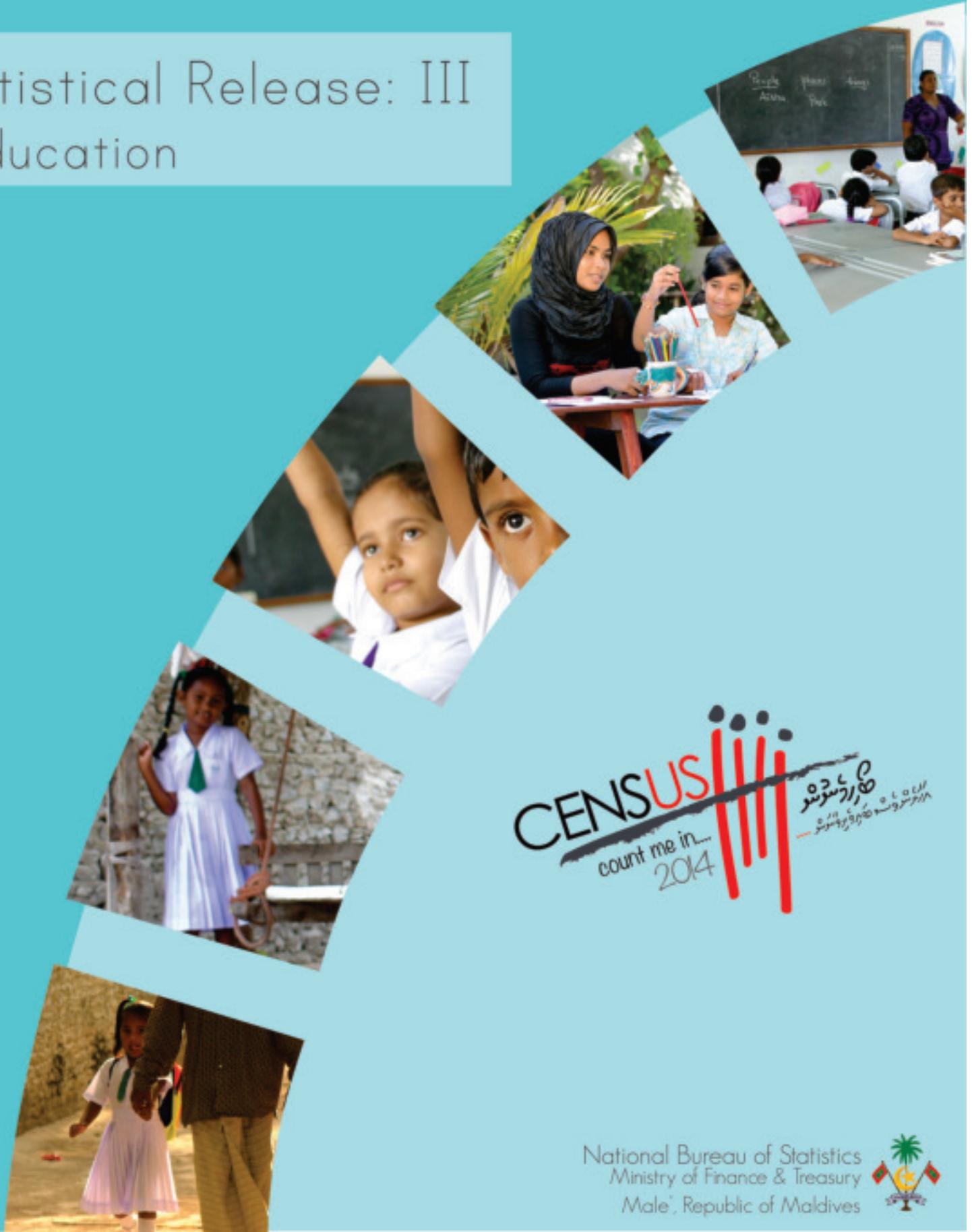


# MALDIVES

## Population & Housing Census 2014

Statistical Release: III  
Education



**CENSUS**  
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2014

National Bureau of Statistics  
Ministry of Finance & Treasury  
Male', Republic of Maldives







# MALDIVES

## POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS STATISTICAL RELEASE III: EDUCATION 2014



NATIONAL BUREAU OF STATISTICS

MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND TREASURY

MALE', MALDIVES

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Maldives - Population and Housing Census 2014

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The Population and Housing Census of Maldives is the largest national statistical exercise and provide the most comprehensive source of information on population and households. Maldives has been conducting censuses since 1911 with the first modern census conducted in 1977. Censuses were conducted every five years since between 1985 and 2000. The 2005 census was delayed to 2006 due to tsunami of 2004, leaving a gap of 8 years between the last two censuses. The 2014 marks the 29th census conducted in the Maldives.

Census provides a benchmark data for all demographic, economic and social statistics in the country to the smallest geographic level. Such information is vital for planning and evidence based decision-making. Census also provides a rich source of data for monitoring national and international development goals and initiatives.

Data from various censuses serve as a comparable basis reflecting the achievements of past policies carried out by the government for the benefit of the people. The results of the census will provide essential data for decision makers, policy planners, international agencies and the business community in assessing the progress of the last few decades and in planning the future spectrum of development.

I am greatly indebted to the general public for their support and cooperation to the census. I thank each and every individual, who responded to the census and made possible this valuable data set. I hope that the experienced data users, as well as students and the wider public, will find it useful.

My acknowledgement and appreciation goes to the hard work of each and every individual who were involved and contributed to the census data collection management, processing and dissemination.

I am grateful to development partners for their generous financial support and the consultants for their technical support.

Finally, the success of this census is attributed to the concerted effort and dedication of the management and staff of the National Bureau of Statistics and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them wholeheartedly.



Abdulla Jihad  
Minister of Finance & Treasury



## INTRODUCTION

The preliminary results of the population and housing census 2014 were released on 5 November 2014. This included the population by sex at island level, based on the daily records used during census operation.

This publication presents the final results of the 2014 Population and Housing Census. It contains the information on the population by age and sex and households by type, at atoll and island levels.

Data collected in the census include a wealth of information: population size, age, sex, citizenship, religion, migration, education, economic activity, marital status, and housing. Information on the living arrangement of children and elderly population was also collected. The detailed reports by various themes will be disseminated subsequently.

The 2014 census is making a substantial change in the population that is included in the census, thereby moving closer to the international recommendations for census taking. According to the international recommendations, only the population residing in the country should be included in the census. In our past censuses, foreigners residing in the Maldives were not included in the census while we include Maldivians residing abroad. The Maldivians residing abroad were also included in the 2014 census to enable comparison with previous censuses. Census 2014 data introduces the concept of 'Resident Population' consisting of Resident Maldivians and Resident Foreigners, which will form the coverage of future censuses. Due to the numerous difficulties and challenges posed in enumerating the foreign population, there is an under coverage of this population, when compared with administrative records.

However, in order to allow comparisons with previous censuses the concept of Maldivian population is also used. This includes Maldivians residing in Maldives as well as those residing abroad. It is our intention to exclude the non-resident Maldivians from the future censuses. The coverage of Maldivians living abroad is not complete, due to the many challenges posed in their enumeration.

The Maldives Population and Housing Census were carried out from 20 to 30 September 2014 and a total of 3,588 personnel were involved in the census operation throughout the country. Census covered 188 administrative islands, 109 resorts and 128 industrial and other islands of the country.

Data Processing of 2014 Census was carried using Intelligent Character Recognition (ICR) and Optical Mark Recognition (OMR) method. Data consistency checking and editing has been done using scientific methods available, with support from international experts in this field.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This publication has been made possible by the dedicated support of everyone involved in the organization and conducting of the census, from government staff in various ministries and offices to volunteers from public and private sector organizations. Through their dedication and hard work in their respective roles as Officials, Atoll Coordinators, Atoll Technical Advisors, Supervisors, Enumerators, and Data processing staff, this exercise was executed as planned.

We thank each and every Maldivian and foreigner, who responded to the census and provided their valuable information to our census enumerators.

In accomplishing this task, the National Bureau of Statistics owes a debt of gratitude to all those who contributed their time and effort in making this census a success.

We would like to express our gratitude to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) and World Bank for their generous Technical support. We would like to the international consultants who provided their technical support.

The National Bureau of Statistics acknowledges the support of the Government, for providing necessary funding and support for the execution of this nationwide operation.

National Bureau of Statistics

28 February 2016

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# EDUCATION

## INTRODUCTION

The education sector plays a crucial role in promoting sustainable development through capacity building of the individuals for the socio-economic advancement of the society. In the Maldives considering the importance of education, the constitution bestowed education as a human right and mandated the government to provide free education up to Class 10.

Key Indicators on education, the literacy, school attendance and education attainment of the population are vital developmental indicators not only to monitor the productivity of the education system, but also communicate the relationship between educational attainment and the characteristics of manpower supply, demographic changes and other socio-economic variables.

Educational development in the Maldives is described by the rapid increase in student enrolment which has risen rapidly from 42,598 in 1983 to 87,083 in 2014, and the number of educational institutions increased from 265 in 1983 to 455 in 2014. Access to primary and secondary education has been provided across the country, whereas higher secondary and tertiary education is being expanded through government and private sector involvement.

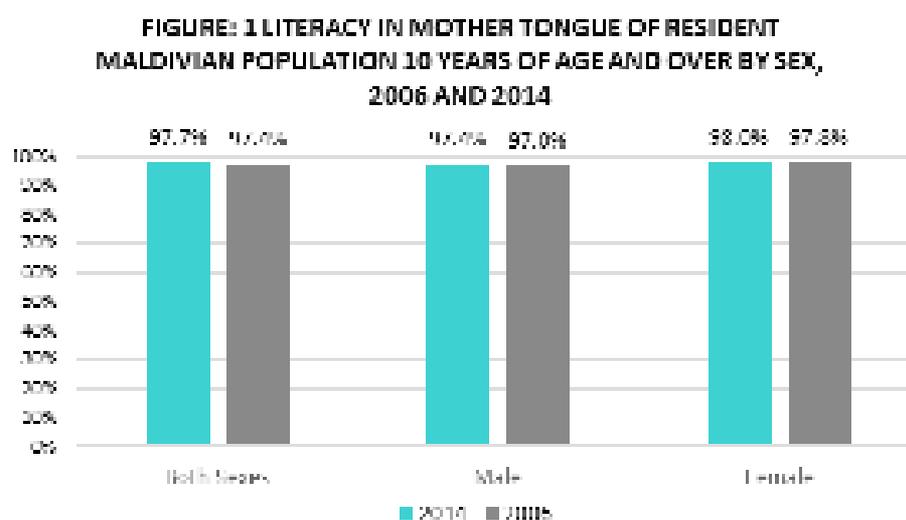
The component for education in the census, collected information on literacy in mother tongue as well as in English language; highest educational levels of individuals, the population who ever attended schools and other educational institutions along with the highest grade attained in school and the current student population with the level and type of education. All persons aged 5 years and over were asked whether they ever attended any educational institution or were currently studying by any means while literacy questions were asked for those 10 years and above and highest certificate achieved for those 15 years and above. The objectives were to determine the extent to which the population eligible to participate in education is enrolled, and perceive the achievement level of the national goal which ensures universal primary education and equal education opportunity for all citizens.

