

## **A Study on the Trend of Enrollment and Performance of the Female Students in Science and Technical Courses offered by Different Technical Colleges of Agartala.**

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### **Abstract**

*Women education in India plays a very significant role in the overall development of the country. It not only helps in the development of the women but also improves the quality of life at home as well as outside. Women have a significant role in the socio-economic development of a country. Thus, for educating them several attempts have been taken. Despite of these attempts the share of women in science and technology is low as compared to their male counterpart. The present study aims to ascertain the enrollment and performance of female students in Science and Technical Courses offered by different Technical Colleges of Agartala.*

**Sample:** *For the present study purposive sampling has been employed, as the sample has been selected purposefully. Data has been collected from two technical institutions of Agartala.viz Tripura Institute of Technology, Narsingarh and The ICFAI University Tripura. For this study only secondary data has been collected.*

**Findings:** *The results of the study revealed that the enrollment of female students' in science and technology is very low as compared to male students' probably female students' are even not getting that much of the support from the society what actually is required.*

**Key words:** *Enrollment, Performance and technical colleges*

### **Introduction**

*“Education commences at the mother’s knee  
And every word spoken within the hearsay of little  
Children tends towards the formation of character”  
(Hosea Ballou)*

Education is the most significant instrument which can improve the status of women in any society. Education enables women not only to gain more knowledge about the world outside of her home but also helps her to get status, positive self - esteem and self - confidence, necessary courage and inner strength to face challenges in life. According to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru by educating a woman we can educate the whole family, as because a woman

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has the responsibility of the whole family on herself. An educated woman not only tends to promote education to her children but also is capable of taking care of the health, nutrition of her children and can help in reduction of infant mortality rate and growth of population. Hence, she can become an active member in the social and economic development of the country. Several studies have shown that there is a strong correlation between women education and several developmental indicators such as increased economic productivity, improvement in health, delayed age at marriage, increased political participation and effective investments in the next generation. Thus women education in India plays a very significant role in the overall development of the country.

For the extension and expansion of women education several attempts have been taken. As a result women literacy rate has been increased in recent years. There has been tremendous expansion of educational opportunities for women in the field of higher education both general and technical (Nandita Singh, 2008). The enrollment of women in higher education has been increased from 40,000 in 1950-51 to about 14, 37,000 in 1990-91 and 3,971,407 in 2004-05. The proportion of women in higher education was 10.9 percent in 1950-51 which has been increased to 41.6 percent in 2003-04. In case of science & technology also the enrollment of women has increased remarkably.

The enrollment of women in technical and professional courses has shown marked increase from 6000 in 1950-51 to 1.46 lakhs in 1986-87 and 4.9 lakhs in 2006-07. The number of women in per 100 males in Engineering was 0.3 percent in 1950-51, which has been increased to 1.1 percent in 1970-71, 8.1 percent in 1985-86, 16.6 percent in 1995-96 and further increased to 20.4 percent in 1998-99 where as in the same period the enrollment of men was 79.6 percent as according to the Fourth world conference on women 1995. Hence, though the enrollment of women in science and technology has increased but their percentage is still much lower as compared to that of men. (Malti et al. 2004). Several studies suggest different reasons for the lower admission rate of women in science and technology. From the studies it has been found that majority of the girls are interested in Humanities and Arts subjects. Moreover, in some cases girls are not getting chance to select subjects of their choice in school as most of the time parents are taking decisions about the academic stream. This decision is guided by the consideration that girls are not expected to work or earn before marriage and education is only an investment to fall back upon in case of the daughter becoming a widow or being deserted (Chanana 1998). The expenditure on science and technology subjects is more. The parents who are economically poor are not interested to invest for their daughter in these subjects. They are often interested to spend money on education of their son rather than daughter. They are giving priority to marriage and even on dowries of their daughter but not in science and technology education which requires long term investment of time and other resources (Nandita Singh 2008). Another study on women has shown that science and technology education for girls makes it difficult for finding a suitable match for them. There is an implicit rule, which is rarely broken that the boy should be at least as highly educated as the girl. Sometimes the women pursuing higher studies in science and technology are facing threat of negative social reputation. Thus education in this field is associated with fear of 'spoiling a girl's character' (Nisha Singh 2001).

The present study is conducted to see the trend of enrollment and performance of female students in science and technology courses as compared to male students.

