



Economic Growth and Women's Status

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Objective

- While women across the world have achieved unprecedented advancement in economic participation in the past century, gender equality has eluded most nations
- Research question: Does Economic growth over time reduce gender inequality and alter gender perceptions?**
- Explored economic growth and women's status over thirty one developing countries of Asia and Africa from 1986 – 2005
- In depth country analysis on Egypt, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal, and the Philippines

Data Sets

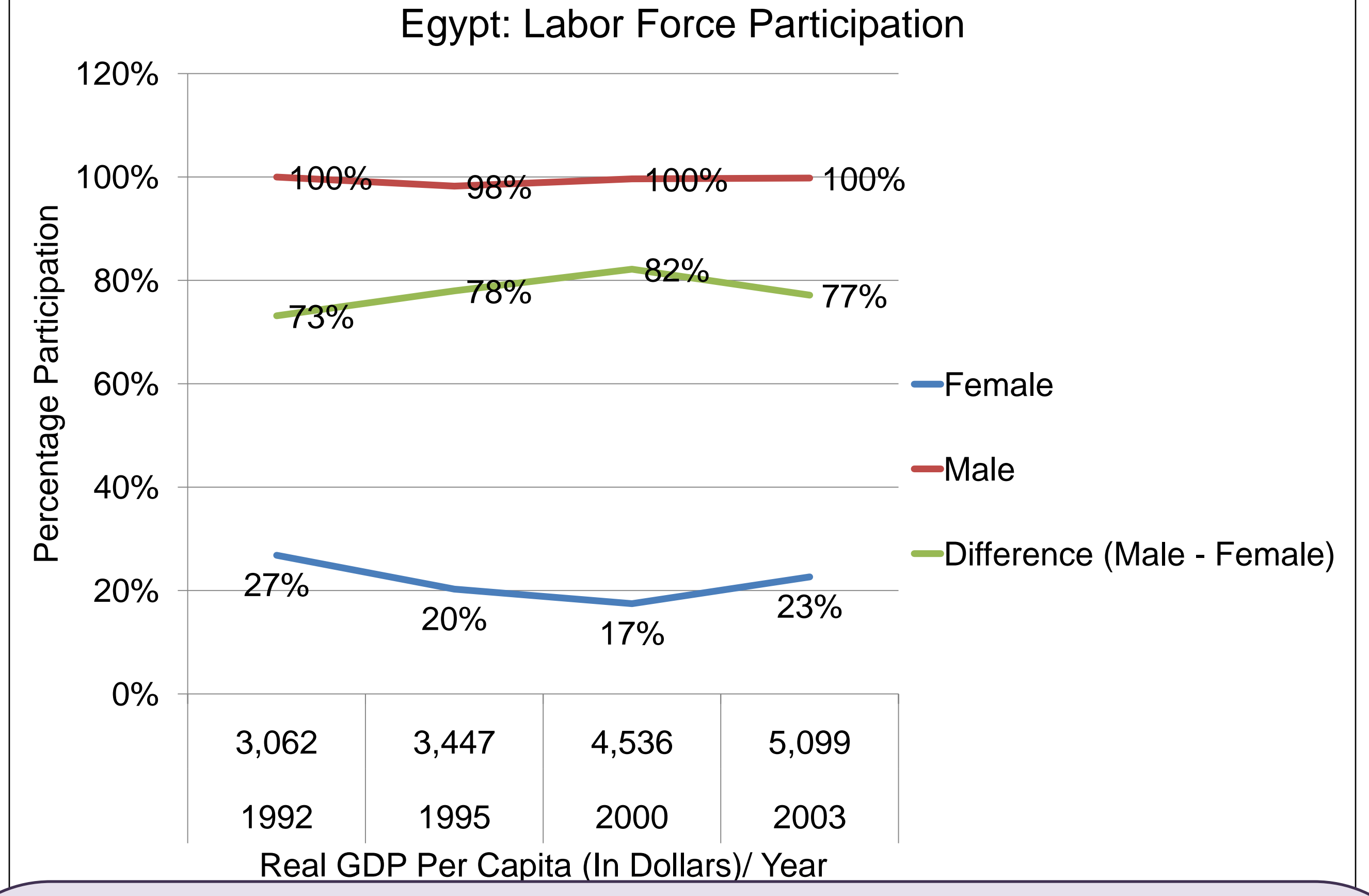
