

IPSOS PRESS RELEASE:

MALAYSIAN EDUCATION MONITOR

*Is Malaysia's education system
prepared for challenges facing its
young generation?*

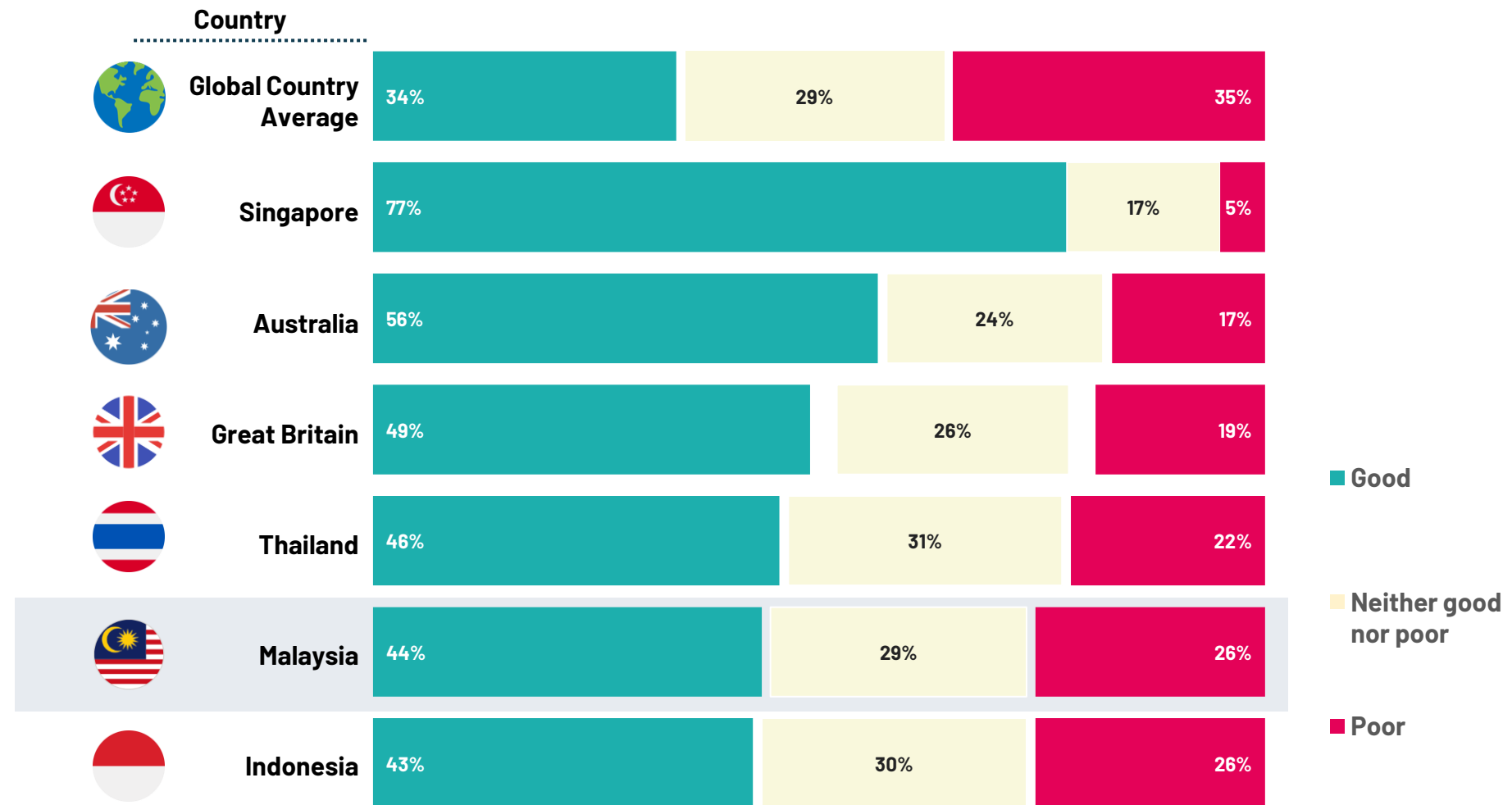
Fri, 19 September 2025

While not many Malaysians hold a high opinion of the country's current educational system, ratings are still slightly above the global average.

