

SDG 4. QUALITY EDUCATION



Turkmenistan has built an effective national education system. The country's Constitution and education law guarantees each citizen's right to free, equitable and quality education at the primary and secondary levels, which are mandatory. Over the recent years, Turkmenistan's education system has been undergoing consistent reforms aimed at updating its educational institution network's facilities, resources and teaching methodologies, creating a high-tech learning environment, implementing latest information technologies in education, optimizing the school network, innovating and expanding the market of educational services.

Reforms in the country's education system seek to improve education quality and create best learning experience for students while introducing international standards and developing the IT infrastructure.

Today, all of the country's schools have access to basic services such as sanitary services and power supply. A total of 99% of all schools have been provided with PCs for learning purposes, which is a considerable progress.

Turkmenistan runs a 12-year general school education system. To respond to emerging needs of the contemporary society, secondary schools have started to teach new disciplines (Environmental Studies, Basic Economics, Ethics, Turkmenistan's Cultural Heritage, World Culture, Information, Communication and Innovative Technologies, Modelling and Graphics, and a number of new foreign languages) and implement state-of-the-art technologies and interactive teaching methods.



As on the beginning of the 2020/2021 academic year, Turkmenistan operates 1867 general education institutions attended by 1,413.7 thousand students, which makes 5.8% more than in the 2019/2020 academic year. Girls represent 48.9% of the total body of school students.

Out of all general education institutions, 66.1% are located in rural communities and 33.9% in urban areas.

There is a total of 1825 general education institutions that have classrooms fitted with interactive multimedia equipment (making 97.8% of all institutions).

As on the beginning of the 2020/2021 academic year, the country's general education schools employed 83.4 thousand teachers.

Number of General School Teachers (excluding part-timers)

	<i>2017/2018</i>	<i>2018/2019</i>	<i>2019/2020</i>
Total for Turkmenistan	<i>73750</i>	<i>76149</i>	<i>77778</i>
Incl., Female Teachers	<i>49220</i>	<i>50986</i>	<i>52213</i>

SDG 4.C.1 Indicators 4.C.1.

Percentage of teachers at:	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020
a) pre-school institutions,	82.8	83.2	82.2
female	95.4	95.6	95.7
male	4.6	4.4	4.3
b) primary schools,	99.9	99.9	100.0
female	82.6	82.6	82.3
male	17.4	17.4	17.7
c) secondary schools,	99.8	99.9	99.9
female	60.5	60.7	60.9
male	39.5	39.3	39.0

Vocational and Higher Education.

Quality vocational and higher education opportunities are important for the nation's future economic development and well-being. At the same time, it is of no little significance that all people should have access to education.



As a way to integrate professional education with the real economy, the government is working on developing and implementing national education standards that allow graduates of professional education institutions to be competitive in the job market.