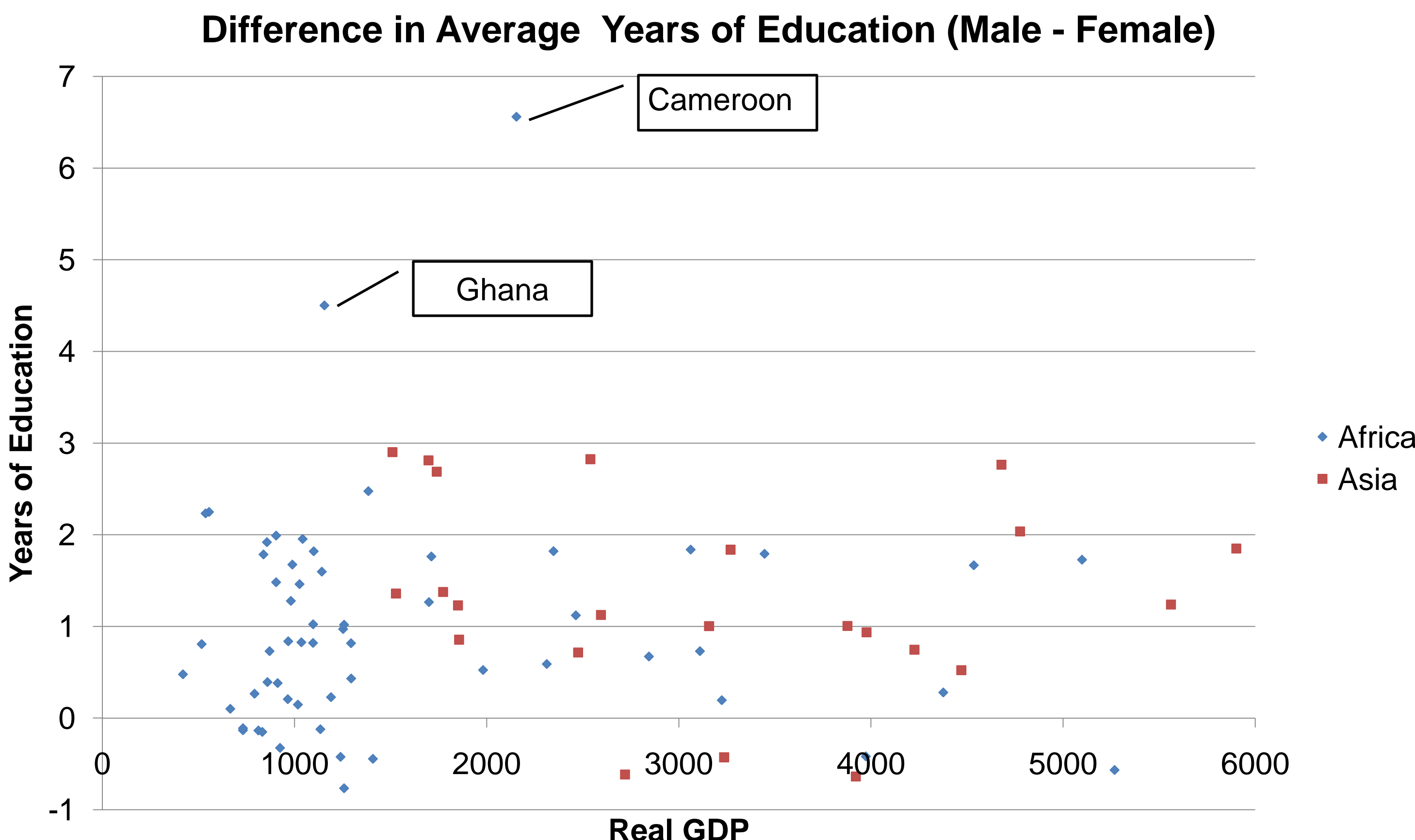
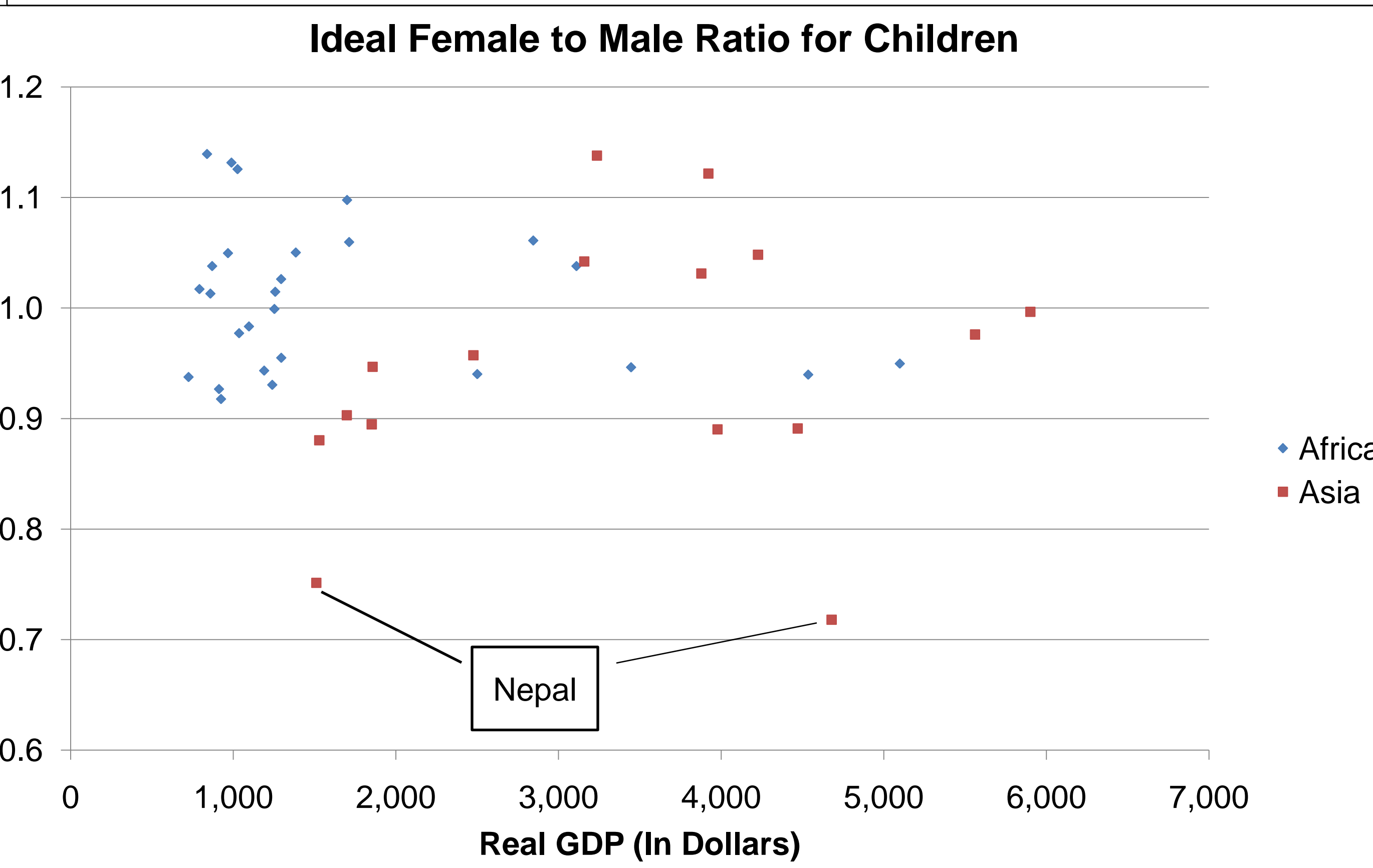
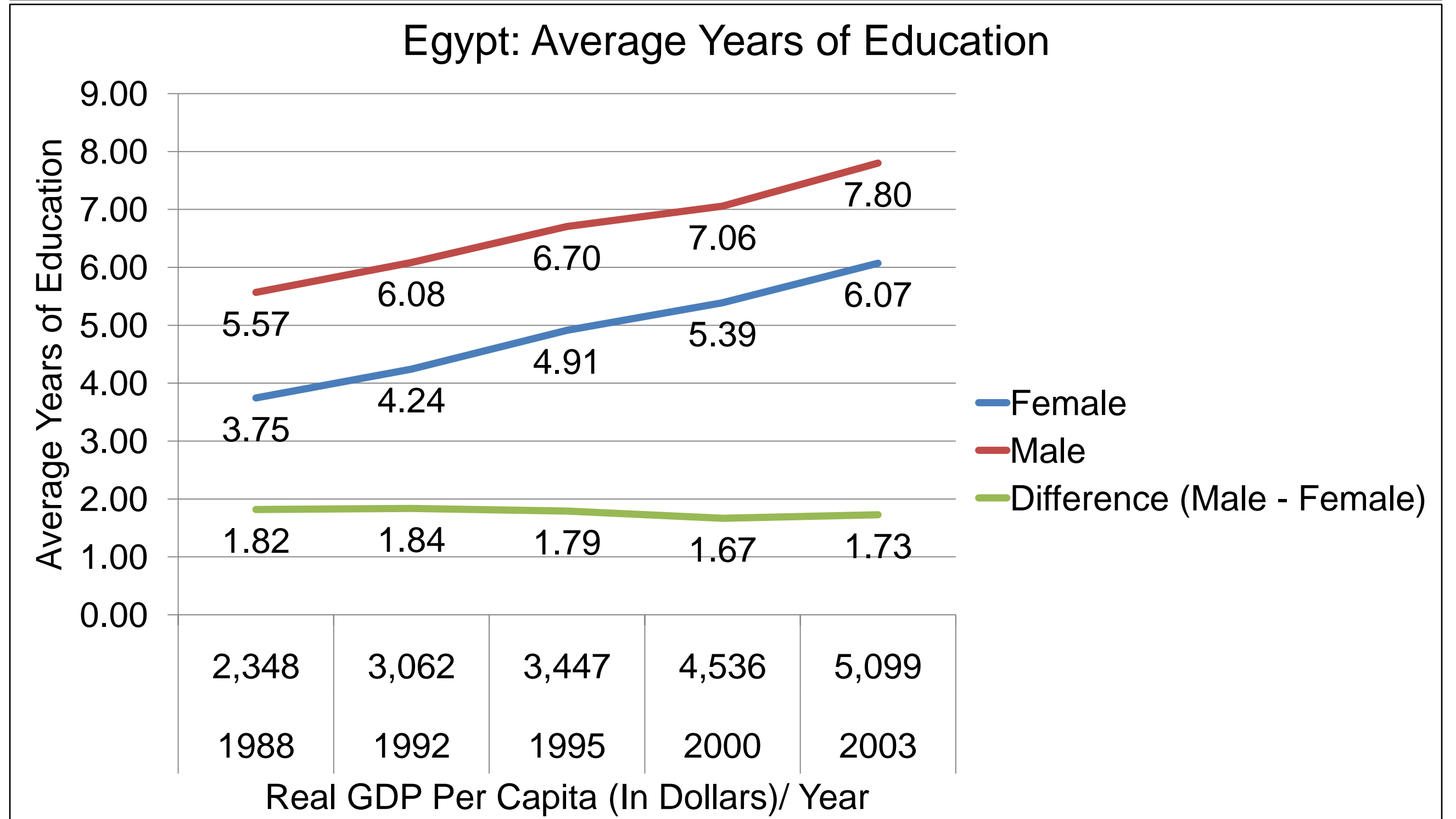
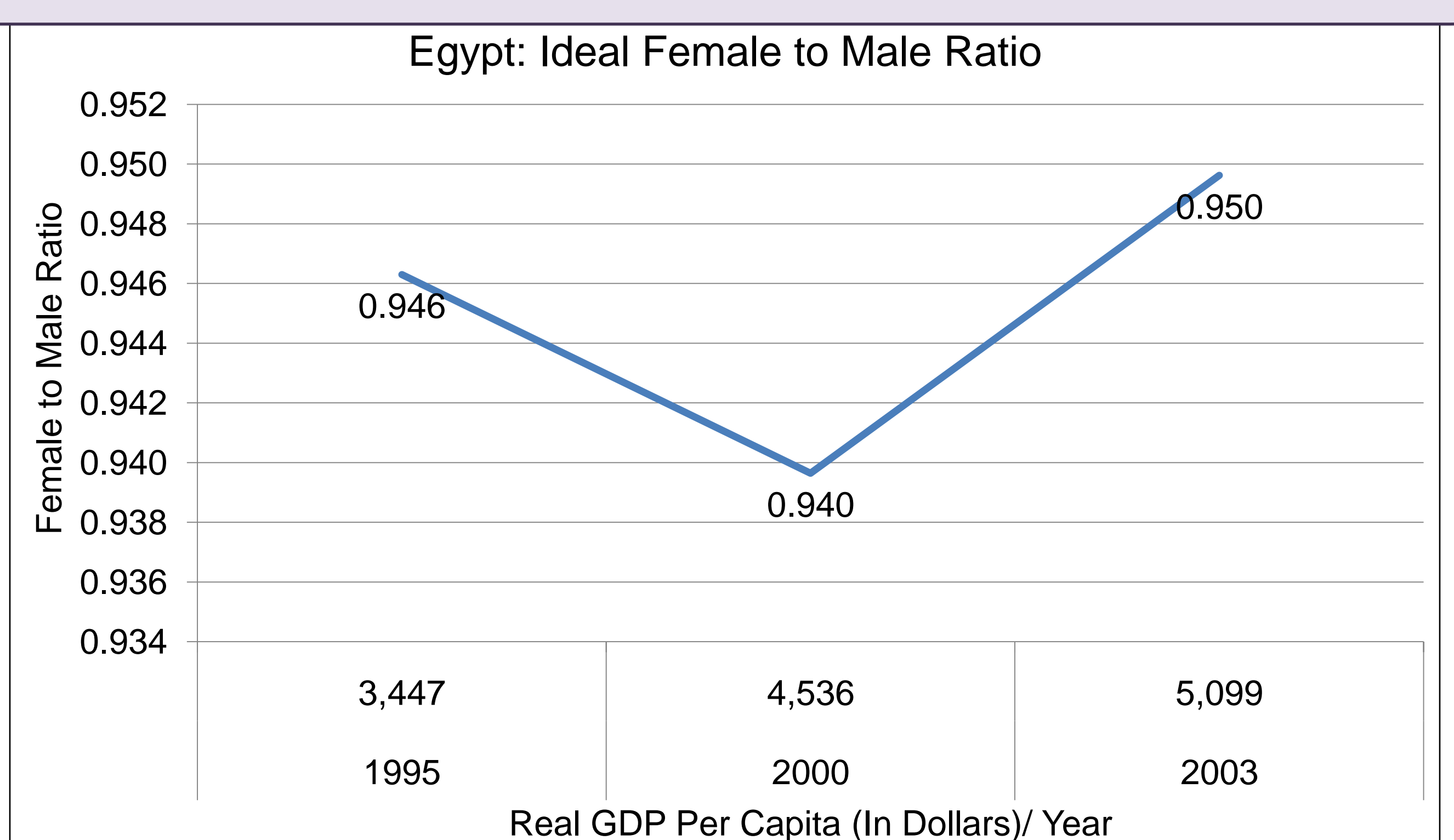
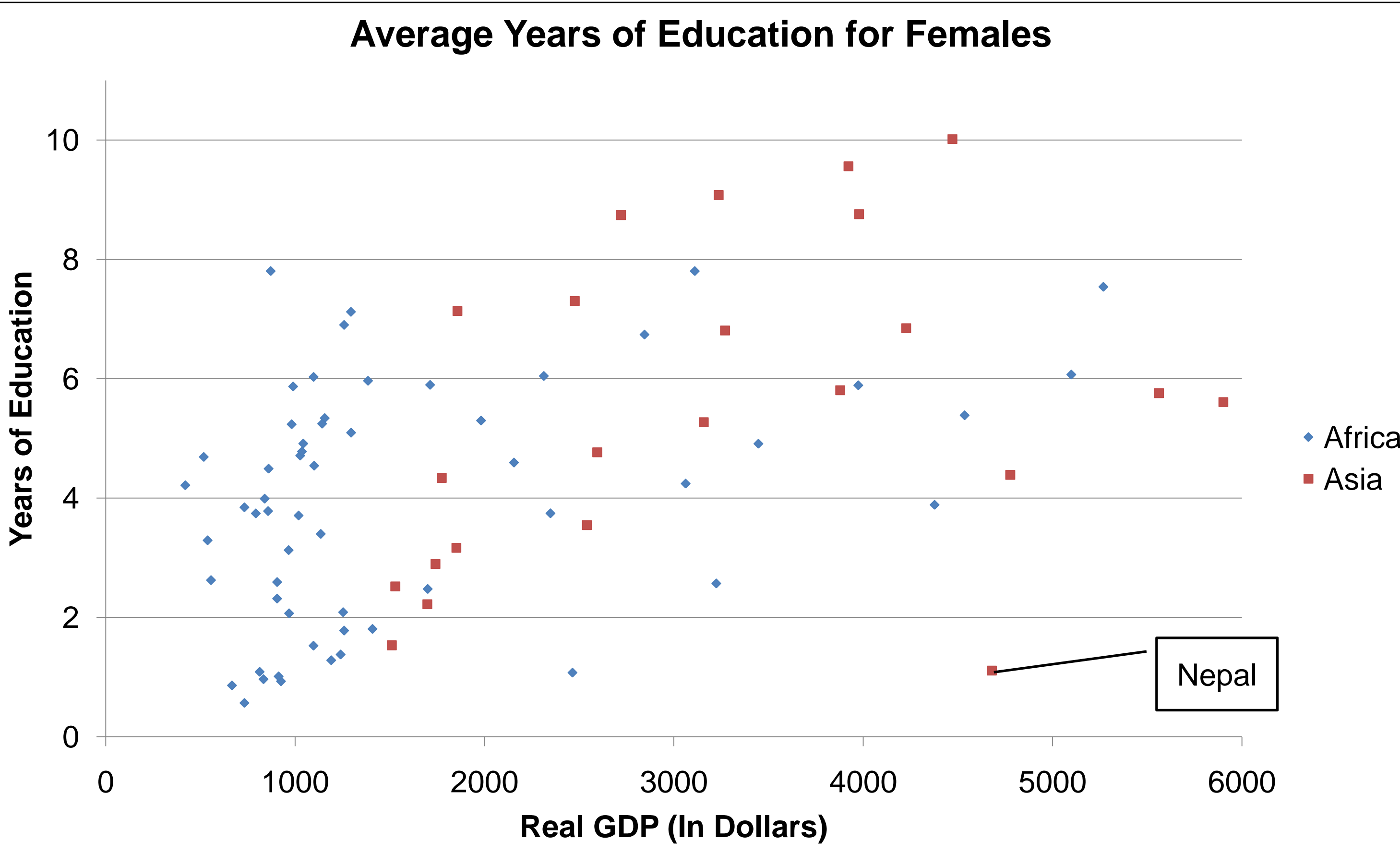
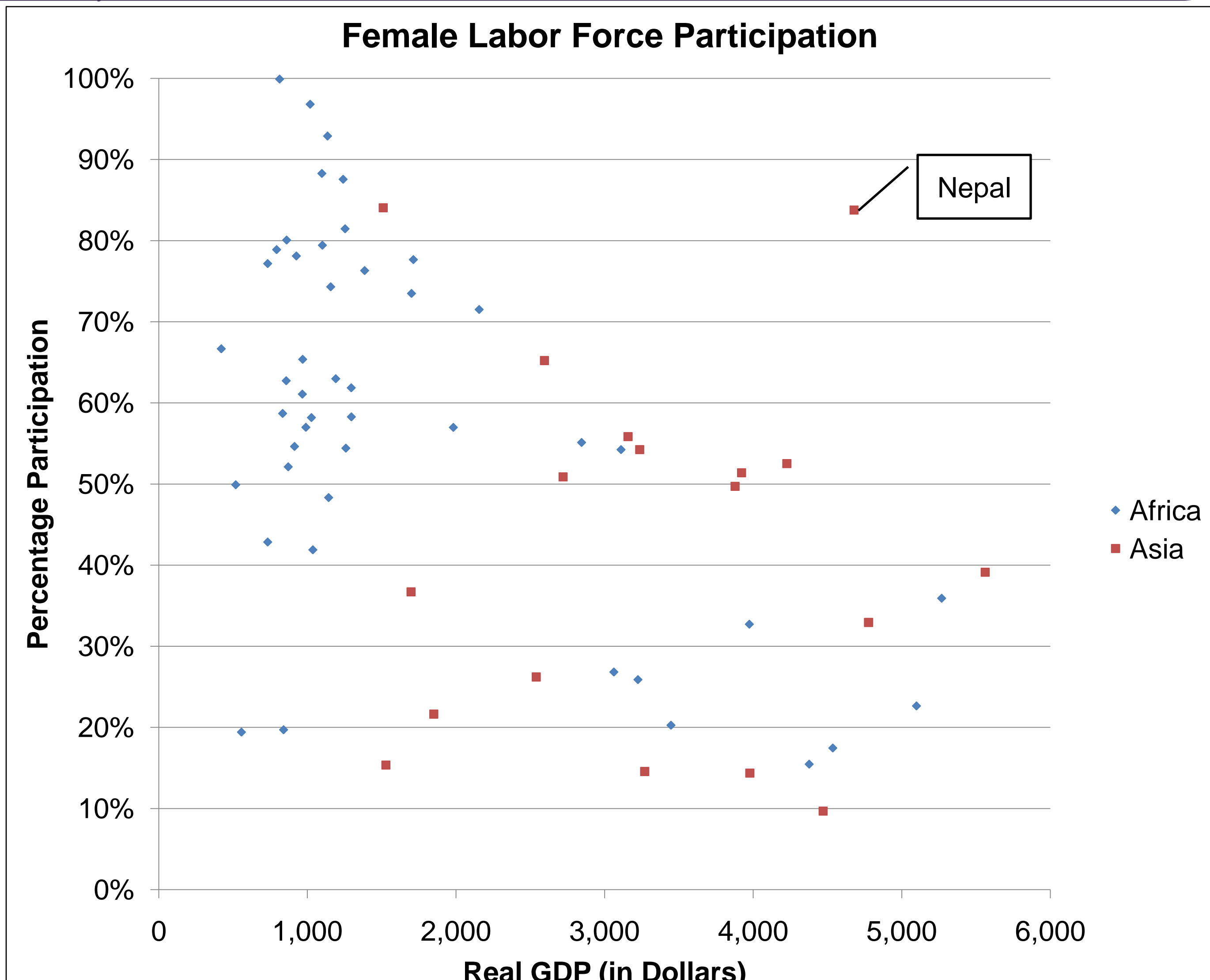
- Penn World Tables - measures of economic growth**
 - Published by the Center for International Comparison at the University of Pennsylvania
 - Data for almost 200 countries from 1950 to 2004
- Demographic Health Survey (DHS) - measures of women's status**
 - Started in 1984 and funded by USAID
 - Surveys are implemented by ORC Macro, Maryland in partnership with four agencies
 - Survey covers 50 countries of Asia and Africa