Meanwhile, Malaysia records the highest share of poor ratings among neighboring markets, with most Malaysians feel neutral or dissatisfied—underscoring broad concerns about quality of the education system.

FEWER THAN HALF OF MALAYSIANS RATE THE EDUCATION SYSTEM POSITIVELY

How would you rate the overall quality of the education system in your country?



Base: 23,700 online adults under the age of 75 across 30 countries, interviewed 20 June – 4 July 2025.

Malaysia base: 500 respondents

A third of Malaysians see unequal access to education as the main obstacle in their education system, followed by inadequate infrastructure and limited technology use—all rated above global averages.

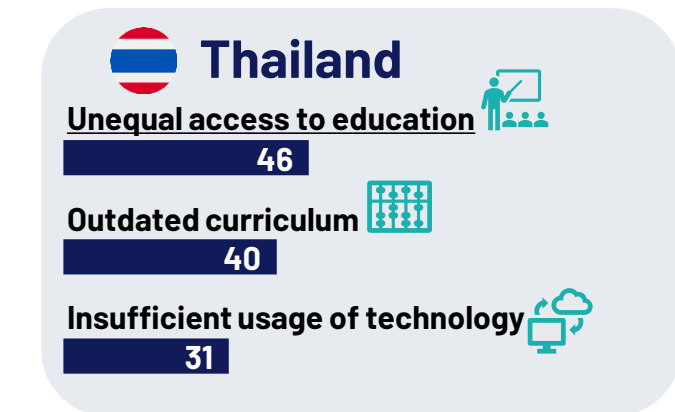
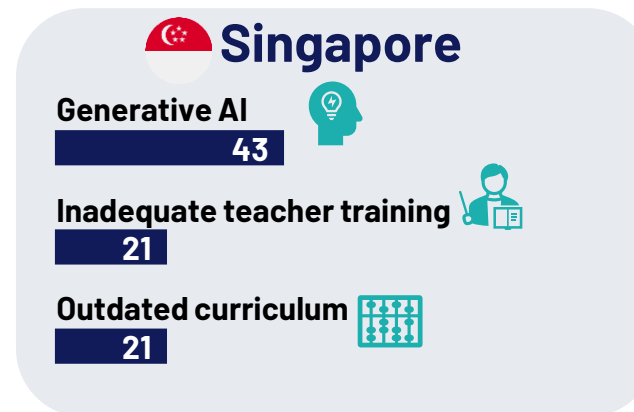
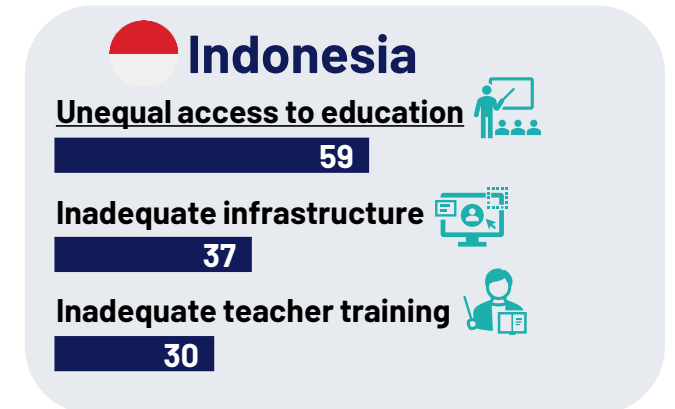
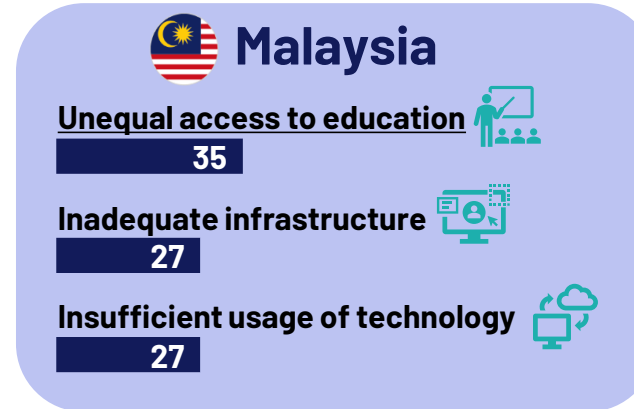
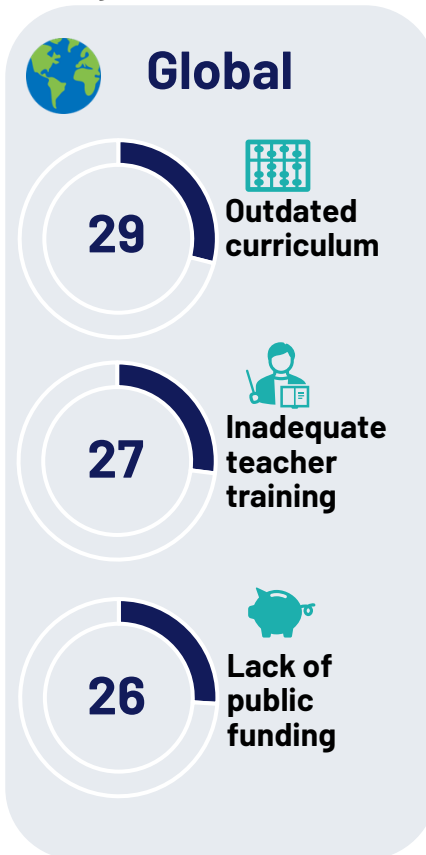
These concerns mirror Indonesia and Thailand and stand in contrast to mature markets like Singapore.

