

# Women and ICT

July 2009

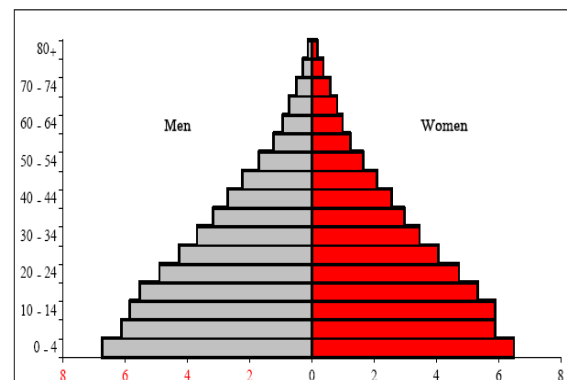
## Introduction

- *Information and communication technologies (ICT) play a significant role in the socioeconomic development and it is a key contributor to productivity and competitiveness so it is vital that the technology sectors capitalize on the full potential of the available workforce.*
- *To meet continuing growth in ICT more women should consider ICT related careers.*
- *Women remain a minority among ICT professionals. In this context, women's intellectual potential and their contribution to society are not being fully utilized.*
- *Despite the increase in the percentage of women in employment in engineering and technology between 1999 and 2003, the gender differences are so persistent that they will most likely not self-correct in the foreseeable future without a straightforward and common policy framework for gender awareness.*
- *The framework should express the commitment of different countries to create the appropriate institutional framework as well as adequate economic incentives to allow and encourage women to pursue a professional career in engineering and technology (and more specifically in ICT) while respecting possible constraints to their professional choices.*

## Arab Woman In Figures

- *Women constituted almost 50% of the Arab population.*
- *Arab population is fairly young; 37% are under the age of 15.*
- *Almost 60% are of working age (15-64 yrs)*

Population pyramid of the Arab region  
in 2003



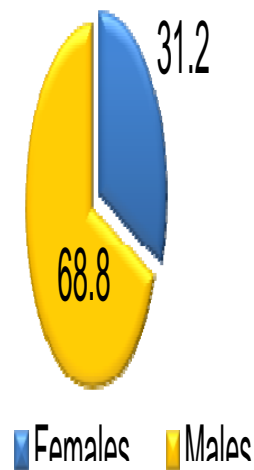
Source: ESCWA Social Statistics Datasets, 2003.

## Arab Woman and Education

- *Adult and youth literacy rates have increased for both women and men in the Arab world.*
- *Arab women net enrollment rate in primary education increased to 90% in 2005.*
- *Arab women literacy rate of age (15-25 year) reached 79.5% in 2005.*



## Arab Woman Participation In Labor Force



- Increasing Arab women participation in labor force in line with their education level will raise the average Arab household income by 25%.

## Women and ICT usage ..Case of Egypt

### Basic Indicators

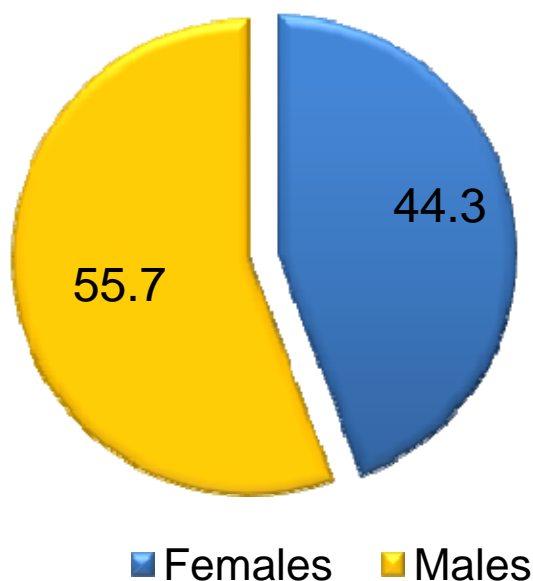
● Life expectancy at birth (years)	2006	73.6
● Maternal mortality rate (per 100000 live birth)	2005	52.9
● Average age at first marriage	2005	20.4
● Gross Enrolment ratio:		
■ basic education	2005/06	87.06
■ primary	2005/06	94.51
■ preparatory	2005/06	88.26
■ secondary education	2005/06	70.08
■ tertiary education	2005/06	38.42
● Tertiary science enrolment (%)	2005/06	37.57
● Females with secondary or higher education (15+) (%)	2006	22.7
● Professional & technical staff (%)	2004	33.5
● Women in the labor force (%)	2005	22.9

