

Enamie "the cultural stereotypes act as barriers for women's entry into sciences in India." Discuss major schemes initiated by government to overcome it.

Women have been associated with science since historical times. Even though the UNESCO reports point out to declining ratio of gender gap in tertiary education enrollment, participation is not on par with global levels. The studies points out that 'prejudice against women' can be strong factor hindering their development.

1) Science has been generally viewed as 'Profession for Male'. AHE 2016-17 clearly points out lesser women representation than man

2) Stereotyped role of gender

women in society are glorified as 'MOTHERS' forcing them to hide their interests.

→ 74% of 2-8 lakh Research and Development Engineers are women

3) Accessibility to Education opportunities.

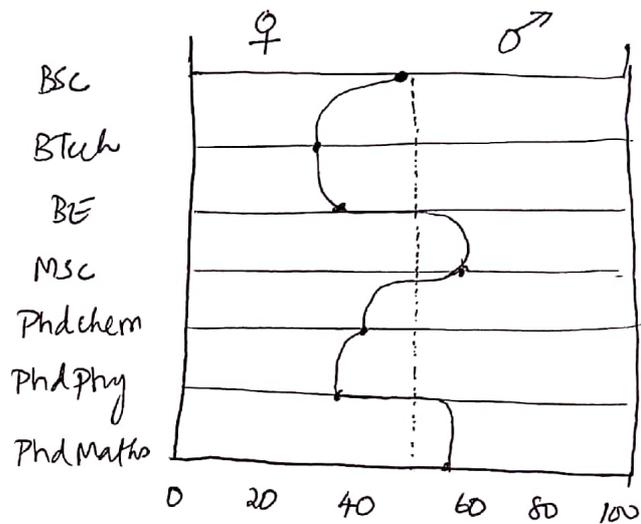
→ Glorification of male child as (bread winner of family, sidelined girls to have quality education access

→ Prevalence of child marriage and poverty widens the gender gap in school enrollment.

4) Biological clock and family pressure.

→ These 2 factors fail to convert the Phd degree holders into careers in science.

→ Further, only 10% of women scientists get back to their works post maternity. Reason cited for this constrained working hours.



All India Survey on Higher Education 2016-17.

5) Work culture

- The very fact that STEM dominated by males has discouraged many to step.
- Longer working hours, fear of security related aspects, gender disparity in wages and lesser recognition discourages women to start their careers.

Initiatives taken by Government

1) Girl education schemes:-

To encourage girls enrollment in primary, secondary, tertiary education and overcome stereotypes

- ▶ Bet Bachao, Beti Padhao
- ▶ Sukanya Samridhi Yojana - targeted savings scheme for girl children
- ▶ Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan
- ▶ PRAATI ⇒ Providing Assistance for Girls Advancement in Technical Education Initiative

2) women scientists retention schemes:-

To recognize, motivate, prevent brain drain of women scientists

- ▶ DISHA = scholarship for women scientists for societal programmes
- ▶ KIRAN = research fellowship programmes for women scientists
- ▶ CURIE ⇒ Consolidation of University Research through Innovation and Excellence in women universities
- ▶ Women Technology Parks.
- ▶ National Creche Scheme for new mothers.

Government must take substantial steps to bridge disparity in payments, award recognition that eventually leads to awareness. Thus women can enhance the STEM related development that is to begin its revolution