#### **Significance of the study**

The movement for improving women's status all over the world has always emphasized. Education is the most significant instrument for changing the position of the women in the society. Education not only helps in the development of the women but also improves the quality of life at home as well as outside. Women play a significant role in the socio-economic development of a country. Thus, for educating them several attempts have

been taken. As a result though the enrollment of women in education has been increased but their share in science and technology is very low as compared to their male counterpart. Thus, the present study aims to see the trend of enrollment and performance of the female students in science and technology as compared to male in the final examination.

#### **Delimitation of the study**

Due to time constraint and unavailability of data the study has been confined to only two science and technology institutions of Agartala viz Tripura Institute of Technology, Narsingarh and The ICFAI University Tripura.

#### **Objectives of the study**

The main objectives of this study are:

- To see the trend of enrollment of female students in science and technology as compared to male students.
- To find out the performance of female students in science and technology as compared to male students

#### **Design of the Study**

The present study is based on survey method, which is concerned with the present status of the phenomena under investigation.

#### **Sample**

For the present study purposive sampling has been employed, as the sample has been selected purposefully. Data has been collected from two technical institutions of Agartala.viz Tripura Institute of Technology, Narsingarh and The ICFAI University Tripura. For this study only secondary data has been collected.

#### **Statistics employed**

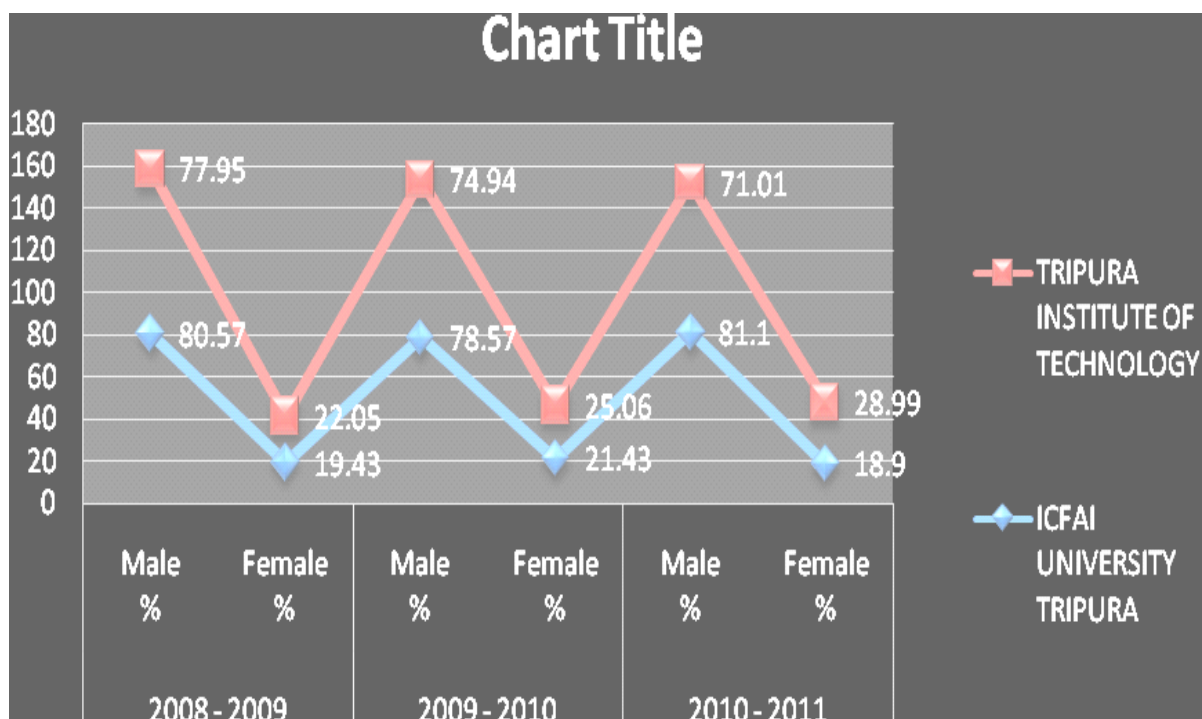
For the present study descriptive statistics have been used.