UNEQUAL ACCESS REMAINS MALAYSIA'S BIGGEST EDUCATION BARRIER

In your opinion, what do you believe are the greatest challenges facing the education system in your country?

Top 3 Education System's Challenges by Country

All figures in %



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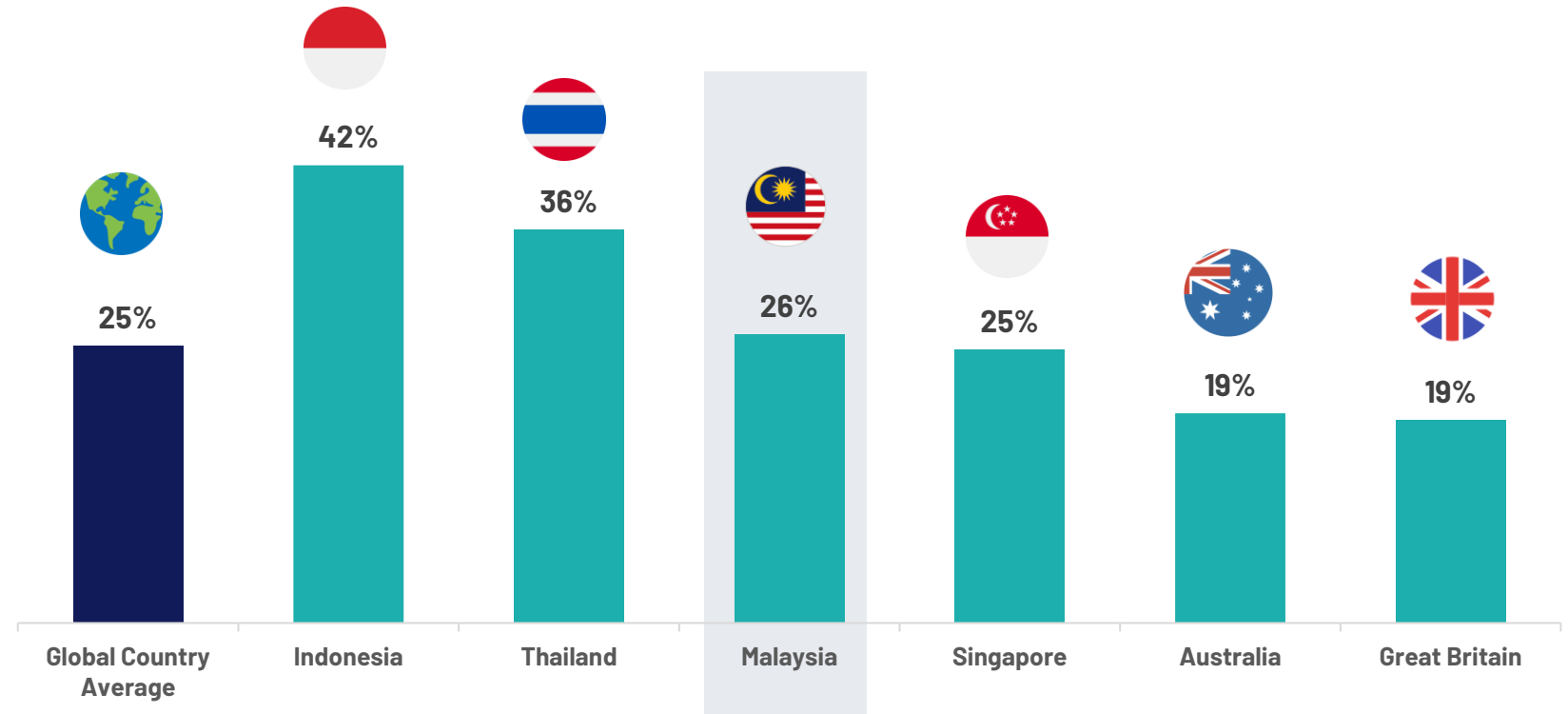
Malaysia base: 500 respondents