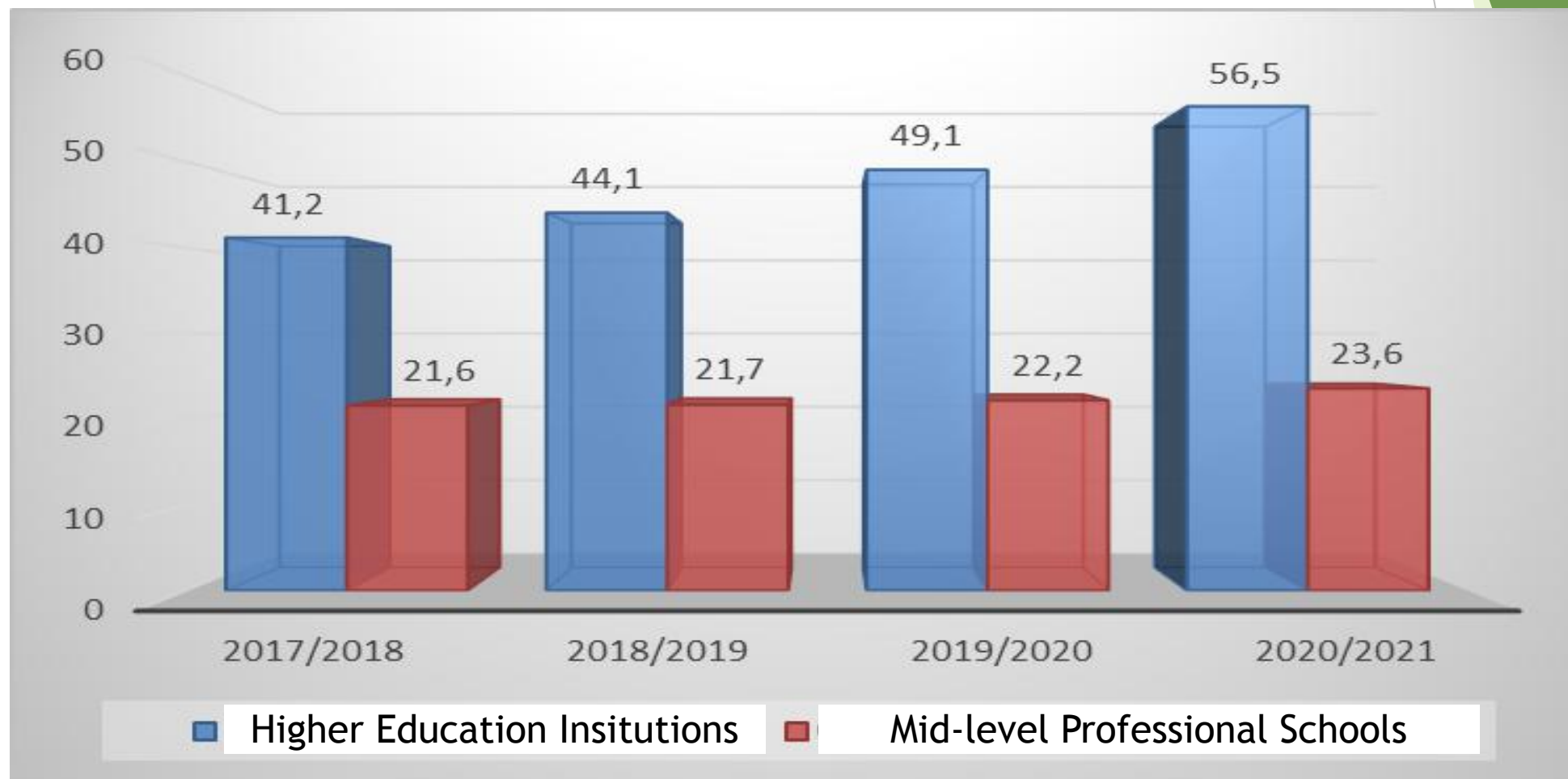
These standards are being designed in cooperation with the employer community and include skills and knowledge highly demanded in the job market.

Professional education in Turkmenistan is available at primary vocational schools and professional education institutions. These offer short-term courses that allow improving existing skills or acquiring new ones as needed for employment. Disadvantaged groups and people with disabilities are offered special conditions.

