



Why Are There Few Women In Science?

33. Air Wing

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Introduction:

Increasing attention has been drawn to the problems faced by women in science, engineering and technology (SET). Women are unequally represented in science and their career progression is not comparable to their male colleagues. The growing interest in this topic may partly be because of the growing awareness of the huge untapped economic potential that women represent.

This project tries to investigate if it is true that there is few number of women in science field, the reason for their few number and the ways of promoting them. To achieve this we are going to research out from some sample Secondary schools where science base starts, Universities and other science based Institutions.

METHODS

In this study three research instruments were used which are questionnaires, interview and documentary review to sample schools AIRWING, KINYEREZI, JUHUDI AND UDSM-CONAS.

Questionnaire

This instrument was used to collect information from all objectives of our study. The questionnaires were printed in English since all respondents had knowledge in English language

Interviews

Interviews involve direct consultation or face to face discussions with respondents. This technique was used so as to control line of questioning and to obtain additional and supplementary information in all objectives. The information obtained from this technique were regular compared and contrasted with responses obtained from questionnaires to check its consistency and reliability of the information provided by the respondents.



Results:

The results show that the number of girls enrolled in science is very small compared to boys. This means that most girls shy away from science subjects.

The following were some of the reasons which were given out by some of the individuals regarding few women doing science.

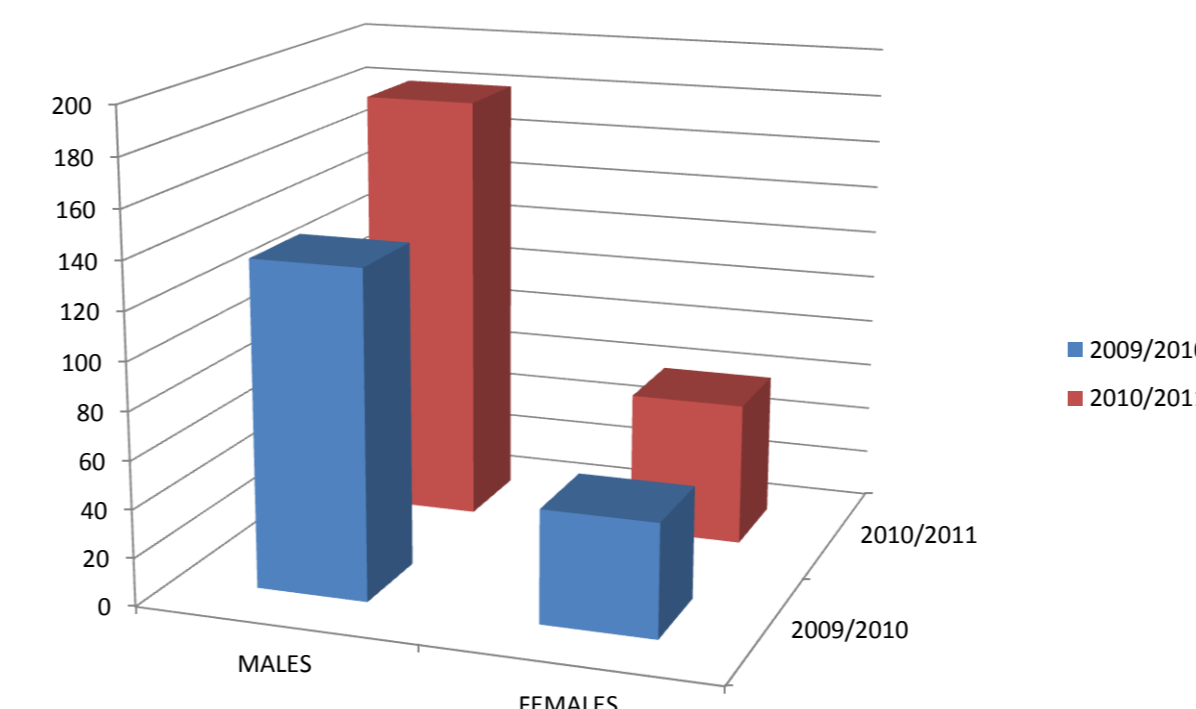
Traditions and customs- Women are more involved in home domestic activities like washing utensils, fetching water, collecting firewood and others, and so lacking enough time for involving in science activities.

Environment

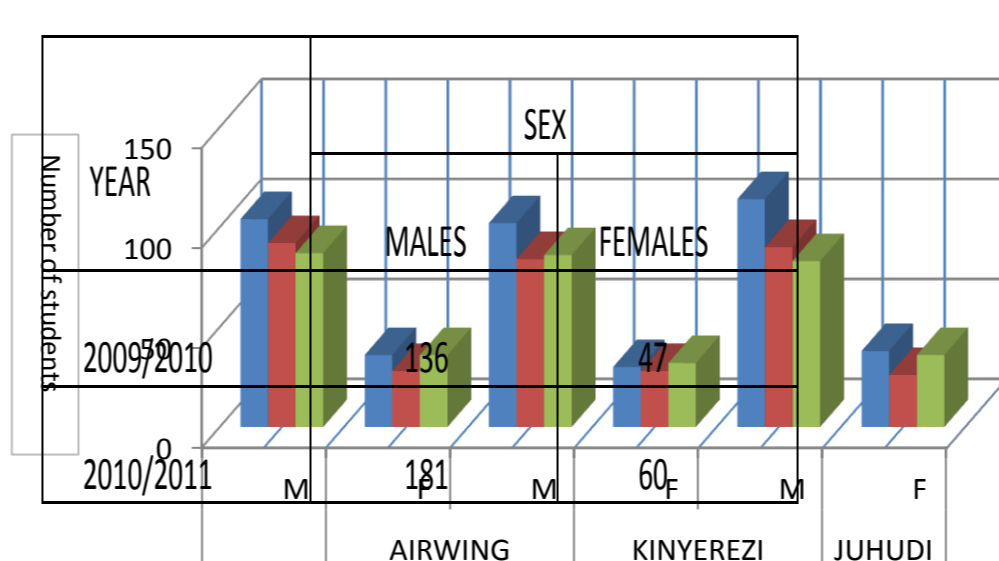
Wrong notion –Some women believe that science is for men.

Lack of good government policy of promoting women in science.

Tough work with little remuneration also discourage women involving in science career.



SCHOOL		2010	2011	2013
AIRWING	M	104	92	87
	F	36	28	36
KINYEREZI	M	102	84	86
	F	30	28	32
JUHUDI	M	114	90	83
	F	38	26	36



YEAR	SEX	
	MALES	FEMALES
2009/2010	136	47
2010/2011	181	60

Conclusions:

From the above study it is true that women doing science are few compared to men for the reasons that have been stated.

Through this study the following have been suggested to be the possible ways of promoting women in science.

The government should have good policies to women doing science so as to encourage them like the science subjects. Eg big salary to women doing science

Traditions and customs which hinder women participate in science should be abolished.

They should be involve various science exhibitions like Young Scientists Tanzania so as to build interest to them.

Initiate science competition for women and tremendous award should provided to the winners.



References:

Http://www.udsm.ac.tz/?q=node/146

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank the following for their valuable contribution and that without them our project wouldn't be successful.

Dean, College of Natural and Applied science

Dr. Nelson-UG Coordinator (CONAS)

Director Gender (UDSM)

Academic Masters Airwing, Kinyerezi and Juhudi Sec schools

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