

## Tunisia's Literacy Rate vs. PISA Challenges

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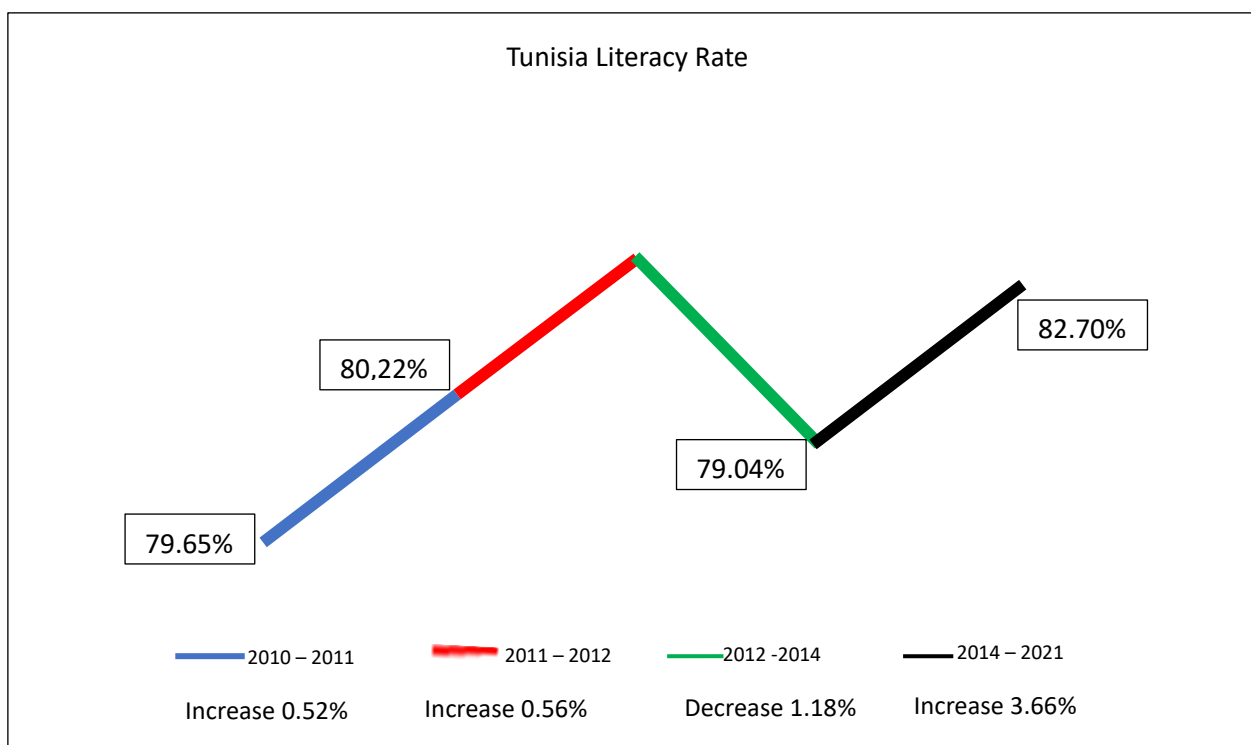
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The Post Jasmine Revolution and the incident of Mohamed Bouazizi setting himself on fire ignited, (no pun intended) an uprising targeting democratic elections and political changes in Tunisia. This uprising ended the political strait that preceded the 2014 elections in Tunisia, and it also stimulated a revolutionary uptake in the counties' literacy rate. [Statista - The Statistics Portal for Market Data, Market Research and Market Studies](#)

From 2015 through the present, the rapid increase of COVID-19 forced transformational changes in Tunisian children's education. The repercussions of the pandemic dramatically affected Tunisia's PISA scores. The country's literacy rate climbed 3.66%, the highest increase since 2010, but their PISA scores took an opposing turn.



The above-mentioned democratic elections assisted in diminishing the political polarization in Tunisia and helped establish a contemporary educational system.

Tunisia is the most scholarly country in the Arabic world. The increase in the literacy rate stemmed from Tunisia's higher education community under the umbrella of 13 universities and 68 independent higher education establishments. [Tunisia : Development news, research, data | World Bank](#)

In contrast, the decrease in Tunisia's literacy rate, (see above chart) was derived from the inequality of educational resources at the secondary school level. Because the government scaled down teacher hiring, a scarcity of qualified educators led to county-wide protests. Also, the lack of educational funding caused crumbling infrastructure, which rendered Tunisia's "Program for International Assessment", (PISA) scores to one of the lowest in the Six Middle East and North Africa States (MENA). Tunisia's PISA ranking was 66<sup>th</sup> of the 70 participating countries in 2015. The bulk of Tunisia's students who engaged in PISA scored beneath the required assessment's competence levels. [PISA - PISA \(oecd.org\)](#)

Young Tunisians' PISA scores are predominantly affected by violence in the classroom; evolved radicalization stemming from the Jasmine Revolution, Mohamed Bouazizi's death, and the shortage of educators' protests.

Juvenile school-age children in Tunisia are the most influenceable and susceptible to acting impulsively towards jihadism. An abundance of Tunisian children has no moralistic reinforcement from the country's educational system – commiserating PISA scores. [Education in Tunisia: Past progress, present decline and future challenges – Arab Barometer](#)

The toxic habitat of Tunisia's educational system fringes on the shoulders of these children. In fact, the nation's educational system doesn't apprehend the children's spontaneous reactions to their environmental surroundings. Psychologists don't exist in schools, so this effective magnetism of violence

permeates their minds; preventing them from focusing on mathematics, reading, science, and problem-solving – all of which are needed for good PISA scores. To combat this volatile appetite for violence, compelling anecdotal evidence targeting a new educational system that gives the students opportunities to become part of the country's well-educated history would be ample. This type of education reformation can make students susceptible to becoming excessively robotic. Tunisia's students need to be understood, invigorated, and guided toward educational achievements, in order that, the country's inhabitants will thrive socially and economically.

#### References

Macrotrends, (n.d).

<https://www.macrotrends.net/global-metrics/countries/tun/tunisia/literacy-rate>