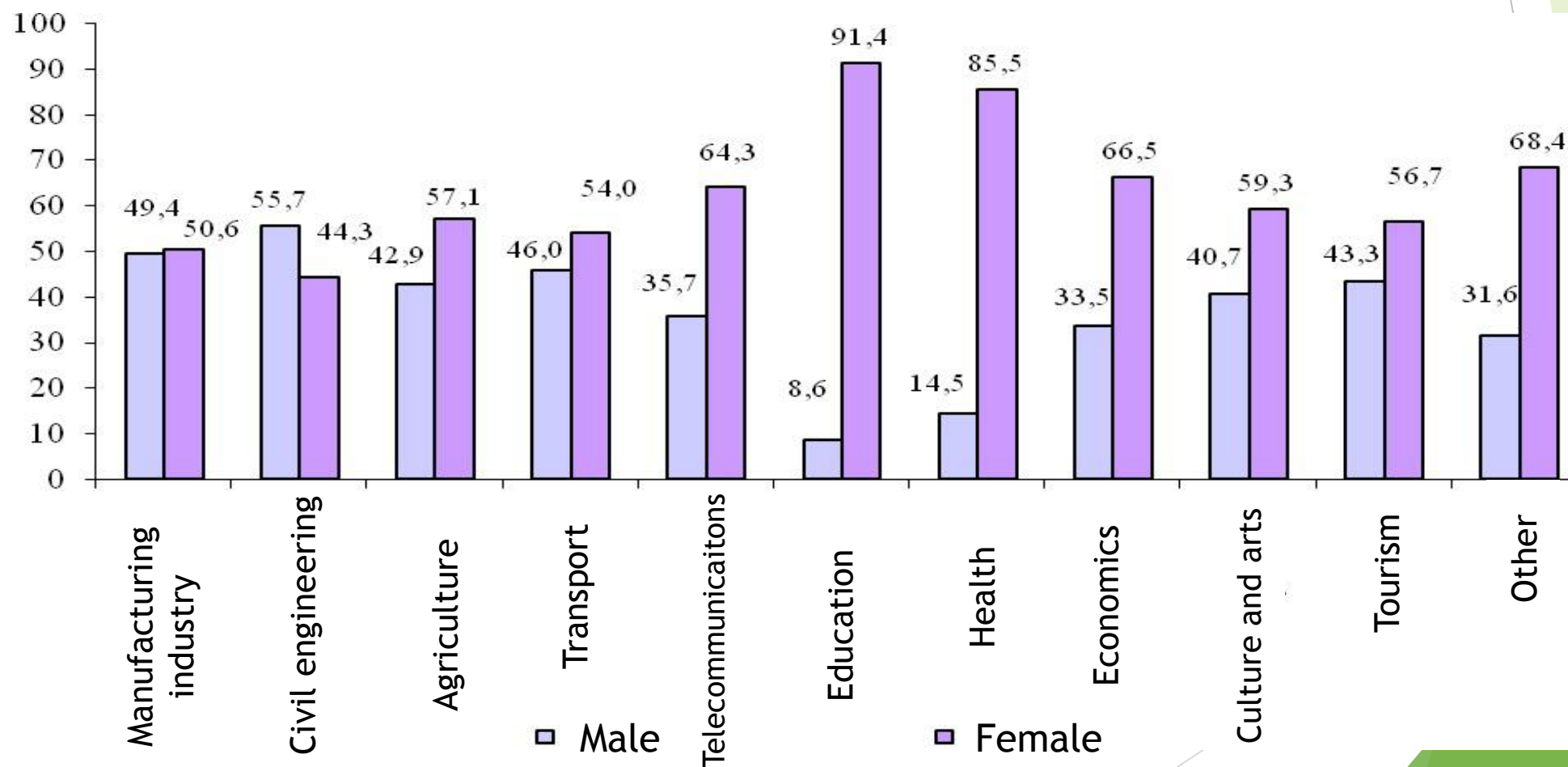
Professional education is delivered by mid-level and high-level professional education institutions with the former offering 23.5% grant-funded and 76.5% paid spots and latter - 47.9% and 52.1%, respectively (as on the start of the 2020/2021 academic year).

The Turkmenistan Presidential Academy of Public Administration, which offers state-funded education, provides professional training to government employees.