The purpose of this release is to give an analysis of education data collected in the Census 2014. With an introduction to the educational development of the Maldives, this release is structured to provide a general analysis on the Census 2014 data, with respect to educational characteristics and trends in Male' and the Atolls by sex taking into account the Maldivian and Foreign Resident Population.

## Literacy of the Resident Maldivian Population

Making education a key area for social investment in the Maldives National development context, literacy of the population paves way for overall development of individuals empowering them to understand their social, political and cultural environment better and respond appropriately.

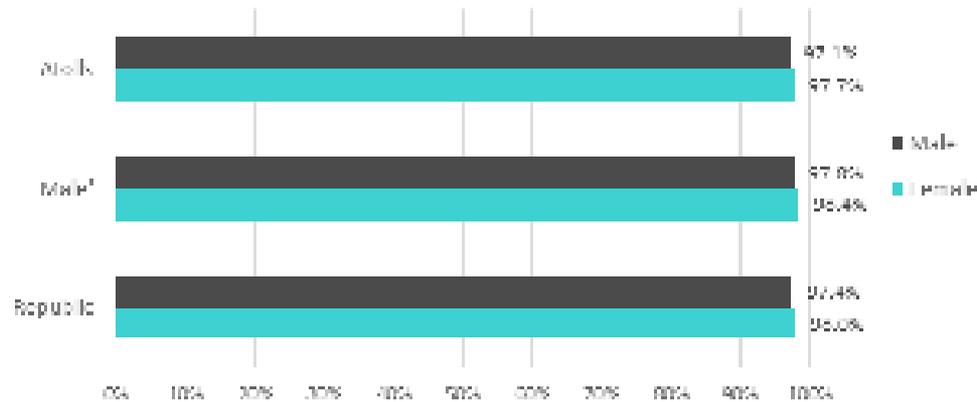
In Census 2014, literacy in mother tongue was determined by the person's ability to read and write, with understanding, mother tongue for Maldivians which is the local language Dhivehi. The literacy rate of the Maldivian Population which was 70.7 percent in 1977 increased to 98 percent in 2014.



In Figure 1: the literacy rate in mother tongue of the resident Maldivian population in 2014 was almost same when compared with Census 2006. Similar to Census 2006, not much gender difference was found in the literacy in mother tongue in Census 2014, which showed 97.4% for male and 98.0% for female.

As shown in Figure 2 below, in the capital city Male', the literacy rate in mother tongue was a slightly higher compared to Atolls. In Male' also, the female with 98.4% had a slightly higher literacy rate than males with 97.8%, while within the Atolls the literacy in mother tongue was almost the same for male and female with 97.1 % and 97.7% respectively.

**FIGURE: 2 LITERACY IN MOTHER TONGUE OF RESIDENT MALDIVIAN POPULATION 10 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER BY SEX, 2014**



Across the Atolls, literacy rate in mother tongue was comparatively high in Gnaviyani (Gn), Mulakatholhu (M), South Nilandhe Atoll (Dh) and Faadhippolhu (Lh) and South Huvadhu Atoll (GDh) at 98%, while it was lowest in North Ari (AA) Atoll at 95%. Among the Atolls with high literacy rate in mother tongue, Gnaviyani (Gn) and Mulakatholhu (M) Atoll was found to be highest at 98.5%, which was slightly higher than the capital city Male' which had 98.1%. Population in resorts shows the highest literacy rate in mother tongue in the country with 98.9%, as shown in Figure 3.

**FIGURE: 3 LITERACY IN MOTHER TONGUE OF RESIDENT MALDIVIAN POPULATION 10 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER BY LOCALITY, 2014**

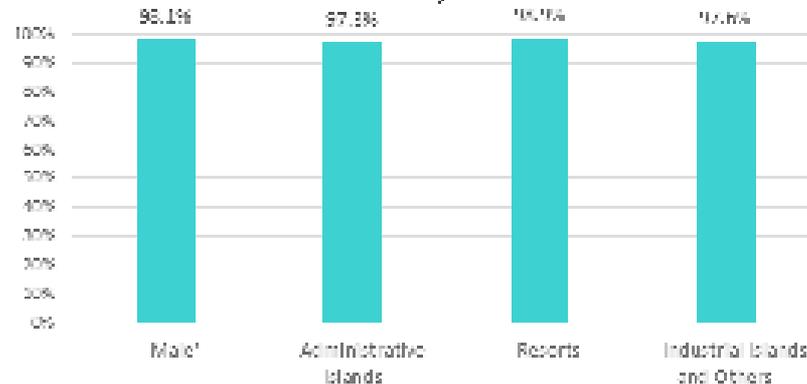
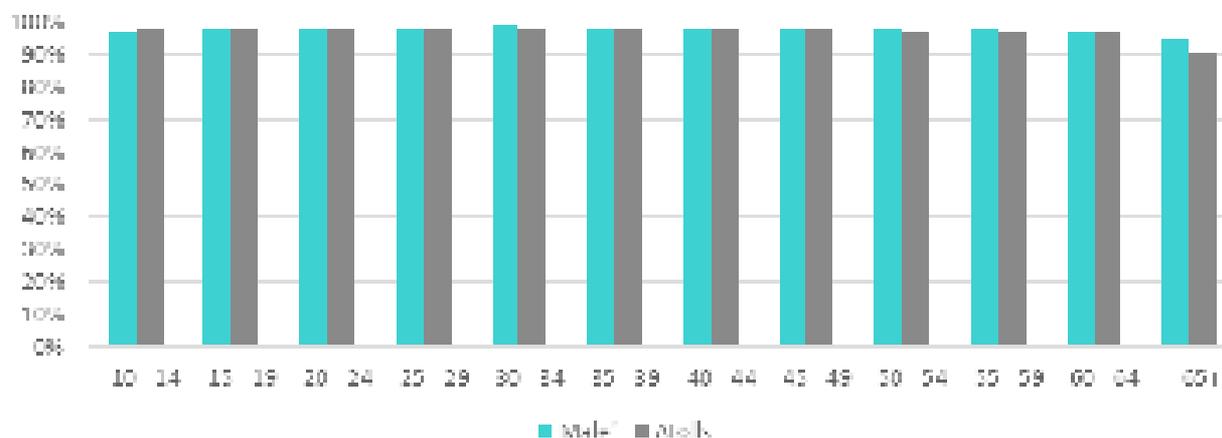


Table 1: below shows that literacy in mother tongue was highest among the resident Maldivian population aged 15 - 19 years with 98.5% being literate, while it was lowest among the elderly population aged 65 years and above at 91.7%. As the population aged, a trend of diminishing literacy rates was observed, indicating better education opportunities available for the younger generation.

TABLE 1: LITERACY IN MOTHER TONGUE OF RESIDENT MALDIVIAN POPULATION 10 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER BY AGE GROUP AND SEX			
Age group	Both Sexes	Male	Female
10 - 14	97.5%	97.3%	97.8%
15 - 19	98.5%	98.3%	98.6%
20 - 24	98.2%	97.8%	98.6%
25 - 29	98.4%	97.9%	98.9%
30 - 34	98.4%	98.1%	98.7%
35 - 39	98.0%	97.6%	98.4%
40 - 44	98.0%	97.7%	98.4%
45 - 49	98.1%	97.7%	98.4%
50 - 54	97.5%	97.3%	97.8%
55 - 59	97.2%	97.2%	97.2%
60 - 64	96.9%	96.6%	97.2%
65+	91.7%	92.1%	91.3%

Figure 4, below shows that in Male' the literacy rate is higher compared to Atolls. The 65 years and above population had the lowest literacy rate in mother tongue, and the difference was also relatively high at 94.5% in Male' compared to 90.7% in Atolls.

FIGURE 4: LITERACY IN MOTHER TONGUE OF RESIDENT MALDIVIAN POPULATION 10 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER BY AGE GROUP AND LOCALITY, 2014



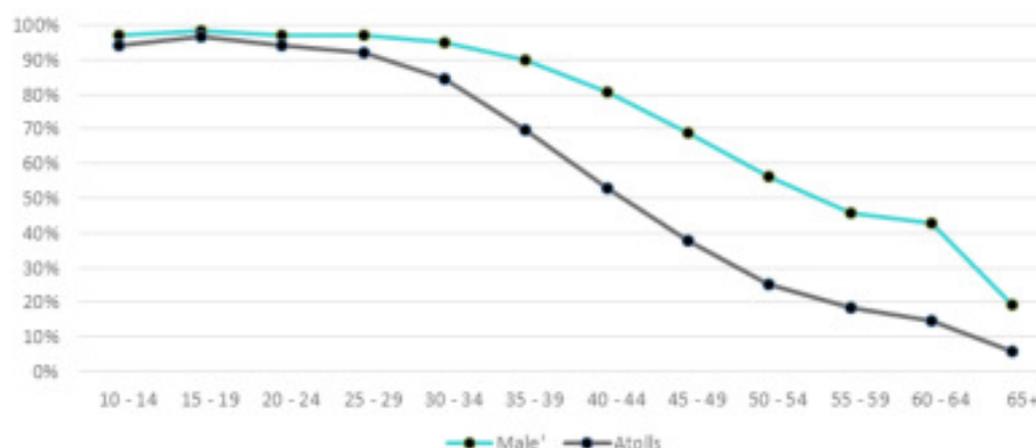
The Census 2014, covered the literacy of the population in English, as the second most commonly used language in Maldives is English. Literacy in English also was determined by the person's ability to read and write, with understanding English language. Among the Maldivian resident population 75.1% of the population aged 10 years above was literate in English.