#### **Findings of the study**

**Objective 1: To see the trend of enrollment of female students in science and technology**

**Table 1: Table showing the total number of admission in the 1<sup>st</sup> year**

Name of the Institution	YEAR					
	2008 - 2009		2009 - 2010		2010 - 2011	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
The ICFAI UNIVERSITY TRIPURA	170	41	11	03	133	31
TRIPURA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY	343	97	308	103	294	120



The above table reveals that the enrollment trend of women is increasing in both the institutions where as the enrollment trend of male students is decreasing. In case of The ICFAI University Tripura the enrollment of girls in 2008-09 was 19.43 percent which has increased to 21.43 percent in 2009-10 but decreased to 18.9 percent in 2010-11. In case of Tripura Institute of Technology the enrollment of women in 2008-09 was 22.05 percent which has increased to 25.06 percent in 2009-10 and further increased to 28.99 percent in 2010-11. It is a fact which is evident from the data that though the trend of enrollment of women is increasing but as compared to men it is very low.

In The ICFAI University Tripura the enrollment of women in 2008-09 was 19.43 percent where as in the same time the enrollment of male students was 80.57 percent, in 2009-10 women enrollment was 21.43 percent where as male enrollment was 78.57 percent and in 2010-11 the women enrollment was 18.9 percent where as in case of the male students the enrollment was 81.1 percent.

Similarly in case of Tripura Institute of Technology the enrollment of women in 2008-09 was 22.05 percent where as in the same time the enrollment of male students was 77.95 percent, in 2009-10 women enrollment was 25.06 percent where as male students enrollment was 74.94 percent and in 2010-11 the women enrollment was 28.99 percent where as in case of the male students the enrollment was 71.01 percent.

**Table 2: Table showing Mean and SD of the Final year Result**

Name of the Institution	YEAR																	
	2008 - 2009						2009 - 2010						2010 - 2011					
	Male			Female			Male			Female			Male			Female		
	Mean	SD	N	Mean	SD	N	Mean	SD	N	Mean	SD	N	Mean	SD	N	Mean	SD	N
<b>TRIPURA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	7.34	0.78	119	8.1	0.92	124	6.94	0.62	344	7.47	0.41	281
<b>The ICAI UNIVERSITY TRIPURA</b>	6.7	0.68	5	7.46	0.94	2	6.77	1.1	53	7.38	0.738	15	5.56	0.89	114	7.68	1.67	26

From the above table it can be said that the performance of female students in the final examination is better than the male students. In case of Tripura Institute of Technology the mean score of female students' performance in 2009-10 is 8.1 where as the mean score of male students' is 7.34. Similarly in 2010-11 the mean score of female students' performance is 7.47 but mean score of performance of the male students' is 6.94.

In case of The ICAI University Tripura, the mean score of female students' performance in 2008-09 is 7.46 where as the mean score of male students' is 6.7. Similarly in 2009-10 the mean score of female students' performance is 7.38 but the mean score of performance of male students' is 6.77 and in 2010-11 the mean score of female students' performance is 7.68 where as the mean score of male students' is 5.56.

The social and cognitive Psychologists are of the opinion that females are typically superior in verbal abilities, arts, and crafts and in items concerned with social relations. They perceive details more quickly and accurately and do better on tests of memory. Males, on the other hand, surpass women on items that involve spatial, numerical, and mechanical performance. The abilities in which males surpass female are very vital in the field of science and technology. This is also true that these differences in some of the aspects of intelligence are however due to the childhood practices and in scores of overall intelligence, the two sexes seem to be about equal.

So the present study focuses on the fact that since the society is changing, the attitude towards female education in science and technology is also changing and the result is the enhanced and consistent performances of the female students in the science and technology courses as compared to the male students.

Still the female students are not getting that support from the different units of the society and the result is the poor ratio of the enrollment of the female students' as compared to male students'. It shows that till now the stereotype feelings and thoughts exists and even today male students' enrollment in the field of science and technology education are much more socially acceptable than the female students'.

### **Conclusion**

From the above discussion it can be concluded that the enrollment of female students' in science and technology is very low as compared to male students' probably female students' are even not getting that much of the support from the society what actually is required. Hence to increase the number of enrollment of female students in science and technology girls should be properly motivated to pursue these courses. Lack of encouragement and social support are actually leading to the poor enrollment of girl students in this field despite of the fact that they are actually doing wonders equally in the field of science, technology, arts and commerce.

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