

WOMEN IN STEM ROADSHOW program 2017-2018

Indo-US Collaboration: STEM Educational and Research Opportunities for
Women from Minorities and Disadvantaged Groups



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Women in STEM Roadshow in India 2018

The current status of women in higher education has recently been described in the **All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE 2014-2015)** (Ministry of Human Resource Development of Higher Education, New Delhi, 2016).

Muslims constitute 14.5% of the Indian population, only 4.5 % are enrolled in higher education (male and female), as compared to other social groups. The Muslim female proportion in STEM is likely to be less than 1%, despite their overall population in India of 7.5%.

- As part of **Indo-US Center for STEM Education and Research** jointly by AMU and OSU (re-named the **APJ Abdul Kalam Center**), will be organizing “**Women in STEM Roadshow**” 2017-18, the 5- year long collaboration towards outreach for Women in STEM following the Roadshows.
- APJ Abdul Kalam Center was able to receive \$75000 grant from the US Department of State for this roadshow program.



- **The OSU-AMU effort would be a great exemplar for the Roadshow participants, and provide them with opportunities for further STEM training in the U.S. and India.**
- Another basic element of this proposal would be exposure to STEM research from elementary to advanced level.
- Women in STEM fields lag far behind their male counterparts, the problem is particularly acute for women from minorities and disadvantaged groups.
- The primary reasons are the deeply regressive socioeconomic and cultural factors in the lives of women from minority and/or poor backgrounds.
- As young girls they are discouraged and systematically discriminated against in favor of males from similar backgrounds, and lack the support necessary to remain in environments that may be otherwise conducive to the advancement of women.
- Therefore targeting these subgroups in conducting the STEM Roadshows might yield the most benefits.

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OBJECTIVES

- To encourage and provide information about education and professional opportunities in STEM fields for girls and young women through roadshow workshops in Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Aligarh, Patna and Kurnool in February 2018. The workshops will also highlight STEM educational opportunities at U.S. institutions of higher learning and introduce participants to Education USA.
- Strengthen people-to-people ties between the United States and India through exchange of information, experiences and expertise
- Support economic growth and development by creating awareness for girls and young women on higher education opportunities in STEM fields
- Encourage more Indian students to consider higher education opportunities in the United States by interacting with U.S. university alumni in India and promoting Education USA



WORKSHOP OVERVIEW

Nine workshops, each will be one and a half days in length; from **5-23 Feb, 2018**

- Two in Delhi-NCR
- Two in Hyderabad
- Two in Kolkata
- One in Aligarh,
- one in Patna
- one in Kurnool
- Each workshop will be three sessions of three hours each. The first two sessions will comprise of lectures on STEM fields from international and local experts, training on teaching and learning pedagogies, feedback and Q&A. The third session will be a hands-on electronic experience including information on Education USA programs, connections to Roadshow Network for reporting, interactions, social media, etc
- Certificates to all participants will be awarded during a ceremony following the third session

PARTICIPATION

- 25 to 27 female students in STEM fields from colleges and universities
- Five to seven teachers from colleges, universities and high schools
- Selected STEM Mentor Fellowships will be awarded in each workshop
- A limited number of travel grants for out-of-town participants will be available
- All monitoring and evaluations, follow-up sessions and final outcomes will be conducted through the Indo-U.S. APJ Adbul Kalam STEM Education and Research Center of The Ohio State University- Aligarh Muslim University where participants will report their progress



Conclusion

Until the middle of nineteenth century, girls and women were educated only for traditional household works. Now, the society is witnessing changes in the role-status of women. There is greater emphasis on education of girls and women in the same way as we educate boys and men. The modern-day parents want to fulfil the aspiration of their children without gender parity.

Dr. Nahar says:

“If we come together, we can make advances faster, much faster, than in isolation,” with this vision of Dr. Nahar we should come together and insist on exercising our civil, social, political and economic rights. This will help improve the overall condition of women in the society. We can hope for better days while all women of our country will be enlightened and educated.



