

SPECIAL RELEASE

Functional Literacy for Women and Men in Guimaras: 2024 FLEMMS

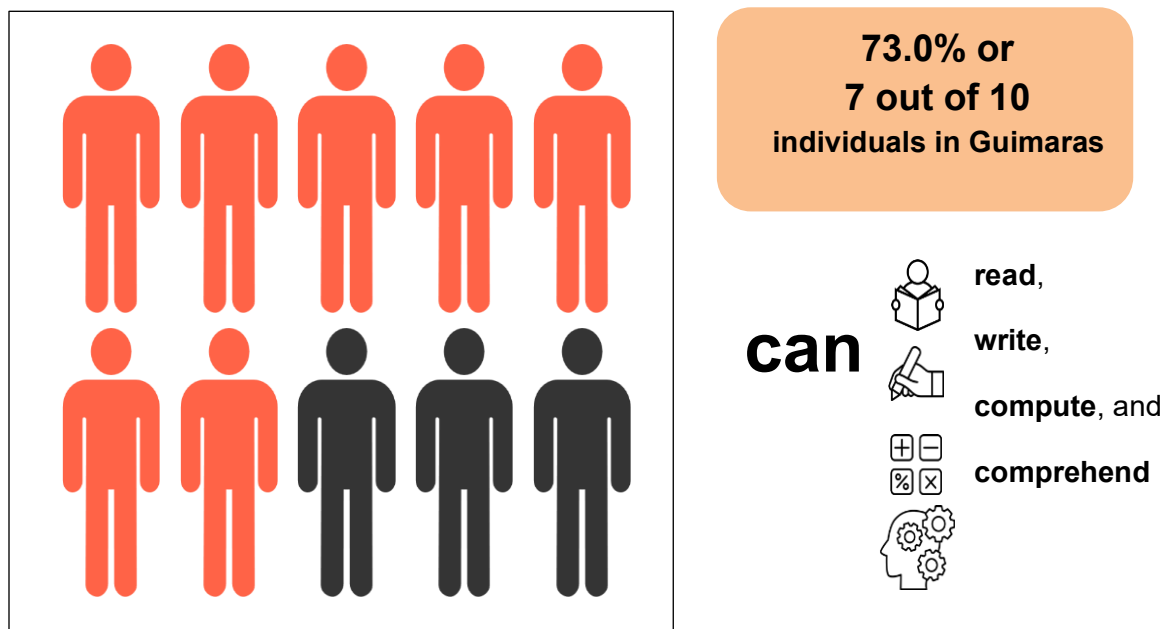
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The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) led the 2024 Functional Literacy, Education, and Mass Media Survey (FLEMMS) conducted in October 2024. The survey aims to provide a quantitative framework that will serve as a basis for policy formulation to improve the literacy and education status of the population.

The 2024 FLEMMS adopted the revised operational definition and methodology in estimating basic and functional literacy in the Philippines as approved by the PSA Board through Resolution No. 13, series of 2024.

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

Figure 1. Functional Literacy: 7 in 10 Guimarasnons are Functionally Literate, higher rate among females



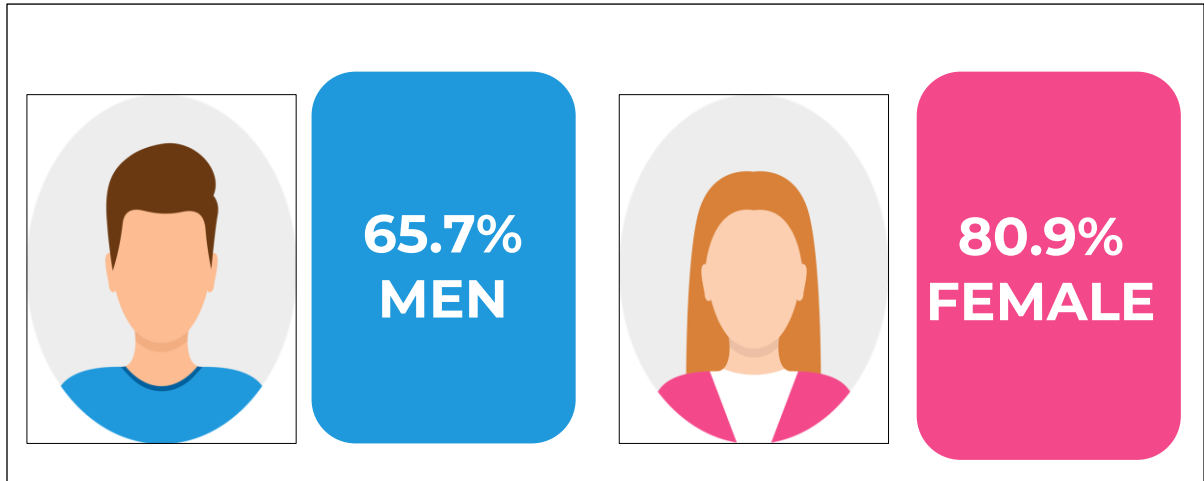
Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, 2024 Functional Literacy, Education and Mass Media Survey

