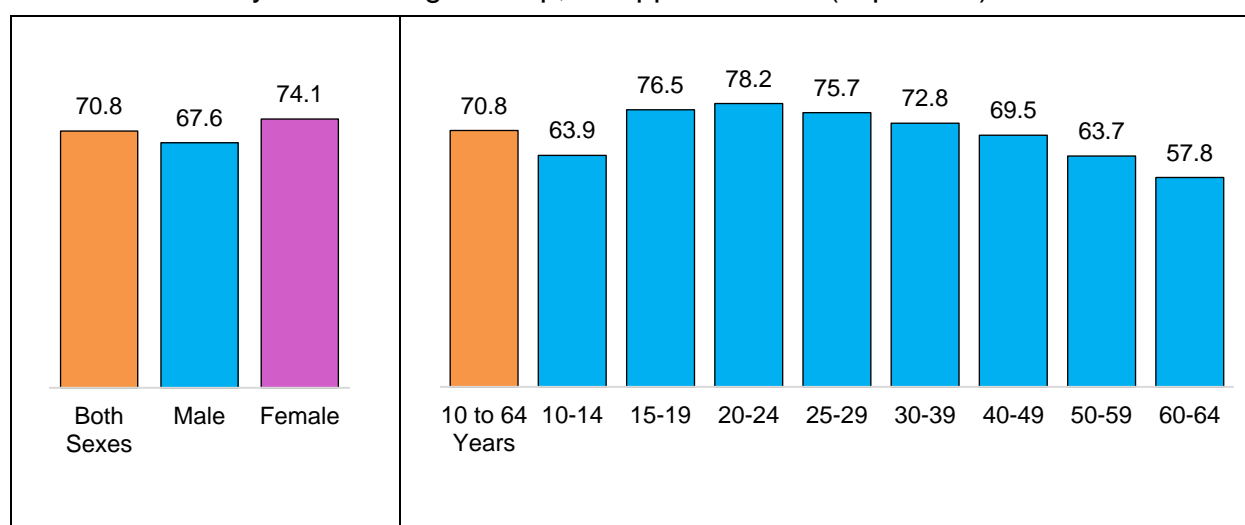
Figure 4. Functional Literacy Rate of Population 10 to 64 Years Old by Region, Philippines: 2024 (in percent)



Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, 2024 Functional Literacy, Education and Mass Media Survey

By sex, females showed a higher functional literacy rate at 74.1 percent compared to males at 67.6 percent. Among age groups, individuals aged 20 to 24 years recorded the highest functional literacy rate at 78.2 percent, while those aged 60 to 64 years had the lowest rate at 57.8 percent. (Figure 5 and Table 3)

Figure 5. Functional Literacy Rate of Population 10 to 64 Years Old by Sex and Age Group, Philippines: 2024 (in percent)



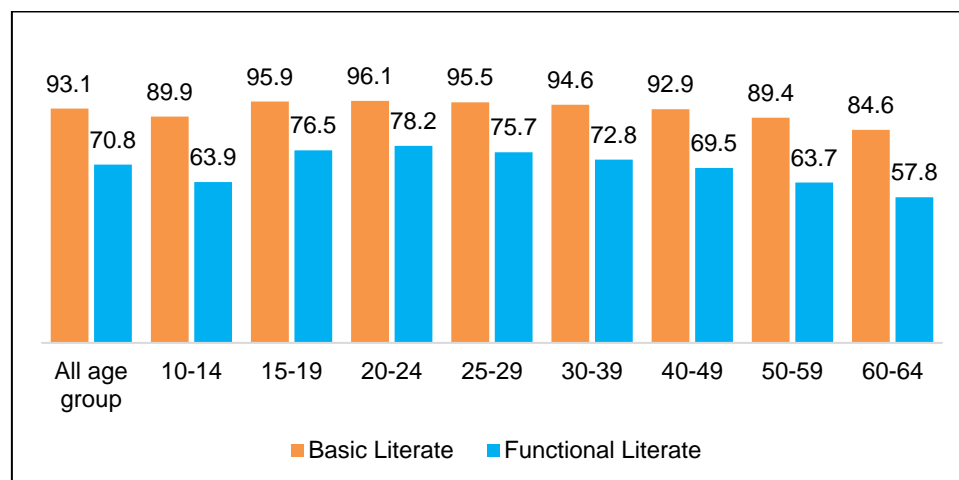
Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, 2024 Functional Literacy, Education and Mass Media Survey

4. The gap between basic literacy and functional literacy was highest in the age group 60 to 64 years

Among Filipinos aged 10 to 64 years, 93.1 percent had basic literacy, while 70.8 percent had functional literacy. This means that for every nine (9) individuals aged 10 to 64 years who can read, write and compute, two (2) individuals have comprehension difficulty.

The gap between basic literacy and functional literacy was highest in the age group 60 to 64 years. This indicates that for every three (3) individuals who can read, write and compute, one (1) had comprehension difficulty. (Figure 6 and Table 4)

Figure 6. Percentage of Population 10 to 64 Years Old by Level of Literacy and Age Group, Philippines: 2024



Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, 2024 Functional Literacy, Education and Mass Media Survey

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