Tamar Margalit, Center of Critical Pedagogy, Kibbutzim College of Education, Israel

The Right to Education

The Ministry of Education in Israel, publish data each year regarding **high school students who graduate with Matriculation Diplomas**.

Table 1: High school students graduating with matriculation diplomas as a percentage of all 17- year olds, by **Population group** (2004)[1]:

	Arabs	Jews	Boys	Girls	National Average
Graduating with Matriculation Diplomas (%)	38.8%	52.3%	39.8%	56.3%	47.8%

1. In one Israeli newspaper, the following headline appeared: "**More than a half of the Israeli youth failed to take and pass the matriculation exams**".

Based on the table above, determine for which groups this sentence is correct?

---

[1] From http://www.adva.org/UserFiles/File/characteristics.pdf

2. Kfar Sava and Tira are neighboring cities in the central district of Israel. Kfar Sava is a Jewish city with population of around 80,000. Tira is an Arab city with population of around 20,000.

Table 2: High school students graduating with matriculation diplomas as a percentage of all 17-year olds, **by locality** (2004)[2]:

Locality	Graduating with Matriculation Diplomas (%)	Number of students Graduated with Matriculation Diplomas
Kfar Sava (Jewish)	67%	914
Tira (Arab)	23%	89

(i) There are **30** students in a class at a high school in **Kfar Sava**. According to the data, **how many of them**, on average, **will attain a matriculation diploma**?

(ii) There are **30** students in a class at a high school in **Tira**. According to the data, **how many of them**, on average, **will attain a matriculation diploma**?

(iii) Why do you think there are these differences between Tira and Kfar Sava?

---

[2] From http://www.adva.org/UserFiles/File/bagrut_mark.pdf

3. (i) In **38** out of **96 localities** in Israel (1999) with 10,000 or more residents**,** the percentage of students graduating with matriculation diplomas was **below** the national average[3]. Express this data by percentages.

(ii) Try to explain this data: Do you think that localities with a low rate of students graduating with matriculation diplomas, have common characteristics? If yes, can you propose what they are? If not, can you explain why?

Most of the localities with at least 50% students graduating with matriculation diplomas are long-established and/or well-to-do communities in the center of the country.

In all of the Arab localities (with 10,000 or more residents), the percentage of students passing the exams is lower than 50%[4].

---

[3] From,
http://www.adva.org/UserFiles/File/Students%20Passing%20Matriculation%20Exams%20in%201999.pdf
[4]From
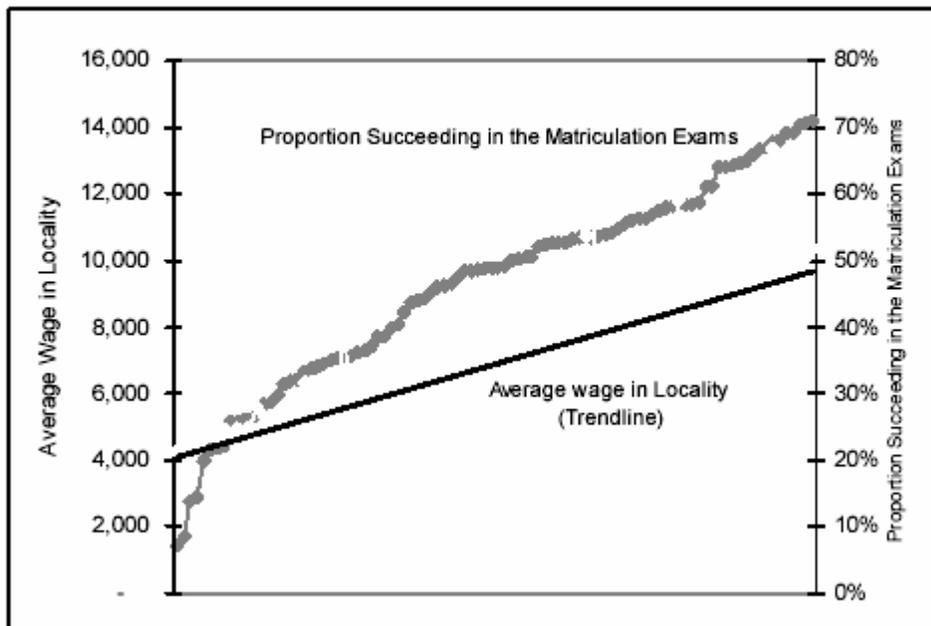http://www.adva.org/UserFiles/File/Students%20Passing%20Matriculation%20Exams%20in%201999.pdf

4. Two graphs are displayed below: Average Wage in Locality and Proportion Succeeding in the Matriculation Exams by Locality[5]. Both graphs are displayed on the **same coordinate system**.

(i) What does the common x-axis of the graphs represent?

(ii) Choose any two points on the x-axis, and indicate what the average wage is, and what the proportion that succeeds in matriculation exams in each of the points is.

(iii) What do you learn from the graph below, about the relationship between average wage and succeeding in the matriculation exams?
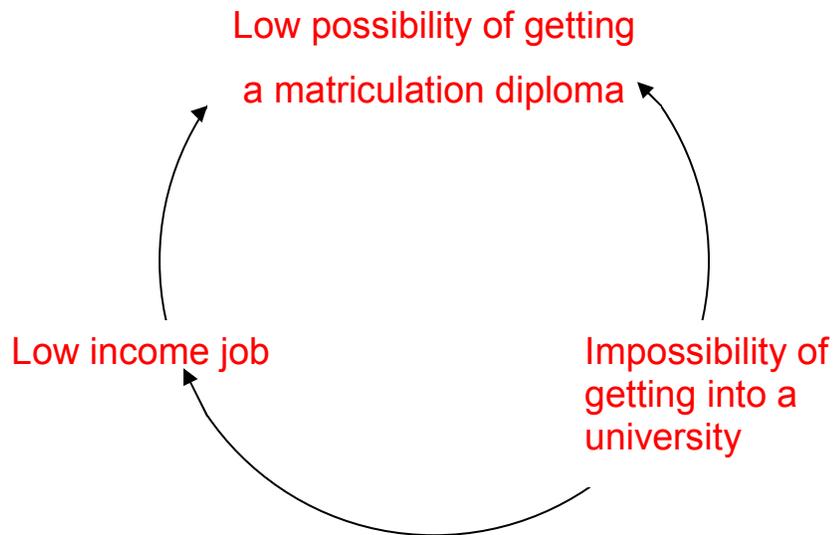
Proportion of 17-Year-Olds Succeeding in the Matriculation Exams, by Locality, 2005 & Average Wage, by Locality, 2003
In NIS

Sources: Shlomo Swirski and Itai Schurtz, *Success Rates in Matriculation Exams by Locality, 2003-2004*, Adva Center, August 2006; average wages by locality are from National Insurance Institute figures.

---

[5] From http://www.adva.org/UserFiles/File/Educationfull1.pdf (page 25)

The graphs above give an explanation of the following closed circle:

(iv) Are you aware of a similar reality as is described above? (e.g. from your own life? from your neighborhood? from the media?)

(v) Try to suggest several ways to change this situation.