

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.816**  
ANSWERED ON 14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2022

**Role of STEM in women's empowerment**

816. SHRI N.R. ELANGO:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education can play a significant role in women's empowerment and can transform gender norms, accelerate and smoothen their transition between education and technical jobs; and

(b) if so, the details of steps proposed to be taken by Government keeping in view that Governments, educational institutions, parents, as well as companies, need to view gender-responsive STEM as a promising educational approach, integral to quality learning and women empowerment?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
(DR. SUBHAS SARKAR)

(a) & (b): 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, All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) is also giving 10000 scholarships (PRAGATI) to the girls entering in the technical education.

To improve female enrolment in the Undergraduate Programmes in IITs, supernumerary seats were created which increased the female enrolment from 8% in 2016 to 20% in 2021-22. Similarly, the enrolment of girls in NITs has increased to nearly 22.1% in 2021-22.

There has been consistent improvement in the enrolment of female students in STEM Courses. As per AISHE Report, the number of female students enrolled in STEM Courses has increased from 4197186 in 2016-17 to 4387248 in 2020-21.

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