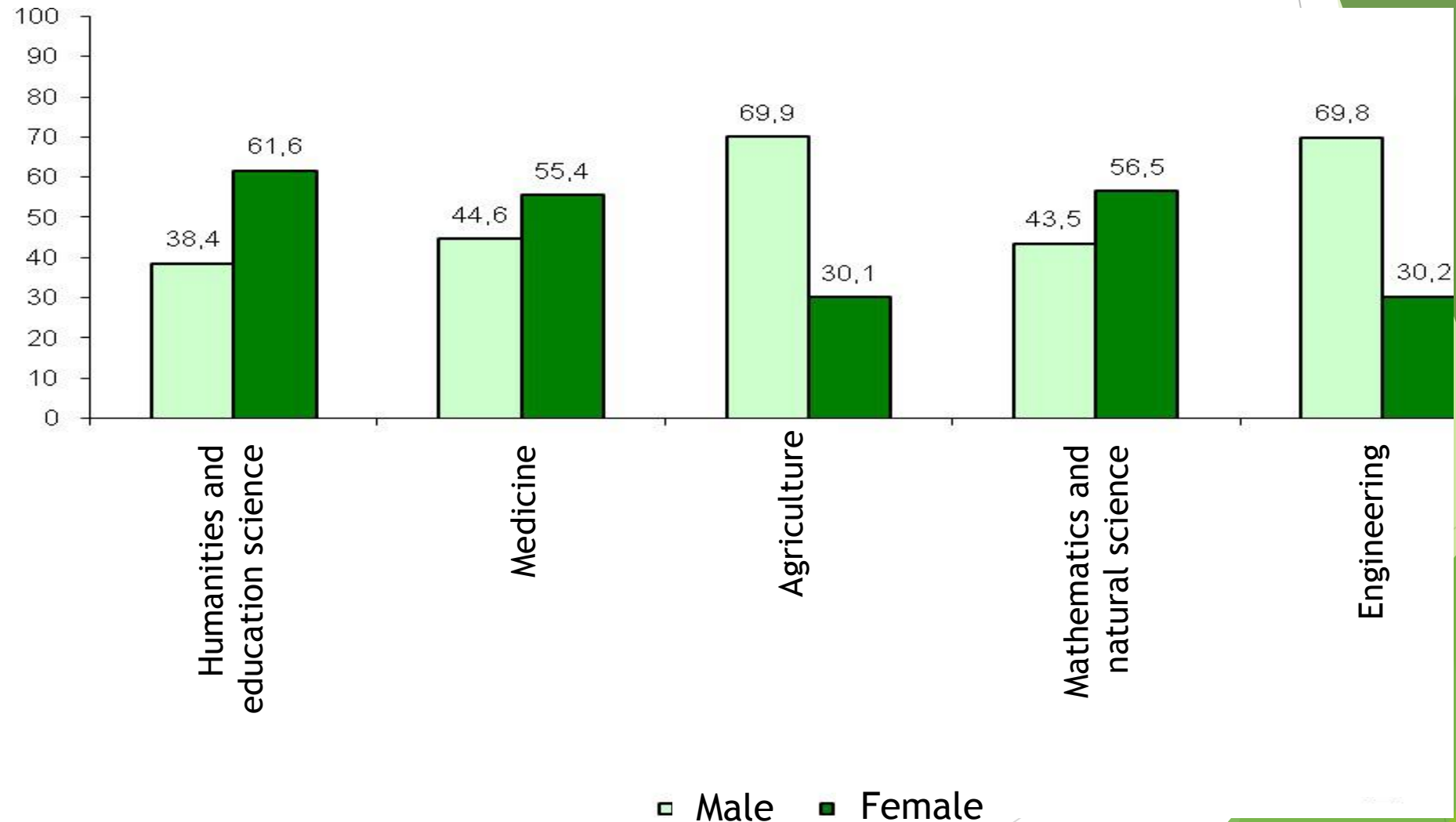
Number of Students at Mid-level and High-level Professional Schools of Turkmenistan as on the Start of Academic Year



% Gender Distribution of Students at Mid-level Professional Education Institutions by Specialty, Start of the 2020/2021 Academic Year



% Gender Distribution of Students at Higher Education Institutions by Specialty, Start of the 2020/2021 Academic Year



SDG 4.5.1 Indicators

Equality Indices (Girls-to-Boys Ratio)	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020
a) Primary education (grades 1-4)	0.96	0.96	0.96
b) Basic education (grades 5-12)	0.96	0.96	0.96
c) General education (grades 1-12)	0.96	0.96	0.96
d) Mid-level professional education	1.2	1.3	1.5
e) Higher professional education	0.6	0.6	0.7

As per Turkmenistan Law On Education (Article 40), the Government undertakes to fully pay the tuition and alimentation expenses of orphans and children having no parents or guardians replacing the parents until they reach 24 years of age, including those studying at professional education institutions.

The Government's policy places a special emphasis on training education professionals as they are key for the nation's quality education and sustainable development.

In 2017, Turkmenistan adopted a Digital Education Development Policy aimed at enhancing the quality of digital educational services and creating conditions for lifelong learning of all population groups.

The plan for implementing the Policy provides for a phased creation of a single network uniting educational institutions as well as the use by general education institutions of electronic academic diaries, class registers, reports, etc. Thus, all schools now have schedules and teacher's lesson notes available in electronic forms. Higher education institutions have implemented digital portals that provide infrastructure for communicating with the faculty and contain self-training materials for students, audio and video educational content, multimedia, presentations, instructors' lectures, research conference publications, etc.

Higher education institutions use digital education technologies to organize on a regular basis remote lectures/workshops as well as local and foreign partner institutions.

Turkmenistan is planning to implement life-long education – a process of (personal and professional) development of an individual throughout the whole life.

Gender Equality Progress in the Education System.

The national education policy is directed at ensuring gender equality and creating learning opportunities for women.

On the whole, the education system enjoys a gender balance. However, there is a disparity between males and females in the higher education. In the 2020/2021 academic year, the proportion of female students in higher education institutions totaled 41.1% compared to 35.5% in 2015.

A 2015-2020 National Gender Equality Plan of Action aiming at creating equal opportunities for women and equal access to quality education, healthcare and employment was adopted to further gender programs and policies.

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Thank you!