

# Yemen



## COUNTRY FACTS:

**Capital:** Sana'a

**Population:** 23,495,361

**Area, sq. mi.:** 203,849

**Real GDP per capita:** 2,500

**Adult literacy rate:** 71% (male); 30% (female)

**Ethnic make-up:** predominantly Arab; but also Afro-Arab, South Asians, Europeans

**Religion:** Muslim including Shaf'i (Sunni) and Zaydi (Shia), small numbers of Jewish, Christian, and Hindu

## School Classes

In Yemen, students are evaluated on homework and exams. Class participation is also part of the grade, but less than tests and homework. Public schools are co-ed until Grade 4. Some private schools may be co-ed. Boys and girls are seated apart in most of the schools.

## School Relationships

In Yemen, students generally call their teachers "teacher" followed by the teacher's first name. However, there is a formal relationship between the teachers and their students.

## Extracurricular Activities

In Yemen, extracurricular activities are usually available only in institutes or sports clubs and parents generally do not get involved with their student's activities.

## School Rules

Cell phone usage is also not permitted in Yemeni schools, however school discipline for cell phone usage is usually not severe.

## Return

YES Yemen students report that upon their return to Yemen, they have improved English language skills, which helps them greatly in school and especially with science courses such as biology and physics.

## Family Life

Yemeni households consist of parents, their children and sometimes grandparents. Adult children do not leave the house even when they are in college. In most Yemeni families mothers do not work, however it is acceptable for a mother to be a professional and also be responsible for the family. In some families both mothers and fathers have equal authority in the household, but in some families most authority is with the father.

## Teen Life

In Yemen family members are expected to have time to pursue to their own interests. Family members respect each other's needs for private time.

## Responsibilities

In Yemen, household responsibilities are different for boys and for girls. Girls are expected to help their mothers with the laundry and other household responsibilities while boys are expected to run errands and clean their rooms.

In Yemen, meals are often eaten all together as a family. Explain to YES Yemen students about budgeting their own money.

## Parental Involvement

Yemeni parents usually monitor and limit what their children do online and even what their children do outside the house. Boys in general are more independent than females but Yemeni teenagers are mostly dependent upon their parents.

## Pets

Almost all families in Yemen do not have pets in their homes.

## Personal Interactions

### Mixed Gender Socializing

Having friends of the opposite sex is generally not acceptable in Yemeni culture.

## Friendships

Yemeni teenagers sometimes socialize in groups, and sometimes one-on-one. Both ways are considered appropriate, and the choice is left up to the individual. Most teens make friends in their communities and neighborhoods. While it is uncommon in Yemen to lend or borrow money, it may be okay among close friends.

## ***Communication Styles***

### ***Eye Contact***

Eye contact is not an important factor in face-to-face communications and in some Yemeni communities it is taboo for males to have direct eye contact with females.

### ***Personal Hygiene***

In Yemen, it is usual to take daily showers although in cold areas, some people may not take a shower every day. Most Yemeni teenagers have one towel in their bathroom to use to dry their body, and maybe a separate towel to dry their hair or face. Clarify expectations for keeping a clean bathroom in the home.

In Yemen, people may wear clothes for two days if they are still clean. In summer, teenagers do change clothes upon entering the house, but may not when the weather is not as hot.

### ***Religion***

Attending religious services is considered very important and essential in Yemeni culture.

### ***Holidays***

Ramadan and Eid al-Fitr are important and joyful religious and family celebrations.

Other religious holidays are Eid al-Fitr, Eid al-Adha and the Islamic New Year. Yemeni national holidays are: Labor Day, Unity Day, Revolution Days and Independence Day.