The result of the 2024 Functional Literacy, Education, and Mass Media Survey (FLEMMS) disclosed that Guimaras had a functional literacy rate of 73.0 percent among individuals aged 10 to 64 years. This rate corresponds to approximately 104,000 functionally literate persons out of the total 143,000 individuals in this age group.

Functional literacy, as defined in FLEMMS, includes the ability to read, write, compute, and comprehend. The result showed a notable variation in literacy rates between sexes.

In Guimaras, females posted a functional literacy rate of 80.9 percent, equivalent to 56,000 individuals, while males recorded a lower rate of 65.7 percent, or 49,000 individuals.

Figure 2. Gender distribution of Functional Literacy Rate of Population in Guimaras: 5 Years Old and Over (in percent)

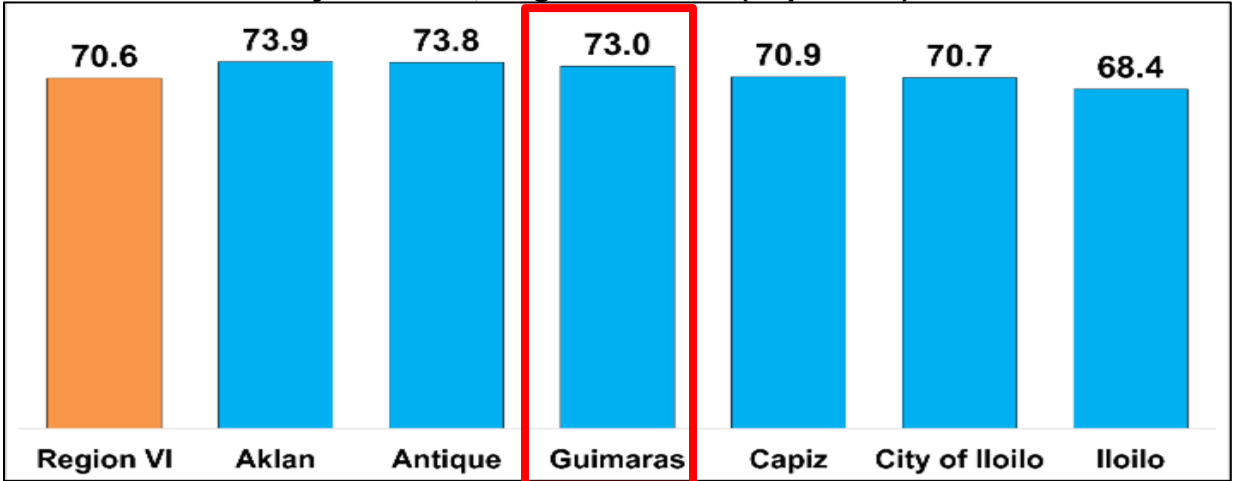


Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, 2024 Functional Literacy, Education and Mass Media Survey

This indicates a 15.2 percentage point difference between female and male functional literacy rates in the province.

Among the five provinces and one highly urbanized city in Region VI, Guimaras ranked third in overall functional literacy rate, behind Aklan (73.9%) and Antique (73.8%). It performed slightly better than Capiz (70.9%), City of Iloilo (70.7%), and Iloilo Province (68.4%).

