

Seminar on
"WiS : A Career in Science"
13 September 2008

Venue : A. V. Room, St. Xavier's College, Navrangpura, Ahmedabad-380015

Background :

Women in science comprise only a small percentage of the total number of working women in India. Although there is no explicit discrimination against women in enrollment and recruitment at the college, university or faculty levels, attitudinal biases and absence of supportive institutional/social structures have, over the years, operated as powerful forces against talented women realising their full potential in the pursuit of productive and rewarding careers in science. It does not appear that there is a societal perception in India of women being incapable of intellectual attainment in science since women students are not in short supply at the under-graduate and post-graduate levels in science. Many of these university students do brilliantly and are gold medalists. Many of them also enter Ph.D. programs. However their numbers drop in faculty positions, in selection committees, and so on. The under-representation of women in science, particularly at the senior levels of teaching and research in India, has become a serious cause of concern for women scientists and science policy planners.

There is an overwhelming body of empirical and qualitative evidence for this 'leaky' pipeline in science, as well as presence of gender inequity in the practice of science. There is a need to make women aware of a career in science as a possible career option and then to retain them in their profession. It is becoming increasingly evident that if we want more women to be successful in science we need to create, at all levels, support structures for and positive attitudes about a science career for women. The pressure for change has to come from within the scientific community, not just from women but from all those who believe that the practice of science cannot be built on a foundation of iniquity.

Objectives :

The aims of the seminar are as follows :

1. To have presentations by leading women scientists about latest developments in their area of activity, to showcase the work done by women scientists, to an audience of both genders.
2. To inspire and motivate young women to take up a career in Science.
3. To create an awareness on various career options available to young women scientists.
4. To explore avenues for entrepreneur development for women through Science. This is part of the role model program of the WiS Panel of the Indian Academy of Sciences. (<http://www.ias.ac.in/womeninscience/>).

By holding the Seminar at St. Xavier's College, Ahmedabad we hope to target graduate and undergraduate students, research scholars, teachers and scientists in and around Ahmedabad and inspire more young women to take up a career in science.

PROGRAMME

8.00 a.m. - 9.00 a.m.	- Registration	
9.00 a.m. - 9.45 a.m.	- INAUGURATION	: Prof. A.K. Singhvi, Dean, Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad
9.45 a.m. - 10.15 a.m.	- Tea Break	
10.15 a.m. - 11.00 a.m.	- Dr. Vidita Vaidya Dept. of Biological Sciences T.I.F.R., Mumbai	: Making New Neurons in the Adult Brain : Repairing circuits
11.00 a.m. - 11.45 a.m.	- Dr. Sujatha Ramdorai School of Mathematics T.I.F.R., Mumbai	: The Mystery of Numbers
11.45 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.	- Dr. Kuljeet Kaur Marhas PGS-DN, P.R.L., Ahmedabad	: Evolution of early solar system
12.30 p.m. - 1.30 p.m.	- Lunch Break	
1.30 p.m. - 2.15 p.m.	- Dr. Tanuja Kulshreshtha Zydus Cadilla, Ahmedabad.	: Women are born for Science
2.15 p.m. - 3.00 p.m.	- Dr. Sudha Bhattacharya School of Environmental Sciences, JNU, New Delhi	: How RNA synthesis is regulated : Lessons from the single-celled parasite <i>Entamoeba histolytica</i> .
3.00 p.m. - 3.45 p.m.	- Dr. Kamaljit Ray	: Weather forecasting and its challenges
3.45 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.	- Tea Break	
4.00 p.m. - 5.00 p.m.	- Panel Discussion : Moderator : Prof. Rohini Godbole, Centre for High Energy Physics, I.I.Sc., Bangalore	
	Members : - Prof. Shobana Menon, Chemistry Department, Gujarat University, Ahmedabad Dr. Narottam Sahoo Senior Scientist Gujarat Council of Science City, Ahmedabad	
	And Invited Speakers	

Coordinators :

Dr. Riddhi Shah

School of Physical Sciences,
Jawaharlal Nehru University,
New Delhi
& T.I.F.R., Mumbai.

Dr. Shanti Prasanna

Dept. of Mathematics
St. Xavier's College, Ahmedabad.

Local Organizing Committee :

Dr. Urvi Chhaya

Dept. of Physics
and

Ms. Bijal Shah

Dept. of Chemistry
St. Xavier's College, Ahmedabad.

Dr. Rina Shah

Chemistry Department
M.G. Science Institute, Ahmedabad.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE :

Patron :

Principal,
St. Xavier's College, Ahmedabad

Convener :

Prof. Rohini Godbole, Chair
Women in Science (WiS)
Panel of the Indian Academy of Sciences.

Advisors :

Dr. Anjan Joshipura (P.R.L.)
Dr. Ram Ramaswamy (J.N.U.)

Registration :

There is no registration fee, however participants are requested to fill up the attached Registration form and submit it to the coordinator with the relevant information.

Address for Communication :

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