**TABLE 2: LITERACY IN ENGLISH OF RESIDENT MALDIVIAN POPULATION 10 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER, BY AGE GROUP AND SEX, 2014**

Age group	Both Sexes	Male	Female
10 - 14	94.8%	94.7%	95.5%
15 - 19	97.2%	96.8%	97.7%
20 - 24	95.5%	94.5%	96.5%
25 - 29	94.0%	93.8%	94.7%
30 - 34	88.8%	90.0%	87.7%
35 - 39	78.4%	83.5%	73.4%
40 - 44	64.2%	73.1%	55.2%
45 - 49	49.7%	60.8%	39.1%
50 - 54	36.0%	45.9%	26.4%
55 - 59	27.8%	36.3%	18.7%
60 - 64	21.5%	33.5%	14.2%
65+	9.4%	19.6%	4.8%

Table 2, shows that English literacy was highest in the age group of 15-19 with 97.2%, while it was lowest in the age group 65 and over with 9.4%. A relatively high gap was observed in the literacy of the population in English, where a larger population of Male', 85.1% on average was able to read and write and understand English compared to 68.6% of the Atoll population.

**FIGURE 5: LITERACY IN ENGLISH OF RESIDENT MALDIVIAN POPULATION 10 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER, BY AGE GROUP AND LOCALITY, 2014**



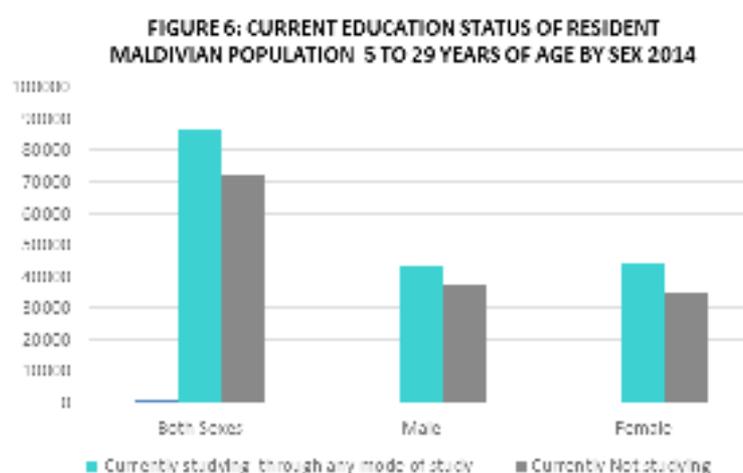
In figure 5, the literacy in English, showed a similar level for the population below the age of 24 and the gap started to broaden between Male' and Atolls. The 65 years and above age group showed the lowest literacy rate in English at 5.8% for the Atoll population, whereas in Male' it was much higher with 19.3% being literate in English.

## Resident Population Currently Attending Education

In the Maldives, compulsory education begins for a child who has reached the age of five years by the beginning of the school year. The primary schooling in the country starts from grade 1 at the age of 6 years, lower secondary (grade 8-10) at the age of 13 and higher secondary (grade 11-12) at the age of 16 years. Higher secondary schooling is completed usually at the age of 18 years.

In Census 2014, the current school attendance of the population was based on whether or not an individual is attending a school or education institution or were studying through other means such as home schooling, on-line and other modes. The results showed that out of the total population 31.4% were currently studying through some mode of study of which 51% female and 49% male.

Considering the studying age group which is 5-29 years, the results showed that 53.2% of the population age 5-29 years was currently studying through some mode of study and 44.4% were stated as currently not studying.



Out of the currently studying population it does not show much of a difference by sex, as shown in figure 6, which was 51% female and 49% male, while for the currently not studying population, it showed that male was higher with 52% and 48% for female.

Share of the currently studying population in Male' and Atolls were similar with 54.3% in Male' and 52.5% in Atolls. As it can be seen in Figure 7, among the Atolls, Gnaviyani (Gn) Atoll had the highest share of currently studying population with 64.4% of its 5-29 years age population, while it was lowest in Male' Atoll (K) with 43.2%.

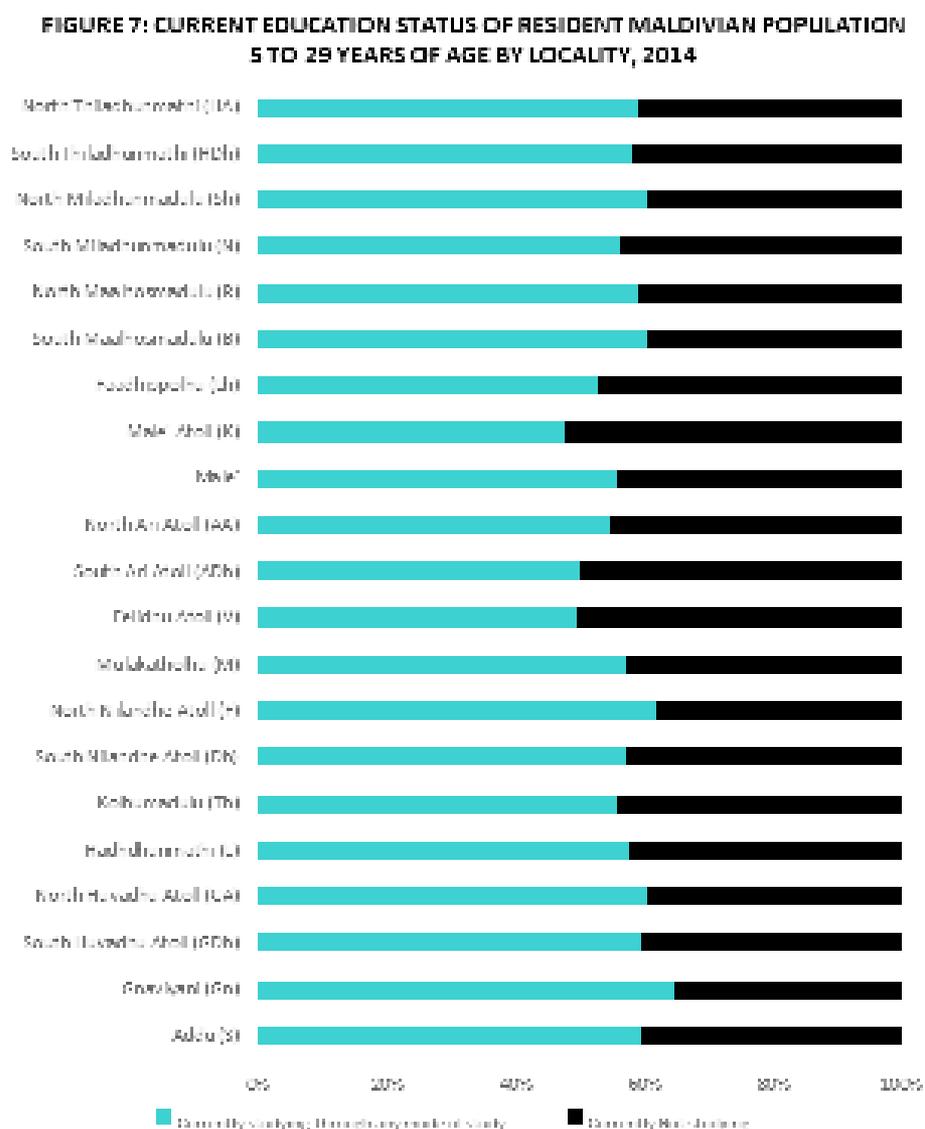
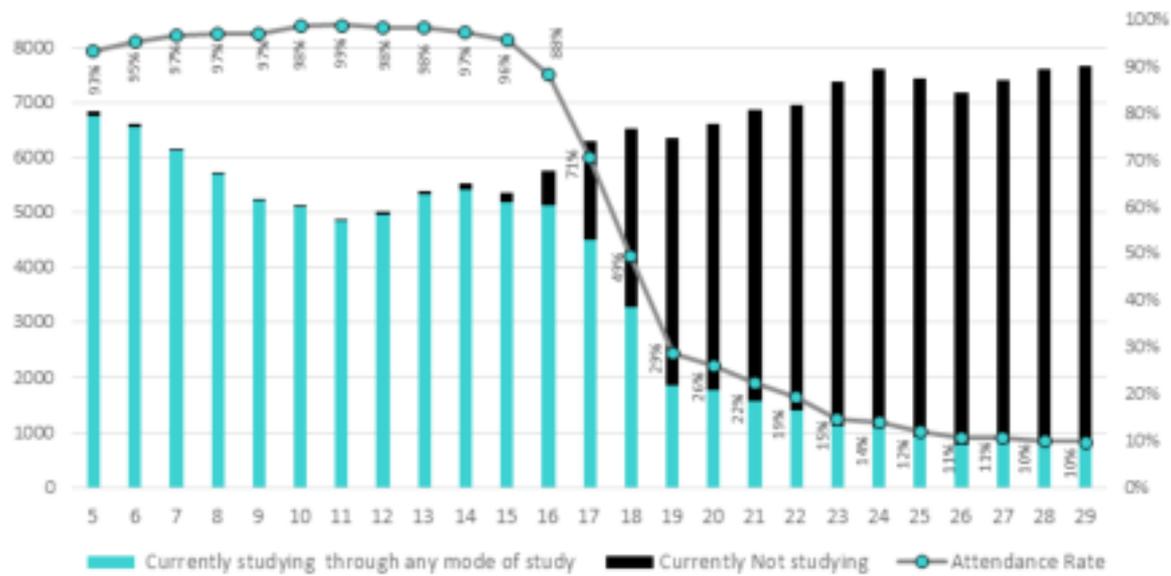


Figure 8 below, shows the age specific proportion of resident Maldivian population (5-29 years) who are currently studying through any mode of study along with the currently not studying proportion and the age specific attendance rate.