## Egyptian Woman In Figures

### ***Women participation in the labor force and labor market***

- *Women's participation in Egypt's labor force increased from 21.8% in 2002 to 22.3% in 2006.*
- *The total of Egyptian workers in 2006 were estimates at 20.4 Million, 42% were employed in urban areas, whereas the remaining 58% worked in rural areas.*
- *Women constituted 19% of the total labor market; working mostly in rural areas (60%).*
- *Working women with university or a post-university degree constituted 21.7% as compared to 13.7% of working men.*
- *Women's contribution in various economic activities in 2006 was estimated at 14.5%.*
- *18.5% of working women were employed in the education sector in 2006; constituting 40% of the overall employees in this sector.*
- *General management activities came second and absorbed 9.8% of the women workers; constituting 21% of the total workers in this activities.*

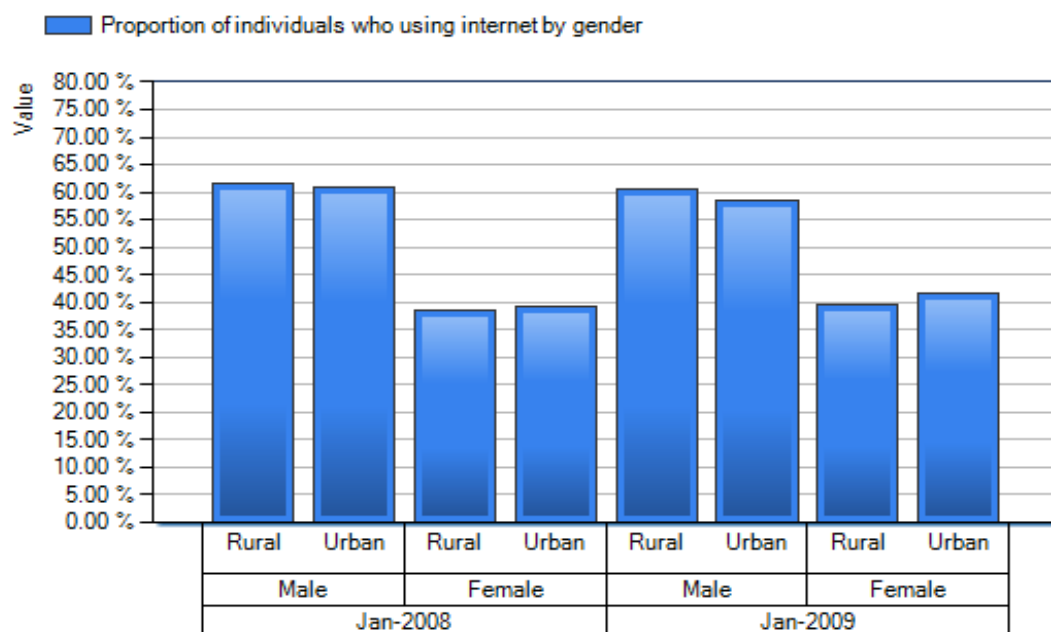
### ***Computer Usage***



<http://www.egyptictindicators.gov.eg>

