Female youth labour force participation rate is the proportion of the female population ages 15-24 that is economically active. 

Female youth literacy rate shows the percentage of the female population ages 15-24 that is able to read and write.

Economic structure of a country has an influence on youth participation in the labour force which is also related with the education level of youth.

Agriculture sector comprises more than one fifth of the economies of 22 OIC countries. Particularly, Sierra Leone (49.1%), Sudan (46.6%), Guinea-Bissau (42.2%), Mali (40.2%) and Niger (40.1%) were top 5 OIC countries with agriculture sector’s share above 40% in their GDPs.

11 OIC countries including Chad (22.4%), Niger (31.6%), Afghanistan (32.1%), Guinea (37.2%), Mali (39.2%), Benin (40.9%), Burkina Faso (44.0%), Cote d’Ivoire (47.0%), Mauritania (47.7%), Iraq (48.6%), and Guinea-Bissau (49.8%) had all female youth literacy rate below 50% based on the last year available data between 2004 and 2018.

On the other hand, 29 OIC countries had female youth literacy rates above 90%. Among them, Uzbekistan took the lead with 100% female youth literacy rate followed by 17 OIC countries including Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Indonesia, Brunei, Kuwait, Maldives, Libya, Turkey, Lebanon, Palestine, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Albania, and Oman with over 99%. As the above chart shows, these countries are situated at the top across the x-axis.

Concentrated in the right hand side of the chart, 9 OIC countries in Sub-Saharan Africa including Togo (63.8%), Mozambique (63.1%), Niger (59.0%), Mali (56.9%), Chad (56.4%), Cameroon (53.1%), Uganda (52.2%), Guinea-Bissau (51.2%), and Guinea (51.0%) had female youth labour participation rates over 50%.

In this connection, agriculture as a labour-intensive sector claimed a larger part of labour force, especially among the female youth, in some OIC countries. As can be seen from the chart’s trendline, a negative relationship exists between female youth labour force participation and literacy rates.

All in all, countries with higher investments in their education sectors are expected to decrease their poverty rates, increase the standards of living of their citizens, and eventually contribute to the growth of their economies in the long-run.

Note: The above chart focuses on female youth literacy rate based on the last year available data between 2004 and 2018. To preserve the consistency, reciprocal year was used for female youth labour force participation rate data. The size and colour of the bubbles correspond to the share of agriculture sector in the economy. E.g. larger and darker the bubble means larger the agriculture sector value added to the GDP.