

Commonwealth Forum on WOMEN IN STEM

LAUNCHING COMMONWEALTH FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN FOR EDUCATION OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN PHYSICS, MATHS, ENGINEERING AND SCIENCE

The global challenges facing humanity involves the central role of science and technology.

In this rapidly evolving landscape, the very nature of work is changing, existing jobs are transforming and new ones are emerging, which require knowledge and skills in science, technology, engineering, and maths (STEM).

Millions of young people. Girls in particular are missing out on the skills they will need throughout their lives and to become more effective citizens and change-makers — skills which quality STEM education can cultivate, like thinking laterally, problem solving and innovating.



Gender gaps in STEM engagement, interest, enjoyment, and future career aspirations are shaped by gender norms, bias and stereotypes³¹



GENDER STEREOTYPES

70% of individuals in 34 countries associated science with males more than with females



GENDER BIAS IN PEER PERCEPTIONS

In the US, more boys identified their male peers as knowledgeable about biology even relative to girls who perform better in the subject



GENDER BIAS IN CURRICULUM

In India, more than 50% of illustrations in math and science textbooks in primary show boys and only 6% girls



GENDER BIAS IN ACCESS TO STEM RESOURCES

In Slovenia, the lowest achieving girls were those with the least opportunity to conduct experiments during chemistry lessons



GENDER BIAS IN PARENTAL EXPECTATIONS

Some 50% of parents in Chile, Hungary and Portugal expect their sons to have a STEM career but less than 20% had this expectation for their daughters



LACK OF FEMALE SECONDARY STEM TEACHERS

In Nepal, only 20% of science and 10% of math teachers are women



GENDER BIAS IN TEACHER EXPECTATIONS

Between 8 and 20% of grade 6 math teachers in Latin America believed that math is easier for boys to learn



LACK OF APPROPRIATE ROLE MODELS

In the UK, over a quarter of girls say they have been put off a career in tech as it is too male dominated and only 22% can name a famous female working in tech



GENDER BIAS IN CLASSROOMS

Girls have less instructional and discussion time, ask fewer questions, and receive less praise than boys



INADEQUATE INFORMATION AND CAREER GUIDANCE

In Uganda, information gaps about the relative profitability of male dominated businesses play a key role, as do the types of role models, in influencing young women's career paths

GEA jointly with Commonwealth Secretariat are launching a global philanthropic campaign to raise funds and awareness to tackle this critical issue for the future of humanity.

Our event will take place in Marlborough House and will bring together commonwealth and world leaders, philanthropists, policy makers and scientists to consolidate their commitment to Women in STEM and set a very ambitious target: of 50 million pounds fund for women in STEM.



Dates
November 2024



Location
Marlborough House London