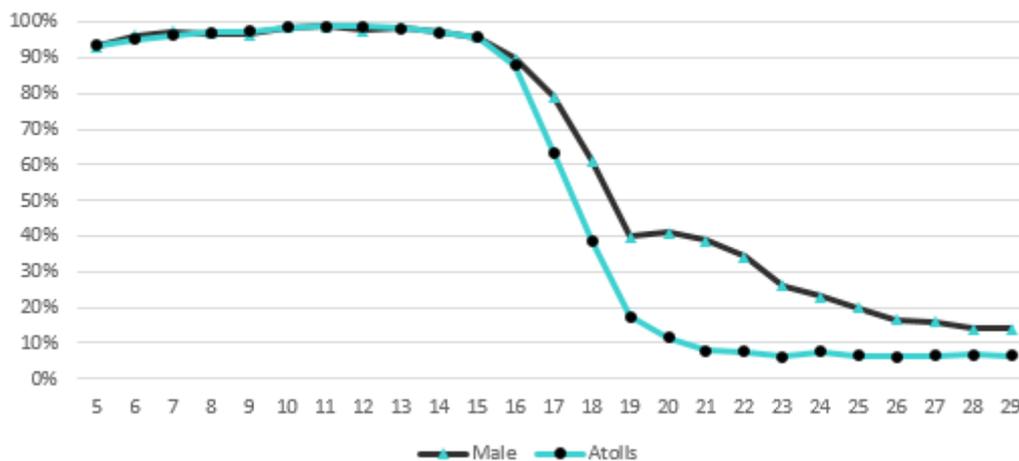
**FIGURE 8: CURRENT ATTENDANCE IN EDUCATION OF SCHOOL AGE RESIDENT MALDIVIAN POPULATION (5-29 years), 2014**



The current attendance rate stays high above 90% in the ages 5-15, and then starts sharply declining till age 19 and then declined gradually till age 29. The population 5-15 years is the school age population who are normally expected to be attending Primary and Lower Secondary levels.

Those aged 16-18 years are considered the higher secondary school age population, where Figure 8 shows the sudden declining trend with 88% and 71% at age 16 and 17 years respectively. The age of 18 is where a student will usually sit their higher secondary exams and there on starts with their higher education, which consist 49% who were currently studying through any mode of study.

**FIGURE 9: ATTENDANCE RATE IN EDUCATION OF SCHOOL AGE (5-29 years) RESIDENT MALDIVIAN POPULATION BY LOCALITY, 2014**



Size of the currently studying population in Male' and Atolls were quite similar for the population 5-15 years of age with above 90%. However, from the age of 17, figure 9 showed that there is a gap between Male' and Atolls which could explain the fact that at atolls there are limited opportunities to pursue further education after secondary schooling is completed. On average 24% of the age 20-29 years population in Male' were currently studying, while 7% on average of the age 20-29 years population in Atolls' were currently studying.

**FIGURE 10: ATTENDANCE IN EDUCATION OF SCHOOL AGE RESIDENT MALDIVIAN POPULATION (5-29 years) BY SEX, 2014**



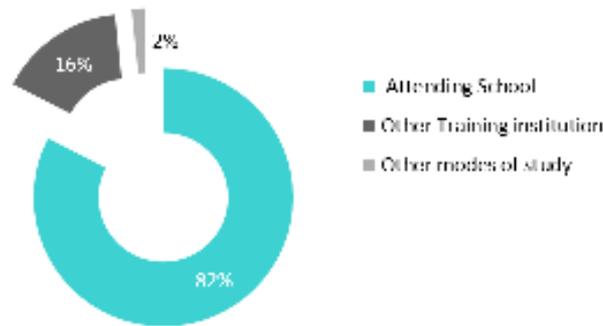
Among the school age population who were currently studying, females were marginally high with 50.6% than males. As seen in Figure 10, from age 5 till 14 years of age female participation is lower than males with an average of 49%, whereas after the higher secondary; age 18, it shows that female participation in education is higher with an average of 58% through the ages from 18-29 years.

Gender difference by locality showed that in Male' it was more females with 52.9% than males with 47.1% currently studying. In Atolls it showed the opposite with slightly more males with 50.9% and 49.1% females.

In Male' it shows that female participation in education is higher after the age of lower secondary; age 16 with an average of 58% through the ages from 16-29. In Atolls it showed that female participation in education is higher after the age of 20 with an average of 56% through the ages from 20-29.

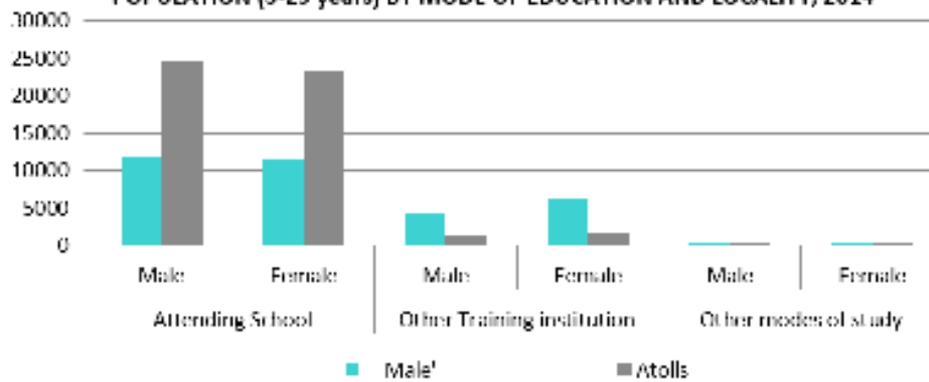
Figure 11 below presents the 5-29 years of age, resident Maldivian population currently attending by the mode of study. Among the currently studying population, 82% were attending a school, 16% were attending other training institutions and 2% were studying via other modes of study.

**FIGURE 11: ATTENDANCE IN EDUCATION OF SCHOOL AGE RESIDENT MALDIVIAN POPULATION (5-29 years) BY TYPE, 2014**



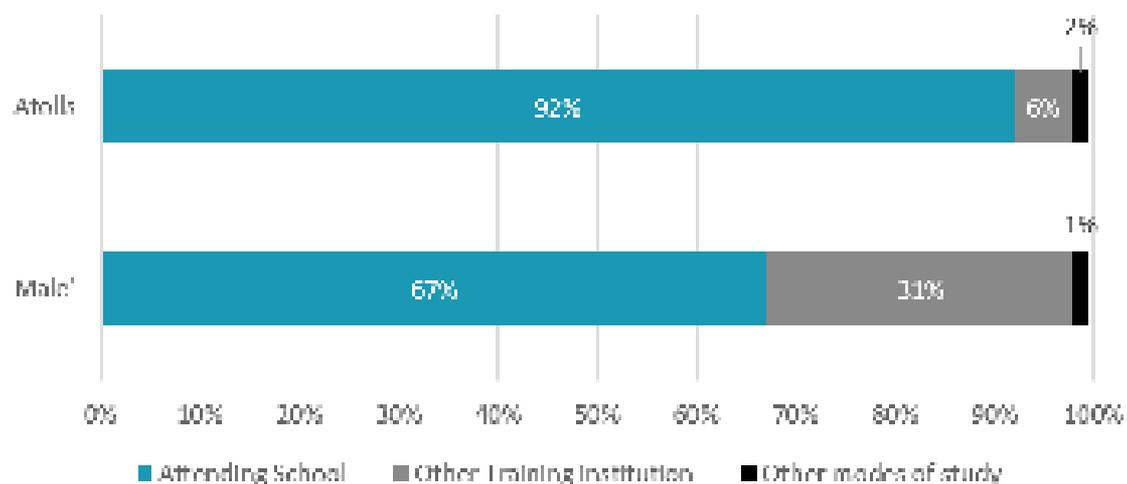
The sex ratio (males per 100 female) of school attendance across all ages was 104 male to every 100 female, while the ratio among those attending training institutions was 133 male to every 100 female. The ratio of male attendance to other modes of study was lower than females with 75 male to every 100 female. Sex ratio of school attendance across all ages in the Atolls was 105 male per 100 female, and in Male' had 101 male per 100 female.

**FIGURE 12: ATTENDANCE IN EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENT OF RESIDENT MALDIVIAN POPULATION (5-29 years) BY MODE OF EDUCATION AND LOCALITY, 2014**



The distribution of the currently studying population by the type or mode of study was substantially different between Male' and the Atolls. Figure 13; below shows that in Male' compared to Atolls, a lower share, 67% attends schools, while a higher share of 31% were attending other training institutions and 1% was studying through other modes of study.

**FIGURE 13: ATTENDANCE IN EDUCATION RESIDENT MALDIVIAN POPULATION (5-29 years) BY MODE OF EDUCATION AND LOCALITY, 2014**



Whereas, in the Atolls a much higher share of 92% of the student population was attending a school and a much lower share of 6% were attending a training institution, suggestive of geographical disparity in access to other training institutions.

Above the normal student age population; (30 years and above), there were around 6% of the total resident Maldivian population currently attending education. Out of this it showed that mainly females tend to further study at higher levels with 61% and males 39%.

Out of the total currently studying population through other modes of study, 13% were home schooling, 37% were studying through online, while the rest was following other forms of studying not stated.

## Current Education Attendance levels of the Resident Maldivian Population

The Attendance Rate indicates the level of participation in a specific level of schooling by students at different ages. Based on Census 2014, the total number of resident Maldivian population 5 years and above, currently attending any type of education institution was 91,079.

**TABLE 3: RESIDENT MALDIVIAN POPULATION 5 YEARS AND OVER CURRENTLY ATTENDING EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, BY LEVEL OF EDUCATION AND SEX**

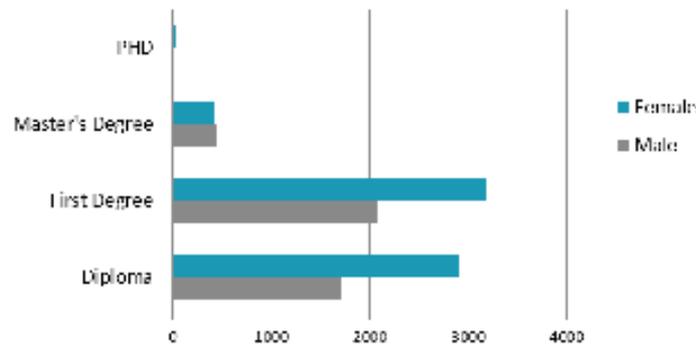
Education Level	Total	Male	Female	% share of Males	% share of Females
Pre-primary	11,134	5,673	5,461	51%	49%
Primary	37,519	19,248	18,271	51%	49%
Lower secondary	16,434	8,330	8,104	51%	49%
Higher secondary	6,294	3,117	3,177	50%	50%
O' Level	653	304	349	47%	53%
A' Level	446	207	239	46%	54%
Diploma	4,625	1,708	2,917	37%	63%
First Degree	5,332	2,084	3,248	39%	61%
Master's Degree	874	446	428	51%	49%
PHD	31	17	14	55%	45%
Certificate / Sanadhu	4,973	1,655	3,318	33%	67%
For children with special needs	223	140	83	63%	37%
Not Stated	2,541	1,317	1,224	52%	48%
<b>Total</b>	<b>91,079</b>	<b>44,246</b>	<b>46,833</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>51%</b>

According to Table 3, 78% of the currently attending student population aged 5 and above were studying at below the level grade 12, of which 51% were males and 49% were females. It followed by the share of population who study for the first degree courses (5.9%), certificate courses (5.5%) and diploma level courses (5.1%).