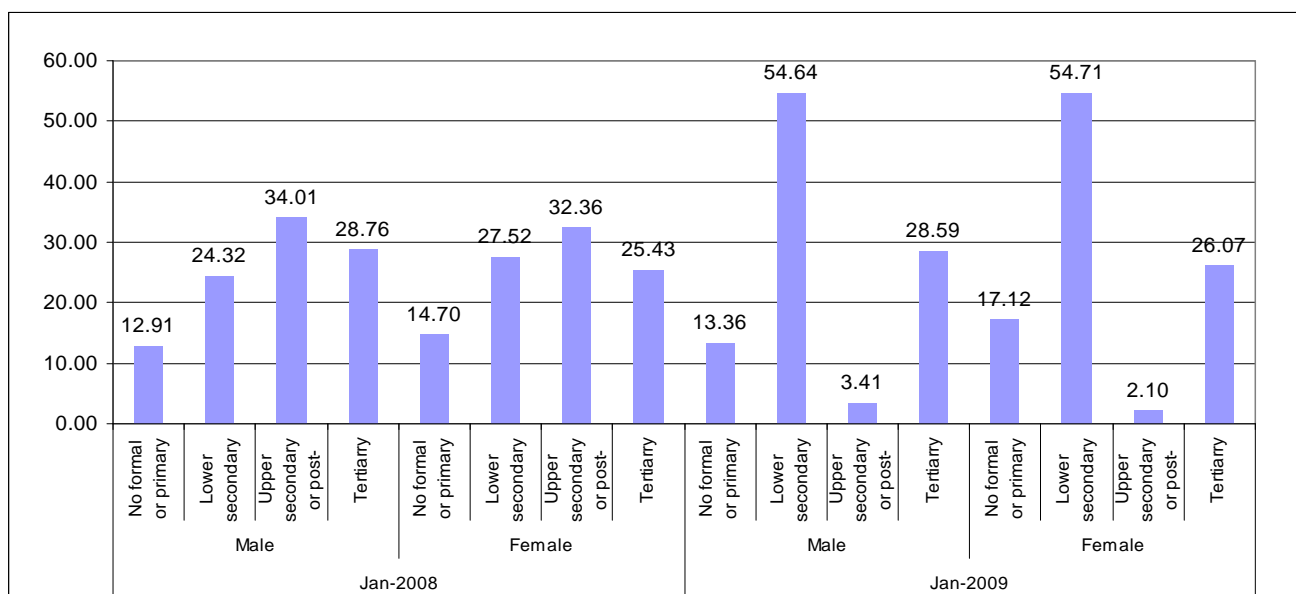
## Internet Usage

### % of Women Using Internet by Geographical Location



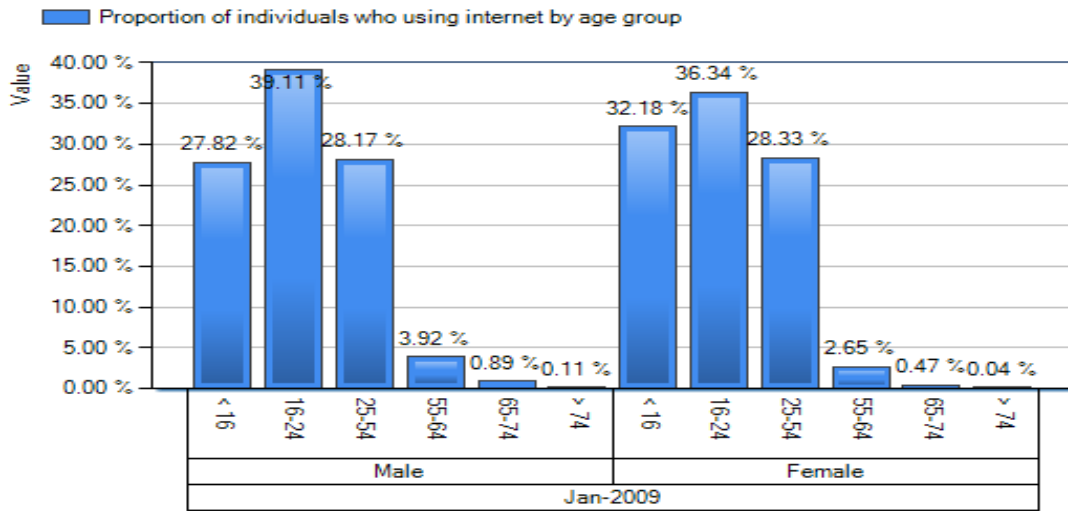
<http://www.egyptictindicators.gov.eg>

### % of Women Using Internet by Educational Level



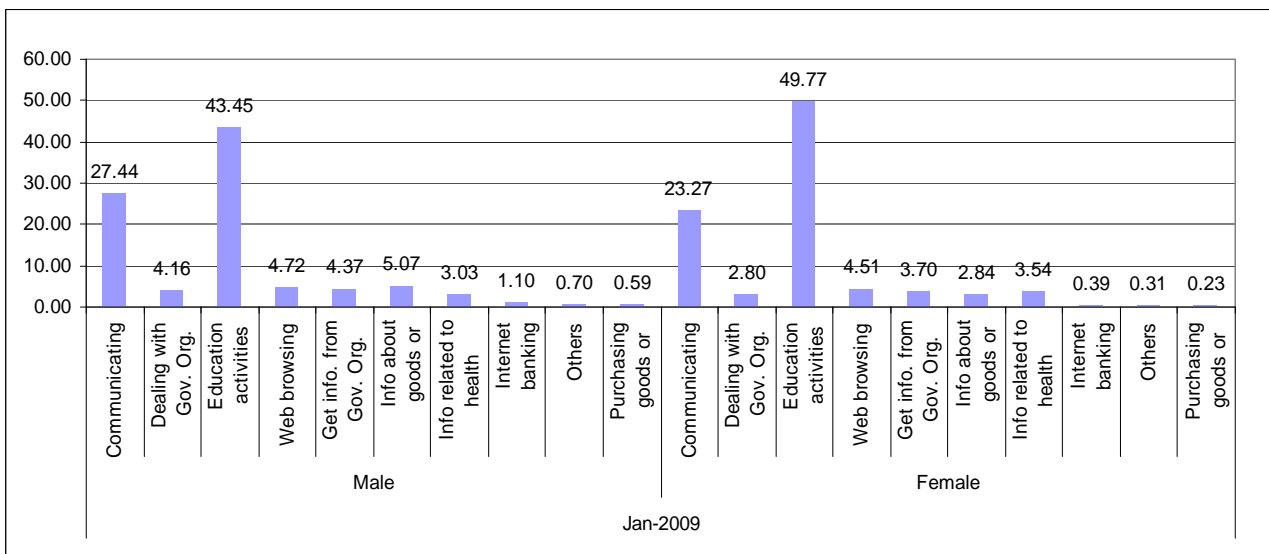
<http://www.egyptictindicators.gov.eg>

## % of Women Using Internet by Age Groups



<http://www.egyptictindicators.gov.eg>

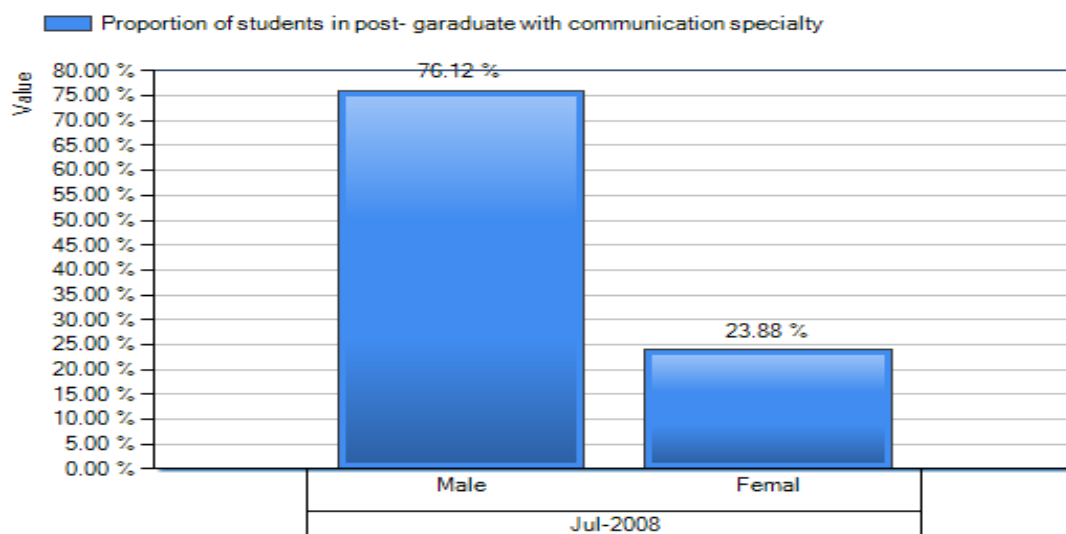
## % of Women Using Internet by Activities