Figure 3. Functional Literacy Rate of Population 10 to 64 Years Old by Province, Region VI: 2024 (in percent)



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

Looking at the sex-disaggregated results across the region, Guimaras had the widest gender gap in functional literacy in favor of females. The female functional literacy rate of 80.9 percent was higher than those of Antique (78.4%), Aklan (78.3%), Capiz (76.0%), and Iloilo Province (72.1%).

Meanwhile, Guimaras males had a lower rate (65.7%) compared to Aklan (69.7%) and Antique (69.4%), and slightly above Iloilo Province (64.9%).

Table 1. Number and Rate of Functionally Literate Population 10 to 64 Years Old by Sex, Province, and Highly Urbanized Cities (HUCs), Western Visayas: 2024

Functionally Literate (Can read, write, compute, and comprehend)						
	Both Sexes		Male		Female	
	Number ('000)	Rate (%)	Number ('000)	Rate (%)	Number ('000)	Rate (%)
Region VI (Western Visayas)	2,558 ^r	70.6	1,238 ^r	66.6	1,320	74.8
Aklan	340	73.9	165	69.7	175	78.3
Antique	332	73.8	162	69.4	170	78.4
Capiz	445	70.9	212	66.0	233	76.0
Guimaras	104	73.0	49	65.7	56	80.9
Iloilo (Excluding City of Iloilo)	1,080	68.4	528	64.9	552	72.1
City of Iloilo	256	70.7	123	68.0	134	73.3

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

In Region VI as a whole, the functional literacy rate was 70.6 percent, with females posting a higher rate (74.8%) than males (66.6%). Guimaras’ pattern of higher female functional literacy follows the regional trend but reflects a larger-than-average difference between sexes.

The 2024 FLEMMS presents a detailed picture of literacy in Guimaras, where a substantial majority of the working-age population is functionally literate, but noticeable disparities exist—especially between sexes.

The data show that Guimaras’ relatively strong standing in Western Visayas, it also underscores the challenge of reaching nearly 30 percent of the population aged 10 to 64 who still lack the essential skills in reading, writing, computing, and comprehension.

Although Guimaras performs relatively well in the regional rankings, the 73.0 percent functional literacy rate still means that roughly 39,000 individuals aged 10 to 64 in the province lack full literacy competencies. These individuals may struggle with basic tasks such as understanding written job instructions, completing application forms, interpreting bills or contracts, or navigating digital platform skills that are increasingly essential in modern life.

Finally, while females are clearly outperforming males, sustaining their gains is equally important. Women’s high literacy should be reinforced with opportunities in digital literacy, leadership training, and access to information technology—ensuring that their functional literacy translates into real-world empowerment. In the long term, closing the gender gap will not only uplift the individuals involved but also improve the collective human capital of Guimaras and strengthen its path toward inclusive development.

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DEFINITION OF TERMS

**Functional Literacy:** The ability of a person to read, write, compute, and comprehend written information. It includes higher-order literacy skills such as understanding written texts, performing basic calculations, and applying information to daily life situations. Functional literacy goes beyond the basic ability to read and write simple messages.

**Functional Literacy Rate:** The percentage of the population aged 10 to 64 years old who are functionally literate. It is derived from self-reported abilities to read, write, compute, and understand written information.

**FLEMMS (Functional Literacy, Education and Mass Media Survey):** A nationwide household-based survey conducted by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) to assess the levels of basic and functional literacy, educational attainment, and exposure to mass media among the Filipino population. The survey serves as a tool for evidence-based policy development and planning in the education sector.


**Working-Age Population:** Refers to individuals 10 to 64 years old, considered functionally active and covered under the functional literacy rate in FLEMMS.

**Sex-Disaggregated Data:** Statistical data that are presented separately for males and females to identify gender gaps and support targeted policy interventions.

**PSA Board Resolution No. 13, Series of 2024:** The resolution approved by the Philippine Statistics Authority Board that defined and adopted the revised operational definitions and methodologies for estimating basic and functional literacy in the Philippines, effective for the 2024 FLEMMS.

**Region VI (Western Visayas):** An administrative region of the Philippines composed of six provinces and one highly urbanized city (HUC), used for comparative literacy statistics in FLEMMS reporting.

**Highly Urbanized City (HUC):** A city in the Philippines with at least 200,000 inhabitants and an annual income of ₱50 million, independent from the province. In this report, the City of Iloilo is the region’s sole HUC.



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