

## SURVEY REPORT: WOMEN IN STEM ROADSHOW WORKSHOP

Location : Kolkata, Workshop Number : 4 , Date : February - 11 & 12, 2018

Submitted by local contact: Mohammed Sagheerul Islam and Madiha Ahmad

The 4<sup>th</sup> workshop on WSR was conducted in Kolkata, India on the 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> of February 2018 at Hotel Pearl, Kolkata. It was attended by 26 students and 1 teacher.

Most of the students were from a background similar to that of the attendees in Workshop 3 and were eager to share their background and their common interest which is their passion towards science and shared the challenges they have faced. Each of them have remained steadfast in their chosen path till now and wished to remain so.

Prof. Sultana N Nahar spoke of need of solving problems through STEM fields and role of females in them. Being a person from a similar Asian background her contribution in astronomy was an eye opener for the assembly. Prof. Anil Pradhan's background was an example for the girls.

Sessions were held by Dr. Sultana N Nahar, Dr. Anil Pradhan, Dr. Karen Irving. Dr. Nasreen Haque presented by skype. Each session was interspersed with numerous questions from the curious girls all of whom cited lack of guidance in academic path selection and career enhancement.

A session by Dr. Karen Irving on the very basics for higher education abroad commencing with the inherent differences between a Resume and a CV were revealing for the girls present and even the teachers expressed great satisfaction at the entire program.

The workshop also stressed in the steps to be followed for seeking an entry into any university in the United States Of America and the need for examinations like GRE & TOEFL. The admission methodology and the key determining factors that will help a student get selected in an university was also highlighted in the workshop.

The session also stressed the need for the students to get involved in research and original publications right from their college days which will help them score brownie points when they seek admissions abroad.

The students were in for an eye opener when they realised that there were unexplored avenues in the world of STEM which extended far beyond the traditional branches prevalent elsewhere which the students could explore unhindered when pursuing their academics in a country like the USA.

For the students at large it was a very inspirational workshop and they went back with renewed zeal and vigour in their chosen fields to enhance their careers.

A perusal of the feedback form will reveal that almost all the attendees found this to be a very useful workshop which will help them plan their study better and also has been a motivating factor in their academic pursuits.

- M. Sagheerul Islam  
M.S. Islam

# **Women in STEM Roadshow 2018**

## **Workshop 4- Kolkata- Feb 11 & 12**

### **STUDENT SURVEY REPORT**

#### **Details of the Workshop**

Workshop 4 - Kolkata

Feb 11, 2018- 9 am - 5:30 pm

Feb 12, 2018- 9 am - 2:30 pm

#### **Given below is a summary from the surveys filled up before and after the workshop by students attending the workshop:**

- After attending the workshop, the students felt more confident about their choice of study in STEM and look forward to learning more about the careers in STEM.
- The career that most were interested in were related to chemistry, math, engineering, technology, biochemistry. Some of them wanted to be a civil servant after studying chemistry or math.
- One student said she got more will to pursue STEM after listening to the scientists. Another said she expressed her interest in the workshops to learn how to connect and get more international opportunities. One student also said that she found these sessions more valuable and enriching than regular classes at college!
- Many students mentioned that they had never attended a session like this before and on such a big scale. I feel that that was responsible for not a very quick response to the call of action to apply for higher studies in the USA.
- This was a students group who was either interested in creativity and science or they wanted to be civil servants after studying STEM or wanted to be a part of engineering or technology careers.

Concluding Remarks:

The students in this workshop were less enthusiastic but some eagerly participated in the activities and discussions. This group had more students from lower strata of society. They were more curious about a better life and opportunities in the USA.

They expressed their gratitude to the U.S Department of State, the eminent scientists and local expert for organising this workshop that helped them look at the STEM field differently and asked questions on the possibilities and paths that existed in India and USA.

After the workshop, they were less responsive. I felt it was not easy for them to connect and felt this experience to be overwhelming when they were not exposed to such huge opportunities and to eminent personalities.

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