<http://www.egyptictindicators.gov.eg>

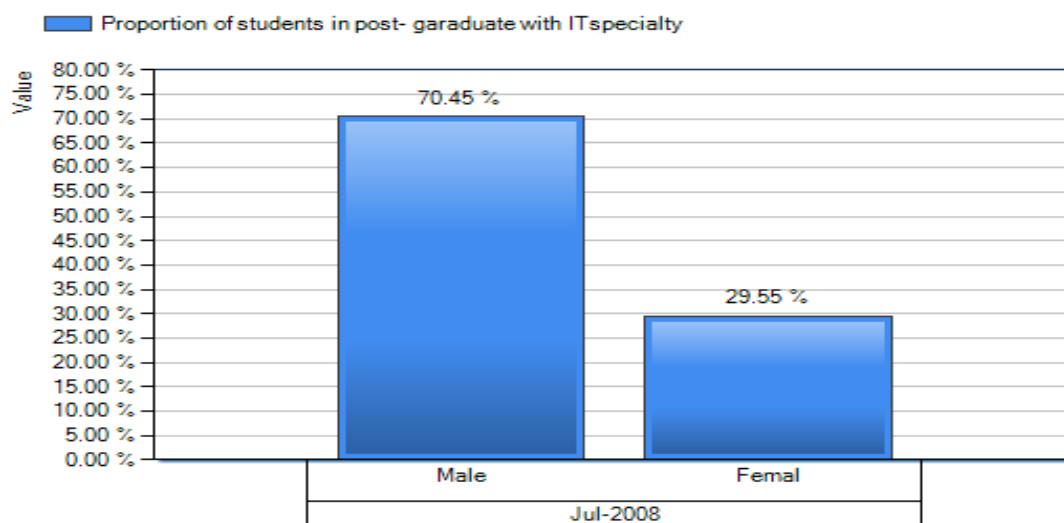
### ICT Specialties

#### % of Women Students With Communications Specialty Out of Total Communications Students



<http://www.egyptictindicators.gov.eg>

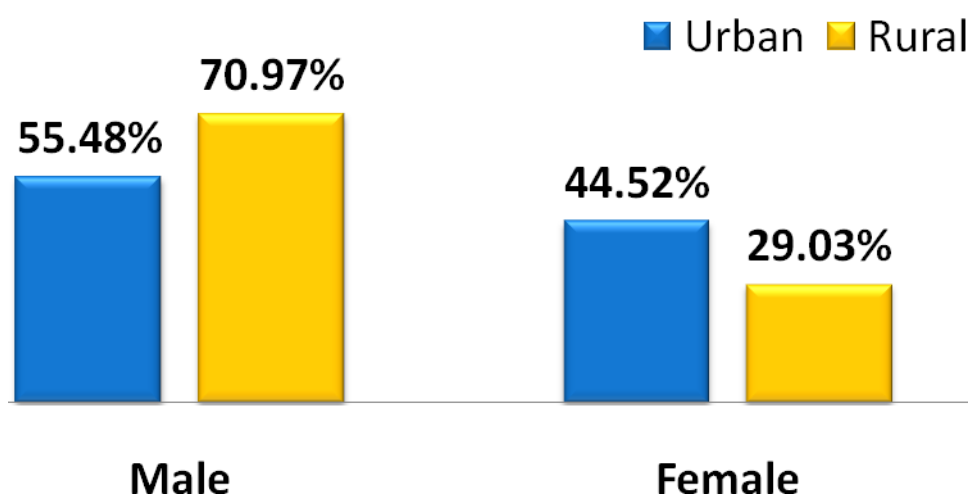
#### % of Women Students With IT Specialty Out Of Total IT Students



