

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No-808
ANSWERED ON 14/12/2022

Girls in STEM courses

808 **Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas:**

Will the Minister of *Education* be pleased to state:

- (a) the State-wise number of girls who have enrolled in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics(STEM) courses in colleges and Universities in the last five years;
- (b) the State-wise number of girls who have dropped out during the duration of their course;
- (c) the anticipated factors behind their discontinuation; and
- (d) what programmes Government is working upon to promote continued female participation in STEM courses?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

(DR. SUBHAS SARKAR)

- (a) The number of girls who have enrolled in Science , Technology, Engineering and Mathematics(STEM) courses in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) of the Country from 2016-17 to 2020-21, is available at https://www.education.gov.in/en/parl_ques.
- (b) & (c) As in the Higher Education Sector, Students have multiple options and they choose and migrate from one course or programme to another; as such no data is maintained on Drop Out in Higher education.

The Government has taken various steps like fee reduction, establishment of more institutes, scholarship, priority access to national level scholarships to aid students with poor financial backgrounds to pursue their education, etc.

- (d) To promote the female students for pursuing higher education and research, University Grants Commission (UGC) provides special scholarship scheme for girl students across the country, namely Post-Graduate Indira Gandhi Scholarship for single girl child.

Similarly, to encourage more and more women in technical education, AICTE is giving 10,000 PRAGATI Scholarships annually to girls from economically weaker sections of society, entering in technical education. The scholarship is applicable to students pursuing polytechnic, engineering, pharmacy and architecture courses in institutions approved by the council.

The enrolment of female students in B.Tech programmes in Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) has increased from 8% in the year 2016 to 20% in the year 2021, by creating supernumerary seats. Similarly the enrolment of female students in B.Tech

programmes in National Institutes of Technology (NITs) has increased to nearly 23%. This makes more women job ready and it also increases the pool of quality female candidates for professorship.

There has been a consistent improvement in the enrolment of female students in STEM courses. As per All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) Report, the number of female students enrolled in STEM courses has increased from 41.97 lakh in 2016-17 to 43.87 lakh in 2020-21.