As can be seen in Table 3, O'level and A'level students are the group of students who are currently attending the O'level and A'level classes apart from the formal school process which comprises of 0.7% and 0.5% respectively.

Students attending classes for children with special needs were 0.2%. The number of students attending class for children with special needs was spread across the ages between 5-24 years.

**FIGURE 14: RESIDENT MALDIVIAN POPULATION 5 YEARS AND OVER CURRENTLY ATTENDING HIGHER EDUCATIONAL LEVELS, BY LEVEL**



Looking at the Student population currently attending higher education levels, as shown in Figure 14, students studying for master's degree comprised 1% while the percentage of doctoral degree students had the least share with 0.03%.

**FIGURE 15: RESIDENT MALDIVIAN POPULATION 5 YEARS AND OVER CURRENTLY ATTENDING EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, BY LEVEL OF EDUCATION AND LOCALITY**

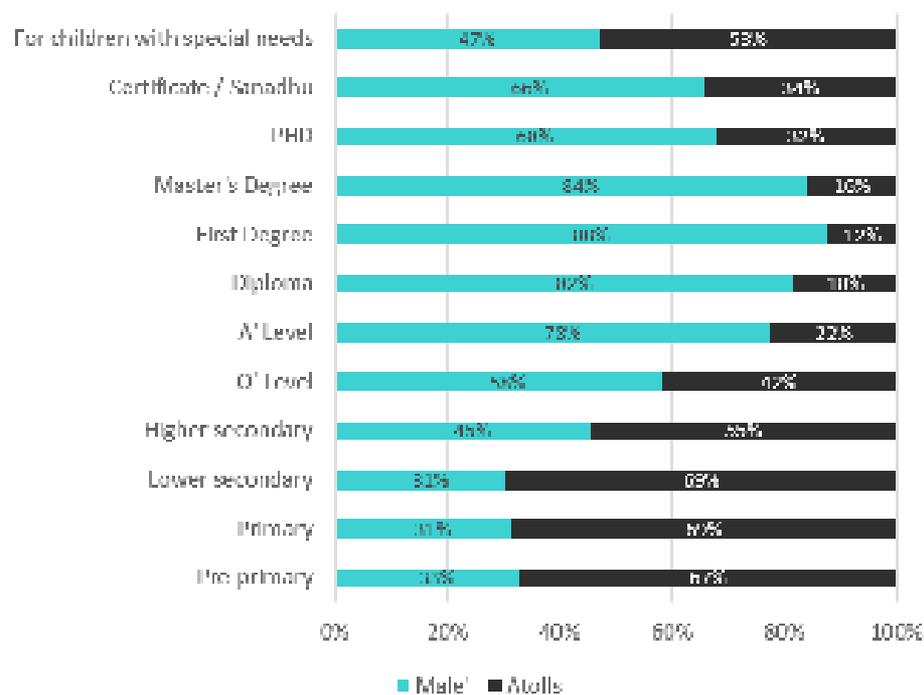


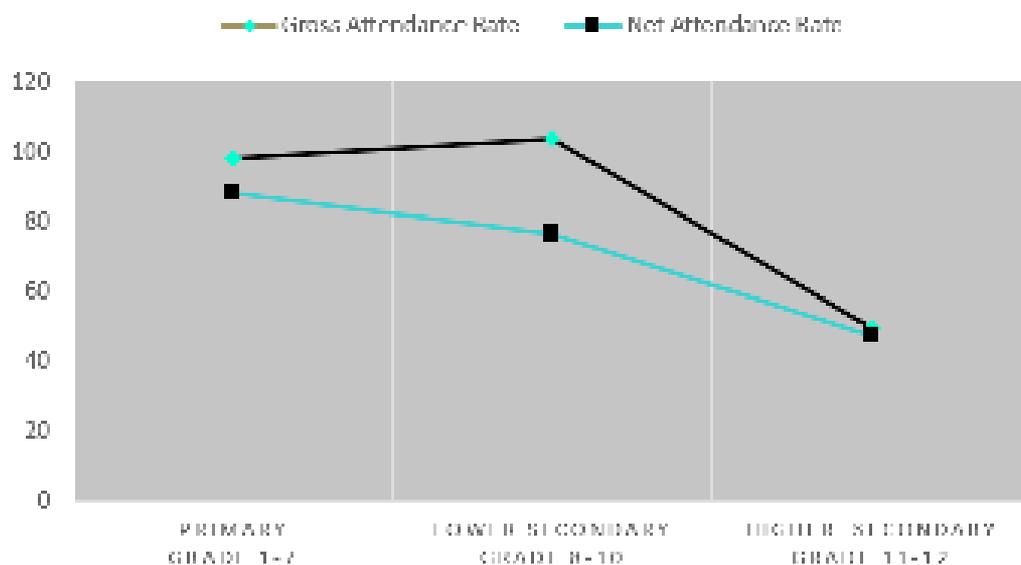
Figure 15, shows the distribution of 5 years and above population currently attending education by the level and locality. It shows that for the school level or grade level majority with over 50% are currently studying in Atolls, whereas for the higher level education above the grade levels, majority are currently studying in Male'.

## School Attendance Rates of the Resident Maldivian Population

The Gross Attendance rate for a certain level of education is the ratio of the number of students attending that level irrespective of their age to the total number of children in the relevant age group for that level. On the other hand, the Net Attendance rate for a certain level, is the ratio of the number of students in the relevant age group attending that level to the total number of children in the relevant age group for that level. The Gross Attendance rates compared with Net Attendance rates indicates the extent of over- and under-age participation by level of schooling.

As shown in figure 16, at primary level (6-12 years), the Net Attendance Rate (NAR) was 88%, whereas the Gross Attendance rate was at 99%, revealing that the population under 6 years or over 12 years is currently attending primary school.

**FIGURE 16: SCHOOL ATTENDANCE RATES**



The Gross Attendance rates for secondary schools is the total number of secondary school students, expressed as a percentage of the official secondary school-age population. And the Net Attendance rates for secondary school is the percentage of the lower secondary school-age population (13-15 years) and the percentage of the higher secondary school-age population (16-17 years) that is attending secondary school.

As can be seen in the figure 16, the Gross Attendance Rate in secondary school is 103% at the national level, whereas the Net Attendance Rate was 76%. On the other hand, the Gross Attendance Rate in higher secondary school is 49% and Net Attendance Rate is 47%.

## School-Age Resident Maldivian Population Currently not studying

In the Maldives, the education strategies mainly focus on providing all children with education academically or vocationally under the specific policy of “no child is left behind”. Hence, the primary school age 6-12 years is expected to be enrolled in a school or an education institution.

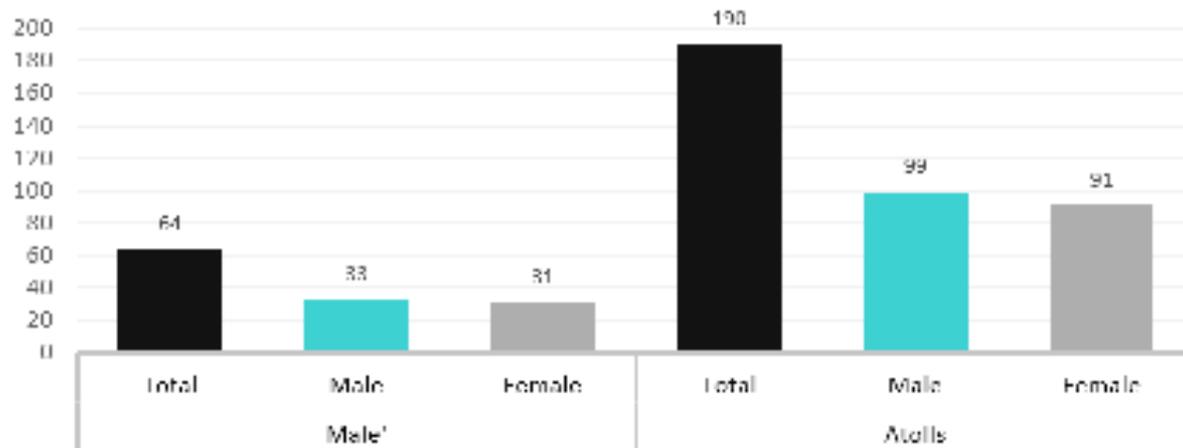
**TABLE 4: PRIMARY SCHOOL AGE RESIDENT MALDIVIAN POPULATION 6-12 YEARS OUT OF SCHOOL BY SEX**

Age	Both Sexes	Male	Female	% of total population
6	63	35	28	0.9%
7	27	15	12	0.4%
8	21	9	12	0.4%
9	40	15	25	0.7%
10	31	16	15	0.6%
11	32	14	18	0.7%
12	40	28	12	0.8%
	254	132	122	0.6%

As can be seen in the Table 4, the total number of children age 6-12 years who were not currently studying or not attached to any education institution was 254 children which is 0.6% of the total population of age 6-12 years.

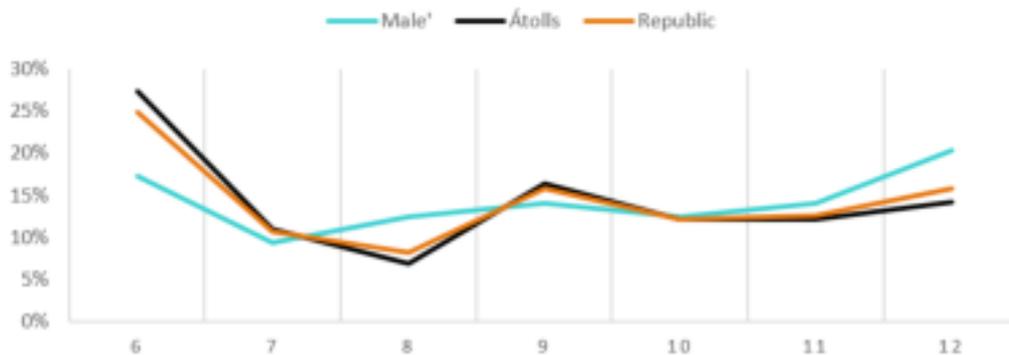
Figure 17, below shows that the number of children aged 6-12 years who were not currently studying or attached to any education institution was substantially different in Male' and Atolls, showing that, majority 75% were in Atolls.

