

Voices of the Community Newsletter

The Literacy and Community Empowerment Program (LCEP), a USAID-funded community development initiative, is implemented by the Education Development Center (EDC) and UN-Habitat.

Who is an LCEP Literacy Student?

In many villages across Afghanistan, non-formal community classes are a person's only means to an education. But who are these students?

The Education Development Center (EDC) implements village Learning Centers throughout Afghanistan. There are currently more than 9,000 male and female students from 10 years and up studying in the Learning Centers.

The students learn reading and writing, numeracy and basic mathematics. In addition, the lessons introduce life skills such as governance, savings and investment principles, and business development. The students attend the Learning Centers for approximately 13 months. The students' academic skills improve during this time, as well as their social interactions with classmates and fellow community members evolve as students explore topics such as the importance of respect, conflict resolution, conflict resolution and their



Students in Parwan attend an LCEP literacy class.

rights and responsibilities as citizens.

Many LCEP literacy students participate in various activities outside of their classes. Younger students are often involved in youth committees, which may arrange sports events, publish a village newspaper, or organize community service activities. Older students often participate in local governance forums, voicing their opinions about the future direction of their village. Students may also become involved in community savings and

In Their Own Words:

"Now that I can read, I can walk through the village with my head held high."

- Male student, Hirat



"We can read signs, read greeting cards, write short letters to relatives, read to our families. And we can count the change we get in the bazaar and add and subtract."

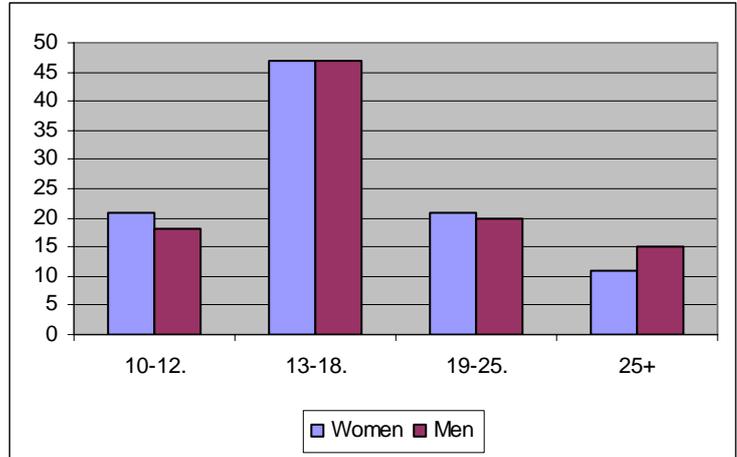
- Female students, Parwan



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investment groups, collectively saving funds for small business development projects.

Students' Age Range:



Did You Know?

LCEP translates 'literacy' as '*Swadimoszish tawanmandi*' (Dari for 'reading the world'), rather than '*Amozish tawanmandi*' (Dari for 'reading and writing').

Source: LCEP Lead Trainers, September 2004

For more information, please see LCEP's

website at <http://lcep.edc.org>

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LCEP is implemented by UN-Habitat and the Education Development Center (EDC).



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