

Executive Summary

Nationally, there is no clear picture of women scientists engaged in science. A project was launched by DST, GOI to assess gender mainstreaming programmes for women in science. Sophitorium have been entrusted as the regional coordinator for Eastern India States Odisha and West Bengal in this National Programme.

The objective of the project is to know the impact of gender mainstreaming policy of Government of India on improvement status of women scientists in Odisha and West Bengal. In addition, the collected data is enriched to the National Database to have cleared picture of women engaged in science.

A workshop was organized in Bhubaneswar to promote the objectives of the project. About 41 women scientists had participated in the programme. It was noticed that there are many of them are engaged in different scientific institutions in and around Bhubaneswar. All of them are benefitted and contributed to the society through their research findings.

The institution has formed a team to do survey in Odisha and West Bengal. Data has been collected from various institutions of Odisha and West Bengal. The questionnaire as designed for this purpose was field in by the individuals, through emails, and by post also. Sometimes, the same was collected telephonically. The team had faced various hurdles in collecting data mainly not responding to email, speed post or mobile. Their contact address is not updated after leaving the institutions. Many questionnaires are returned due to invalid address. Some cases, the guide and the corresponding institutions of the women scientists are more focused then the researchers and also standing as hurdles to assess. The team is also faced to do authentication due to blank fields, improper data. It is also noticed and but collected some data by the selective planning and hard work. Finally, data as collected from the survey are uploaded in the central database in a geospatial record format with complete information of women of Odisha and West Bengal.

Since Odisha is now preferred as education and research hub in eastern India, there are many national importance institutions are started which preferred not only by the WOS of Odisha, but liked by the neighbouring states like Chhatisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar and West Bengal. The WOS from North-East are also preferred to work in Odisha.

As expected, nearly 82% of WOS in Odisha are successful in both scientific research and their family responsibilities to strengthening the society in Odisha. Scientific research is not so dearer to SC&ST communities and occupied only 3% in participation of this programme.

In the case of West Bengal, it is noticed that more than 84% of WOS are successful in both scientific research and their family responsibilities and noticed very poor participation of ST community (0.81%).

IPR Issues – WOS are unaware of different IPR issues for their publications, patents and technology aspects of the projects. Out of 41 samples studied during the workshop, it is noticed that WOS are the primary author only in 02 cases. DST instructions should be available for the authorship pattern. IPR Awareness Programme may be arranged regularly to achieve the goal.

Updating Database - New project should be allotted to WOS after registration in the central database which should be mandatory for all WOS.

Availability of Knowledge Base - WOS need regular interactions through online. Hence, special knowledge base for their daily interactions may be created.

CURIE Initiative - Data collected as per Curie questionnaire and feedback attached. For better result, it is suggested for physical review and to collect feedbacks from the end beneficiaries.