<http://www.egyptictindicators.gov.eg>

### IT Clubs

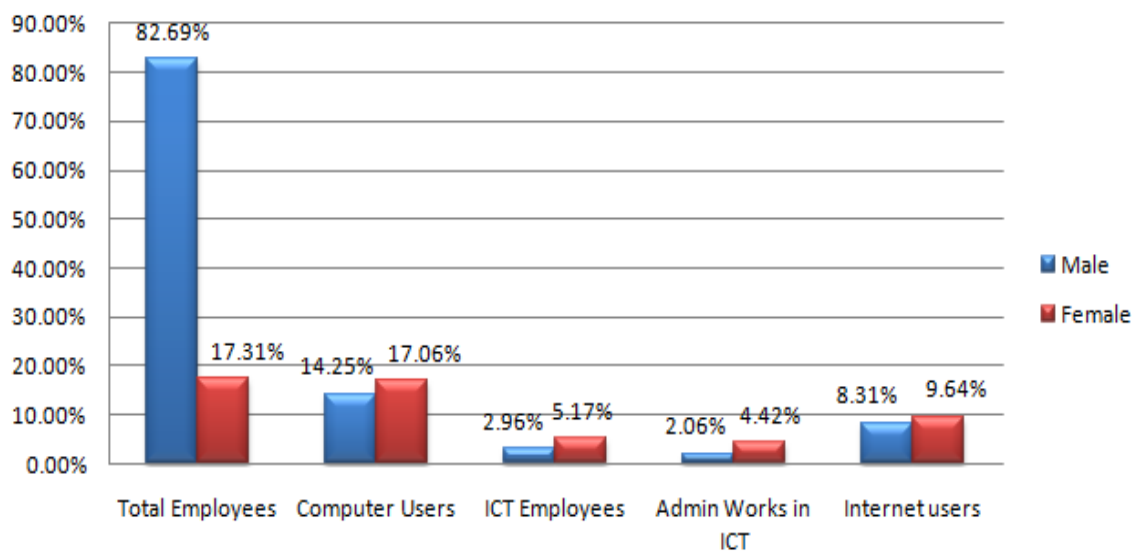
% of Women Using IT Clubs' Services



<http://www.egyptictindicators.gov.eg>

### ICT Usage By Private Sector

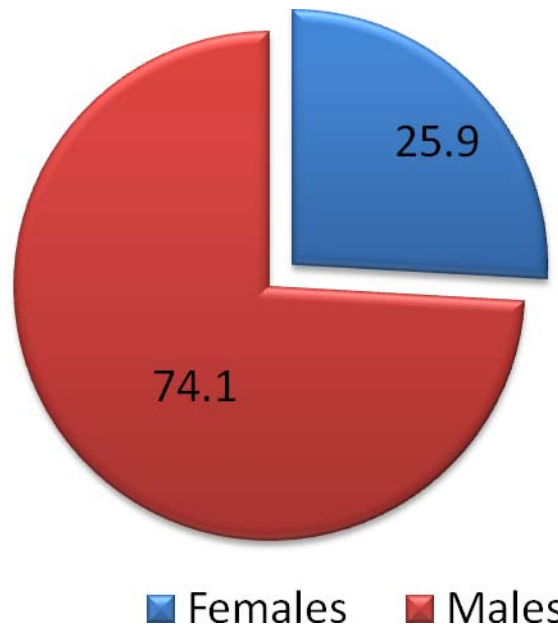
% of Women Using ICTs



<http://www.egyptictindicators.gov.eg>

## *Internet Usage*

### **% of Women Using Mobile**



- Almost three-quarters (74.1%) of individuals with mobile phones in Egypt are male, while only around one-quarter (25.9%) are female, according to the results of a household survey in January 2009.

