

## **‘Women Scientists need helping hand’**

**Bangalore:** Although a third of all science students in the country are women, there is a considerable wastage of their knowledge and skills as they drop out of scientific careers in disproportionate numbers at every level. Women are under-represented in key research positions and are often locked out of top jobs due to gender discrimination.

These issues were the subject of discussion at a round table conference organised by the Centre for Contemporary Studies, Indian Institute of Science on Wednesday, in collaboration with the Panel of the Indian Academy of Sciences for Women in Science.

“The mandate of the conference is to make recommendations to the policy makers, including the Department of Science, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research and the UGC on measures to encourage participation of women in science and research,” said Rohini M Godbole, Professor at the IISc.

Though many countries, including India, have instituted measures to support women scientists, panel members felt these are not enough.

“We don’t want any reservation or quota,” they said, adding, “Daycare facilities on the campus for children of women scientists, and flexible and reduced working hours are the need of the hour”.

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