Women and Technologies

Fact Sheet

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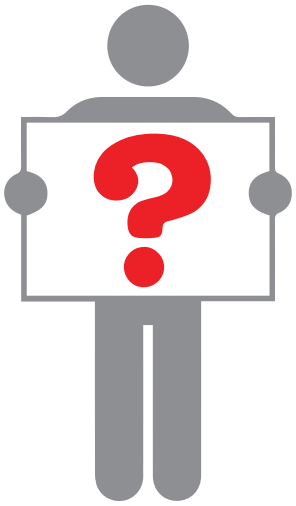

Why Women in Technology?

Ensuring gender equality in technology and innovation is beyond respecting and fulfilling the human rights of men and women. It assures the initiation of diversified scientific and technological results that accelerate development.[1] It also ensures the optimum use of technologies as it accelerates development . Cognizant of the benefit of technologies and innovation in improving the lives of women and girls, World Leaders, when reviewing the gaps in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action, recognized the need to revitalize their commitment to harness the potential of technology and innovation to women and girls.[2]

The Context in Ethiopia

Ethiopia has a Policy on Science, Technology and Innovation (2018). The policy recognizes the contribution technology and innovation has to sustainable development. It also underscores the need to take special measures that increases the participation of women and girls in technological education and training, and the use of technologies in productions and services. These include increasing the proportion of female enrollment in tertiary education in the fields of science and engineering as well in technical fields of TVET programs, and supporting small & medium enterprises to use and invent technologies.

However, despite special measures included in the policy to harnessing women and girls to technologies, the practice shows low participation of women and girls in innovation and technologies. For instance, the participation of female undergraduate students in engineering and technology stands 26.5% in 2018/19 academic year. What is worrying is the number showing decline from time to time, i.e., it declined from 30.1% in 2014/15 to 26.5% in 2018/19.[3] The number of female researchers in the field of technology and engineering is also minimal as compared to other fields of study; e.g. it is 7.1% in technology and engineering while it is 13.2% in the social science field.[4] One reasons for the policy to fail to realize its ambition of benefiting significant number of women and girls could be its failure to research and consider the concerns and abilities of men and women as is suggested by the United Nations.

What to Do to Improve

Being in the time when the country is intensely using and expanding technologies and innovations, it is of high importance to commission a full-fledged research that comprehensively assesses, with wide participation of men and women, the concerns and abilities of men & women and girls & boys on technologies and innovation. Commissioning such a comprehensive research will be used to inform the revision of policies and programs to that would effectively harness technology and innovation to women and girls and promote inclusive development.

[1] Moges, 2020. Gender-Based Assessments of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Ecosystem in Ethiopia
[2] UN - Secretary General, 2020
[3] Moges, 2020
[4] UNESCO, 2015

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