

SSURVEY REPORT: WOMEN IN STEM ROADSHOW WORKSHOP

**Location : Kolkata, Workshop Number : 3, Date : February - 9 & 10, 2018,
Submitted by Mohammed Sagheerul Islam and Madiha Ahmed**

The 3rd workshop on WSR was conducted in Kolkata, India on the 9th & 10th of February 2018 at Hotel Pearl, Kolkata. It was attended by 26 students and 2 teachers.

Most of the students were from an economically emancipated background and have had to overcome considerable challenges in their quest for education and learning. In a society and also a community where it is desired that a girl child be better hived off for an early marriage post the minimum socially accepted educational qualification, the challenges faced by these girls having opted for a STEM background has been enormous.

IT was an eye opener for the attendees to listen to Prof. Sultana N Nahar who, can be traced her origin from a similar Asian background, spoke about importance of science in everyday life and for its advances not to waste half of the intelligence of humanity shared by females. Prof. Anil Pradhan's background was an example for the girls. The State Department representative Ms. Sheena Hall was another example of how a girl child can achieve her goals if given the proper impetus and guidance.

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

The role of a mentor and the guidance provided by such a mentor which helps a student succeed in career enhancement was highlighted by Dr. Nasreen Haque who found such a mentor in Dr. Sultana N Nahar during her academic pursuits and helped further her career path.

It was a largely interactive session and the girls came up with numerous questions on the way forward for their career growth. The workshop served as a Single Window for all their queries on the steps to be followed in the event of their being selected for higher education in any university in the United States Of America.

The attending teachers opined that the structured approach to STEM education as emulated in the workshop has been an eye opener for them and they assured implementing the same for their students so as to enable these students to further their education.

A key takeaway for the students and also the teachers was the options available to the students in their higher education. The workshop helped guide them away from the routine thoughts of graduating out in engineering and Information Technology into interesting branches which ranged from Astronomy to Physics and the multiple options available under each such branch.

As one of the attending student has mentioned in her feedback form "After attending this workshop and meeting such learned people from different streams of STEM, I do have a better and clear idea of the different methodologies that I could apply for the betterment of my student build up" which speaks a lot on the overall impact on the students. - M.S. Islam

Women in STEM Roadshow 2018

Workshop 3- Kolkata- Feb 9 & 10

STUDENT SURVEY REPORT

Details of the Workshop

Workshop 3 - Kolkata

Feb 9, 2018- Day 1: 12 noon - 5:30 pm

Feb 10, 2018- Day 2: 9 am - 5:30 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 want to pursue is teaching and they aspire to be teachers in school or professors in colleges. Some of them wanted to be a doctor or engineer or IAS Officer. Some expressed they wanted to help more women study STEM in the future.
- Most of them expressed their interest to be involved in Research.
- The most common and important learning from the workshop for most students was the aspect of research which they found very helpful from the interactive sessions with the scientists from OSU.
- Some students were interested to do their Ph.D in the USA if they got the opportunity after their masters.
- 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.
- Some of them were motivated to study STEM subjects due to their interest in the surrounding and witnessing science in daily life or due to the role models at home who either pursued a career in STEM or in one case the mother was a Masters in Bengali and had wanted to study STEM subjects but could not. She encouraged her daughter to take up STEM.

- Some students felt that the “enhancing learning skills” and resume writing session was very interesting and that it amazed them to discover that a degree was offered to teach STEM!
- One student wrote: “Teaching is a learning process.”

Concluding Remarks:

The students in this workshop were very enthusiastic and eagerly participated in the activities and discussions.

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 explore the possibilities and paths that existed in India and USA.

After the workshop, they wanted to stay connected to learn more and asked more questions on how they could stay engaged after the workshops were over.

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