**FIGURE 17: PRIMARY SCHOOL AGE RESIDENT MALDIVIAN POPULATION (6-12 YEARS) OUT OF SCHOOL BY SEX AND LOCALITY, 2014**



Looking at the number of children age 6-12 years who were not currently studying by single years of age from Figure 18, below shows that the highest with 25% of the primary school age children were at the age of 6, which comprised 17% and 83% in Male' and Atolls respectively. Age 6 is the age at which usually children enroll in their 1st grade. However, it showed that in Male' the highest with 20% of the primary school age children were at the age of 12 years which is the age at they promote to secondary level.

**FIGURE 18: PRIMARY SCHOOL AGE RESIDENT MALDIVIAN POPULATION (6-12 YEARS) OUT OF SCHOOL BY LOCALITY, 2014**



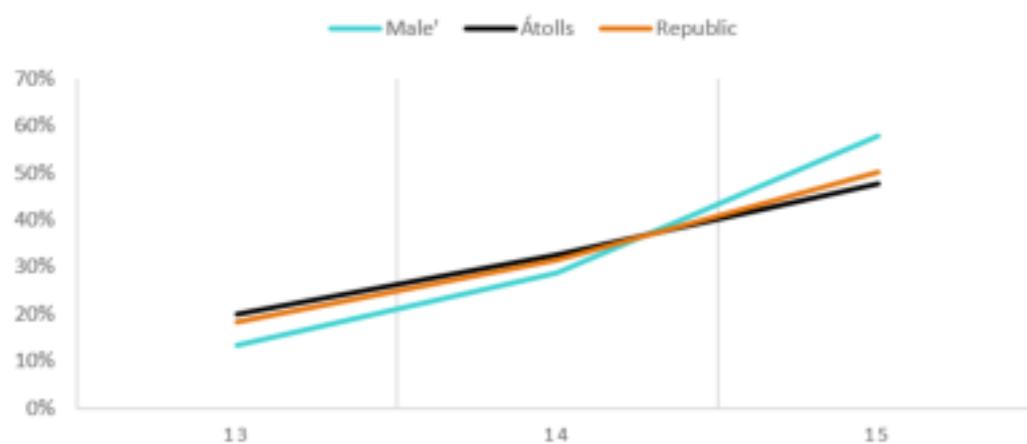
The age group 13-15 years is the ages at which children will be attending their lower secondary grades (8-10). Table 5, below shows that the number of children aged 13-15 years who were not currently studying or attached to any education institution was 368.

**TABLE 5: LOWER SECONDARY SCHOOL AGE RESIDENT MALDIVIAN POPULATION (13-15 YEARS) OUT OF SCHOOL BY SEX**

Age	Total	Male	Female	% of total population
13	67	39	28	1%
14	116	85	31	2%
15	185	118	67	3%
	368	242	126	2%

Figure 19; below shows that the highest with 50% of the lower secondary school age children out of school were at the age of 15 years which is the age at they complete lower secondary level.

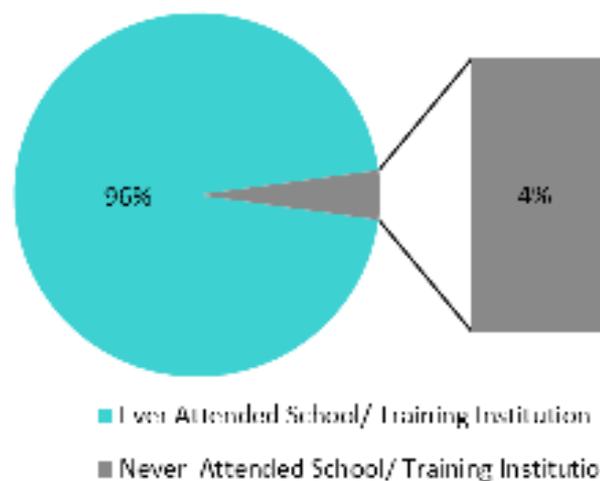
**FIGURE 19: LOWER SECONDARY SCHOOL AGE RESIDENT MALDIVIAN POPULATION (13-15 YEARS) OUT OF SCHOOL BY LOCALITY, 2014**



## Educational Status of the Resident Maldivian Population

With a long tradition of semi-formal education system in the Maldives, Maldivians ascribe significant importance to education throughout school age. As in figure 21 below, out of the resident Maldivian population 96% had attended a school or education institution, whereas 4% of the resident Maldivian population has never attended a school or education institution in their life span as to date.

**FIGURE 20: EDUCATION STATUS OF THE RESIDENT MALDIVIAN POPULATION**

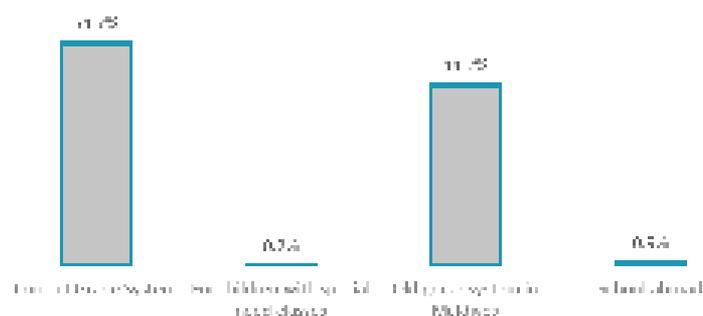


Out of the total resident Maldivian population who has never attended a school or education institution in their lifetime, the majority 25% were 65 years of age and above population which indicates the absence or limited education opportunities in the past.

## Educational Status of the Resident Maldivian Population

Educational attainment is one of the key developmental indicator which supports the measure of human development with the indication of the level of skill of the people in the society.

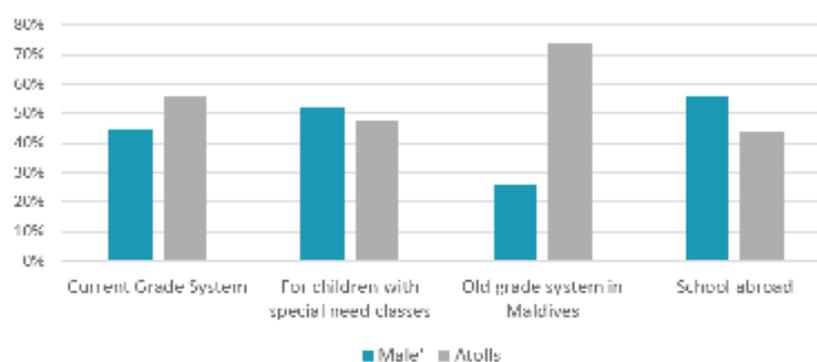
**FIGURE 21: RESIDENT MALDIVIAN POPULATION 5 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER WHO ATTENDED SCHOOL BY EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM FOLLOWED**



The Education system in the Maldives having the old grade system (a semi-formal system) in the past, transformed into the current grade system (the formal system) in the late 1970s. In census 2014, both the old grade system and current grade system were taken into account separately as the level and the contents covered by the systems were considerably different. The current grade system followed in the Maldives will also have differences with the schools abroad.

Based on the highest grade completed by the education system followed of the 5 years and above resident Maldivian population, as shown in figure 21 above; the majority with 54.7% had achieved their highest grade level by following the current grade system, whereas 44.2% followed the old grade system in the Maldives, 0.2% followed the special needs classes and only 0.9% had completed their highest grade at a schools abroad.

**FIGURE 22: RESIDENT MALDIVIAN POPULATION 5 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER WHO ATTENDED SCHOOL BY EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM FOLLOWED BY LOCALITY**



As can be seen in figure 22, the proportion of population who followed the old grade system in the Maldives was higher in the Atolls with 74% in contrast to 26% in Male'. Ratio of students who completed their highest grade at schools abroad was slightly higher in Male' compared to Atolls with 56% versus 44% respectively.

**FIGURE 23: RESIDENT MALDIVIAN POPULATION 5 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER WHO ATTENDED SCHOOL BY EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM FOLLOWED BY AGE GROUP**

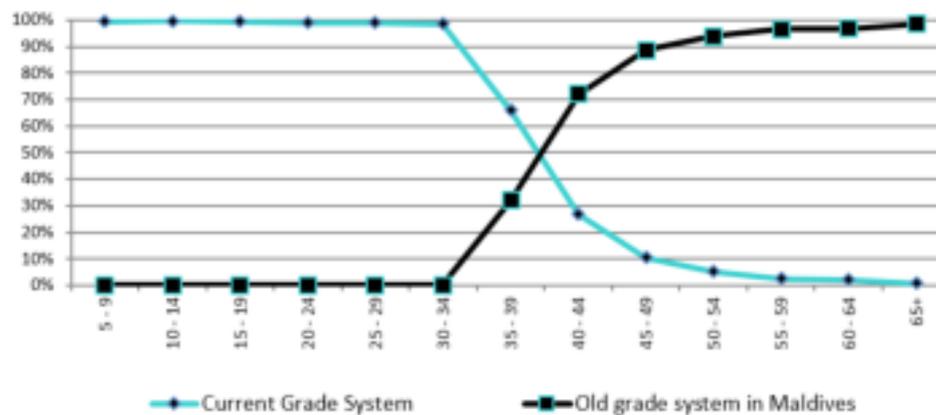


Figure 23, shows resident Maldivian population 5 years and above who attended school by their age and the education system followed. Accordingly, it shows that majority of the population above 45 years had followed the old grade system showing the absence of current grade system back then. Whereas, the population under the age of 34, all had attended the current grade system. Those who were aged 35-44 in 2014 experienced a transition period from old grade system to current grade system in Maldives to have the highest grade completion.

Based on the highest grade completed, Table 6 below showed that out of those who ever attended school, 65% of the population's highest grade completed was lower secondary level, 27% primary level and 8% had completed the higher secondary level.