<http://www.egyptictindicators.gov.eg>

## ICT For Women .. Egyptian Initiatives

### ICT For Health

#### *Women's Mobile Health Unit Project*

- Egypt's First Lady Mrs. Suzanne Mubarak inaugurated the Women's Mobile Health Unit Project in Cairo in 2007 as part of a joint collaboration between the Ministry of Health and Population and MCIT to promote the early detection of breast cancer. Egyptian women over the age of 45 were invited to visit the Units for mammography scans, as well as blood pressure and blood sugar testing.
- The national project established a state of the art communications network, mobile units equipped with advanced medical equipment, fixed units, a main center in Kasr Al-Aini hospital and another center in Fum El Khalij staffed by specialists to which data and images from all the units can be sent electronically via satellites and high-speed lines.
- The network will transmit scans to specialized physicians who will review the scans and report back to the mobile units where local staff will pass on the information to patients about recommended treatment.
- The Women's Mobile Health Unit project has produced four units, two financed by MCIT and two by USAID. In 2008, two of the units checked a total of 10,000 women in greater Cairo and Alexandria for breast cancer.



#### **The Suzanne Mubarak Center for Women's Health in Alexandria**

- This project, implemented from 2006 to 2008, sought to improve health care delivery for women in Alexandria by establishing modern healthcare facilities and administration systems at the Suzanne Mubarak Center for Women's Health. The project provided professional and specialized services in women's healthcare and specialized consultations through the telemedicine facilities. The center created a digital health file for every patient containing personal information, disease history, medicines prescribed, and number of visits, with the records linked to the person's national ID number. A digital library for research was also established at the center, enabling hosting of national and international conferences. The projects' scope also included entering into a cooperation agreement with US research university UC Davis for remote medical consultations.



### ICT For Education

- The ICT for Illiteracy Eradication project was devised to address the problem of illiteracy, particularly among women. Three CDs were produced to teach basic literacy with a focus on Arabic, math, culture and social concepts.

- Pilot trials of these CDs in two governorates had extremely positive results,
- proving significantly more effective than traditional basic literacy classes. Subsequently, more students were attracted to attend and complete the courses.
- In addition, this method achieves faster results than traditional courses – five months rather than 10 – and is suitable for children and those who have not attended school.

## **ICT For Business**

### ***MCIT website for small and medium enterprises***

- The National Council for Women is also working with MCIT to develop a website for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to encourage women to establish their own business.
- The website, called Afkargadida ([www.afkargadida.com](http://www.afkargadida.com)), or New Ideas, will serve SMEs as an information center, provide project-related information and investment opportunities, offer examples of feasibility studies, and encourage the use of information technology

### ***The E-Business Support Center (EBSC)***

- The National Council for Women has developed CleoStore ([www.cleostore.com](http://www.cleostore.com)), a pilot project to provide e-business support for female entrepreneurs to help market their products and services online.
- Carried out in partnership with the national postal organization, CleoStore's main objectives are to facilitate the adoption of ICT technologies in the business sector; help women to generate income through privately owned e-businesses; improve the competitiveness of small to medium enterprises in local, regional and/or international markets; and provide employment opportunities for young women specialized in IT.
- The E-Business Support Center (EBSC) provides technical assistance to train and advise female entrepreneurs on designing and developing their website materials. The EBSC is also responsible for working out a delivery and payment system for products and services.

## **ICT For Community Development**

### ***The Community Development Portal for Women***

- The Community Development Portal for Women is an international project being implemented by Egypt's National Council for Women in partnership with IBM to offer multi-disciplinary resources to women by providing access to information, research, databases, legislation, and career and business opportunities.
- The National Council for Women additionally has developed a project to provide on-line and visual information tools to decision-makers on the major gender issues, based on their geographical specificity.
- The National Council for Women's Ombudsman website publishes recurring complaints and solutions as well as links to the major resources available to women.
- The project is currently exploring the possibility of an on-line help desk to guide complaints.