

	Total Fertility Rate (2008)	% Female Literacy (2005)	GNI PPP/Capita US\$ (2007)
Germany	1.3	99	\$33,820
Japan	1.3	99	\$34,600
Russia	1.4	99	\$14,400
China	1.6	86.5	\$5,770
Thailand	1.6	90.5	\$7,880
Vietnam	2.1	86.9	\$2,550
U.S.	2.1	99	\$45,850
Iran	2.1	76.8	\$10,800
Turkey	2.2	79.6	\$12,090
Brazil	2.3	88.8	\$9,370
Mexico	2.3	90.2	\$12,580
Indonesia	2.6	86.6	\$3,580
Bangladesh	2.7	40.8	\$1,340
India	2.8	47.8	\$2,740
Egypt	3.1	59.4	\$5,400
Philippines	3.3	93.6	\$3,730
Pakistan	4.1	35.4	\$1,040
Ethiopia	5.3	22.8	\$780
Nigeria	5.9	60.1	\$1,770
Dem. Republic of Congo	6.5	54.1	\$290

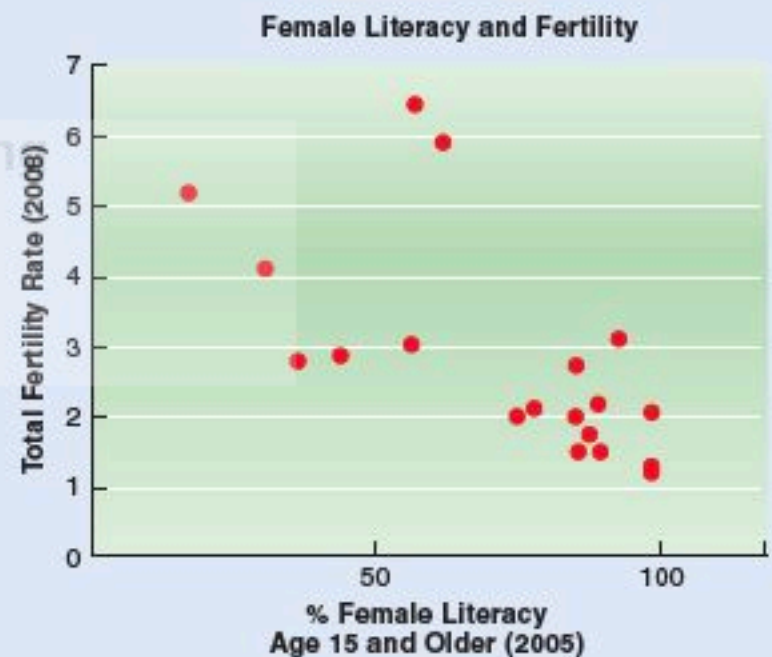
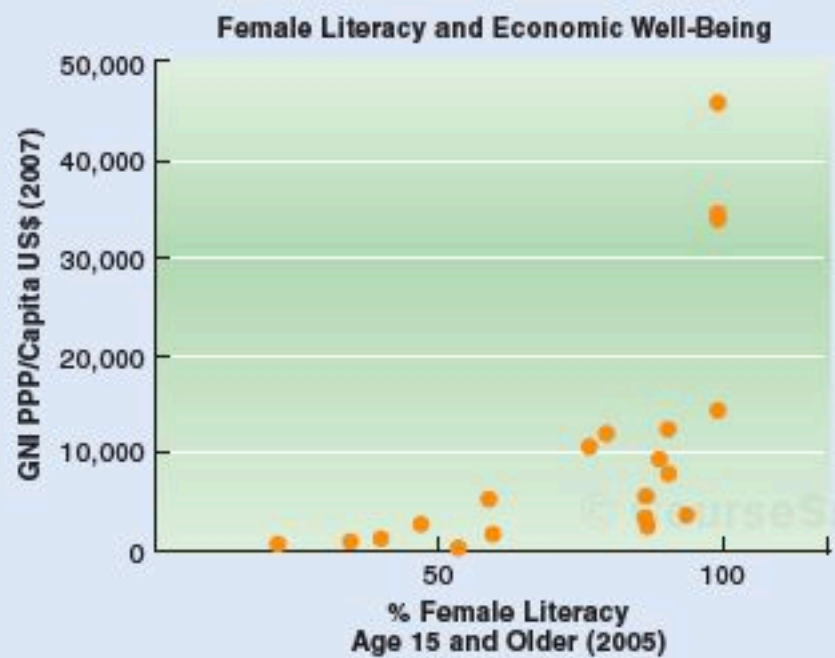


FIGURE 7.14 Female Literacy, Total Fertility Rate, and Economic Well-Being These graphs show the relationship among female literacy, total fertility, and economic well-being of the 20 most populous countries of the world. In general the higher the female literacy rate the lower the total fertility rate and the higher the per capita income.

Source: Data from Population Reference Bureau, 2008 Data Sheet, and Human Development Report 2007/2008, United Nations Development program.

no government program of social security. Parents are more secure in old age if they have several children to contribute to their needs when they become elderly and can no longer work.

ECONOMIC FACTORS

In less-developed countries, the economic benefits of children are extremely important. Even young children can be given jobs that contribute to the family economy. They can protect livestock from predators, gather firewood, cook, or carry water. In the developed world, large numbers of children are an economic drain. They are prevented by law from working, they must be sent to school at great expense, and they consume large amounts of the family income. Many parents in the developed world make an economic decision about having children in the same way they buy a house

or car: “We are not having children right away. We are going to wait until we are better off financially.”

POLITICAL FACTORS

Two other factors that influence the population growth rate of a country are government policies on population growth and immigration.

Government Population Policy

Many countries in Europe have official policies that state their population growth rates are too low. As their populations age and there are few births, they are concerned about a lack of working-age people in the future and have instituted programs that are