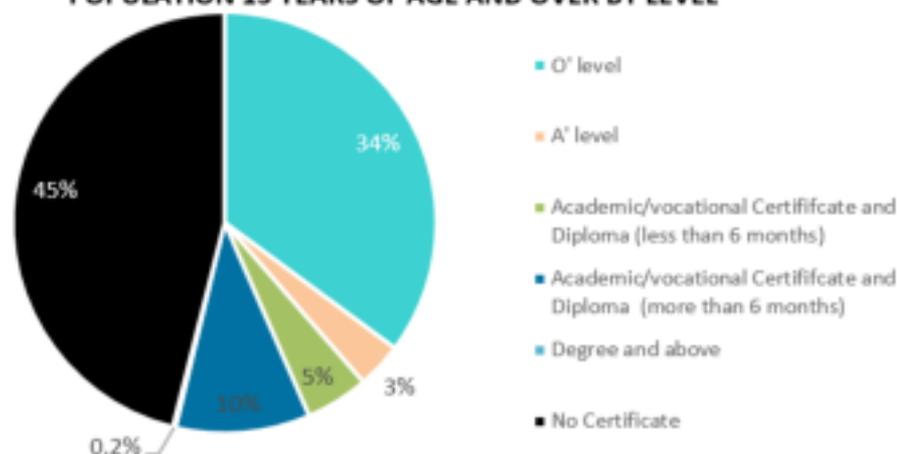
In the proportion of population being the highest grade completed is primary level and lower secondary level, it showed that majority with 69% and 53% at Atolls for primary level and lower secondary level respectively.

**TABLE 6: HIGHEST GRADE COMPLETED OF RESIDENT MALDIVIAN POPULATION 5 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER BY LOCALITY**

Education Level	Republic	Male'	Atolls
<b>Primary School</b>	<b>36,888</b>	<b>11,354</b>	<b>25,534</b>
Grade 1	5,008	1,850	3,818
Grade 2	5,351	1,680	3,671
Grade 3	5,003	1,583	3,480
Grade 4	4,917	1,530	3,387
Grade 5	4,958	1,484	3,474
Grade 6	5,267	1,487	3,780
Grade 7	5,002	1,710	3,922
<b>Lower Secondary School</b>	<b>87,856</b>	<b>40,943</b>	<b>46,913</b>
Grade 8	5,251	1,610	3,641
Grade 9	6,155	2,010	4,115
Grade 10	76,448	37,293	39,155
<b>Higher Secondary School</b>	<b>10,726</b>	<b>6,119</b>	<b>4,607</b>
Grade 11	7,901	1,459	1,447
Grade 12	7,825	4,660	3,165
<b>Total</b>	<b>135,470</b>	<b>58,416</b>	<b>77,054</b>

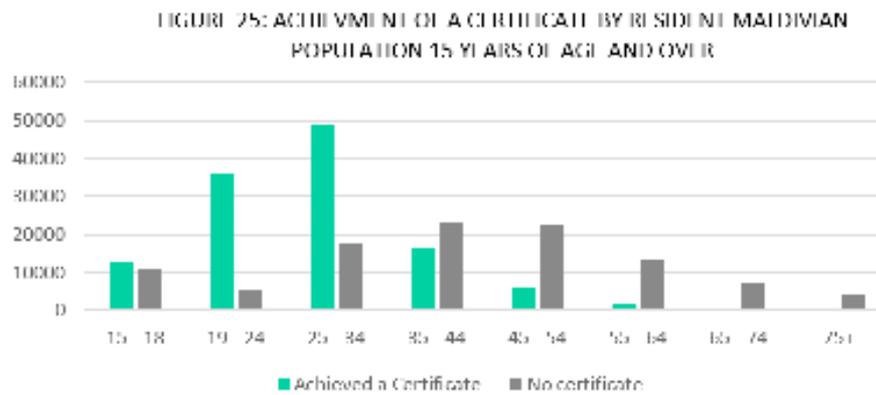
Furthermore, the table 6, shows in the proportion of population being the highest grade completed was higher secondary level, that majority with 57% were in Male' and 43% in the Atolls.

**FIGURE 24: HIGHEST CERTIFICATE ACHIEVED OF RESIDENT MALDIVIAN POPULATION 15 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER BY LEVEL**



Based on the highest certificate achieved, figure 24, shows that majority with 45% of the total population 15 years and above had not attained any formal certificate. Also, it shows that 34% had attained the O'Level qualification, followed by Diploma qualification with 15%, A'Level with 3% and Graduate Level with only 0.2%.

The overall education status of the population at Graduate level is very low, showing only 483 person of the population had attained a degree and above certificate. Out of that, 66% were with Bachelor’s degree, 30% with Master’s degree and only 4% with a Doctoral degree. Out of the 15 years and above population who had not attained any certificate, 9% is the currently school attending population.



Out of the total population who have achieved a certificate, Figure 26; shows 65% had obtained O’Level certificate, followed by 19% with Academic/Vocational Certificate and Diploma (more than 6 months duration in education), 9% with Academic/Vocational Certificate and Diploma (less than 6 months duration in education) and 6% with A’Level certificate and only 0.4% with Degree and above.

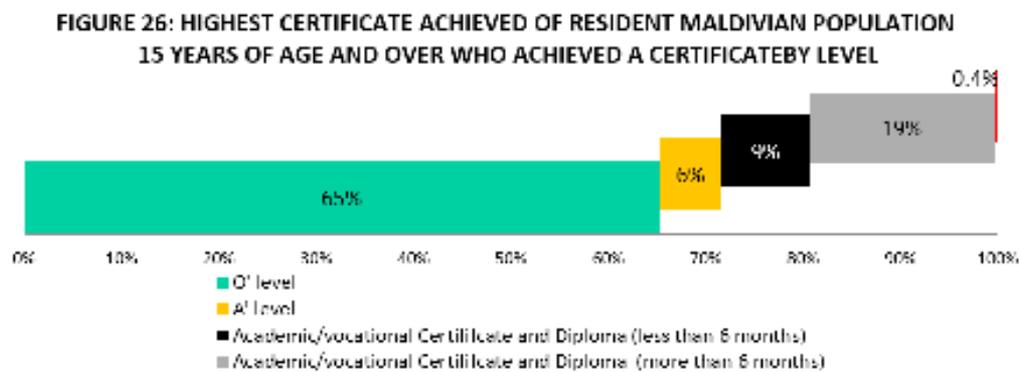


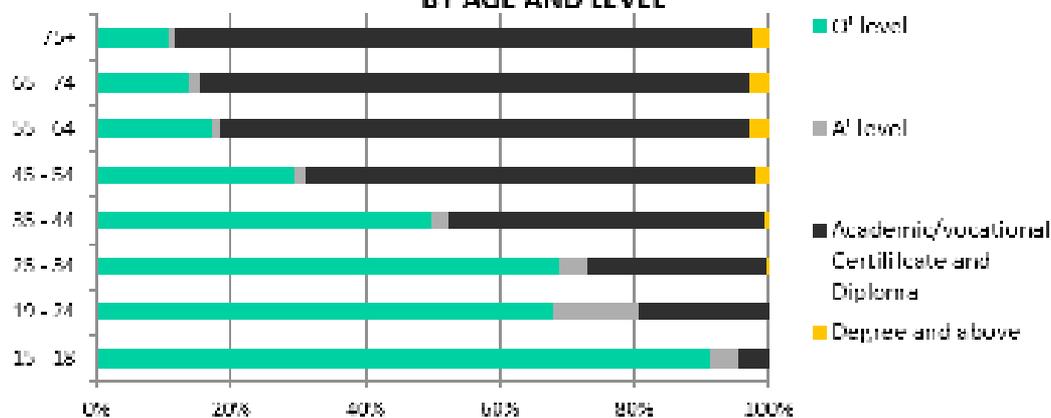
Table 7; below shows the 15 years and above population who have achieved a certificate by age group and by the level of certificate achieved. Out of which 93% were below the age of 45 years. Among the 65 years and above population only 10% have achieved a certificate.

**TABLE 7: HIGHEST CERTIFICATE ACHIEVED OF RESIDENT MALDIVIAN POPULATION 15 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER WHO ACHIEVED A CERTIFICATE BY AGE GROUP AND LEVEL, 2014**

Age group	O' level	A' level	Academic/ vocational Certificate and Diploma (less than 6 months)	Academic/ vocational Certificate and Diploma (more than 6 months)	Degree and Above
15 - 18	11,730	548	266	341	-
19 - 24	24,431	4,690	2,000	4,940	27
25 - 34	33,673	2,178	3,963	4,214	104
35 - 44	8,148	394	2,657	5,046	131
45 - 54	1,709	114	1,416	2,471	126
55 - 64	331	21	550	973	56
65 - 74	74	9	175	261	16
75+	18	2	12	14	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>80,168</b>	<b>7,346</b>	<b>10,359</b>	<b>23,363</b>	<b>483</b>

Figure 27; below shows that among the population who have achieved a certificate, majority of the population below 45 years have obtained the O' level certificate, whereas majority of the population above 45 years have achieved Certificate/Diploma level.

**FIGURE 27: HIGHEST CERTIFICATE ACHIEVED OF RESIDENT MALDIVIAN POPULATION 15 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER WHO ACHIEVED A CERTIFICATE BY AGE AND LEVEL**



There are significant differences between Male' and Atolls in the educational levels. According to Table 8, the proportion of population who have achieved O' level as their highest attainment showed slightly higher at Atolls with 51% compared with Male'.

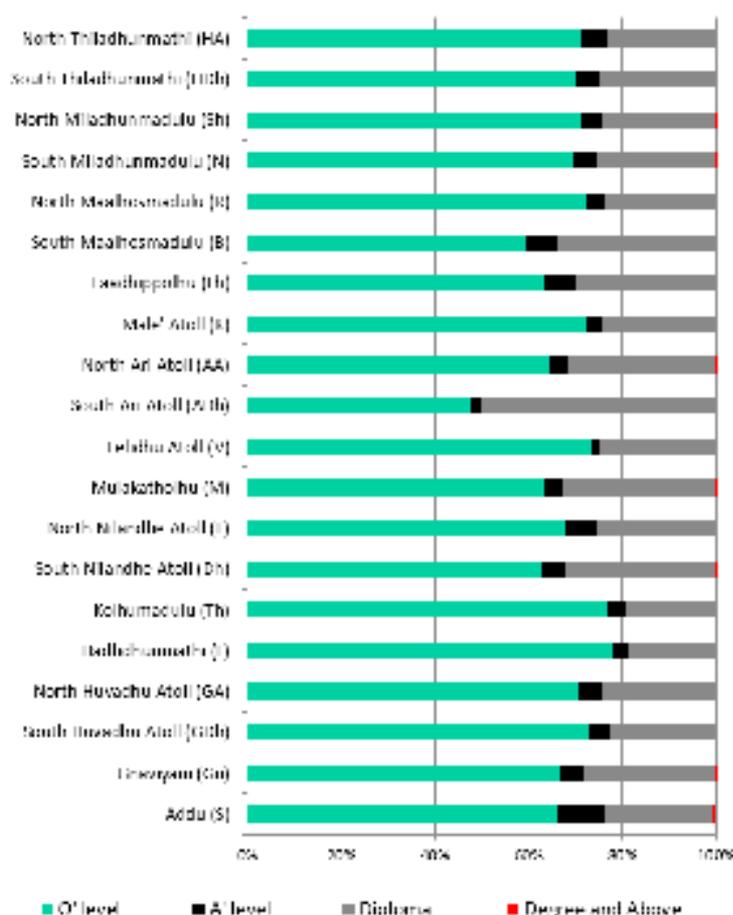
However, it showed a higher difference at A' level with 60%, Bachelors Level with 74%, Masters Level with 76% and 90% at Doctoral level in Male' compared to Atolls.

