

Women in Science and Technology

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SINCE long-times innumerable women have not only proved to be the torchbearers of the human society in terms of academic excellence but also showcased their scientific abilities in front of the entire human race by performing philanthropic deeds and bringing about revolutionary changes for the common good of people. Starting from Nobel laureate Barbara McClintock for her discovery of the "jumping genes" in the field of Genetics, to the British chemist and crystallographer Rosalind Franklin for her research in elucidating the DNA structure, from Maria Klawe, the renowned Computer Scientist to the famous Space Scientist and Mathematician, Katherine Johnson, women proved themselves to be versatile in the science fields and gave a whole new dimension to the field of Science and Technology in their own ways.

"It is not scientific proof of gender equality that is required, but general acceptance that women are at least the equals of men or better"

-Stephen Hawking

The fact, that women in today's world are not only being disregarded but also acutely underestimated to be eligible enough to pave their paths and careers in the science stream, is

in itself, a matter of utter shame disguised in hollow pride of the so-called pioneers of the present-day neo-civilization. To be able to rightly measure and judge the contributions of eminent women scientists in the past, it is extremely essential for us to have a robust idea about their involvement in their stream of studies and research.

In the context of our nation, India, which proudly enjoys the title of being the largest democracy in the world, it is all the more necessary for its citizens to realize the fact that gender equality is one of the components of maintaining a healthy society that is free of any sort of contamination, be it social, political or economic. The true sense of having a nation, where the development of the citizens will be counted as a part of its ultimate success, as dreamt by our forefathers who had fought for our independence, can only come true in reality if this realization is present in the common mass of people and the leaders of the society as well.

According to a few studies and researches, Science and Technology streams such as computer science and engineering, have the lowest percentages of women workers. Over the years involving studies and researches, it has been observed that in the recent times, women only make up a meagre of 28% percentage in the entire population of Mathematics, Science, Technology and Engineering fields internationally. One of the many underlying reasons of it being their limited access to facilities, proper academic grooming and their systematic tracking away from the Science and Technology streams in their advanced years of study.

Among all other Science and Technology streams, Computer Science and Engineering are two such fields which provide its pursuers a lucrative economic outcome but, unfortunately, they are two such streams which have very shallow levels of women population. The main perks, as overlooked by the present-day society, of giving women equal opportunities to pursue and thrive in Science and Technology careers helps narrow the gender pay gap in corporate organizations, enhances women's economic security and also ensures a diverse, balanced and talented workforce and prevents biases in these fields and the services they produce for the holistic development of the entire human race. Rally