Method of Analysis

- Descriptive Statistics**
- Graphical Relationships**
- Variables for all thirty one countries**
 - Economic Growth
 - Real GDP
 - Human Capital
 - Average years of education
 - Labor force participation rate
 - Marriage and Fertility
 - Ideal female to male ratio: number of female children desired for every male child
- Additional variables for in depth country analysis**
 - Marriage and Fertility
 - Average age
 - Average age at first marriage (female)
 - Average number of children
 - Demographics/cultural
 - Rural vs. urban location
 - Dominant religion

Statistical Summary for Egypt

- Average age of women who answered the survey and their partners have approximately a seven year difference in age
- Average age of women at first marriage is under 20
- Over 90% of the population is Muslim
- Just over 50% of the population lives in rural areas
- The average number of children born per family decreased from 1988 to 2005
- The average number of male children born per family is greater than the average number of female children born per family for every year we have reported



Implications

- Economic**
 - The researched African countries have lower measures of real GDP than the Asian countries
 - Female labor force participation is generally decreasing with economic growth
 - No witnessed trend in ideal female to male ratio for children with economic growth
 - Average years of female education takes on a slight increase with economic growth
 - No witnessed trend in the difference in average years of education (male – female) with economic growth
 - The education gap for males minus females ranges from -1 to 3 years difference for all levels of real GDP
- Effects of Hegemony**
 - Dominant religions effect on women's status
 - Males' effect on women's status
- Support for Feminist Ideologies**
 - Second Wave Feminism – advocates for equality between men and women in the workplace and home
 - Marxist Feminism – advocates for women to no longer be a reserve army of labor, but acknowledged for their importance in the labor force at all times

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Findings on Egypt

- Ideal female to male ratio**
 - As the GDP increases we see a drop in the ideal female to male ratio for children, followed by an increase that goes above our initial point
 - Thus there is a slight decrease in gender bias
- Average years of education**
 - The average years of education for both males and females is increasing
 - Gender gap for years of education (male – female) remains consistent
- Labor force participation**
 - Nearly all males are active in the labor force
 - Only 20 – 30% of females are active in the labor force
 - Female labor force participation is declining
- Relation to past findings**
 - Support for U-shaped relationship discussed by past economists
 - If the country follows the U-shaped relationship, as female's education continues to increase and the economy develops, we may see females join back in the labor force in "white-collar" jobs and thus their labor force participation percentages will increase