**TABLE 8: HIGHEST EDUCATIONAL CERTIFICATE ACHIEVED BY RESIDENT MALDIVIAN POPULATION 15 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER WHO EVER ATTENDED EDUCATION BY LOCALITY**

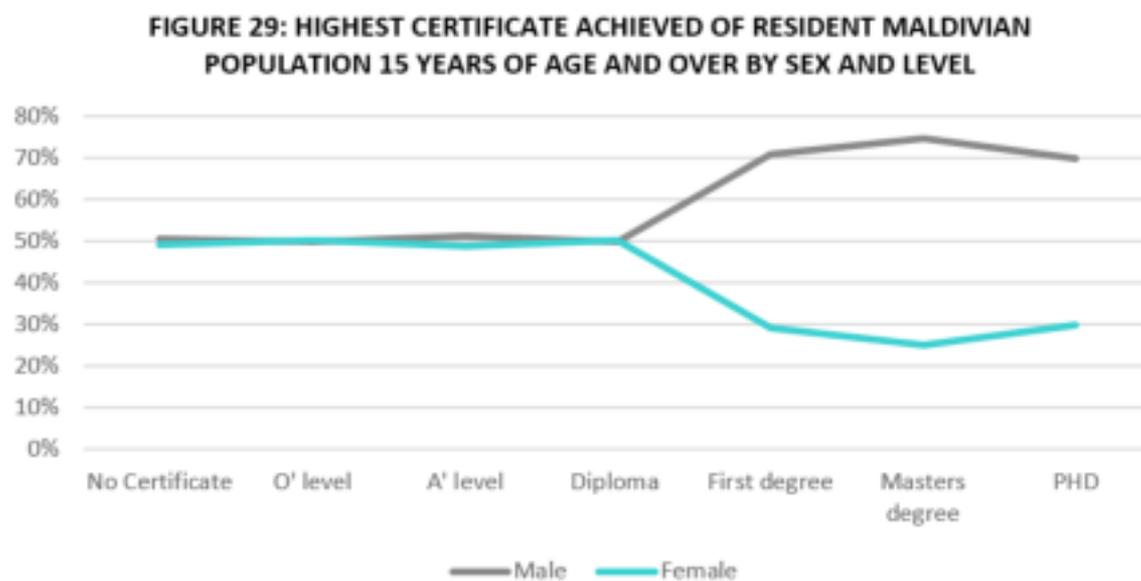
Education Level	Republic	Male'	Atolls
O' level	80,168	39,185	40,983
A' level	7,946	4,737	3,209
Diploma (Less than 6 months)	10,999	5,574	5,425
Diploma (More than 6 months)	73,363	14,193	9,170
First degree	320	237	83
Masters degree	143	108	35
PIID	70	18	7
No Certificate	105,042	29,215	75,827
Not stated	5,319	1,797	3,527
<b>Total</b>	<b>233,320</b>	<b>95,059</b>	<b>138,261</b>

Among the Atoll population 15 years and over who have achieved a certificate, majority with 80% had obtained O' Level qualification, followed by Diploma level with 11% and 8% with A' Level qualification. According to figure 28, within the Atolls also it shows that majority of the total population 15 years and above had attained the O' Level qualification.

**FIGURE 28: PERCENTAGE OF OF RESIDENT MALDIVIAN POPULATION 15 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER WHO HAD ACHIEVED A CERTIFICATE BY LEVEL AND LOCALITY, 2014**



Within the Atolls the population who has obtained tertiary level qualification was very low. It showed that only 0.20% had obtained a tertiary level certificate, of which 0.14% with First Degree, 0.06% with Master's Degree and only 0.003% with a PHD qualification.



As per Figure 29, among those with certified qualification showed similar distribution among the male and female upto the Diploma level and there on the gender gap widen showing male population advances in terms of achieving higher education certificate. For instance, the proportion males with Bachelor, Masters and Doctoral degree accounts for 71%, 75% and 70% respectively.

## Education Status of the Resident Foreign Population

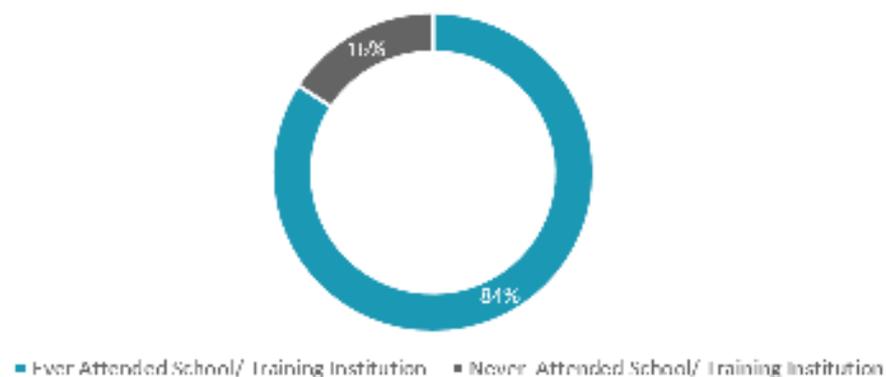
In Census 2014, 63,637 foreigners were enumerated as foreign residents in Maldives. The foreign population accounts for 16 percent of the resident population. Most of the foreign population are migrants for the purpose of employment to Maldives (temporary migrant workers, therefore their education status can vary across different level and skills required for different industries.

In Census 2014, literacy for the resident foreign population was determined by the person's ability to read and write, with understanding in their respective mother tongue. The literacy rate of the resident foreign population in their mother tongue was 84.2 percent.

The foreign resident population was also studied for their literacy in English language. The results showed that among the foreign resident population, 46.6% of the population aged 10 years above was literate in English.

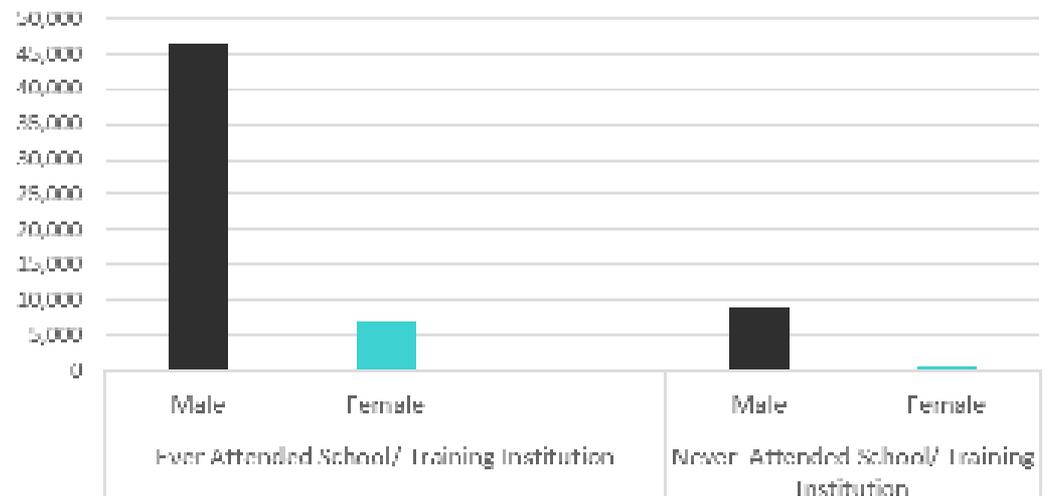
The resident foreign population 5 years and above accounted for 63,010. Out of this, the majority 53,039 has attended school or a training institution in their life time. And the balance 9,971 has never attended a school or training institution.

**FIGURE 30: EDUCATION STATUS OF THE RESIDENT FOREIGN POPULATION 5 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER**



Differences in the educational status of foreigners by their residential locality were found, where one third of them resides in Male'. Out of the foreigners residing in Male', 85.5% has attended some form of educational institution, while 83.3% of the total residing in the atolls had some form of education.

**FIGURE 31: EDUCATION STATUS OF THE RESIDENT FOREIGN POPULATION 5 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER BY SEX**



Looking into the resident foreign population 15 years and above, the overall education status of them was relatively low. Figure 32 below, shows that majority with 53% was who had not attained any certificate. This could be related to the bulk of population migrating for employment at unskilled jobs.

**FIGURE 32: HIGHEST CERTIFICATE ACHIEVED OF RESIDENT FOREIGN POPULATION 15 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER BY LEVEL**

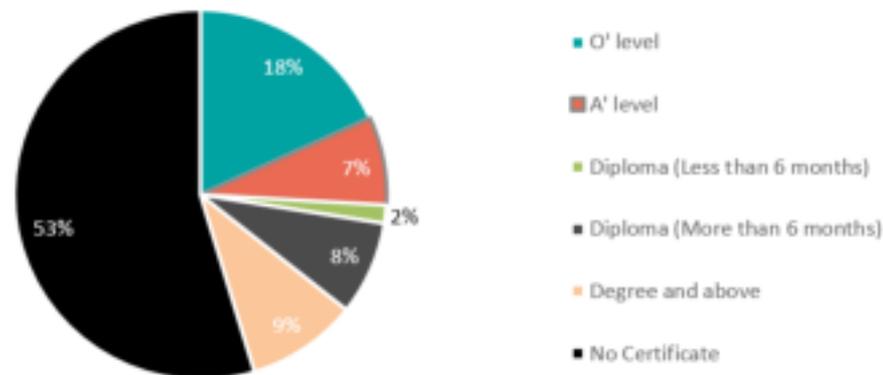


Figure 32; also shows that 18% of the total population 15 years and above had attained the O'Level qualification, followed by Diploma Level with 10%, Degree and above level with 9%, and 7% with A'Level.







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