Only one in four Malaysians remain hopeful about technology's role in education, broadly in line with global sentiment.

In contrast, neighboring markets like Indonesia and Thailand show much higher optimism.

MALAYSIANS ARE MORE SKEPTICAL ABOUT TECHNOLOGY IN EDUCATION

How do you think advances in technology (including artificial intelligence) will affect education in the future? Will they have an impact that is...
(% Positive impact)



Base: 23,700 online adults under the age of 75 across 30 countries, interviewed 20 June – 4 July 2025.

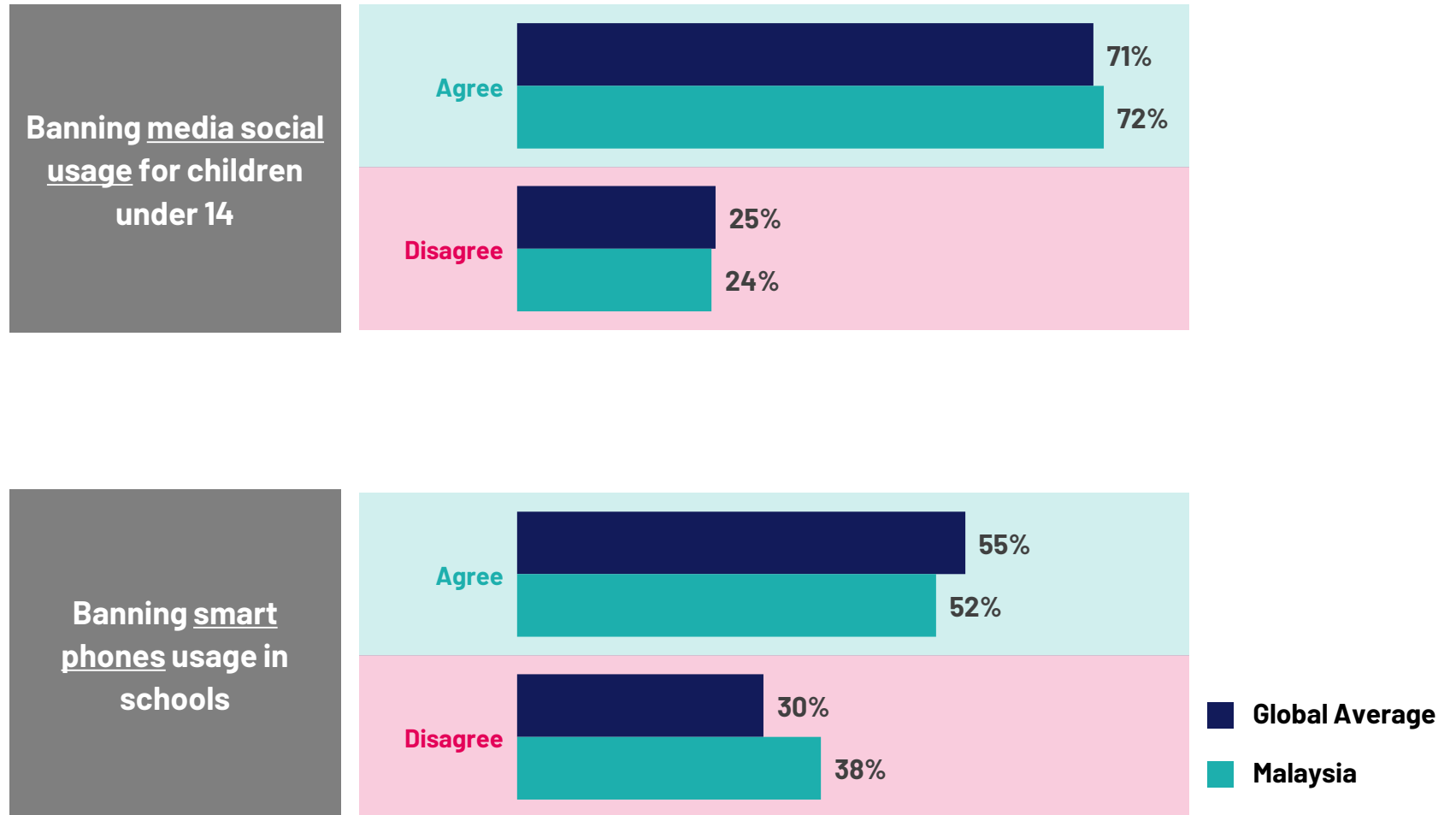
Malaysia base: 500 respondents

Seven in ten Malaysians support banning social media for under-14s, a sentiment closely aligned with global concern about its impact on children's education.

Views on smartphones are more divided, as parents see them as necessary for safety and connectivity – with concerns focused more on content than the device itself.

MOST MALAYSIANS BACK SOCIAL MEDIA BAN FOR CHILDREN, SPLIT ON SMARTPHONES USAGE

How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?



Base: 23,700 online adults under the age of 75 across 30 countries, interviewed 20 June – 4 July 2025.

Malaysia base: 500 respondents

A significant portion of Malaysians support the use of AI in schools, showing more acceptance than the global average.

This puts Malaysia closer to emerging markets like Indonesia and Thailand, while mature markets such as Singapore, Australia and Great Britain remain far more cautious.

MALAYSIA MORE OPEN TO AI IN SCHOOL THAN OTHER MATURE MARKETS

Do you think the use of AI (including ChatGPT) should be banned in schools?



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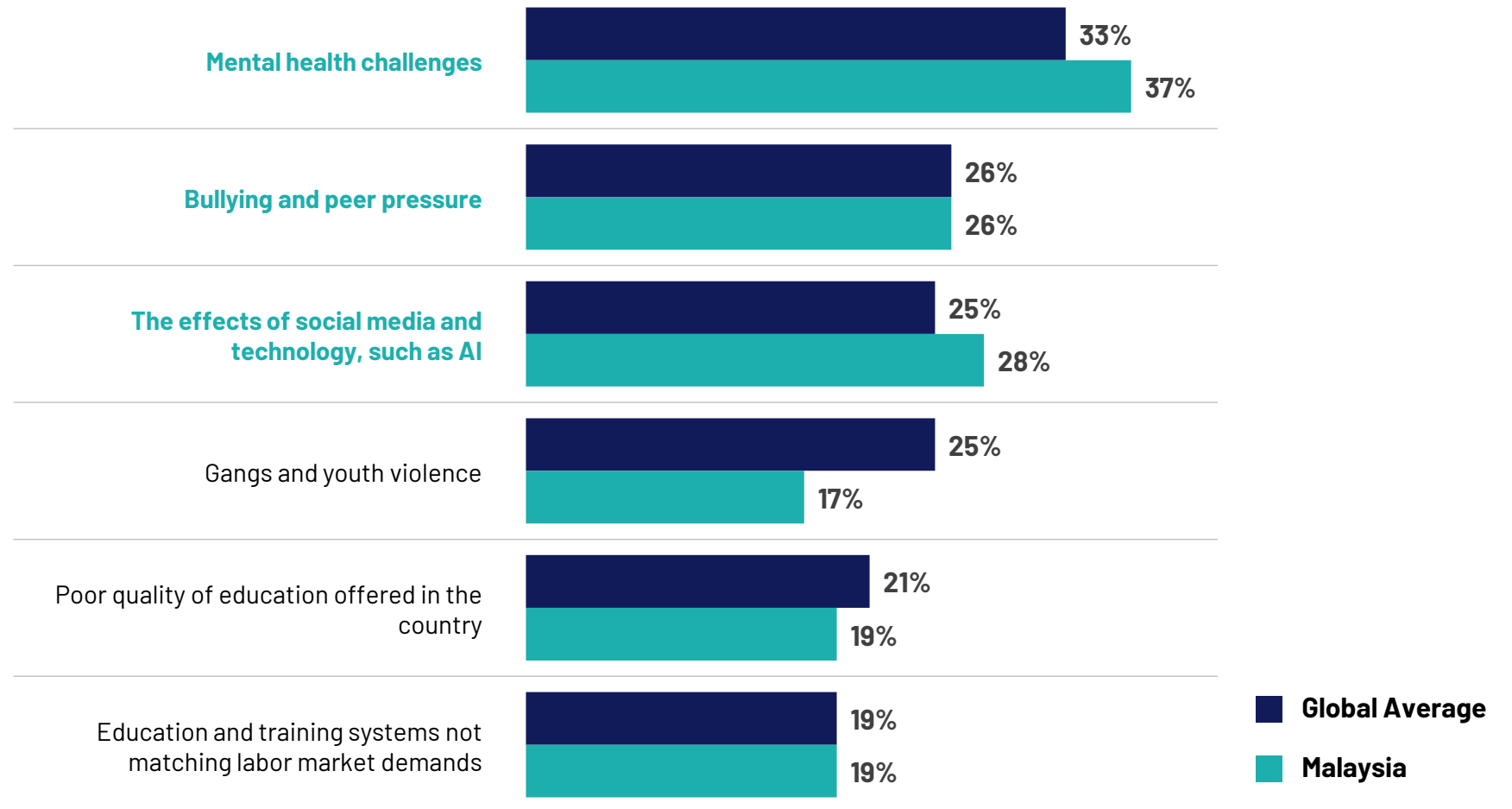
Malaysia base: 500 respondents

While Malaysians worry about bullying and the negative impacts of social media and technology, these are not seen as the biggest threats.

Youth mental health is the country's most pressing concern – and at much higher levels than the global average, underscoring it as the core challenge for Malaysia's young generation.

INSTEAD OF TECHNOLOGY, MENTAL HEALTH TOPS MALAYSIAN YOUTH CONCERNS,

In your opinion, what do you believe are the greatest challenges facing young people in your country today? (Select up to three answers)



Base: 23,700 online adults under the age of 75 across 30 countries, interviewed 20 June – 4 July 2025.

Malaysia base: 500 respondents

Malaysian Education Monitor



The Ipsos Education Monitor, covering 30 countries, finds public confidence in education is weak worldwide – and Malaysia is no exception. Fewer than half rate the system positively – among the lowest across markets. Unequal access, poor infrastructure and limited technology are the key barriers, placing Malaysia closer to regional peers than to mature markets. **This calls into question the 13th Malaysia Plan proposal to lower primary school entry age to 6 years old. The real priority is equal access, modern infrastructure and a safe digital environment.**

Technology is a double-edged sword. Only one in four Malaysians believe it will improve education, echoing global doubts. Seven in ten support banning social media for under-14s, while parents remain split on smartphones, often seen as a safety lifeline. Malaysians are more open to AI in schools, aligning with emerging markets while mature economies remain cautious. **The government's move to ban smartphones in schools for under-13s matches public sentiment. But devices are only part of the story – the bigger risk is content, and Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) must do more to safeguard children online.**

Yet beyond these debates, **one issue rises above all: youth mental health. Malaysians see it as the top challenge facing the young generation** – ahead of bullying and digital pressures, and at far higher levels than the global average.

Malaysia's education reform must focus on three priorities: equal access, safe technology and stronger mental health support. Only then can the Ministry of Education, MCMC and NGOs build resilience and opportunity for the next generation.



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